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Message from the President

This has been truly a memorable year. The sensational Reunion in Perth, the moving Plaque dedications in Canberra and Sydney and the exciting reformation of our Battalion in Darwin have all served to bring us closer together.

I would like to thank all members of the Association for your continued interest in this band of brothers. The extension of this interest to other family members is indeed a hallmark of which you can be justifiably proud.

To the workers for this Association, I am greatly indebted. Thank you for this splendid dedication, and I look forward to your renewed commitment during the coming year.

Christmas is a time for family togetherness and I trust that many of you are able to meet or at least telephone each other at this time, particularly when you realise that the recipient of that visit or call needs such a fillip to energise him for the new year.

I am mindful that many of you have not been well and I trust that this situation is remedied as soon as possible. I am certain you will all join me in wishing General Ron a speedy recovery from his recent operation and that he and Colonel Eric have a greater enjoyment of life in the coming months through improved health.

Merry Christmas and may you have a happy, healthy 2007.

With best wishes,

Ross



Vale

*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 & sister
until we march by your side.*



*It is with deep and sincere sympathy that I report the
death of our former comrades in arms:*

Vldis Ozolins, 2nd tour, passed away 30 April 2005.

*Frank (Squirrel) Squillacoti, 8 Pl C Coy 2nd tour, passed
away 20 July 2006.*

*Allan Patrick Drew, 12 Pl D Coy 2nd tour, passed away 7
July 2006.*

*Gilbert (Jock) Manson, Catering Pl both tours, notified in
July - August issue of Reveille.*

*Graham John (Gibb) Roberts, 5 Pl B Coy 2nd tour, passed
away 23 September 2006.*

*Raymond Goulden, Medic 2nd tour, passed away 22 Jun
2006.*

*Raymund Cuthbert Dawes (served in Vietnam as Feain), B6
1st tour, passed away 19 Oct 2006*

*Don Matthews, Everymans 1st tour, passed away
7 November 2006.*

*Miss Amy Pittendreigh, 8 Field Ambulance, 1st tour, passed
away 4 November 2006.*

*Peter James Haylock, Admin Coy 1st tour, passed away
23 Nov 2006.*

*Raymond Colin Cooper, D11 1st tour, passed away 1 Dec
2006.*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



*I am still frustrated by the number of members who have not renewed their membership from as far back as 2000. Please check your address label and if your membership has expired and you have a **RED** sticker on you label please renew your membership ASAP. Being un-financial places the burden of paying bills for the everyday running of the Association on the shoulders of all financial members.*

There are also a number of members who have outstanding accounts for the Pictorial History, please finalise these ASAP. If you have paid for any Association accounts by means of the direct deposit method please advise the XO when this method is used. There are some deposits into the Association's bank account without any identifying references, i.e. the name, invoice number or any other identifiable reference, this makes it impossible to link the payment to the individual who has made the payment.

The number of cases of members moving and not advising the XO has certainly dropped, just as a reminder if you are moving or you change phone numbers or email addresses please let me know.

*Notice to all members with internet access, there is a system called **SKYPE** which allows you to communicate with anyone else on the net. Go to skype.com and have a look at the site, you can download the software for no cost, to talk to others on the net you will need a microphone or a headset with mouthpiece. The instructions are easy to follow, all you need to contact someone is their email address. The best thing is **THERE IS NO COST**.*

Also I am looking for a copy of Conscripts and Regulars, if anyone has a spare copy please advise. I will publish a list of new members in the next issue of Seven News.

Tony Keech XO/ED

IN SEARCH OF A MEMBER

On the 23rd March 1968 I was involved in a contact at the end of the Luscombe Airfield at Nui Dat:

Reference: Conscripts and Regulars page 133/34, article by Delville "Sticks" Stickland.

The patrol was a four man patrol made up of the following members:

PTE Ron Myers;

PTE Delville Stickland

PTE Les Crompton (SIG), Les turned 21 on the day.

PTE ?

During this contact "Sticks" was wounded and evacuated by DUSTOFF at first light. I would like to find out the identity of the fourth member of the patrol and would like to get in contact with him. Hoping someone will be able to shed some light on who the member was.

RON MYERS

43 SABRINA AVENUE

BATEAU BAY

NSW 2261

Ph (H) (02) 4333 4235

Email: jerrc5@aapt.net.au

IN SEARCH OF PHOTOS/ETC

Notice for all members of A Coy 2nd tour, anyone who served with or may have any photos or any other memorabilia relating to Noel Crouch, KIA 21 May 1970, please contact his sister, MRS Valerie O'Brien, 78 Unnaroo Street, HILLMAN, WA, 6168, Ph (h) (08) 9527 7343.

Email : Valerie.O'Brien@skg.com.au

XO/ED

To:

7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association. From Barbara Newman

My heartfelt thanks from myself, Michael and Gordon for the flowers, cards and support you have all given us, at this sad time in our lives. We are grateful for the years we had with Duncan. We have wonderful memories that no one can take away from us.

I would like to thank the RAR Association and the "C" Company family for their love and support and for their very generous donations which helped pay off my car. Thank you very very much.

A very special thank you to Ted and Julie Lewis and Allen Wendell, who have been a tower of strength to us at this time. Last but not least to Stacey Kruck, whose words and prayers, made us realise life does go on.

I recently went down to Condobolin, where Duncan was born, to spread his ashes on the "Murie" (an old creek bed that runs through the bush). Duncan was raised on the banks of the "Murie" in an old tin shed. He was one of 11 children. About 60 people attended the service, mostly Aboriginals, some RSL members from the Condobolin RSL and Col Harden and his lovely wife and Tim Hayes from "C" Company.

Duncan and I were married for 34 years. It is still hard to believe he is gone. He was a fine and Proud man and he will live in our hearts forever.

*May God Bless you and keep you all safe
Love Barbara*

DUNCAN NEWMAN APPEAL

A big thank you to those very generous and compassionate members who so kindly donated money to the above appeal. With the considerable help Russ Wiseman and his Wynnum RSL Sub-Branch Social Golf Club over \$9,000 was raised. These funds have been used to advance the welfare of Duncan's family. It was most pleasing to see so many of Duncan's mates provide their support in a time of need after Duncan's tragic death. "WELL DONE THOSE MEN"

TED LEWIS

ADDRESS TO THE REUNION DINNER, FREEMANTLE, WA
26 APRIL 2006

BY COLONEL GEOFFREY C. SKARDON (Rtd)

MR PRESIDENT, PATRONS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

THE TOAST TO THE REGIMENT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR SISTER BATTALIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR MAGNIFICENT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR HISTORY AND REPUTATION.

NEARLY 60 YEARS AGO WHEN THE REGIMENT WAS FORMED, IT INHERITED THE TRADITIONS OF THE MILITIA AND THE 1st AND 2nd AIF BUT NONE OF THEIR BATTLE HONOURS. THE REGIMENT WAS TO START WITH A CLEAN SLATE, AND SO IT DID. IN KOREA.

THE ORIGINAL BATTALIONS OF THE REGIMENT, THE 1st, 2nd AND 3rd, DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN COUNTLESS ACTIONS AGAINST THE VASTLY NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR CHINESE AND NORTH KOREAN ARMIES.

THEIR SERVICE IS TYPIFIED BY THE FAMOUS BATTLE OF KAPYONG WHERE THE 3rd BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT TOGETHER WITH THE CANADIAN PRINCESS PATRICIA'S LIGHT INFANTRY BATTALION, NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY AND A COMPANY OF UNITED STATES TANKS REPULSED A MASSIVE CHINESE BREAKTHROUGH OF THE DEFENSIVE LINES.

HAD THE CHINESE ARMY BEEN SUCCESSFUL, THE DEFENCE OF SOUTH KOREA ITSELF, WOULD HAVE BEEN IN GRAVE JEOPARDY.

THE TWO INFANTRY BATTALIONS AND THE TANK COMPANY WERE AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM AND OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF CAMBAT DUTIES.

OUR KOREAN VETERANS HAD SET THE STANDARDS FOR OUR REGIMENT, AND WHAT INSPIRATIONAL STANDARDS THEY WERE. EVERY OFFICER, NCO AND SOLDIER WHO HENCEFORTH JOINED THE REGIMENT HAD A BENCHMARK THEY COULD ASPIRE TO WITH GREAT PRIDE.

SOME CALL THE KOREAN WAR THE FORGOTTEN WAR. NOT BY THIS REGIMENT!

FOLLOWING THE KOREAN WAR, THE BATTALIONS OF THE REGIMENT GAVE STIRLING SERVICE IN MALAYA, MALAYSIA AND BORNEO. FIRSTLY, FIGHTING THE COMMUNIST TERROISTS AND FINALLY THE INDONESIAN ARMY.

THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THESE CONFLICTS, DUE IN NO SMALL PART TO OUR REGIMENT, WAS QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.

THE WAR IN VIETNAM, WHICH WE ARE ALL SO FAMILIAR WITH, SAW THE REGIMENT EXPAND TO 9 BATTALIONS.

IT WAS ALSO A TIME WHEN THOUSANDS OF NATIONAL SERVICEMEN WERE WELCOMED INTO THE BROTHERHOOD.

IT CAN BE FAIRLY SAID THAT THE SERVICE THEY GAVE TO THE REGIMENT WAS SECOND TO NONE.

ALTHOUGH THE HUNDREDS UPON HUNDREDS OF UNIT ACTIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, ARE INDELIBLY IMPRINTED IN THE MEMORIES OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT THEM: AS THE BATTLE OF KAPYONG IS TO KOREA, SO IS THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN TO VIETNAM.

THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE HAVE RECOGNISED THAT LONG TAN IS SYMBOLIC OF THE GALLANTRY AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THIS CONFLICT.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT RECALL WITH GREAT PRIDE THE MAGNIFICENT FEAT OF ARMS, PREDOMINATELY BY D COMPANY 6 RAR IN FIGHTING TO A STANDSTILL AN ENEMY FORCE OF REGIMENTAL STRENGTH IN THE MOST DIFFICULT OF CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY TOO WERE AWARDED THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL CITATION IN REGOGNITION OF THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE. THE REGIMENT SALUTES THEM.

SINCE THEN, INDIVIDUALS OR UNITS OF THE REGIMENT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN A MULTITUDE OF PEACEKEEPING OR WARLIKE ACTIVITIES. RWANDA, SOMALIA, EAST TIMOR, AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ AND THE SOLOMONS ARE JUST SOME OF THE DEPLOYMENTS WHERE OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN OR ARE CURRENTLY IN HARMS WAY.

THEY HAVE AND ARE CONTINUING TO BRING GREAT CREDIT ON THE REGIMENT. TO THOSE DEPLOYED OVERSEAS WE WISH THEM WELL AND A SAFE RETURN.

THE REGIMENT HAS GIVEN US A SPLENDID HISTORY STUDDERED WITH BATTLE HONOURS OF WHICH WE ARE SO VERY PROUD. IT HAS ALSO GIVEN US SOMETHING ELSE OF IMMENSE VALUE: REGIMENTAL SPIRIT.

THAT INDEFINEABLE MAGIC, NOT NECESSARILY REGOINISED AT THE TIME, BUT FROM THE MOMENT WE JOINED A BATTALION, IT BEGAN CREEPING INTO OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SOULS. IT FOSTERED PRIDE IN OURSELVES, PRIDE IN OUR MATES AND PRIDE IN OUR UNIT.

IT HELPED US OVERCOME OUR FEARS AND FACE OUR TASKS WITH COURAGE. IT HELPED US BEAR THE UNBEARABLE, ENDURE THE UNDURABLE AND ACHIEVE WHAT ANY SENSIBLE PERSON WOULD SAY IS UNACHIEVABLE.

REGIMENTAL SPIRIT FOSTERED CAMRADSHIP, THAT QUALITY THAT INSTILLED RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER AND THE DESIRE TO DO ONES DUTY LEST WE LET OUR MATES DOWN. COMRADESHIP IS SOMETHING THAT NO FIGHTING UNIT CAN DO WITHOUT.

DR BLUEY STEWART IN HIS BOOK "RECOLLECTIONS OF A REGIMENTAL MEDICAL OFFICER" HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT CAMRADESHIP;

"THE SPIRIT WHICH GROWS UP IN A BATTALION WHEN IT HAS BEEN WELDED TOGETHER INTO A TRUE FIGHTING UNIT IS A COMRADESHIP ALMOST SUPERNATURAL IN ITS STRENGTH AND INTENSITY.

IT SPRINGS FROM HARDSHIP SHARED EQUALLY, RISKS RUN BY ALL IN COMMON, AND IT'S POWER EXCEEDS MOST OF THE EMOTIONS THAT AN ORDINARY MAN WILL EVER KNOW.

THE CARE OF SOLDIERS FOR ONE ANOTHER, THEIR SURE AND CALM DEPENDENCE ON EACH OTHER, ARE HARD TO UNDERSTAND BY ANYONE WHO HAS NOT KNOWN IT"

END QUOTE

REGIMENTAL SPIRIT IS THE GLUE THAT BINDS MAN TO MAN, MEN TO THEIR BATTALION AND THE BATTALIONS TO THE REGIMENT.

WHATEVER BATTALION THEY BELONG TO, THEY SAW FAITHFULNESS TO EACH OTHER, TO THEIR UNIT AND COUNTRY AS THEIR SACRED DUTY, AND ALTHOUGH THIS DUTY OFTEN ENTAILED GREAT SACRIFICE, IT WAS ALWAYS - DUTY FIRST.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE BE UPSTANDING TO TOAST THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT.

THE REGIMENT.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

Jill and Stephen Sexton would like to wish all of John's good mates and their families every happiness for the festive season and a safe, happy 2007.

*Fond Regards
Jill*

PICTORIAL HISTORY BOOKS SE QLD AREA

To all members in the SE QLD area Ted Lewis still has a quantity of the pictorial history, anyone in the area can contact Ted on:

Ph(h) (07) 3379 4535

Cost is \$90 plus any P & H incurred.

NUMBERS LEFT ON HAND ARE DWINDERLING QUICKLY SO IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT YOURSELF A COPY DON'T HESITATE OR YOU MAY BE DISSAPOINTED AND MISS OUT.



OR-

FORM

DER

Price: \$90.00 each for 7RAR Association Members OR \$140 for non-members plus postage and packaging.

Please supply me with _____ copy/copies of the above mentioned book. Mail orders to 7RAR ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 8143, WERRINGTON COUNTY, NSW 2747.

Name _____ Membership

No: _____

Address _____

_____ State _____ Post Code _____

Please send your order without any payment, I will invoice you with the delivery of the book. P & H varies greatly to locations all across the country, this will allow correct charges to all.



This is a copy of the photograph on the cover of "Seven in Seventy". Adrian Wiseman the son of Russ Wiseman, 10Pl D Coy 2nd tour has hand painted this unique photograph and copies are for sale.

The painting is 16" x 20" and the cost is \$200 each plus P & H. You can order your copy from Adrian at the following address.

*Adrian Wiseman
9 Tawhine Street
MANLY WEST
QLD 4178
Ph (H) (07) 3348 7564
(M) 0403 010 328*

Be aware that it takes Adrian about forty hours to complete the job. Please discuss the method of delivery with Adrian or Russ when enquiring about the painting.

Tony Keech XO/ED

For Sale: Sheet of three Porky car stickers \$10 per sheet from the XO, send no money, an invoice will accompany the stickers. Be aware the sticky side is the back of the sticker.



Thought you may be interested to see and here about our RSL Sub Branch, and its close ties with 7 RAR. The Capricornia Sub Branch was formed in North Rockhampton due to ongoing conflict with the then Rockhampton Sub Branch (which is now defunct.) The Sub Branch was formed in February 1995 and the Inaugural President was Ron (Sooky) Sawers, when Ron passed away in early June of that year his wife Jeannette became the President and held that position until the 1997 elections when in February of that year I was elected to that office I remained in the chair until February 2002 I retired to travel Aust. My successor was Des Soley who as a reservist officer was attached to Sp. Coy. on the second tour for a week or so, in February 2004 Ron King was elected as the new President and still is. As I said earlier the ties with the Bn. are still strong and yesterday at our Remembrance day Ceremony I was proud to lay a wreath for our fallen comrades.

Kind regards to all pigs Richard & Jeannette Hylard.



DEDICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES AT THE
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
10 am, THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2006

At a very special ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial three plaques were dedicated to recognise the service of the members of the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF, 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF and 7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment.

The ceremony was attended by about 200 members, their families and friends representing all three units of the plaques to be dedicated.

Welcome Remarks:

Steve Gower, AO, Director, Australian War Memorial.

Introduction:

Major General Sandy Pearson, AO, DSO, OBE, MC, (Ret'd).

Reflections:

First World War - 7th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF.

Major General John Whitelaw, AO, CBE, (Ret'd).

Second World War - 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF.

Mr Max Wright.

Vietnam - 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Ross Ellis, (Ret's).

Prayers:

Principal Chaplain Ken Jarvis, (Ret's) former Army Chaplain, Vietnam.

The service was held in the very pleasant surrounds of the Australian War Memorial with the three plaques being unveiled by the following:

7th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF.

*Major General John Whitelaw, AO, CBE, (Ret'd)
Colonel Peter Leeson (Ret'd)*

2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF.

*Major General C.M.I. Pearson, AO, DSO, OBE, MC, (Ret'd)
Mr Max Wright.*

7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

*Major General R. A. Grey, AO, DSO, (Ret'd)
Colonel Graeme Chapman (Ret'd).*

Dedication of Plaques.

Principal Chaplain Ken Jarvis (Ret'd).

After the completion of the dedication of the plaques the gathering present adjourned to the Australian War Memorial café for a morning tea. It was most encouraging to see so many members of the Association present with their families and friends. The most notable was Major General Sandy Pearson, Patron of the 2/7th Battalion and his extended family, some of whom had travelled from as far away as the UK, also Major General Ron Grey, CO 2nd Tour.

Unfortunately photographic records of the ceremony have not been available for this issue of the newsletter but if they become available they will be included in the next issue of Seven News.

The photographs that follow are those of the three plaques dedicated at the ceremony.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 7TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

During the Great War the 7th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF participated in the Gallipoli campaign and in many of the principal Wester Front battles that involved Australians. The 7th Battalion was made up of volunteers from Melbourne and country Victoria. Its first Commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel H.E, “Pompey” Elliott, who led the battalion on Gallipoli.

The battalion left Melbourne in October 1914 and was stationed at the Mena Camp in Egypt before embarking for Gallipoli. On the morning of 25 April 1915 it went ashore at ANZAC Cove, receiving casualties while still in the landing boats. That afternoon it helped repel Turkish counter-attacks on 400 Plateau. In August the battalion fought in the battle of Lone Pine, the most savage Australian engagement of the campaign.

The 7th Battalion received four of the seven Victoria Crosses awarded to Australian at Lone Pine.

After Gallipoli the 7th Battalion returned to Egypt before being sent to France. Following the promotion and departure of "Pompey" Elliott to command the 15th (Vic) Brigade, the battalion was led by Lieutenant Colonel Carl Jess. On 23 July 1916 it saw action on the Western Front for the first time at Pozieres, supporting the Australian capture of the village and helping to beat off the German counter-attacks.

On 25 July 1916 two companies of the battalion were involved in a costly assault on the German lines south of the Bapaume road. In mid-August the battalion participated in the final series of Australian attacks in the Pozieres area against German positions around the Moquet Farm.

The 7th Battalion left the trenches in early 1917, returning to the line in Flanders later that year to take part in the Third Battle of Ypres or the Passchendaele campaign.

Although the campaign as a whole was a tragic failure, the battalion fought in the successful "set piece" battles of the Menin Road on 20 September and Broodseinde on 4 October.

From March 1918 the battalion held the line in Hazebrouck against the northern prong of the great German offensive.

Back in the Somme area, it then followed up the celebrated Australian success of 8 August by attacking German positions around Vauvillers and participating in the advance to Lihons.

The 7th Battalion was withdrawn from the trenches for the last time in October. Over a thousand of its men died during the war.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 2/7TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

The 2/7th Australian Infantry Battalion, AIF fought in North Africa, the Mediterranean theatre, and New Guinea during the Second World War.

The Battalion formed in Melbourne at the beginning of the war, its Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel T.G. "Theo" Walker. It embarked for the Middle East in April 1940.

The 2/7th Battalion participated in the first Libyan offensive of the North African campaign. Cooperating with British armour. In January 1941 it fought against Italian troops at the battle of Bardia and during the capture of Tobruk.

In April the 6th Division left Africa to take part in the controversial and ill-fated campaign in Greece. The 2/7th Battalion was deployed as far north as Thessaly but rapid German advances meant that it had to be evacuated from Kalamata in the Gulf of Messenia.

When its transport ship was disabled by enemy aircraft, the battalion was rescued by British destroyers and landed in Crete. On 27 April the 2/7th Battalion was involved in savage hand-to-hand fighting with German airborne troops at a position known as 42nd Street.

The Battalion then acted as a rearguard for the Australians retreating to the south coast of Crete. This role meant that it was left behind on the island; almost its entire fighting strength - around 700 men - was captured by the Germans.

Using 70 survivors from Crete as a nucleus, the 2/7th Battalion reformed in Palestine under Lieutenant Colonel Henry Guinn. After garrison duty in Syria and Sri Lanka, the new battalion arrived back in Australia in August 1942 before being sent to New Guinea.

In January 1943 the Battalion was flown into Wau to defend the town and its strategically important airstrip from a sudden Japanese advance.

In the campaign reminiscent of Kokoda, the battalion then fought the Japanese back from Wau along jungle trails through Mubo and on towards Salamaua.

After a lengthy period spent training in Queensland the 2/7th, now led by Lieutenant Colonel Phillip Parbury, returned to New Guinea in November 1944 to take part in the Aitape -Wewak campaign.

The high point of the battalion's involvement in this campaign was the capture of Maprik in the Torrecelli Ranges.

In the Aitape - Wewak campaign 40 members of the battalion died in arduous and arguably unnecessary operations designed to clear the Japanese out of the mountains north of the Sepik river.

In the course of the war 226 members of the battalion were killed.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 7TH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

The 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR) completed two 12 - month tours of duty in South Vietnam.

7RAR first formed on 1 September 1965 at Puckapunyal in Victoria from veterans of 3RAR and an influx of national servicemen. It was led by Lieutenant Colonel Eric Smith.

After jungle - warfare training at Canungra, the Battalion relieved 5RAR in Vietnam in April 1967. 7RAR was involved in 29 major operations during its year overseas.

In August A Company, 7RAR overcame a well armed company strength enemy force at the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha. Five members of A Company were killed in the fighting - the heaviest casualties suffered by the battalion in any engagement.

While on its first tour of Vietnam 7RAR also fought two battles against enemy forces occupying prepared positions. On 27 November the battalion lost two men killed and 22 wounded in an assault on an enemy bunker system that had been found by SAS patrols in the Chau Duc District.

In early February 1968, during Operation Coburg at the time of the Tet Offensive, 14 men from the battalion were wounded in a series of engagements north of Trang Bom, known as the C Company bunker action. Sixteen members of 7RAR were killed on the battalion's first tour of duty.

7RAR returned to Australia in April 1968, having been reconstituted, the new Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel Ron Grey. After re-deployment training the Battalion arrived in South Vietnam in February 1970.

On its second tour of duty 7RAR pursued a policy of "aggressive patrolling" and ambushing the enemy. Battalion operations during this period often involved cooperation with Australian armour and helicopter gunships.

The enemy's use of mines was also important feature of the battalion's second tour of Vietnam. 7RAR frequently used anti-personnel mines in its ambushes.

However, on the battalion's second tour of Vietnam seven of its men died as a result of mines positioned by the enemy. Two soldiers had been lost this way on the battalion's first tour.

7RAR performed a farewell parade at Nui Dat on 24 February 1971 before returning home on HMAS Sydney.

Seventeen members of the battalion had been killed during its second tour of duty.

**DEDICATION OF THE 7RAR HONOUR ROLL AT
REGIMENTAL SQUARE SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2006**

Following on from the dedication of the Plaques in Canberra last Thursday at the Australian War Memorial a formal Ceremony was held at The Royal Australian Regiment Memorial, Regimental Square in Sydney to Dedicate the Honour Roll of those members of 7RAR who paid the supreme sacrifice for their Country.

Many of those who attended the plaque dedication again fronted up for the ceremony in Sydney. The photograph below shows Padre dedicating the Honour Roll with some of the attendees looking on.





Above: John Binnie reading the Names of those members on the Honour Roll.

Below: The Honour Roll plaque.





Above L to R: A view of the Honour Roll's of 7RAR, 8RAR and 9RAR.

Below: A view looking from the front of the Memorial at Regimental Square.



REMEMBRANCE DAY - GARRISON CHURCH
SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2006

The annual Remembrance Day Commemoration Service for the 7th Battalions AIF & RAR was held at the Garrison Church, The Rocks with a good roll up. The 2/7th Battalion group was represented by their Patron Major General Sandy Pearson and his wife Marjorie, Bill Cowie and his wife Norma Winton and Lola Christie and a couple of others I missed getting their names. The 7RAR Association was well represented, lead by the President Ross Ellis and others seen below in the photo.

L to R: Rod Lyons, Peter Gates, Ross Ellis, Peter Sexton (rear holding Gonfalon), Winton Christie (2/7th) Tony Keech, Bernie Folkes, Steve Taylor, Robbie Cathcart and Ted Lewis. Absent from the photo, Sandy and Marjorie Pearson, Bill and Norma Cowie Len and Wendy Schulz and John Abernathy, Julie and Robert Lewis, Dale Folkes, Jenny and David Taylor, Rosemary Sexton, Ruth Price and .



THE BEST FROM THE WEST

PIGS around Australia, G'Day from WA. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and their families.

RIP WA PIGS

Sadly, since the last newsletter, we have had several members pass away.

Allan Drew, 12PL, D Coy, 2nd Tour passed away on July 7 in Northam Hospice surrounded by his family. Although his period of illness was short he was in a great deal of pain and suffered greatly. His passing was a blessing and at least he is at rest now. At his funeral, John Burrows, Allan's platoon commander in SVN delivered one of two eulogies with Don Cruden reciting the ode. Also in attendance were Brian Griffiths, Peter Vlachou and Doug Fieldhouse. Charlie Matheson and Gary Gibson also sent condolences.

Graham 'Gibb' Roberts, 5PL, B Coy, 2nd Tour, passed away on September 23. Typical of Graham, he died on Saturday afternoon at the Seabird Hotel after watching the Eagles game. Those who attended Graham's funeral included Brian Griffiths, Geoff Lawson, Gavin Rodie, Ray Lamont, Don Cruden, Dennis Liddelow, Dave Ingles, Rob Cusack, Casey Epskamp, Jock Henderson, Doug Fieldhouse, Steve Chamarette and Bill Hunter visiting from NSW. Doug Fieldhouse provided a slouch hat, a bayonet and a gonfalon for the ceremony.

Ray Dawes (served with 7RAR 1st Tour as Raymund Feain) 6Pl, B Coy, 1st Tour, passed away on October 19 at Kalgoorlie. This is another case of a soldier, unknown by anyone, who was "suffering" and we didn't know and therefore couldn't help.

Amy Pittendreigh, honorary member who served with 1 Aust. Field Hospital during the 1st Tour, passed away on November 4 at Pinjarra Hospital.

Sincere condolences are extended to the families of those members from all WA PIGS.

ANNUAL PIG SWILL

This year, our annual PIG SWILL was held at the Armadale RSL and thanks must go to Charlie Matheson for doing a lot of the organising and to the RSL for hosting us and providing a very well presented meal and a most enjoyable location. Also thanks to Allan West for organising a raffle with too many prizes to list them all, although Geoff Lawson and Jock Henderson were big winners. Amongst those in attendance were:

Allan & Betty West, Don & Margaret Cruden, John & Kerry Burrows, Mick & Nadia Painter, Vic Neimanis, Bob & Barbara Curry, Graham & Kerry Steele, Spunky Fieldhouse & Enda Murphy, Jock & Margaret with Ma in-law Henderson, Gary & Teresa Williams, Dale & Debbie Marshall, Sunshine & Margaret Moylan, Tiny Anderton, Chappie & Rebecca Chapman, Tommy & Atholie Tucker, Les & Deidre Kail, Betty Baty, Val O'Brien, Gylan Sexton, Steve & Jo-Anne Chamarette, Geoff Lawson, Colin Kelly and Sue Harrison, Peter Lutley, John Davies, Griffo Griffiths, Geoff Murray, Casey Epskamp, Charlie Matheson and Pam Hoy. Apologies were received from Mick O'Halloran and Reg Bandy.

We also had an interstate visitor in "Thommo" Thompson from Queensland; we're always delighted to entertain visitors. Bob Curry joined the Armadale RSL on the day and they retaliated by allowing him a bit of a win on the slot machines, so he kindly bought drinks for the bar, well done Bob. WA President Don Cruden wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked those who had assisted throughout the year. He also asked members to think about the venue for next year's PIG SWILL, with some suggestions of Jandakot RSL, Heathridge RSL and Bicton/Palmyra RSL. He also asked that we give consideration to going back to the 11/28 Bn Mess after Anzac Day next year, as we did for the reunion this year.

They are keen for us to return and it is a good venue with pretty cheap drinks so it is really worth considering.

BRUCE ROCK GATHERING OF VIETNAM VETERANS

This annual weekend gathering in Bruce Rock is gaining more momentum every year and now people are planning their annual caravan treks around it, apparently this year there were over 300 caravans camped on the town oval and a general comment from Mick Painter, who with his wife Nadia attended for the first time was that he couldn't get over how the whole town supported the veterans and looked after them to ensure they had a great time.

They booked their caravan in for next year on the spot. Don and Margaret Cruden, with their 7-year-old granddaughter in tow, made the 500km return trip to ensure that the banner was on parade and it was carried by Peter Wilson and Allan West. Some others in attendance were Ray Lamont, Kanga Battersby, Pop Walker, John Cutbush from Busselton having his first parade, Vic Dale from Coolgardie, Sunshine Moylan and there were another half dozen or so but time didn't permit getting all their names.

A slight drizzle didn't stop a large contingent from marching, with an equally large spectator crowd cheering the marchers on. A very worthwhile gathering and it is recommended to ALL PIGS, a weekend not to be missed.

NAMETAGS

There is still a demand for nametags and we are now offering NAME-TAGS in two sizes, the original size and now a larger version which is half as big again. Each small tag costs \$10, with the larger tag at \$15; both prices include delivery to anywhere in Australia. To order, 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 or money order, made payable to Geoff Murray, in the post when you place your order and delivery is about three weeks.

Geoff Murray
30 Bouvardia Way
GREENWOOD
WA 6024
geoff.murray@mainroads.wa.gov.au
Work Tel (08) 9323 4579
Home Tel (08) 9448 3109



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

The Vietnam Veterans gathering in Kings Park on Sunday 20 Aug was held in brilliant sunshine, marvellous considering we are in the midst of winter. A large gathering of veterans, along with many South Vietnamese and their ladies as well in their colourful costumes, plus many family and friends made up the large number of attendees.

The banner was carried by Bob Curry and Don Cruden's grandson Ryan Graham. Also attending were Steve Chamarette, Geoff Brophy, Bill Edwards, Kanga Battersby, Bluey Dunne, Bill Henderson, Peter Davies, Vic Neimanis, Don Cruden, Spunky Fieldhouse and two of our widows Betty Baty and Gylan Sexton. If I have missed anyone please accept my apologies. For lunch all Corps retired to the Perth Yacht Club for a magnificent meal sponsored by DVA and we were entertained by Peter Harries (a well known Perth and SVN entertainer) and a delightful band (name unknown at time of printing). This was probably one of the best gatherings we have held for many years, made more memorable with the luncheon.

FUNNY

Ireland Declares War on France. Jacques Chirac, The French President, is sitting in his office when his telephone rings. "Hello, Mr. Chirac!" a heavily accented voice said. "This is Paddy down at the Harp Pub in County Clare, Ireland. I am ringing to inform you that we are officially declaring war on France!" "Well, Paddy," Chirac replied, "This is indeed important news! How big is your army?" "Right now," says Paddy, after a moment's calculation, "there is meself, me Cousin Sean, me next door neighbour Seamus, and the entire darts team from the pub. That makes eight!" Chirac paused. "I must tell you, Paddy that I have 100,000 men in my army waiting to move on my command."

"Begorra!" says Paddy. "I'll have to ring you back." Sure enough, the next day, Paddy calls again. "Mr. Chirac, the war is still on. We have managed to get us some infantry equipment!" "And what equipment would that be Paddy?" Chirac asks. "Well, we have two combines, a bulldozer, and Murphy's farm tractor." An amused Chirac sighs "I must tell you, Paddy, that I have 6,000 tanks and 5,000 armoured personnel carriers. Also, I have increased my army to 150,000 since we last spoke." "Saints preserve us!" says Paddy. "I'll have to get back to you."

Sure enough, Paddy rings again the next day. "Mr. Chirac, the war is still on! We have managed to get ourselves airborne! We have modified Jackie McLaughlin's ultra-light with a couple of shotguns in the cockpit, and four boys from the Shamrock Bar have joined us as well!" Chirac was silent for a minute and then cleared his throat. "I must tell you, Paddy, that I have 100 bombers and 200 fighter planes. My military bases are surrounded by laser-guided, surface-to-air missile sites. And since we last spoke, I have increased my army to 200,000!"

"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!" says Paddy, "I will have to ring you back." Sure enough, Paddy calls again the next day. "Top o' the mornin' Mr. Chirac! I am sorry to inform you that we have had to call off the war." "Really? I am sorry to hear that," says Chirac.

"Why the sudden change of heart?" "Well," says Paddy, "we had a long chat over a few pints of Guinness and we decided there is no fookin' way we can feed 200,000 prisoners."

LOST AND FOUND DOG TAGS (By Allan West)

It couldn't happen again but it has. After the trip to Nui Dat in 2005 with some fellow Vet's we were hounded by our wives to take them in 2006. Pretty easily done, same guide, same itinerary and away we went.

There we were standing on SAS Hill and a local approached me with a dog tag and for a small remuneration I bought the tag off him and the name on there was John Sampson. On returning to Perth my next job was to find John. I went through the Vietnam Veterans Roll to get his unit which was 1 Field Squadron. I knew there was a guy in the same unit at the Port Kennedy RSL and luckily he knew John who now lives in Bracken Ridge Queensland and after a phone call bingo we had contact. It was incredible 2 years in a row to buy dog tags in Vietnam and then find the men involved. My turn for Lotto must be coming up. All jokes aside John was rapt to get his dog tag back.

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS

Many members' memberships will expire this year so please forward payments to:

Mr Tony Keech

PO Box 8143

WERRINGTON COUNTY

NSW 2746.

(Make cheques payable to 7RAR Association, subs are \$20 per year or \$80 for 5 years)

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

2007 CALENDER

<i>26 Jan 2007</i>	<i>Cut-off date for articles for Feb Seven News.</i>
<i>15 Feb 2007</i>	<i>1/2007 Edition of Seven News due for release.</i>
<i>25 Apr 2007</i>	<i>ANZAC Day activities. Details will be advised in Feb issue of Seven News .</i>
<i>May 2007</i>	<i>7RAR Association AGM, date and location advised in Feb Seven News.</i>
<i>29 Jun 2007</i>	<i>Cut-off date for articles for 2/2007 edition of Seven News.</i>
<i>15 Jul 2007</i>	<i>2/2007 Edition of Seven News due for release.</i>
<i>6 Aug 2007</i>	<i>40th Anniversary of the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha, see details of state activities in Jul 2007 issue of Seven News.</i>
<i>18 Aug 2007</i>	<i>41st Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.</i>
<i>1 Sep 2007</i>	<i>42nd Birthday of 7RAR.</i>
<i>23 Oct 2007</i>	<i>68th Birthday of 2/7th Bn AIF.</i>
<i>11 Nov 2007</i>	<i>Remembrance Day, local arrangements apply. 7th Battalions Remembrance Day service, Garrison Church, The Rocks, (Maximum attendance please).</i>
<i>30 Nov 2007</i>	<i>Cut-off date for articles for 3/2007 edition of Seven News.</i>
<i>17 Dec 2007</i>	<i>3/2007 News due for release.</i>

On 8th September 2006 I was privileged to be invited to Government House, Sydney to witness the award of the Order of Australia Medal to our Executive Officer, Tony Keech.

Tony has performed the task of Executive Officer with tremendous zeal and it is a very worthy award for a person who is virtually a full time, unpaid servant of the Association. I know how much work is involved in the role not only by observing Tony , but also my own time in the position where I found it impossible to carry out the tasks whilst holding a full time job.

I first met Tony when I marched into 7 RAR in July 1969 when he was my CSM in B Coy. Tony had already seen service in Malaya, had been a foundation member of 7 RAR and had been the MFC C Coy on the Battalion's first tour of Vietnam and we were very impressed as young soldiers with the immaculate dress and bearing of our Sergeant Major.

Tony has always been a patient, caring person who the diggers always could approach to seek advice or counselling. I think most of the people who have been associated with Tony will agree that he is not only a diligent worker but a very good friend and mentor to the membership of the Association.

Tony's achievements, after Vietnam, included postings at RMC Duntroon, RSM of 3 RAR and an extended period of service in New Guinea. He completed his service as a Major and we are very grateful as an Association that he has chosen to dedicate his time to 7 RAR Association.

I know I speak on behalf of the President, Patrons and Executive of the Association when I say " Well done, Tony and we hope that you continue to enjoy good health to continue your outstanding work for the Association."

Bernie Cox, Treasurer 7 RAR 1969-71

See photograph of Medal presentation overleaf.



Tony receiving his OAM from the Governor of NSW.



*Vietnam Veterans Day at St John of God 3 Aug 2006.
L to R: Ned Falconer, Father John (Tink) Tinkler and David Evans.*

PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

There hasn't been a Victorian Report for a while – but we figured that the last Newsletter would have been full of the Perth Reunion – and we weren't far wrong. Needless to say our thoughts were with fellow 'Pigs' during our own Anzac Day activities. From the comments we later received it was a quite an event. Those of us in Victoria who couldn't make it still had a day to remember.

ANZAC DAY 2006

Unusually we had a terrific turnout. We had thought that numbers would be down in view of the Perth Reunion, but on the day we actually had about 80 on parade – and smartly turned out. We were led this year by Tony Scott. One of the highlights of the day was the appearance of this young officer from Sig Corps – who just happened to be Jake O'Donnell's son (Jake was Sunray A Coy 1st Tour). He took up our invitation to join us post-March and was able to catch up with about 8 members from A/1st. He's currently posted to Darwin.



As usual, we called out our Roll of Honour and remembered those members who are now longer with us.

7th Bn PILGRIMAGE – 6th August

We had another good roll-up for this year's pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance to commemorate the 7th AIF action at Gallipoli. Our group formed up at 7 AIF's Memorial Tree and the marched up to the Eternal Flame behind a piper and escorted by Shrine Guards. We then had a short ceremony to mark the occasion and also take the opportunity to remember 7RAR's engagement at Suoi Chau Pha.



The post-Pilgrimage RV this year was Bell's Hotel where we had a proper chance to catch up with everyone. August is a hectic month for Vietnam Veterans but it was good to be able to meet up with fellow Pigs in reasonably quiet surroundings.

VIETNAM VETERANS (Long Tan) DAY

I don't know about other States, but in Victoria it seems that more and more Vietnam Veterans each year are deciding to mark this day – even though this year marked the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. This year we filled the forecourt in front of the Shrine and the ceremony was given a significant boost by the inclusion of the replica Long Tan Cross which was a

focus as we marched past the Flame. John Methven led a well-represented 7RAR; Bill Anderson laid a wreath around the Cross on the Battalion's behalf.

Another interesting post-March sidelight was the opening of a display based on 'Vietnam Reflections' the book produced by students of Footscray City College. 'Johhno' Johnson rounded up as many of the Australian Veterans who appeared in the book and it was somewhat amusing when the audience tried to match the younger soldiers to the Veterans present. Speaking personally, I think I may have matured like a fine old wine!! (who said vinegar)

2006/07 OFFICE BEARERS

Apart from a minor swap in two positions our State Committee remains much the same as it has for the last couple of years. Bill Anderson and Ian Dunn swapped 'hats' with Bill being elected President and Ian taking on the role of Assistant Secretary. Rob Arnott stays on as Vice President and 'Roo' Dowley as Treasurer. 'Go Go' Goggins remains the Secretary. General Committee members comprise any members who turn up to our monthly meeting at Percy's (2nd Wednesday at 7.30pm – you don't need an invitation, just turn up).

FOR AUCTION – 7RAR 'ZIPPO'

Some time ago Ian Dunn (2nd Tour) came across a Zippo he'd bought when he first joined 7RAR. The Regimental Store was off-loading a lot of stuff from 1st Tour activities. The lighter itself is in basically mint condition and still has it's box and instructions as pictured. The reverse shows a pig with Top Hat and Cane, together with the caption 'South Viet Nam 1967-68'



Originally Ian offered the Zippo as a future raffle prize but we decided that this might be too valuable a memento. In fact we already have a significant offer on the Lighter. Although that person is associated with 7RAR by family, he is not a member as such.

If there are any Pigs interested in bidding for this piece would you email (or mail) an offer to Bill Anderson before January 31, 2007. The highest price above the offer already received

will be accepted. Bill's contact details are:

Email: lastwill@hotmail.net.au Address 144 Rachelle Rd, Keilor East 3033
Ph: (03) 9336-1317

I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals. [Winston Churchill](#)

'Go Go' Goggins 0415 510 783