



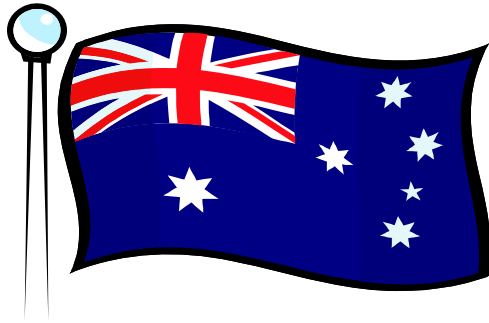
7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association Inc (Qld)

SEVEN NEWS

2/2006 Issue

July 2006

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Thank you, men of the West, for a magnificent reunion. You and your ladies produced a wonderful program of meaningful commemoration, memorable activities and lots of fun. The gratitude of those who benefited from your planning and industry will long be a topic of conversation when groups of us meet. As time has passed, we seem to have become a closer knit family, and the organisation of this reunion was the perfect platform for that friendship to develop even more so. This was a top shelf performance in every respect, and I know that all interstate visitors would want to be included in congratulating you accordingly.

Suoi Chau Pha Day (6 August) and the Battalion Birthday (1 September) are upon us, and I ask you to get together for either or both of these anniversaries, be it a dinner, BBQ, a wee dram, a coffee or all of the above.

Please keep Thursday 19 October free for a visit to Canberra for the dedication of the plaques of the three 7 Battalions which will be placed in the walkway of the AWM grounds as agreed at the AGM. This will be followed by the dedication of our Roll of Honour on the rear of the Memorial at Regimental Square in Sydney on Sunday 22 October.

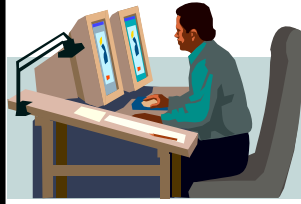
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If your address label has a RED DOT in the top left corner next to the date of your financial status you are currently un-financial. If you do not wish to remain financial please advise the XO and your name will be removed from the database. Please remember that the cost of printing and postage to members is paid for by those who are financial.

JUST A REMINDER.

*Tony Keech, OAM
XO/ED*



From the Editor's Desk

A few reminders, there are still a number of members who are un-financial, as at 31 Aug 2005, some dating back to 2000. It is my intention to contact personally all members in this category to ascertain there intentions re dropping out or renewal.

Also on the debit side according to my records about 12 members still have not paid for their copy of The Pictorial History. I know some members may have paid via direct deposit to the Association Bank account, but I have not been advised they have paid. If this applies to you please advise date of deposit and reference number from bank.

During the AGM I reminded all members to keep me informed of their intended movements and the date this will take place, it is wasteful of the Associations' funds to pay for postage of the newsletter or other correspondence to an address that is no longer applicable to you..

As of now we head into a new year with the Association powering along with a very positive attitude to all things that affect all members, families and friends., this in no small way can be attributed to the wonderful reunion sponsored by the WA Branch of the Association.

*Tony Keech, OAM
XO/ED*



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 until we march by your side.

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

***Lance Richard Crotty, C Coy 1st tour, passed away
Thursday 25 May 2006***

***Kevin James Frawley, 8 Pl, C Coy 2nd tour, passed
away Friday 16 June 2006***

IN SEARCH

*38649 Terence Ronald Scott: Served with 7RAR in South Vietnam
08 April 1967 to 26 April 1968. Is there anyone out there who may
have served with Terence during his tour with 7RAR. I have no
details of his sub-unit, only the above dates, he also served Singapore
in 1969/70.*

Any information can be forwarded to the following contact:

Paul Pulis

Email : garterblue@bigpond.com

Ph (h) (07) 4065 6296

(m) 0417 780 576

NEW MEMBERS

Fin 3/2011 MBR No 1338

Richard Phillip ADAMS

PO Box 7164

CLOISTERS WA 6850 A/CHQ 1ST

Ph (h) (08) 9284 6288 (W) (08) 9380 4500

rpadams@westnet.com.au

Fin 3/2011 MBR No 1336

Leslie Allan BRAY

RSD 2952

KERANG VIC 3579 A2 1ST

Ph (h) (03) 5453 2471 (w) (03) 5453 2004

haha48@bigpond.net.au

Fin 5/2011 MBR No 1345

Peter Frederick John BEERE

51 Bondi Road

BONBEACH VIC 3196 SPT 2ND

Ph (h) (03) 9772 0272

fourx01@hotmail.com

Fin 5/2007 MBR No 1324

Norman Leslie CAMERON

122 Andrew Road

GLENWOOD QLD 4510 1ST

Ph (h) (07) 5485 7067

Fin 5/2011 MBR No 1350

Garry Arnold GIBSON

Lot 344 Lawson Street

CARNARVON WA 6701 MORS 2ND

Ph (h) (08) 9941 8487 (w) (08) 9941 8383

Fin 5/2008 MBR No 1341

Robert Gordon HENDRY

C/- Court House Hotel Main Street

MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484 D11 2ND

Ph (h) (02) 6672 1044

Fin 4/2007 MBR No 1351

Maxwell James KELTY

21 Vaughan Street

PAYNESVILLE VIC 3880 ADMIN 1ST

Ph (h) (03) 5156 6589 (m) 0429 842 557

Fin 2/2006 MBR No 1330

Denis Francis BATHERSBY, MID

12 Oatley Place

SOUTHPORT QLD 4215 A BOTH

Ph (h) (7) 5532 6490

Fin 5/2007 MBR No 1348

Stephen John NOBLE

38 Queen's Road

STH GUILFORD WA C/CHQ 2ND

Ph (h) (08) 9378 4800

platform20@pacific.net.au

Fin 4/2007 MBR No 1356

John William BRINKWORTH

40 Christina Ryan Way

ARUNDEL QLD 4214 D12 1ST

Ph (h) (07) 7751 7484

jwbrinkworth@yahoo.com.au

Fin 2/2011 MBR No 1335

David John GOY

6 Callistomon Close

NARARA NSW 2250 B5 2ND

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Fin 5/2007 MBR No 1339

Raymond Allan HOLLIDAY

46 Anthony Drive

CHIRNSIDE PK VIC 3116 D/CHQ 1ST

Ph (h) (03) 9777 0296

annie_doc@yahoo.com.au

Fin 5/2011 MBR No 1309

Kevin Lloyd ISON

195 Darby Road

SPRING RIDGE NSW 2343 1ST

Ph (h) (02) 6747 3763

Fin 4/2007 MBR No 1354

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10 Stockton Drive

HORSHAM VIC 3400 C7 1965

Ph (h) (03) 5382 6357

Fin 3/2007 MBR No 1337
Gary John PATERSON
22 Valley View Grove
MELTON VIC 3337 RECON 2ND
Ph (h) (03) 9743 6496 (m) 0438 313 344
garypaterson1@bigpond.com.au

Fin 3/2007 MBR No 1257
Meriddy SCHAECHÉ
3 Golf Links Drive
MURBOO NORTH VIC 3871
WIDOW ROBERT 1ST
Ph (h) (03) 5668 1532

Fin 4/2011 MBR No 1353
Robert Peter (Bob) WHITE
14 View Terrace
EAST FREMANTLE WA 6158 A3 71/73
Ph (h) (08) 9438 3604
rpwhite@bigpond.com

Fin 4/2007 MBR No
Winston Ronald PROWSE
35 Victoria Terrace
MOUNT GAMBIA SA 5290 C7 1965
Ph (h) (08) 8725 3206

Fin 5/2011 MBR No 1346
John Alexander SALMOND
63 Drew Street
GERALDTON WA 6530 PNRS 2ND
Ph (h) (08) 9923 1655 (m) 0417 983 905
salmond@wn.com.au

Fin 6/2011 MBR No 1340
Peter James WINTER
PO Box 46
LITTLEHAMPTON SA 5250
OC B6/RECON 2ND
Ph (h) (08) 8388 6620

2006 REUNION MERCHANDISE

Don Cruden advises the following items are available for purchase as surplus items from the Reunion stock:

Polo Shirts: Size: M qty 1; Size L qty 1; cost is \$40 incl air bag.

*Jackets: Size: S qty 1; Size: M qty 1; Size L qty 2; Size: X qty 3;
Size: XX qty 1; Size : XXX qty 1.*

First in best dressed, this is the last opportunity to purchase these items of reunion merchandise:

Make cheque/MO payable to 7RAR (WA); send order to:

Don Cruden
26 Little River Cove
JANEBROOK
WA 6056

HONOURS and AWARDS
UPDATE ON PRESENTATION OF PINGAT JASA MALAYSIA

Sometime ago information was published dealing with the proposed award by the Malaysian Government of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM), to those members of the Australian Defence Force who served in prescribed areas from 31 August 1957 to 12 August 1966, or to 9 August 1965 for service in Singapore. On Monday, 30 January 2006 the Malaysian Chief of Defence Force, Admiral Anwar attended Government House, Canberra to present the first awards of the PJM.

The original intention was for the medal to be presented individually at small ceremonies around the country, and in Malaysia to visiting Australians. However, this is now no longer possible. Distribution to remaining eligible recipients will now be through the Directorate of Honours and Awards from within Defence, acting as agent on behalf of the Malaysian Government. The process is expected to commence in the near future.

THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL

Her Majesty the Queen recently approved the Regulations and letters patent for the medal. It is expected that the medal will be available for presentation in mid 2006. The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) has been established to recognize Australian Defence Force(ADF) Regular and Reserve personnel who have demonstrated their commitment and contribution to the nation by serving for an initial enlistment period or four years service whichever is the lesser.

Eligibility criteria and application forms follow on the next four pages. If you have any questions you can logon to the following website: http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/adm/adm.htm

Your local RSL sub-branch or Member of Parliament also should have copies of the eligibility criteria and application forms. If in doubt please contact the XO.

Application for the Australian Defence Medal

Guidelines for completion

The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) has been established to recognise serving and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) Regular and Reserve personnel who have demonstrated their commitment and contribution to the nation by serving for at least four years, or, completion of their initial term of engagement, whichever is the lesser.

Who is eligible?

In addition, eligibility for the ADM will be extended to ex-service personnel who:

- have died in service;
- have been medically discharged with a compensatory impairment at the time of their discharge, thus rendering them unable to serve the required minimum qualifying period; or
- have honourably served but, due to some Defence workplace enlistment policies of the time (as determined by the Chief of the Defence Force), were unable to serve the required minimum qualifying period.

Documents required for verification of service

All applications for the ADM will need to undergo a verification process to ensure that all information provided is true and correct. This process will be greatly assisted by applicants providing documentation that verifies all service in the ADF. **Certified true copies (no originals please)** of documents will be accepted as proof of service, eg:

- Certificate of Service
- Certificate of Discharge
- Extracts of service records
- Details of any Long Service Awards received.

These documents should be certified by a Justice of the Peace or other authorised person (see Certification of Documents page).

Please note that if these documents are NOT provided, there may be significant delays in assessing the application.

If an applicant does not have supporting documentation, the Directorate of Honours and Awards (DHA) will check applicants service records to verify an entitlement (or otherwise) to the ADM.

Information for those with Reserve service

Members of the Reserves (serving and ex-serving) will need to supply supporting documentation with their application. They may provide documentation signed by their unit Commanding Officer that certifies their service as efficient and in line with the medal regulations. **Please note that failure to do so will mean the applicant may incur lengthy delays due to the amount of manual checking required to verify Reserve service.**

Non-Effective Service

Non-Effective Service of 21 days or more will not be counted towards the ADM, as will any other Non-Effective Service as determined by Defence policy. Normally, only service rendered under Defence conditions of service and remunerated at Service rates of pay may be taken into account as qualifying service for awards awarded by time. Service in the Standby Reserve or Ready Reserve where no training commitment applies will not be taken into account as qualifying service.

Application forms for further medal entitlements

The application forms for the ADM can only be used to apply for the ADM. All other medal applications must be made separately.

Application forms for the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal, the Pingat Jasa Malaysia, and the generic application form (for all other service medals and long service awards) can be obtained by calling the DHA on 1800 111 321, or can be downloaded from the Honours and Awards website at the following link:

http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/resources/forms/forms.htm

Completing the Australian Defence Medal application form (Form AD 497)

- Please use BLOCK letters only.
- Some fields on each form are **mandatory** and **must** be completed as appropriate.
- Please complete the entire form and provide details of ALL ADF service, and **provide documents to verify service.**
- There is enough room for listing two separate periods of mixed service on the form; if more room is needed, attach additional pages. This is in relation to service in two or more arms of the ADF.
- Applications will be processed in order of receipt and are subject to verification by the Department of Defence. However, applicants who do not include documents to verify service will experience delays with their application.
- Please attach certified true copies (no originals please) of Certificate of Service or Certificate of Discharge etc.
- Posthumous and unclaimed Medals or Awards for deceased ex-serving members will be issued to the beneficiary of the estate of the deceased member.
- The application form (AD 497) must be witnessed and certified by a Justice of the Peace or other authorised person.

Fraudulent claims

Persons who submit fraudulent applications based on a statutory declaration may be subject to prosecution under Section 11 of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended, which states in part that:

A person must not intentionally make a false statement in a statutory declaration.

Penalty: Imprisonment for 4 years.

Falsely claiming entitlement to the ADM, and then subsequently wearing the award, is an offence under Section 80B of the *Defence Act 1903* - Improper use of service decorations. This offence is also punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Application for the Australian Defence Medal

Certification of Documents

Posthumous applications

Posthumous applications for the Australian Defence Medal (and other medals) will only be considered from the following:

- (a) Executor of the Will of the deceased member
- (b) Public Trustee Administrator appointed by the State in cases of intestacy
- (c) A person who can provide legal proof to their status as the sole beneficiary to the claim being made for posthumous issue of the Service award(s) (if such proof cannot be tendered, the entitlement remains unclaimed and may lapse).

Please note that Statutory Declarations, birth certificates or marriage certificates tendered in isolation do not equate to legal proof of your beneficiary status.

Examples of acceptable legal proof are as follows:

- A letter from a solicitor identifying you as the Executor of the estate or Public Trustee Administrator in the case of intestacy of a deceased members estate;
- A Certified True Copy of the Will (or extract thereof) identifying you as sole beneficiary to the deceased person's estate; or
- A letter from your solicitor stating that you are legally the sole beneficiary.

A Justice of the Peace or other authorised person must certify current and posthumous ADM application forms (AD 497), as well as documents provided as proof of service for applications. A Statutory Declaration under the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959* as amended may be made before:

- Dentist
- Legal practitioner
- Medical practitioner
- Nurse
- Pharmacist
- Veterinary surgeon
- Agent of the Australian Postal Corporation who is in charge of an office supplying postal services to the public
- Australian Consular Officer, or Australian Diplomatic Officer, (within the meaning of the *Consular Fees Act 1985*)
- Building Society officer with five or more years of continuous service
- Chief Executive Officer of a Commonwealth court
- Clerk of a court
- Commissioner for Affidavits
- Commissioner for Declarations
- Bank Officer or Credit Union Officer with five or more years of continuous service
- Holder of a statutory office not specified in another item in this list
- Judge of a court
- Justice of the Peace
- Magistrate
- Marriage celebrant registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
- Member of the Australian Defence Force who is an officer; or a non-commissioned officer within the meaning of the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982* with five or more years of continuous service; or warrant officer within the meaning of that Act
- Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the National Institute of Accountants
- Member of Engineers Australia, other than at grade of student
- Member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth; or the Parliament of a State; or a Territory Legislature; or a local government authority of a State or Territory
- Minister of religion registered under Subdivision A of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*
- Notary Public
- Permanent employee of the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth authority; or a State or Territory or a State or Territory authority; or a local government authority; with five or more years of continuous service who is not specified in another item in this list
- Permanent employee of the Australian Postal Corporation with five or more years of continuous service who is employed in an office supplying postal services to the public
- Person before whom a Statutory Declaration may be made under the law of the State or Territory in which the declaration is made
- Police Officer
- Registrar, or Deputy Registrar, of a court
- Senior Executive Service officer of the Commonwealth, or of a State or Territory, or of a Commonwealth, State or Territory authority
- Teacher employed on a full-time basis at a school or tertiary education institution

Note: The above list is not exhaustive. Please refer to the Honours and Awards internet site at www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ for a complete list of authorised persons before whom a Statutory Declaration can be made.

Application for the Australian Defence Medal

AUSTRALIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION

- To be completed by the FORMER Service member. All deletions or corrections are to be initialled.
- Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory and must be completed.

I, (Full name) _____
Here insert the title and full name of person making this declaration.

of, (Full address) _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____ Date of birth _____

Include area code

Email _____

do solemnly and sincerely declare that I served in the Australian Defence Forces and that my details were as follows:

Details of Service (Complete box (2) only if service was mixed).

Rank on termination	Service number(s) *	Date of enlistment *	Date of discharge *
Branch of Service (1) *		(Specify)	Type of Service *
Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>

Rank on termination	Service number(s)	Date of enlistment	Date of discharge
Branch of Service (2)		(Specify)	Type of Service
Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>			Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>

Defence Long Service Awards

Have you been awarded a Long Service Medal?			Did you render National Service? *	
Yes (Please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/>			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
No <input type="checkbox"/>				
Defence Force Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve Force Medal <input type="checkbox"/>	Long Service and Good Conduct Medal <input type="checkbox"/>		
Defence Long Service Medal <input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve Force Decoration <input type="checkbox"/>			
Other long service medal <input type="checkbox"/>	Please specify, with date qualified			

Use and disclosure of personal information

DHA may contract out to third party entities the assessment and despatch functions of certain Defence medals. In the future, some despatch functions may be undertaken by overseas entities. Accordingly, DHA will disclose some of your personal information such as name, postal address and service number to these contracted third parties. However, it is only for the purposes of assessment, engraving, despatch and correspondence in regards to medals entitlements. By signing this application form you acknowledge this disclosure.

Declaration

I declare that the information provided above is true and correct regarding my service, and I am aware that if awarded the ADM on the basis of a false application, that I may be subject to penalties under the *Defence Act 1903* as described in the instructions. I also make this solemn declaration by virtue of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, and I am subject to the penalties provided by that Act for the making of false statements in Statutory Declarations, conscientiously believing that statements in this declaration to be true in every particular.

Signature of person making declaration _____

Declared at _____ on the _____, 20 _____

before me,

Signature of person before whom the declaration is made _____

Title of person before whom the declaration is made _____

Return form to:
Directorate of Honours and Awards
T-1-49
Department of Defence
Reply Paid 4455
Kingston ACT 2604

You may elect to have your service recognised at a bi-annual presentation arranged by Defence in your region. You may also receive your medal through the post.

☐ Presentation. My Federal electorate is _____

☐ Mail (Registered Post)

This form is to be used for the Australian Defence Medal only. For further information please visit our website at www.defence.gov.au/dpe or call 1800 111 321.

Department of Defence

Application Concerning the Posthumous Issue of the Australian Defence Medal

AUSTRALIA

STATUTORY DECLARATION

- This Statutory Declaration may only be completed by the Executor of the will, Administrator in case of intestacy, or a person who can prove legal status as sole beneficiary to this claim.
- All deletions or corrections are to be initialled.
- Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory and must be completed.

I, (Full name) _____
Here insert the title and full name of person making this declaration.

of, (Full address) _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Date of birth _____ Email _____

Include area code

do solemnly and sincerely declare that I wish to apply for the unclaimed Australian Defence Medal in respect of the following deceased ex-member:

Family name *		Given name(s) *		Date of birth *	Date deceased
Rank on termination	Service number(s)		Date of enlistment		Date of discharge
Branch of Service (1) *			(Specify)		Type of Service
Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>					Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>
Rank on termination		Service number(s)		Date of enlistment	Date of discharge
Branch of Service (2)			(Specify)		Type of Service
Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>					Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>

Did the deceased ex-member ever receive a Long Service Award? Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, please specify: _____

Did the deceased ex-member ever render National Service? Yes ☐ No ☐

☐ I have enclosed **certified true copies** of the official documents as proof of service (Statement of Service, Discharge Certificate etc). I understand that failure to supply these documents may result in delays with my application. Applications will be processed in order of receipt and are subject to verification by the Department of Defence.

Use and disclosure of personal information

DHA may contract out to third party entities the assessment and despatch functions of certain Defence medals. In the future, some despatch functions may be undertaken by overseas entities. Accordingly, DHA will disclose some of your personal information such as name, postal address and service number to these contracted third parties. However, it is only for the purposes of assessment, engraving, despatch and correspondence in regards to medals entitlements. By signing this application form you acknowledge this disclosure.

☐ I have enclosed proof that I am the Executor of the will, Administrator in case of intestacy, or a person who can prove legal status as sole beneficiary to this claim.

I declare that I am the executor or sole beneficiary (delete as necessary) entitled to receive the Australian Defence Medal. I hereby indemnify the Commonwealth of Australia against any claim arising from the incorrect award of the medal. I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the *Statutory Declarations Act 1959*, and subject to the penalties provided by that Act for the making of false statements in Statutory Declarations, conscientiously believing that statements in this declaration to be true in every particular.

Signature of person making declaration _____

Declared at _____ on the _____, 20 _____
before me,

Signature of person before whom the declaration is made _____

Title of person before whom the declaration is made _____

Return form to:
Directorate of Honours and Awards
T-1-49
Department of Defence
Reply Paid 4455
Kingston ACT 2604

You may elect to have the member's service recognised at a bi-annual presentation arranged by Defence in your region. You may also receive the medal through the post.

☐ Presentation. My Federal electorate is _____

☐ Mail (Registered Post)

This form is to be used for the Australian Defence Medal only. For further information please visit our website at www.defence.gov.au/dpe or call 1800 111 321.

MEMBERS MISSING/LEFT OLD ADDRESS

The following members have had their copy of Seven News returned over the last three years, if anyone knows the whereabouts of any of the members listed please have them contact me.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LAST ADDRESS SUB-UNIT</u>
<i>Edwin Robert Brady</i>	<i>Federation Dr. Bethanin QLD, D10/12 2nd.</i>
<i>Henry Dynarzewski</i>	<i>Christo Rd, Waratah, NSW, D Coy 2nd.</i>
<i>Bruce Colin Godfrey</i>	<i>Castle Place, Sylvania, NSW, 1st tour.</i>
<i>Kenneth Paul Hanslow</i>	<i>Urana St, Villawood, NSW, d11 2nd.</i>
<i>Robert (Jessie) James</i>	<i>Melmoth, Dingo, QLD, PNRS 1st.</i>
<i>Barry Keith Jones</i>	<i>Rockhampton, QLD, MORS 1st.</i>
<i>Ronald David Ring</i>	<i>Raleigh Grove, Essendon Nth, VIC, A1 1st.</i>
<i>Phillip Anthony Ryan</i>	<i>Vivian St, Inverell, NSW, C7 2nd.</i>
<i>Ross Thomas Smith</i>	<i>Clovelly Ave, Rosebud, VIC, Recon 1st.</i>
<i>Brice Hugh Stokes</i>	<i>"Dunmore", Manilla, NSW, D/CHQ 1st.</i>
<i>Robert William Wilson</i>	<i>Cunningham St, Bingara, NSW, D10 2nd.</i>
<i>John Douglas Finlay</i>	<i>Harris St, Ingleburn, NSW, TPT 2nd.</i>
<i>Wayne Jeffrey Grinter</i>	<i>Indigo Valley, VIC, 1st tour.</i>
<i>Ian Anthony Gordon</i>	<i>East Griffith, NSW, B6 1st.</i>
<i>Peter George Midson</i>	<i>Claremont AVE, Okden, SA, TPT 2nd (RAEME).</i>

SUOI CHAU PHA LUNCH ACT SUN 6 AUGUST

Ross Ellis will host this years Suoi Chau Pha lunch at his place on Sunday 6 August gather at 11.30am at 53/21 Biddlecombe Street, PEARCE, ACT. It will be a BYO drinks, if you are going to attend please advise Ross Ph (h) (02) 6286 3797 or Tony Keech Ph (h) (02) 4721 4349 by close of business Thursday 3 August.

Further details can be obtained by contacting either Ross or Tony anytime prior to the 3 August. Roll up Roll up and have a great time.

ANZAC DAY IN DUBBO

A very well attended Dawn Service, at least 500 onlookers, many children and not a sound during the solemn service, then a breakfast at the

West Dubbo Bowling Club, put on each year by club members, went down very well and of course the bar was open.

Met up with some boys from 2nd tour, locals Len Smith and Keith Rowland plus visitors from C Coy, George Frydrych, Mick (Chuck) Berry, Wayne Hill, Gary Strickland and yours truly Bill (Snoopy) Harley 1st tour.

The March was quite a big one and the streets were crowded, at least 1000 people at the Dubbo Cenotaph, Victoria Park. Following the service at the Cenotaph a lunch was held at the Dubbo RSL, a few drinks before moving to other watering holes!! A good time was had by all. Below some photographs of the boys:





On a more solemn note the Dubbo Vietnam Veterans and some wives attended the funeral of Margaret Byrnes (Cookie), partner of Keith Rowland.

Regards to all Pigs - W. D. A. Harley (Snoopy)

REUNION - PERTH 23 TO 26 APRIL 2006

Well it has come and gone and I am sure from all reports it was a time to remember. For those who were in the area for the Friday night get together at the Bicton-Palmyra RSL it was a very low key affair and all who gathered there had a good time and started the celebrations for the week to follow. Saturday was a free day for all in the area to do their own thing.

Sunday 23 April kicked off the official programme with the registration, this commenced at 9am and carried through to the AGM at 2pm. During this activity members checked in and collected their merchandise, where applicable, (this was packed into individual HAM BAGS), purchased raffle tickets in the monster raffle that was drawn at the dinner on Wednesday night and confirmed attendance at all other activities over the period.

At 2pm the AGM was opened by the President, Ross Ellis, a synopsis of the minutes of that meeting appear below:

Duty First
7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment
Association Inc (Qld)
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA
Sunday 23 April 2006

1. The President, Ross Ellis declared the meeting open at 2.07pm. A welcome was extended to all in attendance especially those who have travelled from afar, committee members, wives and partners. The President also acknowledged the presence of our Patrons General Ron Grey and Colonel Eric Smith. All up, around 170 were in attendance.

2. *Apologies were tendered for the following :*

Bob MacDonell, Dave Evans, Peter Lloyd, Rod Lyons, Jack Doulis, Ned Falconer, Arthur Butler, John Burrows, John Sutherland, Don Matthews, Ian McKnight, Steve Prestwidge, Kevin Cuthbertson, Bob Gillies, Doug McLaughlan, Joe Turra, Mick Hagen, Mick Logan, Len Schulz and Bob Richards. Apologies to anyone not acknowledged.

3. *The minutes of the 2005 AGM were read by the XO.*

***Moved David Kibbey Seconded Kevin Harker
The Minutes as read be accepted.
Motion Carried.***

4. *The Following reports were presented to the meeting:-*

(a) **The President** **Ross Ellis**

General

Overall this has been a good year in the life of the Association – and in saying this, I do not wish in any respect to downplay the losses of some of our bravest comrades in arms and family members who have been called to higher service and whom we have left in God’s keeping.

But on the positive side, there have been reunions at platoon level and the increase in importance of and attendance at Sui Chou Pha Day has been most encouraging. Moreover, I know that visits between members have been on the increase. The friendships which we forged while we were married to the service have endured beyond our expectations – and as we enter the September of our years, these ties are becoming vital.

The one characteristic of former 7 RAR men which stands above all others is the willingness to step in and lend a hand to mates and their families – and in many instances to provide sorely-needed financial support. To those who have displayed such kindness, thank you.

Membership.

If all of the members on our books renew this time, we will have close to 1,000, which demonstrates the strength of 7. But there are still diggers out there who we need to contact and I commend those who continue the search for these men who may need our friendship and support.

Finance.

In accordance with a decision at the last AGM, I have convened a finance committee meeting to prepare guidance for the Executive to prudently manage the funds of the Association. Our Honorary Financial Advisor, Peter Leeson has prepared a position paper for the consideration of this meeting. This brief report will be presented during the Treasurer's Report.

7 RAR the Two Tours of Vietnam.

I am delighted to report that the book has paid for itself and we now have fewer than 400 left. The AWM has purchased 54 of the books and continues to sell them for \$140.00 a copy, which means that there is quite some interest from the general public. There must still be many on the nominal roll of the Battalion who have not seen the book and I ask the Association members to renew their energy in promoting the book to those concerned whenever they come across them.

Phase 3 of the Recording of the History of our Two Tours of Vietnam.

This is to be a DVD and so I am now asking for your Super 8 film or even 35mm film which may have been used by a professional if it is in your possession. I shall promulgate details of the submission dates and address soon, but in the meantime, I ask you not to dust off the film and give it another showing prior to submitting it. The reason is that some film may have deteriorated to the extent where it may need the TLC of an expert.

I have recently received the support of one of the curators of the AWM photo and film library, Patricia Sabine, and she has offered to assist us. Already she has identified some of the film which we will need. I wish to reassure those who own such film that I shall ensure that your film will be returned as soon as I can manage to have it copied professionally. So please help locate any relevant film on the 67/68 and 70/71 Tours.

Seven News

There have been a few suggestions tossed around at Executive meetings and in general conversation with regards to the evolution of our newsletter which Tony spends a huge amount of his time preparing and I know that you will wish to support me in thanking him for his diligence. Inevitably Seven News depends completely on the input from individuals members and State reps and I urge you to continue forwarding anecdotes, photos and poems to Tony for inclusion in the three issues per year he is producing. The cost of production is about \$2,500.00 per edition and you will note that it is also placed on the web site by Kev Gillett.

It has been decided to continue to send the hard copy to everyone for now and not ask those who can access the web copy to forego the snail mail copy. The Executive considered the fact that eventually there will be a decline in the number of members of the Association and that the widows will outnumber the members.

In years to come, this will no doubt necessitate the payment of some fee, but until that time is reached, the Association will provide the Seven News to those widows who would like to receive it.

The Pig List.

It is some time now since the Pig List was published. Though there is a clause in the membership renewal form which asks members to give permission for other members to have access to their personal contact details, the Executive has taken a cautious approach to the release of information and the widespread dissemination of the list again.

There are two main reasons for this; First, the information is often out of date within a year of being published : and Second, we need to adhere to current legislation on privacy provisions. So, it has been decided that a couple of contacts in each state will be provided with the list and will be asked to pass information on members to those members who request such details. Information will not be provided to non-members. The list will be updated by the XO on a biannual basis.

The Web Site.

I wish to thank our Web Master, Kev Gillett, for the effort and thoughtfulness with which he maintains our web site. There are no doubt many members who are well

versed in web management and I would ask them to forward to Kev any helpful comments they may have on the evolution of web sites as they develop.

I would ask also those who are computer literate to encourage those who are not to gain sufficient basic skills to access the net and send emails. It is now very cheap to access the net through the TADACT scheme, details of which we published in the Seven News recently.

Non-Operational Memorial at 5/7 RAR Robertson Barracks.

The ADF has fostered the erection of this memorial. As a consequence, we have been asked by the Records Sergeant at 5/7 RAR to provide any information we can as a means of assisting him with the cross-checking of those who died as members of 7 RAR while training in a non-operational role. Anyone with any information on the non-operational death of any member of 7 RAR from whatever cause is requested to advise the XO, please.

Roll of Honour at the Regimental Memorial at Martin Place in Sydney.

Both 8 RAR and 9 RAR Associations have now placed rolls of honour on the reverse side of this memorial and I need the guidance of the Association as to whether we should follow suit.

Housing of the Gonfalons of the 7th Battalion AIF, the 2nd 7th and 7 RAR.

The Rev Howard Barnett has indicated that there was an emerging problem of space at the Garrison Chapel and the storage of our gonfalons was becoming a problem, particularly as they were placed in the corner of his

office. As a result, I have discussed with him the potential for us to build permanent storage at the chapel. The guidance of this meeting is sought on this matter.

The 2009 Reunion and the 50th Anniversary of the raising of the Battalion.

It has been widely recognised that the time around ANZAC Day is inappropriate for a reunion and planning will take this into account later in this meeting when we decide on future venues for the reunion and the 50th Anniversary of the raising of the Battalion.

Commemorative Plaque at the AWM.

Many unit associations, and most recently 5 RAR Association, have placed commemorative plaques in the walkways of the grounds of the AWM and it has been suggested that we might do likewise. How and when this might be achieved is a matter for further consideration and decision at the AGM.

Letter to the CO 5/7 RAR.

Doug Gibbons has suggested that we send our greetings to 5/7 RAR on ANZAC Day and this should be a timely communication considering that the Contingent in Iraq is led by 5/7 at this time. I shall take note of the thoughts of the AGM when preparing the letter.

I would also like to thank Doug Gibbons for attending the 5/7 RAR Binh Ba celebrations last year on behalf of the Association. Doug reported that it was a superb occasion where the hospitality of the Battalion was excellent.

Support of the Executive.

I wish to thank all members of the Executive for their support and work on behalf of the members of the Association this year. I appreciate the advice and industry of each and every one of you. In particular, the tremendous amount of work undertaken by Tony Keech never ceases to astound me. Thank you indeed for devoting a large proportion of your life to this task, Tony.

Last but not least is the help I receive from the Patrons. Their very presence here bears testimony to the dedication and close support they devote to the Association and its members. My sincere thanks to you both.

**Moved Kev Gillett Seconded Mark Moloney
The President's report be accepted. Carried.**

(b) The Secretary/Webmaster Kevin Gillett

The webmaster passed onto the meeting that the webpage was there for all to access and use and that he needed help from all members to improve the site, any suggestions on ways to improve the presentations on the webpage would be appreciated.

**Moved Doug Fieldhouse Seconded Pat Goggins
The Sec/Webmaster's report be accepted.
Carried.**

(c) The Treasurer Bernie Cox

The Treasurer presented the following audited report to the meeting: To the members of the 7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association (Incorporated).

Scope

The Financial statements.

The financial statements comprises the committee's declaration, income statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and a cash flow statement for 7RAR Association (Inc) for the year ended 28 February 2006.

Auditors Report (Summary)

In conducting my audit, I followed the applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

In my opinion, the financial report of 7RAR Association (Inc) gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association at 28 February 2006 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and is presented in accordance with The Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial requirements.

*M. A. Moloney, CPA
CANBERRA
17 April 2006*

INCOME STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2006

REVENUE	2006	2005
<i>Members subscriptions</i>	<i>8,190</i>	<i>7,942</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Sales of merchandise</i>	<i>639</i>	<i>1,466</i>
<i>Raffle</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>790</i>

<i>Grant from DVA</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>405</i>
<i>Interest</i>	<i>1,268</i>	<i>2,096</i>
<i>Sales of Pictorial History</i>	<i>26,210</i>	<i>63,470</i>

<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>36,307</i>	<i>75,341</i>
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EXPENSES

<i>Cost of Pictorial History</i>	<i>20,409</i>	<i>42,168</i>
<i>Bank charges</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Computer costs</i>	<i>482</i>	<i>416</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>1,955</i>
<i>Postages</i>	<i>1,437</i>	<i>1,951</i>
<i>Seven News printing</i>	<i>5,321</i>	<i>5,308</i>
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>2,490</i>	<i>1,950</i>
<i>Funeral costs</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Office supplies</i>	<i>1,075</i>	<i>989</i>
<i>Depreciation</i>	<i>236</i>	<i>1,271</i>
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>1,021</i>

<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>31,972</i>	<i>57,159</i>
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<i>Operating result</i>	<i>4,335</i>	<i>18,182</i>
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<i>Total change in equity in the Asn</i>	<i>4,335</i>	<i>18,182</i>
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BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING **28 FEBRUARY 2006**

<i>FINANCIAL ASSETS</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2005</i>
<i>Cash</i>	<i>18,465</i>	<i>19,970</i>
<i>Investments</i>	<i>52,224</i>	<i>10,956</i>
<i>Receivables</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>2,000</i>
<i>Inventories</i>	<i>32,205</i>	<i>49,327</i>

Total Financial Assets	103,254	82,073

NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

<i>Plant and Equipment</i>	3,995	1,981

Total Assets	107,249	84,054

LIABILITIES

Provisions

<i>Members prepaid subs</i>	33,785	12,315
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Payables

<i>Accrued Expenses</i>	0	2,610

Total Liabilities	33,785	14,925

Net Assets	73,464	69,129
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EQUITY

Members' Funds	73,464	69,124

Current assets	103,254	82,073
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Non-current assets	3,995	1,981
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Current liabilities	6,195	10,800
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Non-current liabilities	27,590	4,125
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**Moved Barry Marsh Seconded Steve Chamarette
The Treasurers report be accepted.**

Carried.

(d) The Executive Officer

Tony Keech

During the reporting period three issues of Seven News were published with the emphasis on member related articles. Very few reports were received from around the country, WA and VIC excepted. Most of the information related to the Perth reunion and the major activities held over the past twelve months.

The upkeep and maintenance of membership records, preparation and dispatch of the Seven News and the general overseeing of Association activities keep me very busy. Major activities during the period were the Suoi Chau Pha Lunch held at numerous locations around the country, Remembrance Day plus the WA Christmas Bash.

I am continually frustrated with the return of Newsletters with notations such as, NO LONGER AT THIS ADDRESS or LEFT ADDRESS, please keep me informed if you intend moving from your recorded address. WHEN SENDING IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL, PLEASE USE THE FORM IN THE NEWSLETTER AND FILL IN ALL DETAIL AS IT HELPS ME KEEP YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE.

I would ask all members around the country to send in any news items no matter how small or large it may be, I will attempt to publish all articles.

In closing, my aim for the remainder of my tenure, however long that may be is to ensure that the membership is involved as much as possible via newsletters and any other means available.

**Moved Peter Farrell Seconded John Smith
The Exec Officers report be accepted. Carried**

Moved Ken Williams Seconded Mick O'Halloran That Queensland hold the next reunion to be held around the Battalion Birthday period exact location to be advised at the 2007 AGM. Carried.

(d) The meeting discussed the subject dealing with the placement of Commemoration Plaques of the Seventh Battalions on the Memorial walk way at the Australian War Memorial.

Moved Ross Ellis Seconded Ted Lewis that the President liaise with the AWM to arrange for the placement of Plaques at the AWM memorial walk. Preferred date to be around the Battalion's Birthday. Carried.

6. The President declared all positions on the Committee of Management vacant and handed the chair over to the Executive Officer to conduct the election of the New Committee of Management.

**(a) Nomination for President Ross Ellis
There being no further nominations for the position Ross Ellis was elected unopposed.**

**(b) Nomination for Vice President John Press
Proposed Ross Ellis Seconded Tony Keech.
Carried.**

(c) The meeting agreed, in the absence of any further nominations the remainder of the current members who have indicated their intention to stand for re-election, be re-elected to serve on the Committee of Management for 2006-2007.

7. Below is the Committee of Management for the 2006-2007 period.

Presidert	Ross Ellis
Senoir Vice President	John Press
Vice Presidents	Doug Gibbons, AM
	Rod Lyons
	Don Cruden
	Ted Lewis
Secretary/Webmaster	Kevin Gillett
Treasurer	Bernie Cox
Executive Officer/Editor	Tony Keech, OAM
Historian	Mike O'Brien, CSC

Mark Moloney was re-appointed Hon Auditor, Peter Morrison was re-appointed Hon Legal Officer and Mindy Sutherland was re-appointed as the liaison officer for wives, widows and welfare.

8. The President resumed the chair and mentioned over the past year many things have happened including contact with a lot of people. He emphasised that the Association relied on the members using a cross flow of information to keep everyone informed. The President advised that over time the Historian has often helped out with advice on difficult questions and that Mark Moloney, our auditor, does a lot of work behind the scenes.

General Business

9. It was moved Ross Ellis, Seconded Geoff Skardon that David Kibbey be made a Life Member of the 7RAR Association.

Carried.

10. ***The President moved*** that a special vote of thanks be recorded for the support that the Department of Veteran Affairs had provided to the Reunion.

Seconded by Steve Chamarette. Carried.

11. As a result of discussions at our AGM in Wagga Wagga dealing with the financial planning for the Association for the future, Peter Leeson briefed the members on the avenues available to the Association regarding investment strategies and policies. This covered high, conservative and low risk investment policies.

12. ***It was moved Ken Bladen, Seconded Ted Lewis*** that a vote of thanks and a certificate of appreciation be awarded to all members of the West Australian committee for a job well done in the organisation and conduct of the 2006 reunion. ***Carried.***

13 David Kibbey raised the subject of members making a bequest to the Association as part of their will.

Moved David Kibbey Seconded Kev Harker. Carried.

14. David Tresise raised the subject dealing with the re-imbursment to members of the Executive for expenses over and above the normal, the President advised that this subject would be taken on board and discussed by the Executive Committee at a later date.

15. The Ode was recited by the President.

16. There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 15.25hrs.

At the conclusion of the AGM the members, wives partners and family used the remainder of spare time left to meet up with old mates and reminisce on times of long ago.

The next major activity was the Memorial Service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Kings Park. We gathered as a group at the Memorial, which is quite a splendid structure. The Service was conducted by Chaplain MacCallum, Chaplaincy Services, wreaths were laid by the Commanding Officers 1st and 2nd Tours. After the formalities were concluded all present moved to the area where the BBQ was set up, the following photos are a collage of the service & BBQ, sorry I don't have names for all those in some of the photos.





Eric Smith

Avril Grey

Ron Grey



Chaplain MacCallum

Jim Fitzsimon

Tony Keech





↑
A very well attired group of Pioneers



*L to R
Kevin & Sue Lewis, Ken & Stephanie Bladen, Caroline & Graeme
Chapman.*



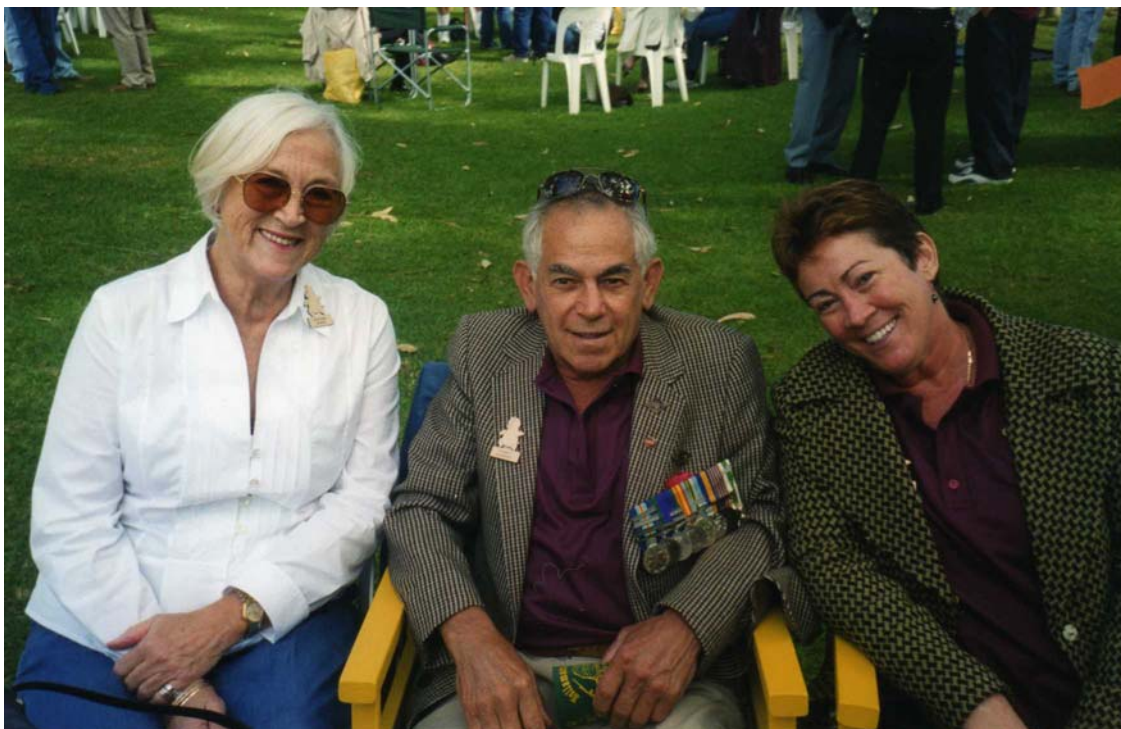
↑
Peter Winter

↑
David Webster



↑
Robbie Cathcart

↑
Steve Chamarette



Styephani[^]Bladen

Doug[^]Fieldouse

Edna[^]Murphy

Please excuse not having names for all photographs, as these were sent in with some names missing. During the BBQ members mingled with the huge crowd gathered in the grounds surrounding the Vietnam Memorial. Around 3pm the busses started to convey members back to their accommodation. Later on that afternoon members and friends gathered in sub-unit groups at a couple of locations in Fremantle to reminisce and have a few convivial drinks and mull over old times with their mates at the sub-unit smokos.

As afternoon turned into evening people started to move around the locations identified as the various RV's for all the company groups. I think by early evening most had retired to their respective hoochi sites to get an early start on slumber before the long day of activities planned for tomorrow, ANZAC Day.

Attendance at Dawn Services in Fremantle and Perth were at individuals discretion due to the early pick up at the designated pick up points for travel into Perth for the March through the city.

The assembly area for the parade was well serviced by the usual support groups providing coffee, ANZAC Bickies, and other breakfast fare to sustain us throughout the march and activities post march. Below are some snaps prior to and during the march:





Above and below some scenes at the form up area prior to the march through the city.











As luck would have it the 7RAR group arrived at the St Georges Terrace area just prior to the onset of the rain that forced the cancellation of the Memorial Service.

All the formations behind our group were caught in the downpour and were subsequently drenched. Due to the swift actions of our WA Hosts, the transport to 11/28RWAR was brought forward and we were conveyed to Karrakatta Barracks a little earlier than planned, this was about 10.40am. As the Memorial Service was timed to conclude at 12noon our arrival at Karrakatta earlier than scheduled caught all concerned a little off guard.

However, with a little juggling the post march reunion function got under way in the main assembly hall of 11/28 RWAR. The function was a great success and the drink was priced to that which we were used to when we served, that is very reasonable to say the least. As the afternoon progressed a raffle was conducted, included as prizes were some of those wonderful wooden carvings of modern militaria, i.e. Tanks, APC's, Helicopters and Aircraft.



Sunray has a new sig!



David Tresise giving Tony Keech some instruction on a new mortar.

As the ANZAC Day activities drew to a close the crowd started to thin and members attendees started to drift away to other locations or back to their accommodation sites. Overall the Day was a great success.

The activities for 26 April included A social Golf Tournament at the Glen Iris Golf Club, Jandakot and a Morning Tea for the Partners of Veterans Association at the Bicton - Palmyra RSL Club. For those not involved in the above a free day was used to great advantage to catch up on some shopping and touring other places of interest close by, I believe a few wineries were a major target.

The Reunion Dinner was the next event on the calendar and those attending started to gather in the foyer of the Esplanade from around 6.00pm for pre - dinner drinks.

The dinning room was set out in tables of eight elegantly decorated with the centre of the room being the dance floor just below the stage. The VIP Party was ushered into the dinning room by A Pipe band and when all were in position the service of dinner commenced.

Dinner was served to each table by steward service which enabled all 500 in attendance to be served without delay. The food and drink service was well organized, the selection of food and drinks was first class and to the surprise of all in attendance a message was passed for all to uncover individual placemats and drink coasters. The design and presentation of both these items was well worth the trip to the reunion.

In short the placemat had as its background the famous 5 platoon photo that is featured on the Vietnam Memorial, in Canberra, overlaid with the Honour Roll of both tours, the drink coaster had a small 7RAR Pig and the Regimental badge.

Interspersed throughout the evening a number of formal speeches and presentations took place, photographs of the evening selected at random show some of the crowd in the dinning room of the Esplanade Hotel.





















2006 CALENDER

- 6 Aug 39th Anniversary Battle of Suoi Chau Pha. See separate notices.*
- 18 Aug 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.*
- 20 Aug Vietnam Veterans & Associated Forces Memorial Day, Springwood NSW, parade steps off 11.30am. All welcome to attend.*
- 1 Sep 41st Birthday 7RAR.*
- 19 Oct Dedication ceremony at the AWM for laying of plaques in honour of 7Bn AIF, 2/7th Bn AIF and 7RAR.*
- 23 Oct 67th Birthday 2/7th Bn AIF. Dedication ceremony and laying of Honour Roll Plaque of members of 7RAR KIA in South Vietnam at Regimental Square, Sydney.*
- 11 Nov Remembrance Day, local arrangements apply.*
- 12 Nov Where possible please front up to the Service at the Garrison Chapel, The Rocks, service commences at 11.00am.*
- 30 Nov Cut-off date for articles for 3/2006 Seven News.*

IN SEARCH OF ALL LOST PIGS ←

I am looking for all ex 7RAR members to join the Association to enhance our next REUNION to be held in Queensland, (exact location to be advised by next AGM). To all current members, be on the lookout for a lost PIGS and get them to sign up.



Spread the word via any means possible, to those all who were in WA remember the great time we had, so be on the prowl for new members.

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

G'Day from WA to all PIGS everywhere.

NATIONAL REUNION PERTH 2006

Well, what can I say, wasn't that a fantastic reunion. It was terrific to see so many PIGS and their partners congregate in Perth for a few days of get-togethers, lots of reminiscing and catching up with mates. The culmination of activities was the Reunion Dinner, where we fed and entertained almost 500 and it truly was a fitting end to a wonderful reunion. The organising committee would like to say a BIG thank you to all those who attended and made it all possible and to all of those volunteers who helped out whenever needed, whether it was stuffing HAM BAGS, assisting at the registration party or the memorial B-B-Q, selling raffle tickets or just helping to clean up, we couldn't have done it without you. Also, thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes.

A really pleasing aspect of the reunion was the number of PIGS who 'came out of the woodwork' for this event, better late than never. It really showed just what a great camaraderie exists amongst us PIGS and everyone is really looking forward to the next reunion in Queensland in 2009. Hopefully we can pass on to the 'banana-benders' any things we learned along the way, which may assist them.

ANZAC DAY

It was great to see about 400 PIGS lined up to march in the Anzac Day parade, pity about the weather, although we managed to march down to Langley Park before the heavens opened up. For the first time in 60 years, the Anzac Day ceremony in Perth was cancelled due to the rain, but in true PIG fashion, we managed to find our buses and head on out to Karrakatta, where we bravely soldiered on at the 11/28 Battalion headquarters and enjoyed a terrific feed and lots of beers.

As part of the reunion organisation, we were going to congregate at the 11/28 mess after the parade and ceremony, however due to the rain we just got there a little earlier than expected and thanks must go to the 11/28 for their hospitality, even though they had to call for a re-sup of beer halfway through the afternoon. Never underestimate the thirst of wild PIGS. We ran some raffles during the afternoon of wooden military models, the most popular being the Huey, the APC and the Centurion and the proceeds were shared with the 11/28 mess, who were most appreciative and have invited us back again next Anzac day. A great day was had by all!

AMAZING STORY - GREENS RETURNED

This is an amazing story that started with a call to Don Cruden from Mindy Sutherland, regarding a PIG in Victoria and a pair of jungle green trousers. Apparently, upon arriving in A Coy 7RAR during the first tour, Trevor Duffin was given a pair of freshly starched trousers (courtesy of the Baria laundry) which had belonged to Alec Bell, who had recently been killed in action. Trevor, being an ex-postie (as was Alec) made the decision right there and then that he would treasure these trousers, from one postie to another and eventually brought them home to Australia, still in their pristine starched condition. Fast forward to a week before REUNION 2006 and Don and Trevor exchanged a telephone conversation. "Would the NOK of Alec like these trousers?" and with Don's reply of "Yes" they duly arrived. Don made the presentation to John Bell, Alec's brother and NOK, and these were gratefully accepted. Now, thanks to Trevor's tenacity of taking care of the trousers for nearly 40 years, they have found a new home with John.



Don Cruden presenting the Jungle Greens to John Bell.

REUNION DINNER PLACEMATS-PRESENTATIONS TO NEXT OF KIN

Members who attended the reunion dinner received a complementary placemat and coaster, which commemorated those killed in action during the two tours of Vietnam.

The WA branch made a decision to present a framed placemat to each of the next of kin of those WA soldiers killed in action and these presentations have since taken place. (see photos below)



Don Cruden presenting a framed Reunion Dinner placemat to John Bell, brother of Alec Bell



Don Cruden presenting a framed Reunion Dinner placemat to Julia Jacob, sister of Paul Navarre.



Noel Crouch's sister Val O'Brien showing the framed Reunion Dinner placemat, presented to her by Gordon Dickson.

NAMETAGS

Now for those with diminishing eyesight, (this is for you Chappie) we are now offering NAMETAGS 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 in the post when you place your order, 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*



SICK PARADE

Allan Drew, D12 2nd Tour, is not travelling too well at the moment and our thoughts and prayers are with you Allan and your family at this difficult time.

GORDON & DI DICKSON - THANKS PIGS

Gordon and I would sincerely like to thank all those wonderful 7RAR people who kindly donated towards the purchase of a high chair (it will have a big pink pig on it somewhere) to our daughter Lainie after the birth of Sally. Your generosity and compassion was quite overwhelming and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We are pleased to report that both Lainie and Sally are both doing very well, with their last lot of tests giving them a clean bill of health. Our granddaughter is now 10 weeks old and weighing in at 12lb. She is absolutely beautiful but you knew I would say that!!! Thank you again.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those hard working men and women who helped make the 7RAR reunion in Perth a great success, particularly the Dinner at the Esplanade. It was beautifully done with a touch of class, a very memorable time had by all we are sure.

Thank you again - stay safe and well.

Gordon & Di Dickson

WARNING ORDERS FOR WA PIGS

VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY

Sunday 20 August 2006

Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, May Drive, Kings Park

On parade 1000 -1030 hrs

March behind the banner 1045 hrs

Service commences 1100 hrs

Medals to be worn

Parking is a bit scarce so I suggest you get there early

We want a large contingent marching

ANNUAL PIGS SWILL

We intend to rotate the venues to try and even up travelling by mbrs

This year possibly Armadale RSL, still to be confirmed

Tentatively Sunday 26 November 2006 or Sunday 3 December 2006

There will be a 3-course meal, with drinks at Club prices

More details to follow

BRUCE ROCK VIETNAM VETERANS GROUP WEEK/WEEKEND

The Bruce Rock week/weekend is on again, lots of activities including Golf, Bingo, a Rifle Shoot, Lawn Bowls, Concerts, Street March with Brass Band, B-B-Q etc and many more. Everyone really has a good time

Monday Oct 30 - Sunday Nov5, a whole week of activities

March Saturday 4 Nov 1500hrs, meet at the Hotel, look for the BANNER

For more details contact Merv Gould 9061 1143 or

Bill Stewart 9061 1037

For Oval Parking, contact Bruce Rock Shire 9061 1377.

NEWSLETTER - WA CONTENT

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.

PIGS IN QUEENSLAND.

ANZAC DAY

Although most of us were in WA for the reunion some stalwarts remained in Queensland as Kev Donnelly reports

Just a short note re Anzac day in Brisbane. First up the day was fine and sunny as usual and the spectators seemed to be in greater numbers than last or any previous year. We had 15 marching which I guess wasn't bad seeing that most of you are/were over in Perth for the reunion. Those marching were Jack Wynands, Peter LLoyd, Sam Giacomantonio and grandkids, Ken Gillard, Garth Gilbert, Brian Eastley, Colin Dudley, Bill Delaforce, Barry Burton, Ken Kelly, Kev Donnelly and 4 others whom I must apologise to as I missed getting their names. Made the mistake of getting names at the end of the march instead of before! I believe Nev Robinson was in Greenslopes hospital on the day otherwise I'm sure he would have been on deck also. Hope you are out and about soon Nev. Most of us who were staying in the city for drinks went to the Irish club. Much better than the Victory hotel. The only problem was meeting up with anyone at the club as it was absolutely packed for the first two hours after the parade - and noisy. Still if you don't mind Irish music, Guinness stout, Lovely Colleens and Beer in your coat pockets than it is a great place for drinks after the march.

Suoi Chau Pha Day

Queenslanders, and indeed any traveling Pigs, are reminded that we are holding a Suoi Chau Pha day luncheon, as promised, at the Gaythorne RSL on Sunday 6 August 2006 commencing 11:30 hrs. The format will be the same as last year.

For further details or to confirm your attendance please phone Kev Gillett on 07 3865 4411.

Battalion Birthday.

Planning is currently underway to have a dinner celebrating the Battalion's 41st birthday on or near 1 Sept 2006. Further details will be published on the website and by telephone and/or email when they are known.

Editor has restricted copy so more Queensland news in the next newsletter or on <http://www.7rar.asn.au>

Regards Kev Gillett