



Porky Seven Newsletter December 2018



FROM THE PRESIDENT



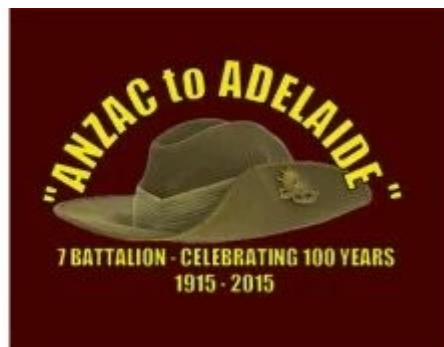
I recently had the pleasure of attending the National RAR Council meeting and AGM in Townsville. The National Council is very active in representing us in ESO circles and the meeting included some pleasing updates on initiatives which will be of significant benefit to many of us in the coming years.

The minutes of the meeting will be published on our website in due course, but the most pleasing development in my opinion was the manner in which DVA will be accepting liability for approximately 40 of our most common service related medical conditions and injuries. For example, tinnitus will be a condition that DVA will accept liability for without needing detailed documentary evidence. We are being well represented by the RAR National Council, and the three recently retired Major Generals who are working with DVA are making progress in simplifying policy and procedure, and also quietly improving the manner in which DVA engage with serving and ex-serving members.

By the time this newsletter is published our Regiment will have celebrated its 70th anniversary in Canberra. The anniversary will include a parade of all of the Colours of the Regiment at the War Memorial. My duties here at Kapooka will preclude my attendance. The Commanding Officer will be there with the RSM and the Colour party and the Association will be represented by Dave McCammon.

Finally, on your behalf I thank the Commanding Officer of 7 RAR, LTCOL Paul Graham. His command tenure will conclude in the coming weeks. He has served with 7 RAR as a mentoring team leader in Afghanistan, as Adjutant, OC B Company, Operations Officer and Commanding Officer. We wish him and Sally all the best in Canberra. We welcome LTCOL Adam Gower as the new Commanding Officer from January 2019 and we look forward to working with him in the coming years.

Mick Garraway President



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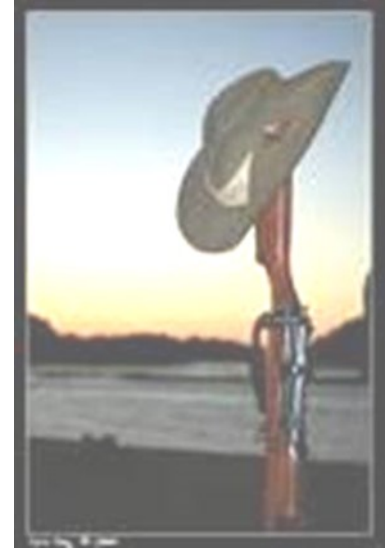
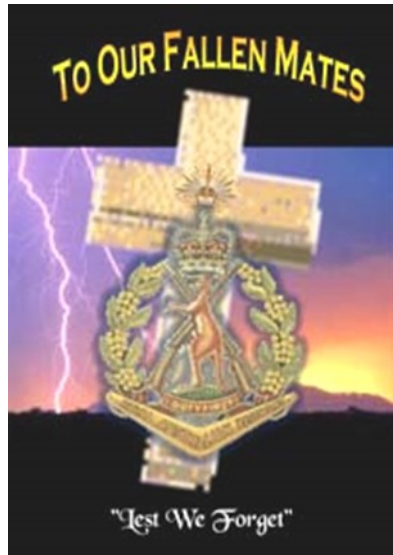
CALENDAR JAN - APR 2019

01 Jan New Year's Day all States.

26 Jan Australia Day all States.

11 Apr Cut-off date for 1/2018 Seven Newsletter articles.

25 Apr ANZAC Day all States, details in Apr Seven News.



**Rest ye oh Warrior, You will battle no more,
No longer to live the horrors of war,
Your duty was done with honor 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.**

**311284 Graham Carlington, (Paddy) Moon, 2nd tour, passed away,
Thursday 30 August 2018.**

**378532 Douglas George Cowen, C/CHQ 1st tour, passed away
Tuesday 4 September 2018.**

**14964 Ronald John (Lofty) Farley, CSM D Coy 2nd tour, passed away
Monday 10 September 2018.**

**213376 Harrold Butterworth, RAP SGT 1st tour, passed away Tuesday
25 Sep 2018.**

**3788908 Maxwell James Kelty, BHQ/ADMIN 1st tour, passed away
Thursday 1 Nov 2018.**

LAST POST CEREMONY FOR LT ROBIN CHRISTIAAN POTHOF

The ceremony in honor of LT Robin Christiaan (Bob) Pothof will be held at the Australian War Memorial on Sunday 9 December. All those wishing to attend, the ceremony commences at 1655hrs, so be at the Memorial in time to assemble at the designated location prior to that time.



From the
EDITOR'S DESK

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS, PLEASE WHEN YOU RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY USING THE DIRECT DEPOSIT LET ME KNOW BECAUSE IF YOU USE THE ANZ BANK THEY MAKE YOU USE A NUMBER ONLY, I.E. - AGENT DEPOSIT WITH A NUMBER. NOTE,

ON 10 AUG THERE IS A DEPOSIT OF \$80 WITH THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE: AGENT DEPOSIT 890766676: IF YOU DID THIS TRANSACTION THEN PLEASE ADVISE ME BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, ALSO ON 18 OCT \$20 DEPOSITED INTO OUR ACCOUNT WITH NO ID, ONLY SHOWS \$20 DEPOSIT, IF THIS IS YOU PLEASE ADVISE ME?

TO ALL MEMBERS RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP PLEASE DO NOT SEND A NOTE WITH YOUR MONEY, (NO CASH PLEASE) AND USE THE RENEWAL FORM IN THE ISSUE OF SEVEN NEWS OR FILL IN THE FORM ON THE WEBSITE AND PLEASE DO NOT CUT OFF THE BOTTOM HALF OF THE FORM. ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE I NO LONGER HAVE A LAND LINE HOMEPHONE ONLY MY MOBILE 0418 624 211. THE LINK BELOW IS VERY INTERESTING ON DEFENCE POLICIES FROM CANBERRA, 68 PAGES. TONY XO/ED

<https://susanlamb.com.au/media/179935/80396-veterans-affairs-info-kit-2018-newl.pdf>

On behalf of all Members of the Committee of Management I would like to wish all Members, their family and friends a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2019.

Tony Keech, XO/ED





THE NEXT TWO PAGES ARE PHOTOS AT THE BATTALION REMEMBERING THE BATTLE OF SUOI CHAU PHA 6 AUGUST 1967.





Commonwealth of Australia Gazette date 8 August 2018

Mr Ian Aubrey REID, MG,



For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances as the Platoon Medical Assistant with 7 Platoon, Charlie Company, 7th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment during a platoon ambush near the village of Phuoc Loi in South Vietnam on 30 April 1970.

Mr (then Private) Reid displayed extreme courage, fortitude and devotion to duty in rendering medical assistance to a severely wounded member of his unit whilst under extreme fire from assault rifles and rocket propelled grenades for over ten minutes, and remained in this position for over 30 minutes despite the close presence of the enemy. He showed no regard for his own safety, continuing to tend to the wounded man while awaiting for the position to be rendered sufficiently safe for medical evacuation to be arranged.

Promote the flags I am selling (Have 12 left plus fridge/car magnets.)
Please include name with bank payments and email Don with delivery address,
on: dcrudden1@bigpond.com Payment can be made direct to our Bank Account,
details as follows: BSB 066132 ACCOUNT 00913220.

Cost, 1 FOR \$35; 2 FOR \$65; 3 FOR \$100.



A LOOK BACK IN TIME:



ABOVE: The BN in Afghanistan 10 years ago.

BELOW: A Coy at NDP Brigid 1970.



2 PI weapons inspection with Sgt Kevin Harker
NDP Brigid - 1970

THE HON SCOTT MORRISON MP

PRIME MINISTER

THE HON DARREN CHESTER MP

**MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS; MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
PERSONNEL; MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE
CENTENARY OF ANZAC**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

Saturday, 27 October 2018

RECOGNISING AND RESPECTING OUR VETERANS

Veterans and their families are at the centre of a fresh package of initiatives from our Government to recognise their vital role and service to Australia.

We understand the home front is just as important as the front line.

Our Government will develop an Australian Veterans' Covenant that will be enacted in legislation so the nation can recognise the unique nature of military service and support veterans and their families. Like the United Kingdom Armed Forces Covenant, the Australian Veterans' Covenant is for the Australian community to recognise the service and sacrifice of the men and women who commit to defend the nation, and pledge their commitment to support veterans and their families.

As part of this Veterans' Covenant, a new Australian Veterans' Card and an Australian Veterans' Lapel Pin will make it easier for all Australians to recognise and respect the unique contribution that veterans have made to Australia and for our veterans to reconnect with others who have served. As we have seen throughout the Invictus Games and in the lead up to the Centenary of Armistice, Australians want to acknowledge and show respect for our veterans who have given so much in their service.

Businesses, government and community organisations can also play their part in recognising and respecting those who have served. The card and the pin can help these organisations identify veterans when they aren't wearing their uniform or medals, so they can offer discounts and extra support. The new Card and Lapel Pin will for the first time enable everyone across the nation to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and support the more than 300,000 veterans in Australia and their families. The Prime Minister will be writing to businesses and communities to urge them to recognise the service of our veterans.

n addition to the record \$11.2 billion annual support our government delivers for veterans and their families, we will invest \$11.1 million in these measures to deliver a national approach to recognise veterans and will further consult defence and veterans communities in coming weeks.

We will also deliver \$6.7 million to develop the SoldierOn Fussell House accommodation facility to be co-located at the Concord Repatriation Hospital in Sydney that the NSW Berejiklian Government is investing more than \$340 million to rebuild. This includes the National Centre for Veterans Health – an Australian first, state of the art centre for specialised health care for veterans.

Named for Lieutenant Michael Fussell who was serving with the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan when he was killed in action by an Improvised Explosive Device detonation, the facility will house up to 40 veterans and their families at a time and will especially benefit those from regional and rural areas when veterans are getting treatment.

Our Government will also invest \$7.6 million for the Kookaburra Kids Defence Program to boost their targeted support to children of ex-serving defence force members who are experiencing mental health issues due to their service.

The Kookaburra Kids Defence Program was first supported by our government with a \$2.1 million injection in a pilot program in NSW, the ACT, Queensland and the NT for 569 children, and this extra investment will see the program expand into Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia for 1,750 children.

As a country we can always do more to recognise and back in our veterans. Our government is committed to setting Australia up to support the veterans of today and tomorrow.

Media contacts:

Prime Minister's Press Office: (02) 6277 7744

Minister Chester's Office: Whilemina Prendergast, 0427 672 815



Just some further information to go with the attached photograph of (on the left), Pat O'Rourke and (on the right), Cliff Johnson if you want something for the newsletter.

While 19958 Cliff Johnson, AACC A Coy 1st tour and his wife, Eileen, were on a 6 month tour of beautiful WA they stayed a while at Meentheena for some well needed R&R. Thanks to Don Cruden for his help in finding this Vets Retreat.

They also stayed with Pat O'Rourke before continuing on their exploration for native orchids (of which they found numerous species), wild flowers, fauna and bush walking. Whilst in Perth, Pat and Cliff visited with Jock Henderson and were pleased to see him looking so well.

This was their fifth trip around WA but there was still lots of new places to see and things to do -like the Horozintal Waterfalls - as well as revisiting some favourite locations. Some of them being Ningaloo, The Pinnacles, Stirling Range Retreat and Kulin (where there is a Vets Retreat just out of town).

"We were absolutely astounded at the length of the devastating drought from Albany through SA, NSW and back to our home in Queensland. It was heartbreaking especially as a lot of WA had not seen such good winter rain for years so the wild flowers were abundant."

The long drive back to Qld gave them some time to recover from their WA holiday and also to sort through some of the numerous photographs taken during this holiday.

Many thanks Cliff & Eileen Johnson



PETER KINGSLEY GATES A3/C9/FIRE ASLT IST TOUR

VISITS POZIERES 18 AUGUST 2018



Off to Poziers with Wonthaggi CFA for a memorial service for CPL John Sparks 8th Battalion killed 18 August 1916. I'm a member of Kalorama Mt Dandenong CFA. Going along for the parade. I love a parade and it Vietnam Veterans Day. Cheers mate, Peter (Pearly) Gates.



At Pozieres sunken road cemetery Grave of PTE 4618 R. E. Walmsley 7th Bn A.I.F. killed 17 August 1916. EX 7RAR Member Peter Gates remembers.

< Simply the most awesome piece of art work I've ever experienced. The...

Simply the most awesome piece of art work I've ever experienced. The ghosts of soldiers silently standing over their graves in the St John's Churchyard, Slimbridge. It floors you to silence and moves you to tears. Well done Jackie Lantelli, for a stunning tribute to those who gave their lives 💜



PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

2016 VV Day Commemoration Crosses

As part of the 2016 Vietnam Veterans Service over 500 wooden crosses were arrayed to represent our fallen. Afterwards these crosses were offered to relatives. Five of the unclaimed crosses were identified as members of 7RAR – ‘Mick’ Ayres (5/2/68), James Cox (26/6/67), Ronald Smith (3/4/70), Raymond Patten (6/2/71) and Neil Richardson (27/8/71). Initially we had some concerns on how to locate relatives to ask them if they would like to receive these as an expression of our respect for our fallen members. We made some initial enquiries with no result but fortunately one of our committee members, Karen Arnott, used her knowledge of Ancestry.com and as a result of her investigative efforts all 5 Memorial Crosses have now been able to be passed on to relatives or close friends. Mick Ayres’ Cross went to his sister in Mittagong, NSW (thanks to Tony Keech); James Cox to his brother Neil; Ronald Smith to his sister Tina Sharp and Raymond Patten to his nephew. The final Cross proved a more difficult task but Karen persevered was eventually able to link up with Glenda MacKenzie who had been his fiancée prior to his deployment to South Vietnam. Glenda took charge of the Neil’s Cross in his memory.

Vietnam Veterans Day 18th August

The Service this year was fairly well attended and the Gunfire Breakfast proved as popular as usual although I felt it wasn’t quite as crowded as previous years. There was the usual confusion in the form up for the march/straggle up the forecourt of the Shrine but we were eventually in some sort of loose formation. Because the day is primarily a ‘Vietnam Veterans’ day our committee decided against parading our banner – a decision borne out by the number of VVAA sub-branch banners in attendance. Some of our 7RAR brethren did wonder where our banner was – but I did see several 7RAR marching behind their own sub-branch. One sign of our advancing age is that chairs are now provided to enable participants to rest weary bones. One very good aspect of service this year was the use of a large TV screen so that all spectators had an excellent view of the proceeding either at the Eternal Flame or whilst the (very) short speeches were given. The theme featured the anniversary year of Coral/Balmoral. Highlights of the service included young members of Cadet Units bearing Australian flags who came forward in twos as the names of the 26 KIAs were read out – they then formed two inward-facing ranks as a guard of honour for the Catafalque Party Mount.

Part of the service also included some students from Eltham College who provided background music whilst two of their fellow students sang "He was only 19" - another very moving element.

National Remembrance Ceremony - Canberra



I took the opportunity this year to attend the 100th Anniversary of Armistice. (Like most of us, probably, there were family connections with WW1 - my uncle was KIA whilst serving with the Gordon Highlanders). The AWM was a marvellous experience. The 62000 poppies representing Australian dead was inspiring, especially at night when the whole array was floodlit. The front of the Memorial provided the background for a wonderful slide show over 4 panels but the highlight, for me, was the projection of faces onto a nearby tree. The service on Sunday was, as expected, well conducted - the young men and women of the Federation Guard were well accompanied by the RMC(A) band. The Minute's Silence being punctuated by cockatoos was very Australian!. Fortunately Canberra's weather was more favourable than the ceremony at Villiers Bretonneux which seemed a bit wetter but no less moving.

2018 AGM – 14 November

Our final meeting for 2018 was also our AGM and all positions remained as for 2017, namely:-

President	Rob Arnott
VP	Bill Anderson
Secretary	Ian Dunn
Asst. Sec	David Wain
Treasurer	'Roo' Dowley
IPP	Allan (and Jan) McGuiness

We were particularly pleased to have Tom Burke with us and nice to see Allan and Jan make the effort to join us from Kingston SE.

Cambrai Dinner – Puckapunyal (17 November)

Ordinarily I wouldn't refer to a significant Armoured Corps date but with the integration of the various arms corps I thought readers might be intrigued to know that the current CO/Chief Instructor at the School of Armour also spent a significant time with the 7RAR Combat Group in Afghanistan – his address on the future combat vehicles to be used by the ADF was fascinating – a real blurring between the Corps.

Email Tree

We reckon it would be great if we can let ALL our mates know what is happening around the traps. If you're not receiving any emails from the committee please let Ian Dunn know (dunn@techinfo.com.au) so we can add you name to our mailing list – we can promise we won't bombard you.

Christmas/New Year

The President and Committee wish all our fellow members a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Our first meeting for 2019 will be 13th February at East Malvern RSL, all welcome

Parting Shot

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

-Mark Twain

Bill Anderson

0419-877-463 lastwill@hotmail.com



Charlie Fleeting

15 hrs

This has got to be one of the most powerful photographs I have ever seen. Above is a battalion of the Cameron Highlanders in 1914, prior to being despatched to the front line; below is the same battalion upon their return in 1918 after the armistice. On the eve of the centennial anniversary of the armistice I would like to remember the millions of souls who gave their lives defending our shores and preserving our freedom, and to those who survived the unimaginable horrors. Lest we forget.

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

From all PIGS in the WEST, we wish PIGS everywhere a very merry Christmas and a safe and healthy 2019.

XMAS PIGS SWILL

We gathered this year at "43 Below", as the name suggests it is downstairs. Numbers were a bit down on previous years, we had about 45 who paid up front but some didn't make it. After a few pre-lunch drinks, Don opened proceedings by thanking all those who had assisted during the year and a brief rundown of our activities. Geoff Murray then recited the "Prayer of Remembrance" (this is usually done by Steve Chamarette but he was absent), Bob Curry gave the 1st Tour Honour Roll, Dale Marshall the 2nd Tour Honour Roll and then Ted Von Paleske gave us "The Ode", followed by Ian McNee with Grace. Then it was down to a bit of eatin' and drinkin' and the drawing of the marvelous raffle, once again thanks to Allan and Betty West for all their efforts year after year. Apparently the "mandurah mob" is banned for the next 5 yrs due to their over control of all items (especially Teresa Williams) Ha Ha just joking. Despite the lower than expected numbers a great day was had by all, but special mention must go to Ross De Gray, who has recently had major surgery but still insisted on attending with his wife Alison, well done mate and we all hope you have a speedy and full recovery.



Ian McNee



Gary Williams



Bob Curry



Allan West, Geoff Murray and John Davies

BRUCE ROCK - BACK TO THE BUSH SERVICE (By Don Cruden)

It was a glorious sunny day on Sat 3 Nov for our trip to the Bruce Rock Back to the Bush activity for Vietnam Veterans. Accompanied by my grandson Matthew we did a 600km return trip. We had 5 on parade under our banner - Don Mantach (from Albany, a fair drive for him) and Bob Curry carried our banner and marching were Keith Lewis, Ross De Gray and yours truly. A big contingent from the Air Force, Naval and Army cadets added to the numbers as did a very large group from the National Servicemen Association (who always parade each year in large numbers) Oh well, at least the banner went on display. I did manage to sell two of our 7 RAR flags of which I still have 10 to sell.

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

If you're interested in purchasing one of our VERY LAST flags, contact Don after 1800 hrs on 08 93740014. Cost \$35 each, 2 flags \$65 and 3 flags \$100. This is it, the very last flags available.

Don also has 2 Polo Shirts from the Adelaide reunion size "L" @ \$15 each all proceeds into our account, first in best dressed.

CAMP HART

Camp Hart was built by a group of veterans for all ex-service or veterans still serving to go and get away from it all if that is what they need or to just come up and relax.

The Camp is available all year round if anyone wants to go there they just have to contact one of the committee so arrangements can be made to get the keys for the generator.

We have four toilets and showers with one being an access toilet and shower with a urinal also available.

There is a pavilion with two pot belly stoves in to keep out the cold chill and a large gas bbq.

The main period of use is when the Kulin Bush Races are on. It is the first weekend in October. We have a meet and greet on Wednesday afternoon/evening with free sausage sizzle, Thursday the majority go into town to have a dinner and bowls night and on Friday we have a Bocce tournament. 7RAR veteran Gary Williams is one of the group that assisted in the building of this great area with support from his wife Teresa. This year 7RAR Members Michael and Joan O'Halloran and Gordon (Dicko) Dickson and his wife Diane joined Gary and Teresa Williams enjoying the activities and the races.



L to R: Joan and Mick O'Halloran, Gary and Teresa Williams and Gordon and Di Dickson



Camp Hart memorial

BLAST FROM THE PAST PHOTOS



Who remembers going “over” on this old tub.



I believe this is the PORKY sign from the 1st Tour

REMEMBRANCE WALK App – by Steve Chamarette



Steve Chamarette, director of the RSL Remembrance Walk project, at the Vietnam Memorial Pavilion in Kings Park. Picture: Danella Bevis

“Steve Chamarette applied for and was awarded a DVA Centenary of Armistice Grant in July 2017 to design a “Remembrance Walk” App that captures the history of the 29 war memorials in Kings Park with external links to Association and the AWM. The App which is free, can be downloaded to mobile phones, laptops, tablets and desktops.

Following the Centenary of Armistice Service, the App was officially launched by the Governor of Western Australia, the Honourable Kim Beasley AC, at the State Reception Centre Kings Park at the Remembrance Day luncheon. Pigs present at the luncheon were Geoff Lawson, Bruce Wallis, Ian McNee and Peter Vlachou.

If you want to find out what the “Remembrance Walk” does, click on this link <https://remembrance.memorial/>

Once the Remembrance Walk link opens, I suggest you go to the View All Memorials list and click on Vietnam Memorial Pavilion first up. This contains information on Alec Bell, KIA 1st Tour. The Association and AWM links are also very good”.

Well done Steve, great job mate.



Remembrance Day Luncheon L to R: Bruce Wallis, Geoff Lawson, Lee Boyd (6RAR), John Young, Peter Vlachou, Ian McNee.

GRAHAM EDWARDS IN FRANCE (by Graham Edwards)

I was invited to recite the Ode at Menin Gate Last Post Service on the Eve of the Centenary of Armistice. It was a special moment in a special place. The Last Post Association at Ypres in Belgium have played the Last Post at 8pm every night since 1928. (apart from the German occupation during WW11).

The Menin Gate is significant in that almost every allied Soldier who fought here in WW1 passed through the gates of the archway, many of them Australians, including those original members of the 7th Bn. Thousands of names of allied soldiers KIA who do not have a known grave have their names recorded on the walls of this hallowed chamber. The Australian War Memorial was presented with the statues of the original Lions which The Chairman of the Last Post Association was recently presented with an Australian OAM for his service to Australian and other veterans.

guarded the entrance to the walkway.

The town was devastated by that war and razed to the ground. It was rebuilt and is now a major attraction to veterans and their families on the trail of remembrance.



Graham reciting "the Ode" at Menin Gate

Some of the floral tributes to the fallen at Menin Gate



NAMETAGS (Note: For BOTH Men and Women)

Our NAMETAGS are available in two sizes, small at \$13, large \$18, prices include delivery. Contact Geoff Murray as per details below and provide the correct name to be included on the TAG and the correct postal address. To ensure prompt delivery, pop a cheque (made payable to Geoff Murray) or money order in the post when you place your order, delivery is about three weeks. Post it to:

**Geoff Murray
30 Bouvardia Way
GREENWOOD
WA 6024**

Alternatively, you can do an Electronic Funds Transfer to:

BSB 066132 Account 00913220



Approx. 6.0cm x 4.0cm



Approx. 9.0cm x 6.0cm

NEWSLETTER

Remember, the newsletter is only as good as the contents, so please contact Geoff Murray if you have anything to report, no matter how trivial. Geoff can be contacted on:

Mobile 0432253043
Email geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au

Cheers - Geoff Murray



The Villers-Bretonneux war cemetery, flying French and Australian flags



Villers-Bretonneux war cemetery. Graham's comment: Too many graves here of young Australians.

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Cheers - Geoff Murray

Bob Wood on joining the Battalion

Kev,

You've asked for articles on old piggies and what we're up to these days. As you probably know I joined 7RAR second tour as a green young Lt reinforcement officer and my welcome to the battalion was being told by the CO that he didn't like me (I wasn't sure why because he had never met me) and really didn't want me but was forced to accept me into the battalion because another Lt (Peter Comerford) was on his way home having finished his National Service commitment. That wasn't quite the way Colonel Grey put it but it will suffice for this story. My first patrol was more of a night navigation exercise with battalion HQ personnel and RSM Bandy as patrol 2ic. My briefing from the CO was to the effect that he didn't expect me to have contact with the enemy but in the unlikely event that I did I was to immediately relinquish command to the RSM thus filling me with confidence in my own limited ability.

Needless to say, we did not contact the enemy that night and I must have passed whatever test it was that the CO had set and presumably been reported on by the RSM. As an aside, Reg Bandy and I remained good friends until his recent passing and often spoke about that patrol. I attended his funeral and paid my respects to a mighty warrior.

The following day I was told to report to D Coy and assume command of 12 Platoon. At that point D Coy had a new OC, freshly promoted Major Andy Mattay and two new platoon commanders, me, 12 Platoon and Bruce Wallace, 10 Platoon. I was fortunate to have as my Platoon Sergeant, second tour veteran and freshly promoted Sergeant Joe (Pepe) Turra. As an inexperienced young Lt I can think of no better bloke to have than Pepe as his first platoon sergeant in a combat zone. He was a great soldier and totally supportive sergeant. I'm glad to see that Pepe finished his army career as a WO1 and RSM.

After my meeting with the CO, whenever the CO saw me, if he spoke to me, he addressed me as Master Wood, thus continuing to fill me with confidence.

My tour as OC 12 Pl was relatively uneventful until about 6 weeks into the job when we were involved in a contact in the Long Hais. It wasn't long before the CO in his possum was overhead. My sig called to me from about 10 metres, where he had adopted the prone position, words to the effect, 'Boss niner wants you.' As I was a little busy, I apparently replied 'Tell him to F...k off.'

' Unbeknown to me my sig said "niner, Sunray says f...k off over' At this point every radio in the battalion was listening in to our contact so the only one who didn't know what I had said to the CO was me.

Well I'm actually not sure what the CO thought of that but later on and after he had kindly advised me of the error of my ways, he called me Bob and told me to head on back to my platoon. Somehow, I had escaped being sacked.

Subsequent to Vietnam I soldiered on for a while transferring to RASvy where, I'm not sure how, I ended up as OC 5 Fd Svy Sqn with no surveying qualification whatsoever. I left the regular army in 1977 and soldiered on in the reserve for a few more years as an infantry Captain.

In 1995 I began what you may call a second career as a volunteer pension officer, at that time with the RAR Association (WA Branch). I progressed through various training course culminating in a Level 4 Advocacy qualification in 2014 and working from the Busselton RSL Sub Branch. In 2015 I was honoured to receive an Order of Australia Medal for service to the veteran community, an award which I would never have received without the support firstly of my wife Valma and secondly the support of my advocate colleagues in Busselton.

In May this year, I moved to Darwin with my wife Valma when I discovered that the NT was critically short of qualified advocates to service the large serving and ex serving veteran community. I was fortunate to be offered the position of (Volunteer) Senior Advocate, Military Advocacy Services NT, a position which I now fill, at least for the next 12 months.

Military Advocacy Services NT is fostered (and funded) by the NT Government, Darwin RSL, Palmerston RSL, Legacy NT and Veterans Australia NT (formerly Vietnam Veterans Australia NT)

I'm now (almost) 73 but still get great personal pleasure from helping veterans through the labyrinthian bureaucracy of the DVA although I must say, and congratulate DVA staff, things have become immeasurably easier in the past 12 to 18 months and the cooperation I am receiving from the staff at the Darwin office of the DVA is really tremendous.

Perhaps my story may be of some passing interest.

Best Regards,

Bob Wood

Oink Oink

Lofty Farley's funeral



L to R: Blue Rogers, ?, ?, Colin Cowan, ?, ?, Joe Turra, ?, Ian Reid, Kev Clayton, John Heydon, Jack Ezzy, Richard Kenny and Grahame Griffith.

Neville (Lofty) Farley, CSM D Coy 2nd tour passed away and local D Coy guys fronted for Lofty's last parade. I was there and took the photo but forgot to write down all the names for which I apologize.

On Armistice Day some of us 7RAR guys fronted to Belmont where the Queensland Rifle Association dedicated a new memorial to the more than 500 members who paid the extreme sacrifice during WW1. The project Manager was our own Richard Kenny (D Coy 2nd) seen below

The Ceremony and Memorial





Richard Kenny on the right

Website.

I have been highlighting Australian War Memorial archives relevant to 7RAR. If you haven't checked it out go to the website and look at the box on the right and click on 1967 or 1970 depending on your interest. The Nov 1967 link has full details about Op Kenmore (30 Sep - 11 Oct 67) while the Nov 1970 has a full copy of Nov '70 Grey's Gazette plus a lot of detailed orders relating to our return to Australia.

Good reading. Wishing you all a good Christmas and New Year.

Kev Gillett





GOOD CHEER TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON 2018, AND MUCH GOODWILL HAPPINESS AND SAFETY FOR THE 2019 YEAR. TONY XO/ED