



# Porky Seven News



Edition 68 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2025



## 7 RAR Association – President Report

Our last newsletter was focused on the re-linking of the Fifth and Seventh Battalions that returned 5/7 RAR to Army's Order of Battle. While none of us welcomed this occurring again, the new Battalion will continue to embody key aspects of our unique identity and history. One day, I trust in the not too distant future, when a Seventh Battalion is again required, this stewardship will enable the rapid growth of a new 7 RAR as was experienced from 2007.

In many ways this reinforces the role and responsibility of our Association to maintain and foster our shared identity and pride in having served in the Seventh Battalion. I therefore welcome your advice and counsel on how our Association could evolve to reflect the more contemporary expectations of our members. There is no agenda or objective in this view. It is however a timely opportunity to reflect and consider the part we all have in maintaining the fundamental purpose that formed and has sustained our Association over many years.

I ask you all to take the opportunity to discuss this within your network, particularly with ANZAC Day approaching when many of us will have the opportunity to gather together to commemorate and remember. Opportunity will be advised for subsequent discussions on what, if any, aspects of our Association we should collectively consider.

I hope you all have the opportunity to catch up with mates on ANZAC Day to remember those in our ranks no longer with us and then to enjoy the undiminished bonds of shared service.



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## 7RAR ASSOCIATION

### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT & STATE REPS

#### PATRONS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEVON LAMBERT

#### PRESIDENT

BRIGADIER SHANE GABRIEL, DSC, AM

#### VICE PRESIDENT

MAJOR GLEN KUSCHERT, (Retd)

#### HISTRORIAN

MAJOR GENERAL MIKE O'BRIEN, CSC (Retd)

#### SECRETARY/WEBMASTER

MR KEVIN GILLETT (QLD REP)

#### TREASURER

MR BERNIE COX

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICER/EDITOR

MR TONY KEECH, OAM: NEW EMAIL: [tkeech38@gmail.com](mailto:tkeech38@gmail.com)

#### COMMITTEE & STATE MEMBERS

MR BRICE STOKES

MR JOHN LAWSON

MR IAN (DOC) RUSSELL (SA REP)

MR GEOFF MURRAY (WA REP)

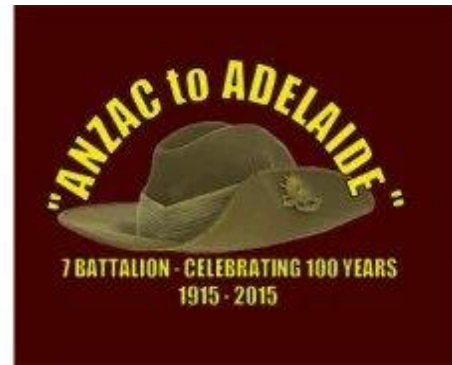
MR BILL ANDERSON (VIC REP)



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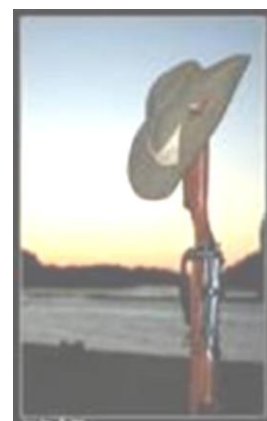
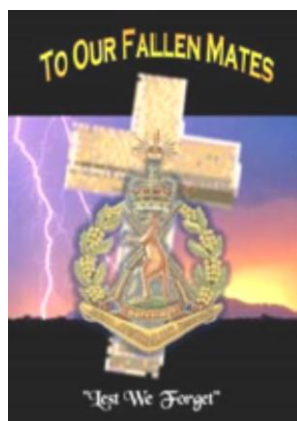
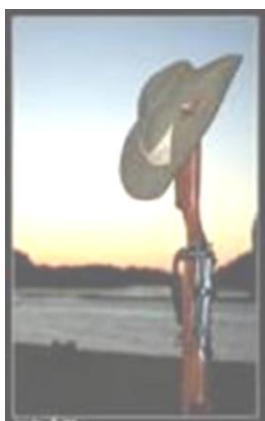
- 18-22. EASTER BREAK.
25. ANZAC DAY AUSTRALIA.



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**“Rest ye oh Warrior, You will battle no more,  
No longer to live the horrors of war,  
Your duty was done with honour and pride,  
Farewell oh brother, until we march by your side.**

**It is with deep and sincere sympathy that I report the death of former  
Friends and Comrades in arms”**

**2412553 John, (Jack) Doulis,**

**A3 1<sup>st</sup> tour, passed away Tuesday 7 January 2025.**

**1735242 Raymond Neal Schneidewin, ACHQ 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**passed away Monday 20 January 2025.**

**3788803 Noel Arthur Biggins, C9 1<sup>st</sup> tour**

**passed away Tuesday 18 February 2023.**



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## From The Editor's Desk

Ok all members, this year is the 60<sup>TH</sup> birthday of The Seventh Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL MEMBERS.** Once again we are on the ORBAT as 5/7RAR.

**I HAVE BEEN TALKING WITH ELLAINE FROM LUMIA CARE VETERANS SUPPORT, BELOW IS A NUMBER OF PERSONALISED & PROFESSIONAL CARE SERVICES.**

### **Supporting Veterans at Home with Lumia Care**

At Lumia Care, we proudly support veterans and their families with personalised, government-funded care to help them stay safe, comfortable, and connected at home. Navigating home care services can be complex – but we make it simple. If you hold a Gold or White DVA Card, you may be eligible for support through the Veterans Home Care Program or Veterans Community Nursing Program. We can also help you explore other government funded Home Care Package options if additional or alternate support is needed. With just one conversation, we can help you access services like personal care, domestic assistance, shopping, social support, respite, or more complex clinical care, including wound care, medication management, or overnight support. Our team of Support Workers, Registered Nurses, and Allied Health professionals deliver care with expertise, empathy, and genuine connection. Clients and families often tell us how much they value not just the care – but the friendships formed along the way.

We also support carers with in-home respite and emergency relief, giving loved ones the chance to rest, knowing help is in place. With over 65 years of experience, Lumia Care is trusted, fully accredited, and committed to holistic, client-centred care tailored to your needs. If you or someone you care about needs veteran home support, we're here to help – with a simple assessment and services available across most of Australia.

Contact Lumia Care:-[lumiacare.com.au](http://lumiacare.com.au) - 1300 796 876



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## THE BEST FROM THE WEST

Hello PIGS everywhere, from all PIGS in the WEST.

### ANZAC DAY

The form-up details for the Anzac Day march are: gather at Section E61, north side of St Georges Terrace near King St by 0900hrs, look for Don with the Banner. After the march we meet at The Shoe, Yagan Square.

### A COMPANY 2<sup>ND</sup> TOUR REUNION - A REMINDER

Just a reminder to ALL PIGS that the A Coy, now Full Battalion reunion will be held in Busselton WA from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

For all details, please contact either:

Phil Clark: 0413 991 686. [philipclark@y7mail.com](mailto:philipclark@y7mail.com)

Gordon Dickson: 0418 943 729. [nannygoatz58@outlook.com](mailto:nannygoatz58@outlook.com)

### GRAHAM EDWARDS VISIT TO LONG TAN MEMORIAL

In November 2024 Graham Edwards travelled to Vietnam and is shown here paying his respects with his Grandson Jake. Thanks Graham, great photos.





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## Graham with Grandson Jake



## Graham with Grandson Jake

### JOCK HENDERSON PLAQUE IN GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Sgt Jock HENDERSON'S widow Margaret asked us to conduct a service at the WA Garden of Remembrance on Fri 7th February 2025 for the placement of Jock's service Plaque.

In attendance were: Casey Epskamp, John Burrows and wife Kerry, Spunky Fieldhouse and daughter Lisa, Don Cruden, Charlie Matheson, John Davies, Steve Chamarette, Rob (The Wog) Cusack and Paul Lusk. 3 other family members of Jock's were in attendance.



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Both Paul Lusk and Rob Cusack gave inspiring speeches on Jock's service to 7 RAR on both tours.

Don's son-in-law gave the music of the Last Post, A helicopter sound effect followed by Andy Stewart's performance of "A Scottish Soldier" and then "We Were Only 19" was played to round out the ceremony. Thankfully, despite 35 degrees, we had cover and seating to make the ceremony as successful as it was.

Special thanks to the War Graves Remembrance Staff who assisted us with our service.



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**L to R: Don Cruden, Paul Lusk, Casey Epskamp, Rob “The Wog” Cusack, Spunky Fieldhouse, Charlie Matheson, John Burrows, Steve Chamarette. Kneeling John Davies.**



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## PAUL LUSK'S SPEECH

This plaque is dedicated in honoured memory of 35499 Sgt Frederick "Jock" Guyan HENDERSON, born in Fifeshire, Scotland, 13<sup>th</sup> March 1934. Jock (as he was known to many) served from 1955 - 1958 in Malaya including the Thai Border and Borneo with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions, The Royal Australian Regiment. Later serving with the 7<sup>TH</sup> Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment both tours South Vietnam 1967 to 1968 and 1970 to 1971.

For his service Jock received the US Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

By any measure, Sergeant Frederick "Jock" Henderson was one of the best. Jock emulated the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Regiment. Jock personified the best of the Australian Infantry Sergeant. This created respect, confidence and trust in Jock and in each other. As a result, Jock received the Commanders Commendation from Colonel Ron Grey.

Ode to RAR Veterans We remember our mates who soldiered on, long after their days in uniform were done. We honour their service to all those in need, when Duty First continued, to be their creed. Bless them dear God, and help them find rest, alongside their mates, who gave of their best. And bless us dear God, in the service you expect, and may we do so with courage, honour and respect.

Rest in Peace Jock.

## THE MODERN SOLDIER?

John Davies, our honorary RSM for Anzac Day and PIG photographer, attended Jock's service after two train journeys, followed by a journey on his eBike, is this the MODERN SOLDIER?



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**John on his eBike**

## **DON CRUDEN'S FLAGS**

**Don's grandson was going travelling through Vietnam, so Don gave him a 7RAR and a 3RAR flag to try and hang somewhere in Vietnam.**

**They now proudly hang in the Jackaroo Bar and Grill in downtown**

**Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). See following photo**



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Don's Flags hanging at the Jackaroo Bar and Grill in Ho Chi Minh City

## 14<sup>TH</sup> INTAKE NASHOS CORPS TRAINING WITH 7RAR

In early January 1969, approximately 100 recruits reported to 7RAR at Holsworthy to commence Infantry Corps training with the battalion, rather than attending Corps Training at the Infantry Centre. This was carried out in D Coy, three platoons under Lieutenants John Heydon, David Chitty and Rob Pothof (Dec). As this was extremely unusual, a few PIGS decided that it needed documenting and so a project was created to try and contact as many of these 100 recruits as possible, with the idea of requesting a story from each one in order to produce a booklet of stories. Despite searching, no list of original recruits could be found, so if you were one of those recruits, please contact the project team through email at: [nashos14intake@gmail.com](mailto:nashos14intake@gmail.com)

Or contact either of the project team by mobile:

Peter Vlachou                      0409 472 357

Gordon Dickson                      0418 943 729

Geoff Murray                      0432 253 043



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## NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

At our November lunch our attending members decided not to have December and January lunches and so our first lunch for the year was in February with a good attendance as shown by the images below.



**Barry Leesue and Bob Whinnen**



**Bob and Leonie Lloyd**



**Tony Carr and Keith Molyneux**



**Chris Ashenden and Steve Csorba**



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Prior to 7RAR leaving South Australia the secretary had received a quantity of medallions with an instruction from Battalion that they were to be given to 7RAR veterans who marched off the Parade Ground with the Battalion during the Farewell Parade. It was decided that at our February lunch that once the meal was over that our President, Bob Whinnen, would formally present the Medallions to those members who were present.



Bob Lloyd receiving his Medallion from Bob Whinnen



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Chris Ashenden, Tony Carr and Michael Grech  
receiving their Medallions from Bob Whinnen



Bob Whinnen presents Lindsay Kealy, Barry Leesue  
and Keith Molyneux with their Medallions



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Steve Csorba receiving his Medallion from Bob Whinnen

**Medallions have also been posted to Steve Chamarette and Don Crudden in WA..**



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The Medallion



## VALE

There was a great deal of sadness in our community when on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February we were advised that our much-esteemed member Noel Biggins was receiving palliative care at Warrina Vales Residential Aged Care in Morphett Vale. Noel had been a resident at Warrina Vales for a few months and died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. His funeral service was held in the Mawson Chapel at Centennial Park with family, friends and more than thirty members of the Veteran community in attendance. Chaplain Luke Skipper (ex7RAR) also attended the service and was introduced to Bev and other family members. As Robet Harrison resided interstate and for health reasons was unable to attend the service to read his part of the eulogy it was arranged that Kerry Eichner do so, followed by Kerry's own recollections of Noel.



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## Eulogy

### TO Beverly, Family and friends.

MY name is Robert Harrison. I find it very sad on this occasion to be putting pen to paper as we bid our last farewell to a very proud and Nobel man, Noel Arthur Biggins. During the mid-sixties, Noel and I were serving with Seven Battalion R.A.R. (affectionately known as the Pig Battalion) being made up mainly of conscripts and regular soldiers who just happened to have a large thirst, and a slight inkling for mischief. And I have no doubt that some Noel's exploits would bring a grin to the most hardened officer's faces.

Noel and I got a free trip to Vietnam, on the H.M.A.S Sydney better known as the Vung Tau Ferry, and while serving in C coy 9 platoon rifle company a strong fine soldier, Noel experienced the horrors of war, and set about helping those that suffered injuries and trauma, as a profession on his return to Australia. 20 years after our return from Vietnam, we were welcomed home and then a regular calendar of reunions were beginning to happen.

In 2012 Melbourne hosted a reunion and the companies of 7 R.A.R were each allocated a venue to attend.

Except the Companies were not told which venue they were to go to. Like many others this really irked Noel and he began to tell the organizers and Colonel that as the head of a pig battalion they couldn't run a pigsty, and Adelaide would show them how to do it properly.

Being a gentleman and very persuasive. Noel set about coercing a talented group together and began working to create a reunion that would stagger Melbourne, and the Anzac to Adelaide reunion was borne. Being held in Adelaide in 2015 it was a triumph for those that put it together and was the best reunion that the old Pig Battalion ever had.

This event created a great deal of conversation among the Vets and I believe a great deal of healing was done as men began to relate to their fellow Vets and families of the horror of war.



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Noel and I maintained a close network, supporting each other and our fellow Vets over the remaining years, and I credit Noel for his commitment to his country, family and friends.

A proud and stoic man, it is time to stand down and join those that have gathered before us on God`s Holy Parade ground.

OINK, OINK MY BROTHER IN ARM`S, TILL WE MEET AGAIN.  
SOME OTHER PLACE, SOME OTHER TIME

I will now add a few words from myself and on behalf of the South Australian 7RAR Association.

Firstly - love, sympathy and condolences to Beverley, family and friends.

- A soldier is a person who fights for their country
- A soldier is a person who fights for their mates
- A soldier is a person who cares for the wellbeing of others

Noel epitomised all of these attributes. After his service - as many of us had to.

- Noel reset his life. Post service, Noel enrolled at university and was awarded a Bachelor`s Degree, later practising as a Psychologist. I think to understand his own journey, then working tirelessly in the community to help others.

Noel was a key driver, with others, to establish South Coast Veterans in Victor Harbour and was a strong leader and member within the South Australian 7RAR Association.

During Noel`s tenure with the South Australian 7RAR

Association he held committee roles as President and Secretary, for a number of years. Leading up to and during the 2015 reunion, Noel was the Chair for the "Anzac to Adelaide" Committee, along with Tony Carr, Robert Gillies and myself - all baggy arsed privates. Noel`s professional life led to serious computer literacy and acumen, and he subsequently spent hundreds of hours on the 2015



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reunion and 7RAR Association affairs.

Noel was a keen shooter and a member of the McLaren Vale Gun Club, he rounded out his physical activities with participation in and advocacy of the Vets Gym Programme. Noel got involved and always to his credit.

Noel was a member of a select few – those who have served their country – he was an advocate, adversary and a friend to many.

Your presence will be missed.

As the Ode says: We will remember.

Noel your duty is done ... Rest in Peace.






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*Celebrating the life of*



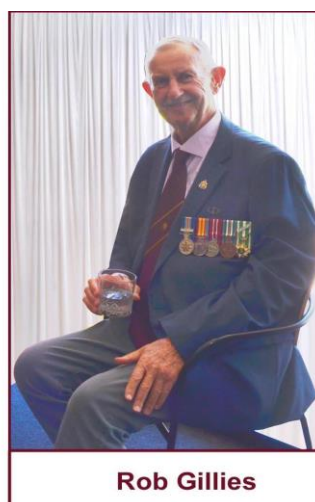
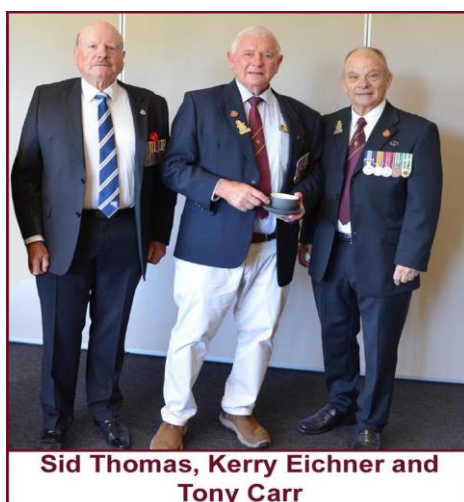
*Noel Arthur Biggins*  
14/10/1945 - 18/02/2025

Much loved husband to Bev.  
Devoted brother to  
Beverley & Ian (dec.).  
Brother-in-law to Erik & Shubh.  
Loving dad to Luke, Kelly & Claire.  
Step-dad to Nick & Rebecca.  
Grandpa to Hugo, Phoenix, Poppy  
& Lucy.

*Will be sadly missed*

During the service Tony Carr recited the Ode and current and past serving military service personnel placed a sprig of Acacia on Noels coffin.

After the service all were invited to have afternoon tea in one of the function rooms.





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## March Lunch

There were fewer members at this lunch, but the quality was there.



an appropriate background  
Bob Lloyd, Barry Leesue, Keith Molyneux, Tony Carr, Chris Ashenden  
and the pink pig

As the third Friday in April is Easter Friday the members at our March lunch decided not to have a lunch in April ...

## ANZAC Day arrangements

Kerry Eichner will be leading our group this year and the required information has been forwarded for the TV broadcasters to use.



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## Suoi Chau Pha commemorative service

Planning for our service on the 6<sup>th</sup> August is progressing well. With 7RAR moving north to relink with 5RAR we have moved our annual commemorative service back to Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide. Plans are moving along well for a full catafalque party (in uniform), padre, bugler, sound system etc. ... with a lunch after the service. We wish all a safe Easter and a memorable ANZAC day.

'DOC' ... Secretary, 7RAR Veterans, SA



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## Pigs in Paradise

### ANZAC Day details

Form up on George near Charlotte Street - look for the 7RAR Banner and/or the number 30. We are last in the RAR mob Link to [Parade Map](#)

Order of March

SECTION C - 1025hrs

SALVATION ARMY BRISBANE CITY TEMPLE BAND

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QLD

19. 8 RAR ASSOCIATION

20. 9 RAR ASSOCIATION

21. 2/4 RAR ASSOCIATION

22. 8/9 RAR ASSOCIATION

23. 5/7 RAR ASSOCIATION

24. 1 RAR ASSOCIATION

25. 2 RAR ASSOCIATION

26. 3 RAR ASSOCIATION

27. 4 RAR ASSOCIATION

28. 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

29. 6 RAR ASSOCIATION

30. 7 RAR ASSOCIATION



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## Reunion

At 40 Edward St, Brisbane City QLD 4000



at