

### Seven News

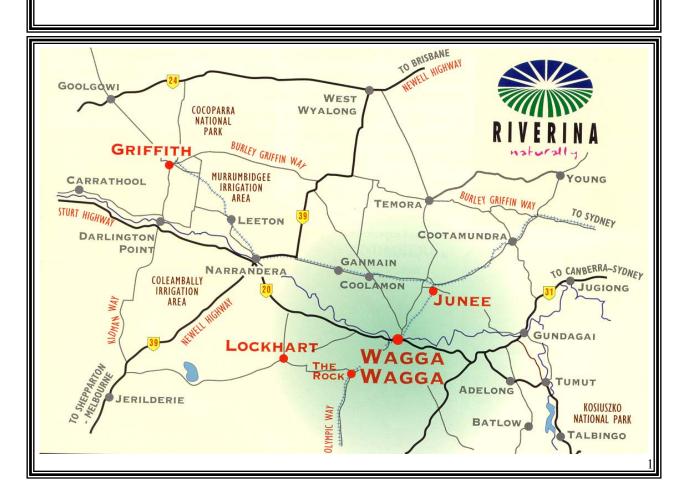
May 2003 Volume 1 Issue 2 7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association Inc



Postal Address: PO Box 8143, WERRINGTON COUNTY, NSW 2747

Email: porkyseven@bigpond.com

Homepage: http://www.7rar.asn.au



## This newsletter is the official publication of The 7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association Inc. Incorporated in Queensland - No: 1A - 13547

#### One of many entries in this year's Archibald Prize.



Thought-provoking message...artist Julie Tremp shows her painting of Vietnam veteran Graham Edwards to Penrith RSL chairman Clive Connor Photo: DAVID HILL

2

#### **REUNION NOTES**

reetings and salutations members, with the Reunion just around the corner let me bring you completely up to date with the state of play as at the date of this Newsletter. The numbers have been finalised, for catering, (at the time of going to print 495) for the dinner on Sat 16 Aug, final figures for the Lunch on Sun 17 Aug have yet to be finalised.

Intry to dinner and lunch will be by an entrée card which will be available for collection from the XO on and from Thursday14 August, either from room 10 at the RSL Club Motel between 10.00am and 12.00pm and 2.00pm and 4.00pm or the information desk in the RSL club on Friday 15 August, the information desk will be open from 10.00am until the get together. (You can contact me on mobile 0418 624 211 to confirm my whereabouts if you will be in town before Fri 15th). Merchandise will also be available for collection at these times. If you arrive in town early please arrange to collect your Merchandise to assist with the orderly distribution and avoid a last minute rush.

he list that appears on pages 8 to 13 show the names of those who have indicated they will be attending the activities over the weekend, the list indicates the following, <u>Members Name</u> (in alphabetical order, please ensure your partner and/or guest/s names are included where applicable) The following legend under each name indicates that you have advised your intentions for those activities to be paid for by the member: e.g.:

•	JOE BLOGGS Y	You are attending Dinner and have not paid. No response received for Lunch.
•	JOE BLOGGS Y Y	You are attending both and have not paid.
•	JOE BLOOGS Y (PAID) N	You are attending Dinner and have paid. You are not attending Lunch.
•	JOE BLOOGS Y (PAID) Y (PAID)	You are attending both and have paid for both.
•	JOE BLOGGS N N	You are not attending either Dinner or Lunch but will be in Wagga Wagga sometime.

If the space is blank then you have not indicated your intentions, please advise your intentions ASAP to enable confirmation of numbers for catering. Total amounts owing for these activities is \$40 per head for dinner and \$20 per head for lunch.

Please send payment (cheque or money order, no cash please, sometimes it never arrives) for the Dinner on 16th and lunch on 17th Aug to reach the XO not later than Wed 18 June 2003, to the following address:

7RAR ASSOCIATION PO BOX 8143 WERRINGTON COUNTY NSW 2747

#### PAYMENT FOR REUNION ACTIVITIES & MERCHANDISE

	_
Enclosed is \$being payme	ent for the following activities : -
Name	
Name	) 5: 6 4:0
Name	Dinner @ \$40 per head.
Name	>
Name	
Nama	J
Name	
Name	Lunch @ \$20 per head.
Name	Lanen & \$20 per nead.
Name	<u>}</u>
Name	Merchandise \$See pages 13
& 14	, , ,
}	
Receipts for all reunion activities and available from the XO in Wagga Wagga	
financial commitments prior to the reuni	
XO and Treas of handling excessive am	
AC and meas of handling excessive and	ounts of money in wayya wayya.
Tony Keech XO/ED	



Friday 15 Aug:

From 10.00am

Check in at the info desk at the RSL Club, Dobbs St, collect tourist info pack, receipts and entrée cards and merchandise where applicable.

6.30pm

Informal get together and welcome by President at the RSL Club. Club bistro and other facilities available for members use.

#### Saturday 16 Aug: -

10.30am Form up for march in Morgan St, Bob May will

be the 7RAR Marshall, band from Recruit Trg Centre. Members to wear coat & tie with awards and decorations as applicable. (We will be part of the Vietnam Veterans group to be led by the Riverina Group). Floral and other tributes will be laid at the Cenotaph at completion of march.

6.30pm Assemble at RSL Club for Association Dinner.

7.00pm Move into Dinner, (due to numbers attending the

Dinner will be a Grand Buffet, sufficient seating and tables will be positioned throughout the area).

The Gonfalon will be marched into the area and a vacant chair will be positioned to represent absent members. (The President will address the gathering and then invite Fr Keith Teefey to say grace). There will be a number of service points to assist in quick service for all. Drinks will be available from a number of bars situated in the dining room, (pay as you go).

The MC for the evening will be Tony Keech. The format for the evening will be informal with a few speeches spread throughout the meal. A Raffle will be conducted for those present with a variety of quality prizes available.

A short formal ceremony will be held during the evening to commemorate those of our members who are not with us on this occasion. Towards the end of the evening the Raffle will be drawn and you will be free to do your own thing.

#### Sunday 17 Aug: -

11.00am

Assemble at RSL Club for Special General Meeting. Agenda will be issued with information sheets on arrival in Wagga Wagga, the major subjects to be covered will be the status of the Pictorial History, and the location of the next Reunion.

 $12.30 \, \mathrm{pm}$ 

A Buffet lunch will be served at the RSL Club. This will be an informal activity with no speeches or presentations. At the conclusion of lunch the remainder of the day will be free.

#### <u> Monday 18 Aug</u> : -

Time TBC Dedication service for Riverina Legion of VVA.

Order of service to be issued on check in at RSL Club on Fri 15 Aug. Location of activity is Kapooka

in the area of the Chapel.

Time TBC 7RAR Association Memorial Service at Soldiers

Chapel, Kapooka. The format for the activity will be a service inside the Chapel conducted by Chap Ted Mc Millan assisted by Fr Keith Teefey, Don Matthews and Stacey Kruck. Following the inside service the congregation will move outside to the 7RAR Plaque where a short service will be held

followed by the laying of a wreath.

At the conclusion of this service the formal activities for the Reunion will be over and members will be

free to disperse.

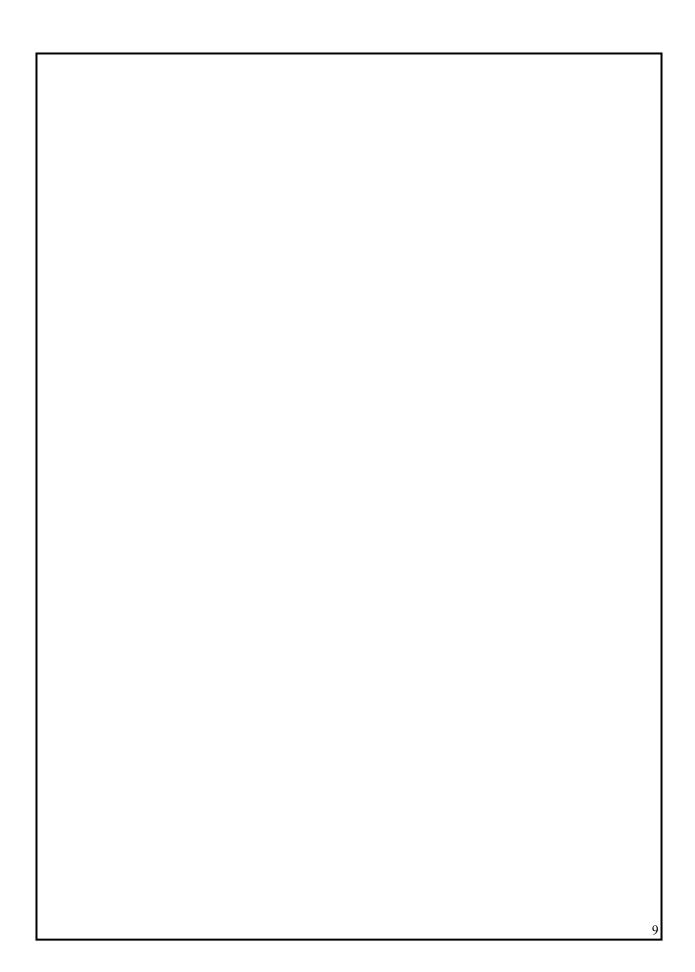
#### SUOI CHAU PHA LUNCH SUN 10 AUG 2003

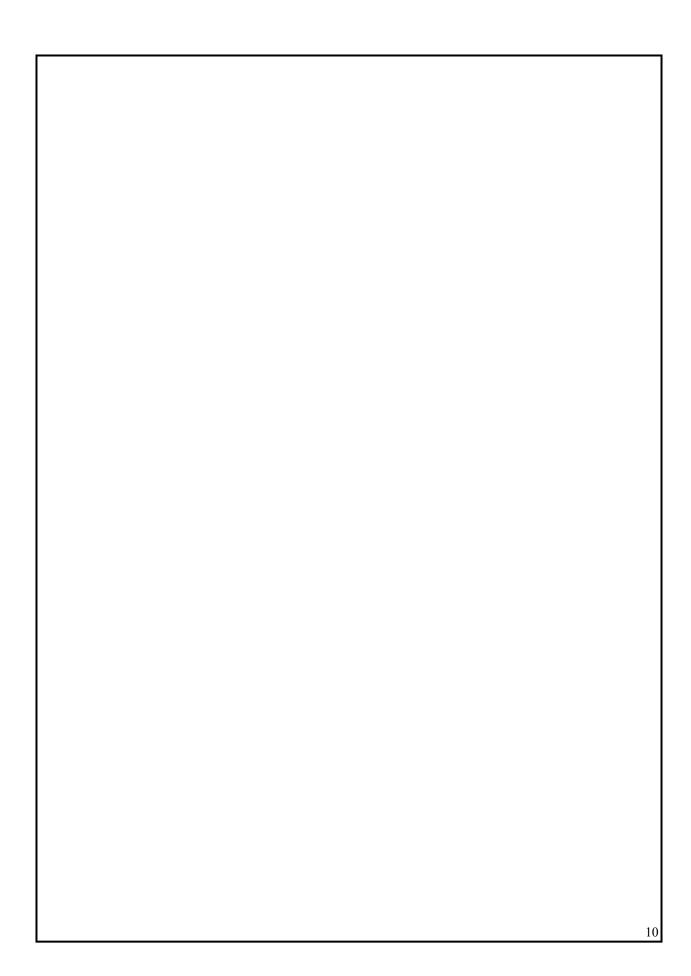
The annual lunch to commemorate the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha will be held on Sun 10 Aug 2003 at the Saigon Restaurant, Pearce in Canberra commencing at 12.00pm. If you are planning to attend please let Bill Fogarty know on Ph (02) 6288 3337. For those traveling to the Reunion make the lunch your stopover on your way to Wagga Wagga.

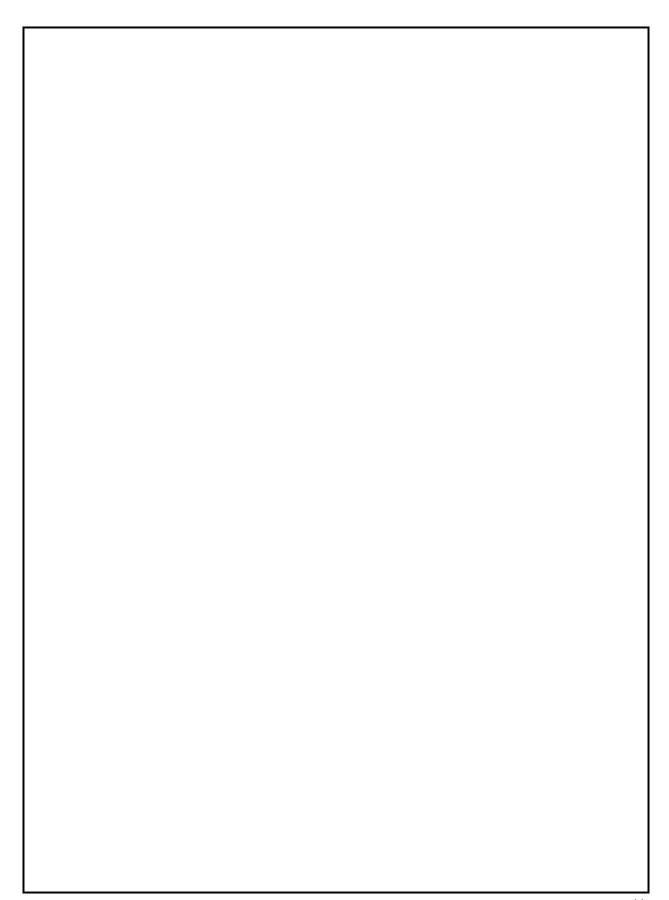
This year will be the 36th anniversary of the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha, if you have not been to one of these then make an attempt this year.

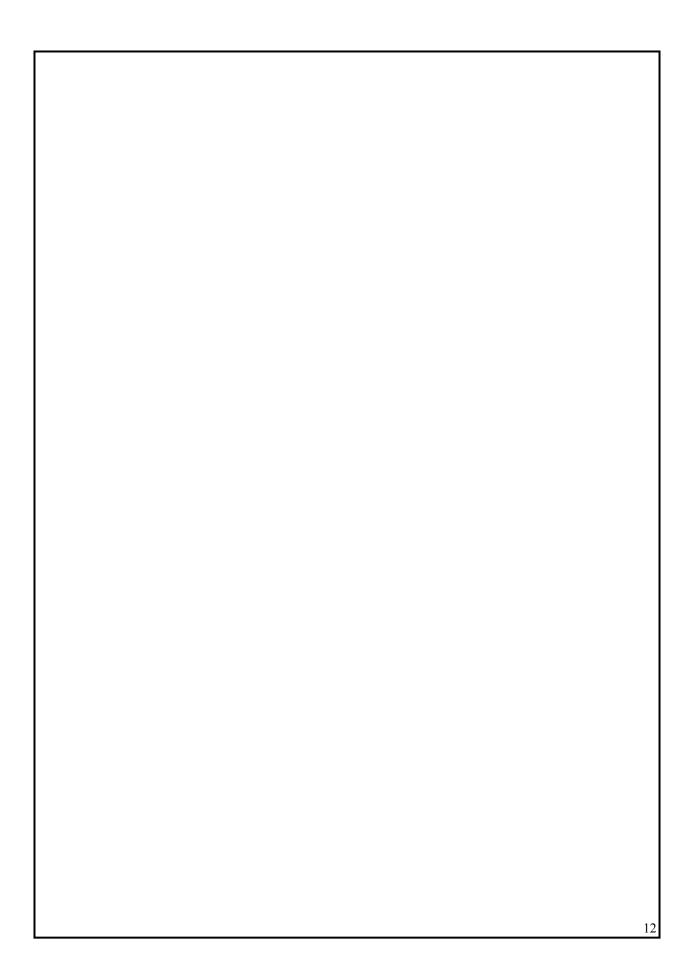
Tony Keech XO/ED

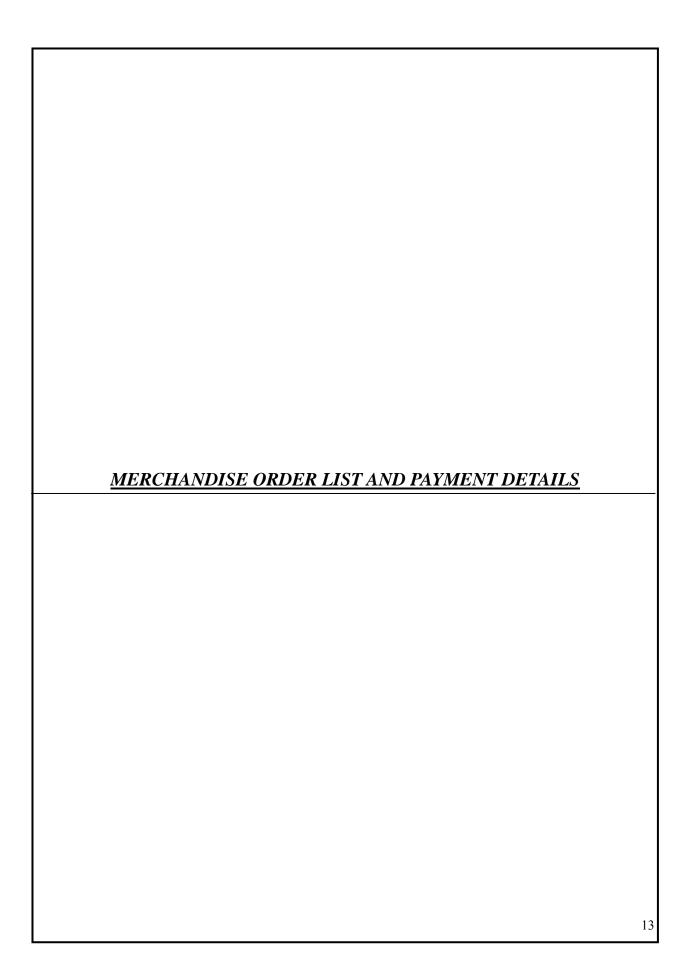
DINNER AND LUNCH ATTENDANCE LIST AS AT 89 MAY 2003					
8					

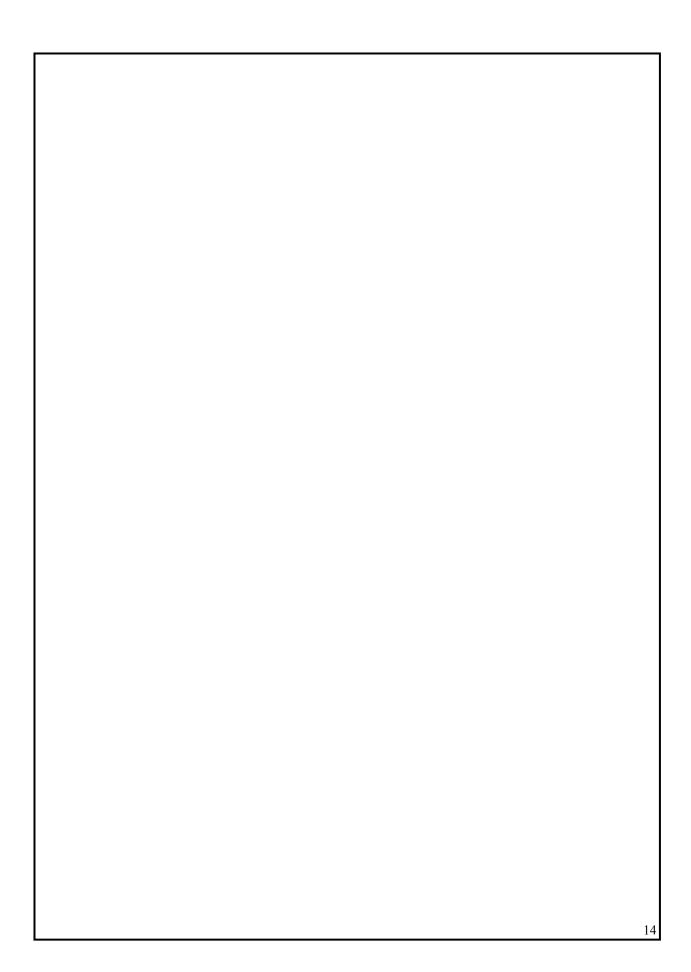












The Secretary, 6 Willinga Plee, Merrinac Old. 4226 M' Jony Reich, P. O. Box 143, 11th. Fels. 2003 Werington County. Ph. 07) 55251216 NSW, 2747. Mol. 0412251225 Dear Jony, I felt I must fut fen to paper to thank you for the suffort, the tributes paid to our "Beloved ald ubmios; hon. Kon would have been so very fraged at the attendance and tributes at his lexuice and the personal support given to both myself and our family. .. We would like you to show that this love and support has eased our pain tremendously and we are so very grateful to his belowed TAAR family for Our grandchildren, Daughter and her husband, his brothers were all so froud, as was I, we know he was special, but never expected such a wonderful trism out and such sespect shown to how.

never forget the case and concern
you should to him.
We would be gratefull if you

could frint this letter in the TRAR news
so that all the TRAR family will know
of our appreciation.

With Sincere Ilanks.

Kim Sigg, Vicby & Bob Owens,
Rachel and mathew Owens.

The above letter was received by the XO from Ron Siggs' widow Kim. The Association was well represented at the service held at Nerang on the Gold Coast on Thursday 6 Feb 2003.

Just a short message of appreciation to the Executive and all members of the 7RAR Association who sent cards when we suddenly lost Peter (Blue) in February. It came as a great shock to me, our children (Robert, Donna and Sally), the grandchildren and to the many others who knew him. I was totally overwhelmed by the number of people at his funeral and wish to apologise to those whom I may not have spoken to. I did manage to spend some time with Bill (Snoopy) Harley and 2 others (whose names escape me) and heard some funny stories from Vietnam.

I also wish to thank you for the 7RAR Sash (which proudly hangs on the wall below his Certificates for Warrant Officer, his OAM, the Certificate he received when he became an Officer and the framed story of 7RAR and medals). I would love to remain associated with "THE PIGS" for many years to come. Take care and once again, thank you.

Rose Amos

#### OUTSIDE RMC CHAPEL AT THE FUNERAL OF PETER (BLUE) AMOS



Below - L to R: Trevor (Blue) Walker, David Webster, John (Teeney) Preston and David Willis.



L to R : Louise Amos, Robert Amos, Bill Harley, Dave Willis, John Preston, Trevor Walker, Unknown, Rosemary Amos.



L to R: Dave Willis, Trevor Walker, Unknown, Rosemary Amos, Paul (Son





Pompey Elliott's' grave at Burwood cemetery, Burwood Victoria. Photo courtesy Peter (Pearly) Gates A/C/SPT Coy 1st tour.

# An Old Soldier remembers . .



Mr. Alec Burns, of Concord, hands over the historic book to Lieutenant-Colonel lan Mackay.

A 38-year-old book brought three generations of 7th Battalion infantrymen together at Holsworthy recently.

World War I veteran, Alec Burns, N.S.W. President of the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion Association, presented a copy of the Battalion history to Lieutenant-Colonel I. Mackay, Commanding Officer of 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, Holsworthy.

The 191-page history, one of only 620 printed in 1933, was donated by Lieutenant F.C. Campbell, a Croix De Guerre winner with the 1/7th in World War I. The book has never been reprinted.

It contains an account of an action unique to Australian military history, where four soldiers of the 1/7th won Victoria Crosses on the same night in August

1915 at the battle of Lone Pine.

Two members of the original 7th battalion — raised at Broadmeadows, Vic., in 1914, and 10 of the 2/7th, attended the presentation and a luncheon held later.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mackay called the presentation a "proud honour".

"We will take good care of this memorable book", he said.

"I accept it on behalf of 7RAR for lodgment in our museum."

A further tie between the three battalions came in October, with the appointment of Colonel Eric Smith — Commandant of Infantry Centre and first Commanding Officer of 7 RAR — as patron of the 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion Association.

This article was published in the local Liverpool press to coincide with the sixth birthday of 7RAR at Holsworthy in 1971. Article kindly provided by lan Mackay.

## $\frac{ANZAC\ DAYACTIVITIES\ FROM\ AROUND\ THE\ NATION}{BRISBANE}$

The following is a photographic interlude from the March and Reunion from the QLD group in Brisbane.



















#### ANZAC Day Brisbane

After 20 plus years of forming up in one part of town, the bureaucrats at RSL Headquarters adopted an anti-complacency plan and changed the ballpark and the goal posts. We eventually found our FUP after several false starts and some of us thought we were in the Army again.

Roll call included Blue Spruce, Bill Charlton, Nev Robinson, Trent Grall, Kev Montague (visiting from WA), Richard Kenny, Don Robinson, Charlie Fizzell, John Downing, Kev Donnelly, Phil Littler, Vic Wynands, Ron Allen, Jack Ezzy, Dave Evans, Bruse Cox, Neil Schneidewin, Ken Gillard, Bob Banford, Peter Lloyd, Barry Burton, Mike Carroll, Graham Griffiths, Pepe Turra, 'Chook' McMurtrie, Robert Schmiede, Steve Prestwidge, Arthur Holzhuser, Barry Laurenceson, 'Pig Pen' Gates, Barry Gissell, Stacey Kruck and son Martyn, Blue Moores, Jim Husband, Pat Quinn, Darrel Gillies, Percy Meredith, Lee Chapman, John 'Mungo' McCabe, Terry Curtis, Dean Larkin and Kev Gillett. There were many more that joined after the march but by then the notebook was well hidden.

The march went well with the weather holding and a real General to salute at the dais, the Governor of Queensland, Major General Peter Arnison. The people of Brisbane turned out in their multitudes with hundreds of "thank you" placards along the route. There was no doubt about their gratitude judging from the loud applause and just sometimes you have to think 'It makes it all worthwhile'.

We were joined by a lot of other 'Pigs' when we gathered at the Victory Hotel for after-parade drinks sharing the venue with SASR Association and a lot of current generation sailors. We all enjoyed the company of the younger set with their different aspect of life and the services generally. There seems to be more and more younger veterans at ANZAC Day to the point where we could hardly move at the pub. Maybe time to look for a bigger venue.

#### ANZAC Day Sydney

In Sydney there were approx 85 members present for the march. The Sydney activities commenced with the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, a very large crowd was present to observe the actual time the landings took place at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli. After the Dawn service those from 7RAR moved to the Regimental Memorial and conducted a short service in memory of those members from the Battalion who lost their lives in South Vietnam.

The traditional breakfast at the Fortune of War followed by the service at the Garrison Church with the 2/7th members. Later we formed up in Bent St for the march, joining us were Mathew and Rachel Owens the Grandchildren of our "old warrior" Ron Sigg, (see photo below of both children and article from the front page of the Daily Telegraph ANZAC morning of Mathew (page 25 of this news), in typical journo fashion they got Ron's name wrong). Other photos show the banner and the march formation, a very big day by all accounts from around the watering holes visited by all members.



#### **SYDNEY MARCH**







#### **IN SEARCH OF**

My name is Natalie and I am the daughter of the late Richard Gardiner, (also known as Richard Dando). My father passed away in 1979 under terrible circumstances and I am trying to puzzle together pieces of his life in order to understand him better. As his time in Vietnam was a huge part of his life, I figured here was a pretty good place to start. I would love to hear from anyone who came in contact with my Dad during his involvement with the service.

Email contact for Natalie is: natcast@optusnet.com.au or contact the XO/ED.

## PLEASE FILL IN PROXY FOR AND RETURN TO XO NLT 28 MAY FORM FOR APPOINTMENT OF PROXY for 7RAR ASSOCIATION

I	of,			
Being a financial n	nember of the abovenamed A	Associ	ation, h	ereby
appoint	of	Or	failing	him
	of			as
meeting of the A	r me on my behalf at the (annussion to be held on any adjournment thereof.	-	, •	
Signed this	day of		200 .	
Signature				
This form is to be us	sed in favour*/against* the res	olutio	n.	

(\* Strike out which is not desired). (Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as he thinks fit. To be valid the proxy nominated must be present at the meeting).

#### FRAUDULENT USE OF MEDALS

"Section 80A of the Defence Act 1903 provides that it is an offence for a person to falsely represent him or herself to be a returned soldier, sailor or airman. The penalty for a contravention of subsection 80A (1) is currently set at \$220 fine or six months imprisonment or both. Section 80B provides that it is an offence for a person to, among other things, wear service decorations without being the person upon whom it was conferred, or to falsely represent him or herself as being the person upon whom a service decoration was conferred. The penalty for contravention of section 80B is \$220".

"The Director of Public Prosecutions has recommended that a review of the penalty provisions be conducted in consultation with the Criminal Law Branch of the Attorney-General's Department. This has taken place and the penalties recommended are as follows:

- The penalty for subsection 80A (1) be 30 penalty units (which is equivalent to \$3,300) and/or 1 month imprisonment.
- The penalty for subsection 80B (4) the maximum penalty be 30 penalty units/or imprisonment for 6 months.
- The penalty for subsection 80B (1) be 30 penalty units (imprisonment not considered appropriate for this offence).
- The penalty for subsection 80B (5) be 60 penalty units (equivalent to \$6,600 fine) and/or imprisonment for 12 months.

The penalties are consistent with Commonwealth criminal law policy.

It is also an offence to impersonate a member of the Australian Army or falsely represent himself/herself to a member or former member of the Australian Army. The current penalty is prescribed at \$20 fine, however, it is proposed to increase to 10 penalty units (\$1,100 fine).

This is meant to stop the wearing of non-entitled decorations/medals.

Tony Keech XO/ED

#### THE BEST FROM THE WEST

PIGS around Australia, G'Day from WA.

#### ANZAC DAY

Another fantastic day in Perth for the Anzac Day march this year, with a great bunch of PIGS marching behind the PIGS WA banner. The crowds lining the march route were huge and it was a real buzz to be a part of it. The weather was, of course, perfect. About seventy-five of us gathered behind the banner with CSM Spunky Fieldhouse valiantly trying to keep us in some semblance of marching order, as we marched along St Georges Terrace to salute the Governor of WA. Lt. Gen. John Sanderson. John Davies and a young fellow named Ryan Graham, who is Don Cruden's grandson, carried the banner. Amongst those in attendance were: Gavin Rodie, Gordon Dickson, Don Cruden, Jock Henderson and family, Pat O'Rourke, Ian Jury, Geoff Brophy, Mick O'Halloran, Dale Marshall, Rick Lowe, Spunky Fieldhouse, John Bolst, Graeme Haywood, Ross DeGrey, Rob Copeland, Wally Kleszcz, Ray Lamont, Mick Painter, Glen Moore, Keith Battersby, Barry Hutchins, Bob Dixon, Steve Chamarette, Hooky Hughes, Bill Edwards, Peter Davies, Noel Bell, Ian McNee, Bluey Dunne, Graham Steele, Graham Edwards, Curly Schaper, Merv Eaton, Patricia Rudd, Peter (Tommy) Tucker, Atholie Tucker, Betty Baty (Widow of Jim), Betty's daughter Sharon Weall and grandson Chris Baty, Shane Bigwood (Spunky's grandson), Charlie Matheson, Alan West, Dennis Kelly, Barbara Knight, Jan Truman, Ian Williamson, Val Williamson, Toad Williamson, Robert Teede, Bob Curry, Graeme Gutteridge, Irene Brophy. Marching with us and carrying a flag of remembrance was John Bell, brother of Alec Bell, KIA 1st tour and prior to the march, Don presented John with an "In Memory Of" name plaque commemorating his brother Alec's service with 7RAR.

Don had previously presented one to Julia Jacob, sister of Paul Navarre, KIA 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour. Mick O'Halloran also wore one commemorating Stan Larsson, KIA 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour. Shorty Hylard and his wife Jeanette were visiting from Queensland, along with Shorty's mate Mick Flint, ex 3RAR, Malaya 57-59, who was over for the Kapyong Day celebrations held the previous day (see KAPYONG DAY story).

After the march, we all headed to Rigby's Tavern, where 7RAR takes over the upstairs lounge and balcony. Terrific bunch of about 100 people, including a few matelots (sailors, one of whom was Curly Schaper's son) and various visitors from 6RAR, 8RAR etc. Yes, we'll drink with anybody. In fact, next year the 5RAR Tigers will be joining us, in keeping with the formation of 5/7RAR, for a spot of friendly drinking and assorted rivalry. An all-round excellent day.

#### ANZAC DAY ON THE GOLD COAST (notes by Brian Griffiths)

A few D Coy 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour blokes got together at Bluey and Colleen Rodgers lovely new home on the canals at Palm Beach on the Gold Coast. Jetting in from Perth were Griffo and Joan Griffiths, from Melbourne Danny Grey and from South Australia, Stumpy and Marg Greenough. Local Queensland people were Kev Pattle, Ron and Vanessa Brias, Jim and Jan Hardie, Norm and Jean Wallis (great to see Norm as most had not seen him for 33 years) and Barry Lamont from Byron Bay.

All attended a lovely (but WET) dawn service at Elephant Rock on Currumbin Beach, where the special guest was Keith Payne VC and included flyovers by old aircraft. Although the later march and service at Currumbin RSL were again marred by rain, this was offset by a great lunch and entertainment at the club by Lucky Grills, and all soldiered on into the night.

The following day, Bluey and Colleen hosted a wonderful BBQ for over 50 people, where all warmly welcomed all the 7RAR blokes and wives. Sir Alan and Lady Stella Wendell, who came down from Brisbane for the day, made a special guest appearance, it was great to have them attend. Celebrations continued over the next few days as everyone gradually made their way to their home ports. Doc Straskye picked up Griffo and Joan at Sydney airport during their stopover and spent a few hours with them on their way home.

All would like to thank Bluey and Colleen for a wonderful time and we look forward to Melbourne next year, when Danny Grey will be host.

#### WAGGA WAGGA

There are still some who are undecided whether to go the Wagga Wagga for the reunion, or not. If you are intending to attend, please inform either:

> Don Cruden (08) 9374 0014 Spunky Fieldhouse (08) 9275 8598

as they need to know numbers for catering purposes. Don is also looking for someone who is driving over, who could take our banner over and bring it back. If there are any volunteers, please contact Don.

#### NAME TAGS

If you're going to Wagga Wagga and you still don't have a PIG name tag, there is still time. Each tag costs \$10.00, which includes postage to anywhere in Australia. To order, just call Spunky on the number above and it will take about two to three weeks.

#### KAPYONG DAY

Reg Bandy, RSM 7RAR 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour, organised Kapyong Day celebrations at the Cannington RSL on April 24. There were 78 ex 3RAR diggers from all over Australia in attendance, including 15 original "Kapyong Killers". Parts of an interview with Reg for "The West Australian" Anzac Day supplement were replayed on the big screen at the Anzac Day services on the Esplanade. Congratulations Reg on your amazing achievements, spanning WWII, Korea and Vietnam. You're a constant inspiration to us all and best wishes for your 80<sup>th</sup> birthday later this month.

#### LOOKING FOR A DIGGER

Reg Bandy is searching for information about Dwayne "Tex" Martin, thought to be ex-7RAR. If you have any information, contact Reg on (08) 9451 3651.

#### CENTENARY MEDAL

Congratulation to Ken Bladen on the award of the WA Centenary medal, well done Ken.

#### **FUNNY**

Bruce is driving over the Sydney Harbour Bridge one day in his beaut Ute, when he sees his 15 y.o. Girlfriend Sheila just about to pitch herself off the bridge into the water far below. Bruce slams on the anchors and yells out his window: "Sheila! What're ya flamin' doin'?" Sheila turns around with a tear in her eye and says: "G'day Bruce - I'm pregnant with your baby. I can't deal with it so I'm gonna have to kill meself."

Bruce thinks for a moment, gets a lump in his throat and says "Crikey Sheila, not only are you a bonza shag, but you're a bloody good sport too".

#### 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:

(08) 9448 3109 at home and (08) 9323 4579 at work, or email geoff.murray@mainroads.wa.gov.au.

Cheers Geoff Murray

#### FROM THE EDITORS DESK

A reminder to all members about the AGM to be held at the Statesman Hotel, Curtin in Canberra on Sat 31 May at 6.00pm. If you can make it please be there, if you are unable to attend

please complete the proxy form on page 29 of this newsletter, it is vital that we get as many proxy votes to ensure the meeting can be conducted in accordance with the Rules. If there are insufficient members and proxy forms held, (21 needed for a quorum) the meeting must be re-scheduled for the same time and place a week later.

A word on the article "Fraudulent Use of Medals", it is important that we are all vigilant on this subject as there are many people who attend ceremonial and memorial activities wearing honours and awards they are not eligible to wear and it is only through constant vigilance by all of us that we can stop this practice.

There are a number of items I have omitted from this issue in order to get it to print to ensure all members are informed as to the status of the arrangements for the reunion. Any articles received after the 9 May will appear in the next issue to be published in Sep 2003, this will cover the AGM and the reunion.

Tony Keech XO/ED