



# Porky Seven News



Edition 69..Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment..August 2025



## President's Message

Welcome to the latest edition of our Association Newsletter. This is the first edition completely produced and distributed on-line due to administrative constraints that have precluded a hardcopy version. I appreciate the efforts of our Secretary and Webmaster, Kev Gillett to collate the inputs from across the Association to produce this edition.

In our last newsletter, I sought views on potential adjustments we could collectively consider to maintain the objectives of our Association. I appreciate those provided but am keen to seek wider counsel from our members. Specifically, the options for the Association funds, the distribution of our newsletter and general administration and governance factors are three areas for contemporary consideration. By way of example, there are two areas you may like to consider. You will be aware that we no longer require membership fees so it is timely to consider the options for the remaining funds that would best suit the interests of the membership. Similarly, the production and distribution of the hardcopy newsletter continues to draw on these funds. If this on-line edition achieves the aim, we could delete a significant ongoing draw on the residual funds for this purpose. Your views on these and other matters on the operation of our Association are vital to propose any changes for a future AGM to determine. I welcome your advice and counsel via the contact details below.

You may be aware that the last Commanding Officer of the Seventh Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Levon Lambert was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the June 2025 King's Birthday Honours. *"For outstanding achievement as the Commanding Officer of the Seventh Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, demonstrating strong leadership and judgement."* This citation reflects the highly professional and proactive manner in which Von Lambert led the Battalion throughout his tenure, particularly during the difficult time of preparation towards linking with the Fifth Battalion. Von was particularly focused on ensuring the new 5/7 RAR would incorporate key elements of the Seventh Battalion to preserve our identity and heritage. On behalf of the Association, we offer our hearty congratulations on this fitting award for your long and dedicated service to our Battalion that commenced as a Platoon Commander on de-linking in 2006, ending as the Commanding Officer in 2024 on re-linking.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our Association newsletter and welcome your counsel at your convenience.

Shane Gabriel  
President 7 RAR Association  
Email: [shane67gabriel@gmail.com](mailto:shane67gabriel@gmail.com)



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## Secretary



There is no hard copy with this newsletter as Tony Keech has been hit by a series of computer problems and can't produce it. Tony is apologetic but hopeless until techs fix the problem. In its stead I have produced an on-line newsletter.

The newsletter will be posted on the website as usual under Newsletters>Latest Newsletter.

It will also be emailed to over 650 addresses which covers the bulk of the Association. Those not on my email list will need to go to the website to read the newsletter or talk to a mate that has an on-line copy. Whatever the case if you are currently on the Hard Copy list it might be a good idea to look at joining the email list. The photos stand out more and the text is easier to read. If you're reading it on-line then you can also enlarge the text.

Kev Gillett

## NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Prior to our March lunch Bob Whinnen advised he wished to step down from the position of President

### ANZAC Day

Our members spent ANZAC Day at various locations, including Victor Harbour, Goolwa, Christies Beach/Noarlunga and Meningie ...and of course Adelaide where we were outnumbered by the post-Vietnam Veterans.

at the March lunch the secretary had asked for all members attending the march to get the Tony Carr did a brilliant job. He got 20 names etc.. and they have since been contacted and added to our regular mailing list.



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**7RAR Veterans  
including Sid Thomas, Ian 'Moose' Gully, Peter Sochacki,  
Graham Cornes, Tony Carr, Michael Grech and Kerry Eichner**

and at Meningie



**Bob Lloyd and grand daughter Daisy  
at Meningie Memorial Park Sth Aust - ANZAC day 2025**



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Our May and June our lunches had a good attendance of members.

## July lunch

Before ordering lunch we held a formal meeting commencing at 1200hrs which included the official appointment of Kerry Eichner as President of 7RAR Veterans SA and the meeting minutes were recorded to comply with the needs of our bank to conform with their necessary requirements... the meeting concluded at 1225hrs.

## Suoi Chau Pha Commemorative Service (Wednesday 6th August)

The service will commence at 10:30 AM adjacent to Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide, with the mounting of the Catafalque Party from 10/27 RSAR. The service includes the reading of the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha, a second tour bunker assault, and the enemy contact in Afghanistan during which Cpl Matthew Hopkins ("Hoppy") was killed.

Parking for 30 vehicles on the Parade Ground has been arranged.

We have made arrangements to have lunch at the British Hotel in North Adelaide.

*(Old news I know due to computer failure – Kev)*



**I-r Kerry Eichner, Bob Whinnen and Lindsay Kealy**



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**I-r Bob Lloyd, Chris Ashenden and Tony Carr**

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‘Til next time – “Doc” Secretary, 7RAR Veterans Sth Aust





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## THE BEST FROM THE WEST

G'Day PIGGIES everywhere, from all PIGS in the WEST.

### ANZAC DAY by Don Cruden

2025 was probably our best ANZAC DAY gathering in Perth for a number of years, we put out the call for greater commitment by members as we were to celebrate later in the year the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of 7RAR. Graham EDWARDS led the parade with Noel BELL and Nicole ANDERTON as carriers of our Banner. We couldn't convince Nicole that the "holes" in the banner were to reduce wind pressure. I think she thought they were bullet holes (?). Alongside the banner were Young CLAIZIE carrying the Australian flag in honour of his Uncle Alec BELL (KIA 1<sup>st</sup> tour), Albert JACOB honouring his uncle Paul NAVARRE (KIA 2<sup>nd</sup> tour) with Val O'BRIEN honouring her brother Noel CROUCH (KIA 2<sup>nd</sup> tour).

Attending were Don CRUDEN, Geoff MURRAY, Bob CURRY, Les KAIL, Dale MARSHALL, Del STICKLAND, Geoff BROPHY, Kanga BATTERSEY (Now 80 yrs young), Bob WALL, Mick O'HALLORAN, Garry MILLS, Ian McNEE, Peter VLACHOU, Graeme HAYWOOD, Ted CREEGAN (first time ever marching), Charlie MATHESON, Allan WEST, Keith LEWIS, Bill EDWARDS, Peter DAVIES, Len BELL, Geoff BROPHY, Gordon DICKSON, Peter WEYMOUTH, John DAVIES (our Parade RSM), Spunky FIELDHOUSE, Colin TYE, Alex STAJKOWSKI, Ted Von PALESKE, Richard ADAMS, John SMITH. Bob WALLER (1<sup>st</sup> Tour and later 9 Sqn 2 tours SVN) joined us for drinks.

Gavin RODIE (Ex WA now VIC) made the epic journey over the Nullarbor to join our parade. Peter LUTLEY this year marched with SAS so we granted him dispensation (for his absence).

We were graced with many ladies and a heap of children and grandchildren to keep the gathering alive. Also joining us for drinks were quite a number of our mates from different battalions and corps, it was great to catch up with everyone.



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We thank Charlie MATHESON for getting us the SHOE BAR for our usage and many thanks to all those who turned up for the day to make it the success it was. We marched with excellent weather here in Perth, but due to a burst water main the march route was re-routed before the start and we completed the march and made it back to the "Shoe" in time for a lunch and a few drinks. Some pictures of the day to follow:



L to R: Colin Tye, Ian McNee, John Davies



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L to R:

Nicole Anderton, Lisa Fieldhouse



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Doug "Spunky" Fieldhouse



L to R: Lee Boyd (ex 6RAR joining us for drinks), Peter Vlachou



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L to R: Mick O'Halloran, Julia Jacob, sister of Paul Navarre KIA 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour, Don Cruden, Graham Edwards

## **FUNERAL OF KEVIN ANDERTON and TOMMY TUCKER**

Don attended the funeral of 5714627 Kevin ANDERTON on Fri 2nd May at the Fremantle Cemetery. In attendance were Charlie MATHESON and Allan WEST. Kevin served a full tour with the Battalion 1967-68 with A Coy. He was also a life member of the WA RSL and a highly respected, long-term member of the Cockburn RSL. His Service was well attended by members of that Sub-Branch.

Later in the afternoon he also attended the funeral of 5411684 Cpl Peter (Tommy) TUCKER 12 Pl D Coy 1<sup>st</sup> tour 1967-68.

Tommy had also served with 2 & 3 RAR in Malaya 1962-64. Later with 1 RAR MALAYSIA 1969-71. After his SVN stint he served, as a Cpl, for a period of time, with AATTV 1971. He certainly put in the hard yakka during his military service. Attending also were Dawn & Bob WALL,



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Graham STEELE, Lisa and Spunky FIELDHOUSE. The highlight of the service was against any protocols and at the family wishes, using an ex-Serviceman bugler as the coffin was taken out of the chapel, flanked by grandchildren, the LAST POST was played and once the hearse moved away the bugler played ROUSE. It was a fitting tribute to one who had given long military service. OINK!! OINK!!

## **BATTALION 60<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON**

7RAR Association WA will be holding the 7RAR 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Luncheon next month to celebrate the battalion's birthday.

Where and when?

Date: Sunday 31st August 2025

Venue: Mandurah RSL Club, Unit 5/ 20-22 Rouse Road, GREENFIELDS, WA 6210.

Timings: 1200 - 1230 hrs Meet n Greet, Drinks, fellowship.

1230 - 1300 hrs 7RAR 60th Birthday Service.

1300 - 1500 hrs Lunch of Roast Chicken and vegies, apple pie and cream, tea and coffee.

Cost: \$40 per person, payment to:

Combank BSB: 066132 Account:00913220 NO payment on the day.

Raffle: Mandurah raffle to be held so bring along a few extra bucks

Drinks: At RSL bar prices

Medals: Medals to be worn.

We really need to know numbers as soon as possible for catering purposes. Also, some people may wish to travel to and from Mandurah by train and if there are sufficient numbers, we may be able to arrange a bus to transport you from the station to the RSL Club, at a small fee. So please contact any of the members below to tell us:

- a. If you intend attending, how many
- b. If you intend coming by train



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c. If you have any special dietary requirements

Numbers will be limited so please make your payments to the bank details above as soon as possible to confirm your attendance. The cut-off date for registering is 17th August 2025 which will give the caterers/bar staff/bus company two weeks' notice.

Contact details:

Graham Edwards	<a href="mailto:geonwheels@hotmail.com">geonwheels@hotmail.com</a>	0418 952 162
Don Cruden	<a href="mailto:doncruden@outlook.com">doncruden@outlook.com</a>	0431 672 001
Geoff Murray	<a href="mailto:geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au">geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au</a>	0432 253 043

Please contact any of the above for further details.



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## State President's Commendation

Awarded to:

**Allan West OAM**

*I commend you for your outstanding dedication to the Veteran community and current serving ADF members. Your commitment to the RSLWA values of camaraderie, care and advocacy has been exemplary. Your passion and devotion to help veterans and their families is evident through almost 30 years of services as an Advocate. Your dedication to assisting veterans with their claims for pensions and home service entitlements speak to the heart of our vision to enable veterans and their families to thrive in the community.*

*I also take this opportunity to recognise your involvement in the formation of the Totally and Permanently Disabled Veterans in Baldivis and the establishment of six two-bedroom units for short term accommodation, respite and a club house.*

*Your conduct has been in accordance with the highest traditions of the League, and you have proven yourself fully deserving of a State President's Commendation.*

Duncan Anderson  
State President  
13 June 2025

## ALLAN WEST STATE RSL AWARD

Allan West was recently presented with the RSL WA State President's Commendation award, pictured to the left.

Congratulations Allan, well done and richly deserved.



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## **DON'S MEDAL MOUNTS by Don Cruden**

This is an idea for fitting Infantry Combat Badge and the new SVN Medal of Gallantry instead of making holes in your coat. If interested contact Don (0431 672 001) for more info.

## **FUNERAL OF CLIVE CHAPMAN**

Don attended Chappy CHAPMAN'S funeral (D11 1<sup>ST</sup> Tour) at WILLIAMS on Thu 3 Jul 2025 (a round trip of 430km).

There were well over 100 attendees, with at

least 40 ex veterans as an Honour Guard. Allan & Betty WEST, Harry DAINTON (FO C Coy 1<sup>st</sup> tour), Bob SEXTON and a big surprise attendee was Ross ELLIS (ACT) ex Pl Comd 11 Pl during the first tour. A pleasure to have you visit Ross and I know that you took time out to see Chappy's best mate Curly Schaper.

Curly did not attend the funeral service due to his medical condition but his name was mentioned during the service. Don also visited Curly and his wife Kathleen after the funeral service. Thankfully the weather held good despite threatening dark clouds.



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## **VALE MELVIN "CURLY" SCHAPER**

Sadly, Curly Schaper, (D11 1<sup>st</sup> Tour), passed away within a week or so of his close mate Clive Chapman. Curly's funeral will be held in Williams on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July and details of the funeral will appear in the next newsletter.

## **DON'S TURNING 90 YEARS YOUNG**

By the time you read this, Don Cruden would have turned 90 on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2025. Don has been the lifeblood of the WA Association for many decades and we are constantly amazed at his energy and dedication to us "PIGGIES". Thanks, Don for all your efforts on our behalf. OINK!!



A somewhat younger Don Cruden



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## Pigs in Paradise

There aren't a lot of Pigs in Brisbane. At least not a lot that are fit enough to march on ANZAC Day or walk to our end-of-month lunches. So, when these four turned up for the march they were well received and we all enjoyed a great afternoon.



Pigs in Paradise at the Port Office Hotel. L to R Steven Roberts, Jeremy Martinez, Luke Ross, Kev Gillett, Arthur Holzhauser, Mick King, Terry King (Mick's brother) and Tyson Tyes

Two weeks ago we said farewell to Peter Upton (B Coy 1<sup>st</sup> Tour) Peter was a stalwart Association member and had contributed more than most before ill health slowed him down. About a hundred people said goodbye to him. People from all walks of Peter's life but I did chat with Brian and Sheryl Maguire, Phil and Kay Littler and "Mordy" who was called thus because he hailed from Mordialloc, all who served with Peter. RIP mate



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## Recce/Pioneers Annual Reunion

Every August, near to the anniversary of Neil Richardson's death in action, Recce Pl have held a reunion at Coolangatta. A few years ago we decided to also invite Pioneers -just in case we wanted something built or destroyed.(Joking!)....We enjoy drinks and camaraderie over three days and have a memorial service at Queen Elizabeth Park, Coolangatta followed by a more formal dinner on the last day (Wed 27 Aug)

We remember 3 KIA, 13 WIA and 26 who have left us since RTA out of 52 who cycled through the Platoon

This year 18 are attending so we ae still hanging in there. If you are around, drop by at the Coolangatta Surf Club during the period 25 - 28 August

That's all  
Kev