



Gallipoli Remembrance Tour 2015 7RAR Members

Boronia Travel Centre would like to invite members of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the battle of Lone Pine.

This special battlefield tour will be run in August 2015, which marks the centenary of the largest and bloodiest battles of Gallipoli.



Tour Highlights

- The Sights of Istanbul
- Special commemorative wreath laying service at Lone Pine
- Visit to Krithia Battlefield on the Cape Helles Front
- Anzac Cove
- Special Suoi Chau Pha lunch at Gallipoli
- A tour of Crete to walk the battlefields of the 2/7th Battalion actions of 1941 may be available to take in conjunction with this tour. Subject to availability.

Your tour is fully escorted by **Bill Fogarty**, who is an ex Australian War Memorial Senior Curator and Battlefield Guide. Bill is also a 7th Battalion Association Member and is available to be contacted for anyone wishing to find out more information about the tour. Please contact Bill directly on (02) 6454 2358 or email warrigal@skymesh.com.au.

About Boronia Travel Centre

For nearly 20 years Boronia Travel Centre have specialised in battlefield tours to Gallipoli and the Western Front, and present the experience and quality that make them Australia's leading battlefield tour operator. As the "Official Travel Agent" to the Australian War Memorial, Boronia Travel Centre offers battlefield tours are the most informative and in depth available, assuring you a wonderful and memorable journey of a lifetime.



Please register your interest today!

For all booking information please call 1800 035 350.
Or Visit Boroniabattlefieldtours.com.au
Minimum Numbers are required for this tour.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - AUGUST 2012

'MELBOURNE 2012'

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter, the first after the memorable and spectacular Melbourne Reunion 2012, held from 3rd - 7th August. In winter months to attract just on 500 old soldiers, family and friends to our special get-together was a remarkable achievement and full marks must go to the Victorian branch of the 7RAR Association for a massive effort in co-ordination.

Most of us are renowned for being a bit slow off the mark in '*signing on the dotted line*' to indicate participation in an event or function such as this, and to pull in 492 to the Reunion Dinner on the final evening was a credit to all the hard work of the Victorian committee and their willing helpers of wives, partners and some good 'mates'.

The Sebel & Citigate Albert Park was a terrific venue for the main event - the Reunion Dinner, although the Atrium Bar on the ground floor made a 'round' of drinks a painful and expensive exercise. For our dinner The Ballroom was decked out with tables of floating maroon balloons weighted down to tables with gold ribbon. The order of the evening was well presented:

The Welcome Address by Patrick 'Gogo' Goggins consisted of a warm welcome to members, wives, partners, an introduction to special guests; current 7RAR soldiers CO Lt.Col Mick Garraway, RSM Richard Verrall, Private soldier Hamish Browne, along with our representative from the Vietnam Veteran's Entertainers Ms Sylvia Raye, and a late-starter Mr Jim Bourke the mover and shaker behind 'Operation Aussies Home'. The initial symbolic *marching in of the empty chair* by Private Hamish Brown was especially moving and was accompanied by a kilted piper.

Grace, the Loyal Toast and Regimental Toast were followed by an excellent meal. Then Toasts to Fallen Comrades, then Wives & Partners followed during the meal. Our Keynote Speaker, current CO of the Battalion, Lt.Col Mick Garraway gave a terrific speech, followed by the 7RAR Association's President's Speech. As I said to those in the room, the gathering of so many of us '*en masse*' in the beautifully decorated ballroom just blew me away! It was an impressive gathering and made us all proud to be members of Seven!

During the evening a stack of prizes were drawn for the Melbourne Branch Raffle. And towards the end of the evening the raffle to raise funds for the '*Gurkha Welfare Trust*' was also drawn (there was a great deal of interest in this) and the lucky winner of the *Kukri* (Nepalese soldier's knife) was Wally Harris, Platoon Commander of B5 on 1st Tour 1967/68.

Wal was a very appropriate winner as he'd served with the Gurkhas in Borneo during his army days! We raised \$3,100 towards the Trust based in the UK and I will forward the reply from them in the next Newsletter. Thank you kindly supporters of this very worthwhile cause.

The 7th Battalions Shrine Service on Sunday 5th August starting at 1100hrs was absolutely fantastic. Good weather enhanced the morning's march by all our members up to the Eternal Flame close to the very impressive Shrine.

The Welcome, Prayers, Summaries of Service of the 7th Battalions, and the Reading of the Roll of Honour of 7RAR were all deep and meaningful parts of the service - none more so than the placing of poppies at the foot of the WW2 memorial by nominated comrades of fallen as each name was read out, followed by the laying of wreaths by family and friends of deceased soldiers and then the Piper's lament '*Flowers of the Forest*'.

The Last Post, Minute's Silence, Reveille and our National Anthem topped off a solemn and poignant part of Reunion 2012. And the Company get-togethers, drinks with mates, the Special General Meeting at the Prahran RSL, visit to the Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island all made for a terrific and enjoyable stay in Melbourne for both locals and visitors. Thanks Melbourne Committee for a great Welcome for everyone.

Sadly both CO's were unable to attend our Reunion.... General Ron Grey still recovering from heart surgery (I gather that he's improving in health) and Colonel Eric Smith unable to attend at the last minute due his wife Bett incurring a bad fall on the eve of their departure by car for Melbourne.

Both CO's sent their very best wishes for the Melbourne Reunion and deep regrets they were unable to join their men. We can now look forward to Reunion 2015 in Adelaide, whose 'advance party' have already given us a sample of what to expect in their State.

Best wishes to one and all, especially to those of us who are not in the best of health. To our former CO's may they be fit and well for our next Reunion; and to the Reg Bandy's, 'Father' Chris Campbell Thomson, General 'Sandy' Pearson (2/7th, & 94 on the 24th of August) and others - may we offer whatever support we can in the 7RAR manner of true mateship.

Many thanks Victoria. And to all in the Association, family and friends, cheers and very best regards,

Rod

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NEW MEMBERS

Mr Peter Thomas Salter
BHQ 7RAR 1965/66

Mr Lindsay James Kealy
C7 2nd Tour

Mr Francis Arthur Harrison
B5 2nd Tour

Mr Russell John Davey
A3 1st Tour

Mr Robert McMaster
D12 1st Tour

Mr Patrick John Young
B6 2nd Tour

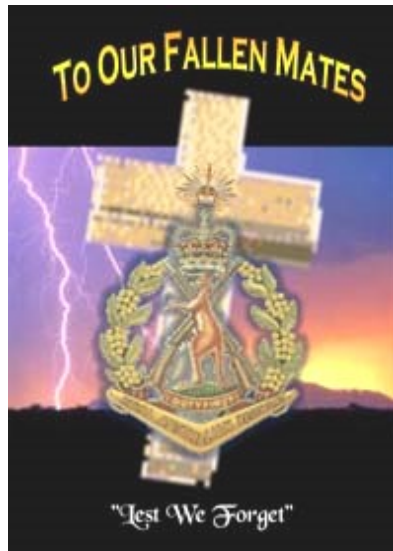
Mr Maurice Mathews
C/D/Admin 1st Tour

Mr Gregory John Masters
C9 2nd Tour

Mr James Robert Waller
CC 7RAR 2011



VA-



LE



**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 former
friends and comrades in arms.**

**1736197 Raymond Lance Trewin, Sig D12 2nd tour, passed away
Saturday 12 May 2012.**

**38823 Peter Wayne Aitken, PNRS 1st tour, passed away Wednesday
23 May 2012.**

Lest We Forget

NEW 7RAR MEMBERS

**Mr Andrew Christopher Caputo
Mr Matthew David Smith
Mr Zachary Elias Butler
Mr Scott Brian Hannan
Mr Mark Hudson
Mr Craig Anthony Martin
Mr Justin Pugh
Mr Joshua Ellis Lee Thompson**

**Mr Steve Alan Kreuster
Mr Matthew Joshua Russell
Mr Hamish Gordon Scott
Mr Kegan Andrew Hearn
Mr Brian Kirby
Mr Graeme Richard Palmer
Mr James Robert Waller**

PIGS IN SOUTH AUSSIE

ALWAYS IN ACTION.

WEB PAGE

MONTHLY LUNCHES

ANZAC DAY 2012

BATTALION EVENTS

PATRONS

RAR MEMORIAL WALL

REUNIONS



WWW: Checked our page out lately?

<http://www.7rarsa.asn.au>

Our web page continues to improve. If you have not yet visited I suggest you do and see most recent updates.

Monthly Lunches – 2nd Friday each month:

The lunch site can be found on the web page. <http://www.7rarsa.asn.au>

As a consequence of the serving battalion being full tilt in its pre deployment training schedule our recent monthly luncheons have been without a serving unit element. It is expected a group will “volunteer” for this duty in September and others for following lunches. In August a number of branch members and wives joined with the battalion at Edinburgh for a BBQ during which a number of soldiers were presented with awards for accurate shooting at an SA military competition.

That morning the deployment list for Afghanistan was posted on the Battalion notice board - over 200 celebrated their posting. The C.O. made the point that if they did not maintain their deployment fitness there are 500 others who would quickly fill their shoes. The CO, LTCOL Mick Garraway, was also formally farewelled by all troops as effective 13th August the new CO LTCOL Mal Wells would assume command of the Afghanistan contingent. Mick and RSM, Richard Verrall, will remain with the “other 500” until their respective deployments out of the battalion later in the year.

Please note the October luncheon is tentatively set aside to farewell the past CO & RSM (Mick Garraway & Richard Verrall) and welcome the next CO and RSM (Mal Wells & Mick Landy). Confirmation and details will appear on the SA branch web site in due course

ANZAC Day 2012

7 RAR Assoc. (SA) and 7RAR Mechanized Battalion

It was 11 degrees Celsius when the Catafalque Party took their positions at the National War Memorial in Adelaide. Over 10,000 attended the Dawn Service.

After the Service, Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Mick Garraway addressed his soldiers re. the coming deployment at Torrens Parade Ground, they then dispersed for "breakfast ". Members of the 7RAR Association, SA Branch and 7RAR (Mech) officers and NCO gathered at the Mantra Hindmarsh Square and other city venues for a Gunfire Breakfast before moving to the RAR march assembly point where they were joined by other personnel.

Current serving 7RAR (Mech) Soldiers and ex 7RAR men - combined in excess of 500 - marched together under the National Association banner. Some of those marching have served in Vietnam, some in Iraq, some in Timor, some in Afghanistan ... and some have yet to serve overseas. All were united by a bond that only an Infantry Soldier can ever understand ... many of the 7RAR (Mech) Soldiers who marched will be deployed to Afghanistan before the end of 2012.

What an impressive sight the combined group of old veteran pigs and the young serving soldiers (boars) made.

We acknowledge that the ANZAC Day march is not a parade but a reflection and commemoration of the sacrifice made by those who went before and alongside us in defense of the freedoms that most take for granted. But it still makes you proud to be an old digger when you see the battalion form up!

For views of the parade please see <http://www.7rarsa.asn.au> and click on to "Past Events" then "ANZAC DAY 2012".

Bob Whinnen Vice President, Seventh Battalion Association (SA) with the much appreciated assistance of Secretary "Doc" Ian Russell.

Farewell Parade to Afghanistan bound personnel:

A parade is being organised for Sunday 14th October at the Edinburgh base to farewell those bound for Afghanistan. Old pigs and their family are invited to attend. Please keep an eye on <http://www.7rarsa.asn.au> for further details. Entry to the base requires pre registration and presentation of photo ID (Driver's License preferred). In the interim an email with names of those wishing to attend may be sent to cashende@bigpond.net.au.

Patrons

We are pleased to announce that our Association, 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association (SA Branch) Inc. has been granted Vice Regal Patronage by the governor of South Australia His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, CSC, RANR. He has commenced an active role with our association particularly in opening doors and making facilities available for soldiers being deployed to Afghanistan and their families.

Further, Lt. Col. Mick Garraway, CO of the battalion, has accepted the inaugural role of "Commanding Patron". This position is reserved for COs of the battalion whilst serving in SA and reflects the SA Branch's appreciation of the work Lt. Col. Garraway has done for 7RAR SA Association. Mick has been the spear head of bringing serving troops (young boars) and past personnel (old pigs) together and supporting each other.

Memorial Wall

On 18th August, immediately following the Long Tan Commemoration, the Royal Australian Regiment Association South Australia, dedicated a memorial wall. A section of the wall consists of individual plaques for each 7 RAR man who died whilst overseas on duty for the nation. Our thanks and appreciation to Lt Col Mick Garraway who organised the requisite funds for this section. We hope and pray that we will not need to add other names as a result of the coming deployment. Amongst those attending were members of the families of our South Australian brothers who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Reunion 2012

SA pigs were well represented at the recent reunion in Vic. and commend the organizing group for an enjoyable time. We were impressed with the number of old pigs, including 2 crow eaters, who made this their first reunion. We were particularly impressed, and appreciated, the Memorial Service at the Shire of Remembrance.

Reunion 2015

Plans are well underway for this event to be held in Adelaide - 7th to 11th October 2015. Our organizing committee of Noel Biggins, Tony Carr and Kerry Eichner will welcome any suggestions. They made a well received video presentation at the Special Meeting in Melbourne. A copy of the video has been given to each state and will shortly appear on the national web site <http://www.7rar.asn.au/>

Reunion 2015 follow the following You Tube link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkmywxyvXgc&feature=youtu.be>

Cheers to all: *Chris Ashenden*

P.S. My thanks to Bob Whinnen who has been acting SA Branch President for the past 6 month whilst I took leave of absence.

7RAR Incorporated in Queensland - No 1A - 13547 ABN No: 35 124 126 574

Application for *Membership and/or *Renewal of Current Membership

(* Delete where applicable)

SURNAME.....GIVEN NAMES.....

ST/etc.....Town/Sub.....

State.....Post Code.....Ph (H)()..... (M).....

Phone (W)().....(F)().....

Email.....@.....

Wife/Partner's Name.....

Army No:.....Unit.....Pl.....Coy.....Dates.....Location.....

Remarks/Hons/Awards/.....

Do you object to any of the above information being published in the Association membership list which is distributed to other members.

Yes/No Signature.....Date.....

M/SHIP COSTS- \$20 PER YEAR OR- \$80 FOR FIVE YEARS, \$5 FOR FIVE YEARS FOR SERVING MEMBERS OF 7RAR-- PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL

(your dates for renewal will be shown on your membership card when issued)

Enclosed cheque/money order for \$..... being foryears membership or renewal.

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: - TONY KEECH, OAM
7RAR ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 8143
WERRINGTON COUNTY
NSW 2747 (02) 4721 4349 0418 624 211
porky_seven@bigpond.com**

DIRECT PAYMENT CAN BE MADE TO OUR BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS ARE:
BANK - ANZ: BSB : - 012 429 ACCOUNT NUMBER : - 5303 13792

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: MBR No:..... Presort Indicator.....

Date Received:/...../..... Records Entered:

Membership Card Issued: Receipt No:

Signature

JACK DOULIS – ANZAC DAY 2012



Left to Right --

Gerry Phipps RAAF, Ian Cameron 6Pl B Coy, Roger Gentle, George Cossey, Jack Doulis, Jeff Kirkman, Dan Kelly,

[Front Mathew Clarke 3 CER {Combat Eng Reg} & Ashleigh Toshach, 10 FSB {Force Sup Battalion} --- Mathew & Ashleigh are both Veterans of the Afgan war & We enjoyed their company on Anzac Day up in Townsville.

Next year We "A Coy" 1st tour fellars are talking about meeting up on Anzac Day 2013 at Coffs Harbour so anyone from A Coy interested in joining us Please Contact Roger on 0418767044 or me on 0402584041 & It doesn't matter if you served in another Company you are welcome to join us.

- 25/04/2012 Anzac Day 2012 - Thuringowa RSL



Thuringowa RSL on Anzac Day 2012. All from 7 RAR LR Roger Gentle, Dan Kelly, Ian Cameron, Jack Doulis, George Cossey, Nor, Thirkell, Jeff Kirkman and Ant Ross. JJ227926

Photographer : Zak Simmonds

- 25/04/2012 Anzac Day 2012 - Thuringowa RSL



Thuringowa RSL on Anzac Day 2012. All from 7 RAR LR Jeff Kirkman, Roger Gentle and Dan Kelly. JJ227932

Photographer : Zak Simmonds

Remembering our Indigenous Heroes

From as early as the Boer War Indigenous Australians have fought for their nation and returned with some amazing stories to tell. Two of these stories come from CPL Harry Thorpe, MM and Captain Reginald Walter Saunders, MBE.

Corporal Harry Thorpe, MM

An Aboriginal soldier decorated for bravery. An experienced infantryman, Thorpe led his men with courage and example until killed in action in the Somme fighting of 1918.

Harry Thorpe was born at the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Mission Station near Lakes Entrance, Victoria. He was married and working as a labourer when he enlisted in the AIF in February 1916.

Posted to the 7th Battalion, he joined the unit in France in July. He would become an accomplished front-line infantryman.



In his first action, Thorpe went into the terrible fighting at the battle of Pozieres and was soon seriously wounded. The following year he was again wounded in action on the Hindenburg Line but was able to rejoin the battalion in time for the battle of Ypres.

Thorpe was a brave soldier and distinguished himself during the successful capture of Broodseinde Ridge on October 4-5, 1917. Here he showed a disregard for danger in leading his men in mopping up of enemy dugouts and pillboxes.

“He inspired those under him”

For this he was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM, although he received the Military Medal (MM), “for bravery in the field”, instead.

The 7th Battalion fought in the Flanders region until mid-1918, when it returned to the Somme to join the rest of the Australian Corps in the great August allied offensive, Corporal Thorpe went into battle of Lihons on August 9, but during the fighting he was seriously wounded in the stomach.

Stretcher-bearers reached him, but his wounds prove to be fatal and he died shortly afterwards. He is buried in the large Heath Cemetery near Harbonnieres, a few kilometres from where he fell.

Captain Reginald Walter Saunders, MBE



The first Australian Aboriginal Commissioned in the Australian Army. A battle-hardened soldier, Capt Reginald Saunders rose from the ranks in the Second World War and later served in Korea.

Reg Saunders's father fought in the First World War; as did his uncle, Reg Rawlings, who was awarded the Military Medal and later killed in action. Very conscious of the service of Aboriginal men during the First World War; Saunders and his brother Harry enlisted for service in the Second World War; Harry was later killed in New Guinea.

Saunders proved to be a natural soldier, and he found less discrimination in the Army than in the wider community; he became a popular NCO in the 2/7th Battalion, The unit saw action in North Africa before joining the Greek campaign.

When the British evacuated Crete in May 1941, Saunders was one of many men left behind. He spent an adventurous year hiding out, aided by the locals, before he was finally evacuated by sea. After he returned to Australia he rejoined his battalion and served in New Guinea - now as a sergeant.

In late 1944 he attended an officer training unit, was commissioned Lieutenant, and went back to the 2/7th.

The Korean war provided further opportunity for soldiering. Saunders led a company - C Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) - through fierce fighting, including the battle at Kapyong in April 1951. He remained in the Army for a year after the war; however, his life was becoming unsettled, and he had difficulty re-establishing himself as a civilian.

Tough years followed, but he overcame them. Meanwhile he found he was increasingly expected to be a spokesperson for indigenous Australians. In 1969 Reg Saunders was selected to be among the first Aboriginal Liaison officers for the office of Aboriginal Affairs, which became the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Devoted to those he had served with, he was a man of dignity and good humour who remained committed to the advancement of his people.

**Seven News would like to acknowledge the sourcing of this information from the Australian War Memorial.*



From the — **EDITOR'S** **DESK**

Since our last Seven News the past has been full of anticipation for the Reunion which has now come and gone. There was a great roll up in Melbourne, basically our first trip back to our routes since our raising in 1965. We left there in

March/April 1967 to venture into our first operational area since our birth and returning to Holsworthy in April 1968.

It was a great opportunity to catch up with old mates and comrades from both tours and of course to meet up with our new members from the re-raised battalion, in the current Commanding Officer Mick Garraway, the Regimental Sergeant Major Richard Verrall and Hamish Browne representing the other ranks, it was great to have them with us and we look forward to having the bulk of the battalion with us in Adelaide in 2015. I must congratulate the organizing committee on a job well done.

I know General Ron and Colonel Eric were most disappointed they could not make it but it was great to see RSM Reg and his daughter there, even in his nineties he still cuts an imposing figure, well done Reg.

Some minor points for all to take note, I must apologise for leaving the ANMC petition behind on the night of the dinner so to compensate for this I have emailed a copy of the petition to all state branches and also some individuals so please seek out your state rep and sign it. If you have received a copy then there is nothing stopping you from getting signatures from your neighbors and friends, it is not restricted to military personnel.

Obviously the next major event for the military community is Remembrance Day which this year falls on Sunday, if you are in the Sydney area you are most welcome to the Garrison Church in the Rocks, the service commences at 1100 hrs, after the service we adjourn to a close venue for lunch, so if you intend being at the Garrison Church please let me know to facilitate bookings for lunch, give me about three weeks notice.

Warning Order for Adelaide Reunion: Dress for the Dinner will be, for Men:- Lounge Suit and or Coat and Tie with Miniatures, Ladies:- After Five with Miniatures as applicable. Great to catch up with all at the Reunion.

Tony Keech, XO/ED

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

G'Day from WA to all PIGS everywhere.

ANZAC DAY - PERTH

Seems ages ago that we all got together for Anzac Day in Perth, but it was a great day, even though the march took a different route this year due to the commencement of works on the new Elizabeth Quay. Probably about 70 marched behind the banner, this year carried by Graeme Gutteridge and Paul Henderson, son of Jock. Too many to mention all the names, but it was pleasing to have marching with us Julia Jacob, Betty Baty, Margaret Moylan, Mary Melcherts, Ann Cowen and Nola Lamont, widow of Ray who passed away earlier in the year. Charlie Matheson presented Nola with a commemorative tag for Ray before the march. Albert Jacob and John Bell carried flags for their uncle and brother respectively. Caught up with Norm Wells, ex 3RAR who informed us that his son Malcolm was to be the new CO 7RAR, which we confirmed at the reunion. Back to Rigby's for drinks and food afterwards, some heading to Subiaco for the footy. Great day was had by all, looking forward to many more.

REUNION IN MELBOURNE

There will be enough written about the reunion, so all I am going to say is well done all those who travelled from WA for the event. I tried to jot down most of the attendees so my apologies if I've missed anyone out: Don & Margaret Cruden, Spunky Fieldhouse, Gavin Rodie, Gordon Dickson, Athol & Veronica Donegan, Graeme & Dot Haywood, Bill & Joyce Henderson, Jim Wilson & Cheryl, Charlie Matheson and Pam, Geoff & Irene Brophy, Bob & Barbara Curry, Geoff Lawson, Geoff Murray, Dave & Pat Ingles, Chris Clowser, Allan West, Gary & Teresa Williams, Ted and Sharron Von Paleske, Alf & Lesley Hooper, Pete & Sandy Vlachou, Reg Bandy and his daughter. Highlights for me were:

- Memorial Service at the Shrine of Remembrance, fantastic to see 250 PIGS marching before a very moving service honouring the 34 soldiers killed in Vietnam and Afghanistan.
- The Dinner, where the "empty chair" ceremony was re-established and carried by a current 7RAR digger.
- The Vietnam Veterans Museum at Philip Island, what a fantastic display. If you missed it and have an opportunity to visit, make sure you do, it's well worth the trip.

Congratulations to the Melbourne committee for a well-run reunion and I must say it was a terrific presentation given by the SA boys so we are all looking forward to "Anzac to Adelaide" in 2015.

ANZAC DAY AT TPD, BALDIVIS (by Allan West)

I am a member of the Totally & Partially Disabled Veterans and we host the Dawn Service on Veterans Park, Port Kennedy, approximately 30kms south of Perth. Many years ago we started off with about a cricket team in attendance and this year we had approximately 1000 people, many of them children. After the service we went back to our Clubrooms in Baldivis for a gunfire breakfast (eggs, bacon, baked beans & toast etc). Our members along with many others veterans attended the march in Rockingham where another huge crowd cheered us on. I laid a wreath along with the 2 local RSL's and other dignitaries. Then it was back to the clubrooms for a hamburger lunch & drinks & usual festivities. It was good to see Syd Cox's son Michael & his mate Karl riding their motorbikes from Kalgoorlie for the day.

Vietnam Veterans Day this year will be on a Saturday and I would like to invite all 7RAR members to come to the 11am service at Pt Kennedy with a hungi lunch at the TPDVWA clubrooms afterwards. Tickets for the lunch will be pre-sold so you need to let me know if you can attend on pte.west1@bigpond.com or 9592 1423. Looking forward to the reunion in Melbourne and hopefully will see you all there! Kind regards Allan West.

SICK PARADE

Jock Henderson has been a bit crook but is on the mend, hope to see you soon Jock.

Reg Bandy also spent some time in hospital but recovered well enough to make the trip to Melbourne for the reunion, great to see you there Reg.

REG'S 90TH :- Speaking of Reg, congratulations on your 90th birthday on July 14.

THE BELLS IN SINGAPORE (by Patricia Bell)

Noel and I went to Singapore on the 11th of February, not having been there before, but found it clean, no graffiti and safe. Most speak English, and are very helpful.

On 15th Feb. 1942, Japan Occupied Singapore. Many, many civilians were killed, especially Chinese. This is known as the Fall of Singapore and this year marked the 70th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. We (there were 7 of us from Perth, 120 from Qld. and a group from Victoria) attended a ceremony at 7.30a.m. at Kranji War Cemetery, remembering the signing of the surrender to the Japanese of Australians, Indians, Chinese, Dutch and civilians. This was done at the Ford Motor Factory, one of the memorials we visited later in the week. At 9.30a.m. we went to the next venue for a service for Civilian victims of the Japanese occupation, closer into the city and again there were 9 representatives of the 9 religions in Singapore, who formed a line and marched up together to lay a wreath. . Tolerance is taught in schools here.

We returned for another ceremony at Kranji War Cemetery at 6p.m. that evening. The following day we went to the Changi Museum and read all the reports from kids and civilians on what life was like for the 3 1/2 yrs they were held with little or no food and told to spy on each other. During this time my Dad was one of the Aust. troops who were captured, put on a ship, the "Bot" and taken to Thailand to build the infamous Thai/Burma railway and ended up in Saigon. We saw The Battle Box 9 meters below Fort Canning Hill, where there are wax figures of General Percival surrendering to the Japanese. Very life-like, all sitting at a table.

At Sentosa Island, which we reached by a cable car, is a waxed display of the signing of the Japanese surrender, and also where cannons were kept looking out to sea. We saw a great display of the Titanic for it's 100th Anniversary, one of the best displays we saw. You feel like you are actually on the ship. They have :- a flyer, (a high wheel which takes an hour to rotate). After dark in the zoo. (which we missed out on this time!)

The Marina Bay Sands, the Casino and the highest look out, consisting of 3 x 57 - storey buildings connected on top with a boat like building which is the viewing station and the Hotel's swimming pool. Universal Studios, for next time. The Art-Science Museum, where the Titanic display was, although this building looks like an open lotus flower.

So, still more to see on another visit, 8 days wasn't enough. Of course the Raffles Hotel was a lovely old area, but very expensive for a couple of drinks, But once only. Then on Thurs. after our return there was a plaque being unveiled for the civilians who escaped, or tried to. It was held around the corner from us in Stirling and organised by a 72yr. old lady whom Noel met in Singapore and who is from England. She and her Mother left on a ship, but were bombed, survived and picked up by a U.S. ship only to be sunk again. But they eventually got to England!

So that is all that we did and saw. Humid weather, just like Perth's was when we left. A bit cooler now.

We're both glad we went, and would go back to finish sightseeing.
Cheers Patricia

AUSTRALIAN FLAGS

As mentioned previously and as difficult as it is for us to talk about, we are all in the "zone" so we need to contact our federal MP's and each request an Australian Flag so that when we are ready to depart this life, we are ready to go out under an Australian Flag.

WARNING ORDERS FOR WA PIGS

1. ANNUAL PIGS SWILL

- Venue and date to be decided, so you will be contacted later
- Generally includes a 3-course lunch.
- Aiming for mid to late November, possibly a weekday
- Last year \$35 per head so prices will be similar
- Money "Up Front" for catering purposes, so NO tickets sold on the day
- MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

2. 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. 29th - Sunday Nov. 4th, a whole week of activities
- March Saturday 3rd Nov. 1430hrs, meet at the Hotel, look for the BANNER
- For more details contact Sue Turner on 0427 091 035
- For Oval Parking, contact Bruce Rock Shire 9061 1377
- Everyone who has attended in the past raves over it, great week or weekend so we would like a large contingent of PIGS ON PARADE

CURRENT 7RAR SOLDIERS SHOOTING EXCELLENCE

From the 'Army' newspaper dated 4 May 2012:

DoG cup - Best overall rifle section in the RAR:

1st 2RAR, 2nd 3RAR, 3rd 1RAR, 4th 7RAR, 5th 6RAR, 6th 5RAR, 7th 8/9 RAR.

Sir Arthur McDonald trophy - Best night navigation and night firing:

1st 2RAR, 2nd 7RAR, 3rd 3RAR.

Gurkha trophy - Best overall shooting results:

1st 2RAR, 2nd 7RAR, 3rd 1RAR.

OSCMAR trophy - Best results in urban assault:

1st 7RAR, 2nd 3RAR, 3rd 2RAR.

Outstanding soldier from 7RAR section: Pte Sigfried DROSDECK.

Of course our (Association's) warmest congratulations to the 7RAR section that put in the hard yards to take out the OSCMAR trophy and be runner-up in two other trophies.

From the 'Army' newspaper dated 7 June 2012:

Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM) - The Matthew Lambert (kia Afghanistan 2011) Memorial Trophy, sniper badge test:

Winner Cpl Scott Tampalini of 7RAR, five points ahead of his partner Cpl Karlo Kowalczyk, also of 7RAR.

Congratulation to both soldiers.

NAMETAGS (Note: For BOTH Men and Women)

Our NAMETAGS are available in two sizes, the original size about 6cm high and the larger version about 9cm high. Each small tag costs \$13, with the larger tag at \$18, both prices include delivery to anywhere in Australia. To order, send a note to Geoff Murray, provide the correct name (add nicknames if wanted) to be included on the TAG, the correct postal address and include a cheque (made payable to Geoff Murray) or money order in the post when you place your order, delivery is about three weeks.

Geoff Murray email: geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au
30 Bouvardia Way Home: 08 9448 3109
GREENWOOD Mobile: 0432253043
WA 6024



Approx. 6.0cm x 4.0cm



Ap-
9.0cm x 6.0cm

prox.

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:

Home	08 94483109
Mobile	0432253043
Email	geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au

PIGS IN VIC

REUNION 2012

Registrations

Registrations for the 2012 reunion at the Sebel Albert Park totalled 4 just over 500 with 493 seated for the Reunion Dinner. Eric Smith regrettably had to withdraw due to a fall suffered by Elizabeth as they were packing for their venture south. Maj Gen Grey could not make the reunion due to ill health and we wish both a speedy recovery.

For the Reunion 160 rooms were booked for 255 people who stayed over 680 nights. The staff and facilities were first class and we believe that everyone who stayed there enjoyed their stay. The registration rooms were busy but the process operated effectively. Members were able to pick up goody bags/ tickets prepaid merchandise, book and pay for the National Viet Nam Veterans Museum tour/ lunch to Phillip Island, Company reunion lunches at the two RSLs and then proceed to the merchandise area.

Sat 04 August

Registration and merchandise sales continued for most of the day and concluded with a noisy "Meet and Greet" function was held in the bar with a book signing conducted by Barry Heard. Then followed a free evening to begin sub-unit "get-togethers" There were several "private" functions on the go and my old sub unit, 6 Plt B Coy, 1st tour travelled by tram and we had 26 for a slap up banquet dinner in Chinatown.

Sun 05 August Reunion Memorial Service -

Someone said to me that considering the general weather conditions that apply in Melbourne together with the ordinary conditions we have experienced to date this winter that GOD must love pigs. The weather for the Memorial Service was nothing short of a "miracle". Bright sunshine, a little wind, but no precipitation.

For interstate veteran visitors wasn't it just magic to be marched up the avenue towards that iconic war memorial "The Shrine of Remembrance". Genuinely one of lives true experiences and our thanks to George Logan for keeping us in line and we kept in step most of the way. Thanks also to members of the City of Melbourne Highland Pipe band performing up front. Patrick Goggins and the Shrine Governor, Lt. Col. Adrian Lombardo bid us welcome and Chaplain John Brownbill who also the President of the Royal Australian Regiment Association, commenced the formal ceremony.

Sun 05 August Reunion Memorial Service (cont.)

At this ceremony we also commemorated war service the earlier 7th Battalions. Summaries of the 1/7th A.I.F, 2nd 7th and 7 RAR background, theatres of service and honours awarded with special mention of the 4 VCs awarded on the same day at Lone Pine. Ian Dunn, David Wain and Maurie Burton are to be commended for their dissertations.

A poppy posy laying at the "Eternal Flame" for those comrades who lost their lives on active service on both 7RAR tours of duty in South Viet Nam and in Afghanistan was a most moving aspect of the ceremony. We thank all volunteer poppy layers (too numerous to mention names) for their participation at short notice. Friends and relatives were then afforded an opportunity to lay wreaths in memory of those since departed.

The ceremony continued with the Last Post, Minutes Silence, Reveille, final prayers and concluded with a hearty rendition of the National Anthem sung by all attendees. All in all a most memorable occasion and a very moving service and we greatly appreciated the assistance of the Shrine of Remembrance personnel for their guidance, to Ian Dunn for his work in preparing for this event and Allan and Janice McGuinness for the fantastic Reunion Program. Finally, to our piper Mar. John Haughton - well done mate!

Sub Unit get-to-gethers

A,B & C Coys moved out to the Prahran RSL most by #6 tram with D Coy Admin, BHQ and Support catching a #16 tram to the St. Kilda RSL. We guess that all attendees met up with and imbibed with their mates to their hearts content, and told tales of previous daring escapades (I know our group did).

Mon 06 August

Special General Meeting of the National 7th Battalion Association held at the Prahran RSL 301 High Street Prahran at 10.30hrs.

7 RAR Battalion Dinner

Held at the Sebel Albert Park the venue was especially chosen as it enabled the dinner to be conducted in the one ballroom. This seemed to give the event a special feel and the Vic Committee received generally favourable comments. Patrick "Gogo" Goggins did a great job as MC and the private soldier from 7 RAR in Adelaide Hamish Brown, was most professional as he was piped in by John Haughton with the "Chair" for absent comrades. John Johnson OAM said "Grace" and Loyal toast was made by Graeme Chapman. The Regimental Toast was raised by 7 RAR RSM, Richard Verrall. Toast to the Fallen was by John Methven and the final formal toast to "Wives and partners" by Peter Kerley.

Following dinner, the Commanding Officer 7RAR, Lt Col Mike Garraway gave a keynote address and briefed us on Battalion activity since the last reunion as well as current activities and the imminent future deployment of Battalion personnel to Afghanistan.

Our final address was by the 7RAR Association President Rod Lyons.

Our raffle prize draws were then conducted with Bob Arnott and his assistants and we took this opportunity to sincerely thank all individuals and Corporations who donated prizes.

Tue 07 August Visit to Vietnam Veterans Museum, tour and lunch

This museum is run by an ex pig and is a truly magnificent testament to all soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in Viet Nam. After an early start three (3) busloads headed to Philip Island following a “island hop” around some of the islands tourist attractions, including the chocolate factory, then went to lunch at Cowes RSL. The staff at the RSL really looked after us and we had a nice lunch washed down with ale or two.

Although the time was short the NVVM staff and volunteers were terrific in imparting their knowledge. The funniest thing was one bus marshal who lost his bus and suggested they catch a ride on one of the Cessna’s parked at the airstrip. Luckily the “lost” bus arrived just in time to convey the troops back to the city.

New exhibits are being commissioned all the time and major extensions to the museum were completed recently just in time for our visit.

GOLF The PIG REUNION 2012 “OPEN” CHAMPIONSHIP was in fact conducted at the ALBERT PARK PUBLIC golf course. Due to there being no prize money allotted to this event by the Victorian Reunion Committee we had to fight off the massive player interest in the Championship. However, three intrepid golfers braved the elements for 18 holes and were the winners due to the weather being just right for golfing. *As the new 2012 Pig Open Champion I wish to acknowledge my competitors John Press (ACT) and Trevor Ling (TAS) as difficult and impressive rivals. The leadership board witnessed changes in the leader after most holes.*

Reunion Merchandise

Merchandise is still available “Flood Marketing” www.floodmarketing.com.au Follow the links through to the “7RAR MERCHANDISE SHOP” or members may contact our merchandise team, Jan 0448 612 170 Alan: 0407 241 191

Please note that the clothing items are NOT printed with the dates of the reunion so can be worn at any time, not simply stuffed in a cupboard and forgotten about.

SA Reunion 2015

We wish the South Australian boys well in their preparations for the 2015 Reunion. Members who attended the SGM could only be impressed with the presentation made to them and the initial planning already in place by their Reunion Committee.

2015 will be a special year; it commemorates 100 years since Gallipoli in 1915 and 7th Battalion AIF involvement with the “war to end all wars”. Seventy (70) years will have passed since the end of WW2. The 7th Battalion RAR will be 50 years old and last but not least, the average age of our members will be 70 so guys, start planning now!

South Australia has the full support of Vic Pigs: Good Luck Guys!

Pigs in Vic AGM

Please note the Victorian AGM will be held on Wednesday December 12th 2012 at 10.30AM at the East Malvern RSL. All committee positions will be vacated and we ask that all Victorian members keep this date free.

MELBOURNE REUNION

The Association Reunion in Melbourne officially commenced for all as a group on Sunday with the Memorial Service held at the Shrine of Remembrance. Fortunately the weather remained fine with a great roll up of members and families. The Association formed up just below the steps leading up to the Shrine and in good military fashion marched up to the shrine.

GoGo Gogins was the MC and introduced all the major participants as they read through the histories of the 7th Bn AIF, WWI, 2/7th Bn AIF, WWII and 7RAR, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Music was provided by RVR Pipes and Drums, a poppy was placed to at the memorial commemorate each of our soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in giving their life in defence of their country. The following are some of the photos to remember the occasion by.

The following pages show some of the members at different activities, apologies for no names as they were taken by the official photographer.





Below:- Laying of the poppies to commemorate the fallen





Above and Below:- Some of the happy crowd at the Shrine of Remembrance.







Above: Rod Lyons, Geoff House.

Below: Hamish Browne, Mick Garraway, Graham Cornes, Richard Verrall.



It was a great honour to see LTCOL Mick Garraway, the current CO of 7RAR, the RSM WO1 Richard Verrall and PTE Hamish Browne representing the battalion other ranks at the reunion. At the conclusion of the Memorial Service company groups retired to their respective meet and greet locations for drinks and lunch and whatever developed after that. It was most encouraging to see the families, friends and next of kin of our fallen mixing with the groups.

On Monday morning a special general meeting was held at the Prahran RSL with a great roll up. The remainder of the day was free for whatever you wished to do prior to the Dinner at the Sebel, Albert Park commencing at 6.30pm. Members arrived and mingled in the foyer of the Sebel prior to moving up to the ballroom for the dinner. During the evening the formalities progressed through the dinner and many moved around to catch up with mates they hadn't seen for some time.

GoGo conducted the evening with military precision, allowing speeches and raffles to proceed without too much disruption to the dinning. It was great to get an update on the battalion's future from Mick Garraway who advised us that some of the battalion would deploy to Afghanistan later this year, and as indicated by the Prime Minister this would probably be the last active duty roll for the battalion for some time, therefore our thoughts and prayers go with them.

Below are some snaps of the dinner:- Apologies for not having names to match the photos, they were taken by the official photographer.





























Webmaster's Report

I am currently rebuilding the website to better reflect advancements in Content Management Software (CMS) that has occurred over the last few years. The new site will give you the opportunity to comment on most subjects and, in fact, enable you to debate issues.

We have recently lost the Guest Book. After ten or so years and literally hundreds of comments and contact details, the company running it decided to close it down without any notice. We lost all those comments but we were not the only Battalion website caught-out.

Running comments through the CMS will mean we will never lose them.

I picked up some comments from the reunion with positive ideas about the website and am including them in the new build due on 1 Sept – our birthday. If you have any suggestions, or god forbid, wish to help me, then please leave a comment or email direct.

Pigs in Queensland.

With considerable travel on my part over the time since the last newsletter there is little to report about activities in Queensland. Due to the reunion we cancelled Suoi Chau Pha Day at Enoggera and unfortunately we seem to be meeting more at funerals than ever. Of course that is a sign of the times and our age, but it is still sad to farewell old friends.

As reported on the website, in early April we farewelled Blue Muir, the battalion RSM after Reg Bandy departure after Vietnam. Some of us at the funeral



ANZAC Day went well with the usual marchers. Some pics





Some of us went to 8/9RAR after the reunion and spoke at length with the young diggers. All of them keen to get a run to Afghanistan. The reunion went well for those of us that braved the weather conditions and we can now start planning for South Australia in three years in warm old Adelaide. Well done Victoria!

That's all from beautiful sunny Brisbane. Kev Gillett



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paddy@iswright.com.au

(mention 7RAR when dealing with Paddy O'Brien)

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE 7RAR
ASSOCIATION HELD SUNDAY 20 MAY 2012 AT 45 CORNWALL AVENUE
TURRAMURRA**

1. The President, Rod Lyons declared the meeting open at 1315hrs with 10 members present and 34 proxy voters registered with the Executive Officer.
2. The following apologies were tendered: Gen Ron Grey, Ross Ellis, Ian MacKay, David Kibbey and John Press.
3. The Executive Officer read a synopsis of the minutes of the 2011 AGM.
MOVED.....Jim Fitzsimon SECONDED.....Bernie Cox; that the minutes as read be accepted. CARRIED
4. The following reports were presented:
(a) President - Rod Lyons

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Herewith my first report to the 7RAR Association's Committee, a year and a week since taking on the role of President in May 2011. It has been a pleasure to work with you all during a busy year and my thanks to our Management Committee for their efforts over the past 12 months to work to continue to maintain a healthy Association - who's mandate is to basically assist and help (where possible) our 'old comrades in arms', their widows & families, old soldiers of the 2/7th (few as they may now be), and to embrace and pass the baton on to the new generation of 7RAR soldiers currently based in Adelaide.

Special thanks to Tony Keech our XO & Editor of our Newsletter issued 3 times annually and which enables all members to maintain contact with their mates throughout our vast land and overseas in some cases. Especially we're able to keep an update with what the current SEVEN's up to, be it in Australia or on overseas missions.

Thanks also to Bernie Cox for his astute care with our Association's funds which are carefully invested and allow us to operate successfully. And thank you to all those on the Committee, whose input has helped to keep us on our toes; and thank you for the support we have received from Col. Shane Gabriel DSC, one of our Vice- Presidents and former CO of 7RAR (Mech), and to LT. COL Mike Garraway the current CO.

It has been fortuitous for me to also have the support of both of our Patrons, General Ron Grey and Colonel Eric Smith when seeking their wise counsel on a number of matters in the past year. We are extremely pleased to see Colonel Eric here today; with his constant travelling he is a hard man to catch and we are fortunate to have him and his wife with us for this meeting. General Grey as you know has been quite sick recently and sends his sincere apologies to our meeting – he was in hospital at the end of this last week having exploratory work done and Ross Ellis advises me they may have a better idea of his problems early this week.

I spoke with him a few days ago and as expected he put on a brave front; we wish him a full recovery. Lastly I've been fortunate to catch up with General 'Sandy' Pearson from the 2/7th most weekends during our weekly visits to the War Vets at Narrabeen, and can advise you all that our most senior member of the Association is in pretty good shape as he approaches his 94th birthday on the 24th August.

We have enjoyed some great occasions in 2011-12. The most significant was the presentation of Queen's and Battalion Colours in Adelaide by the Governor-General in September 2011. Those of us fortunate to visit remember it as absolutely spectacular, and well worth the visit. The serving 7RAR soldiers impressed everyone, the camaraderie with us 'old' and the new diggers in functions held at the time was special, and Adelaide 2011 is remembered with pride.

Melbourne Reunion 2012 is just under 3 months off. There has been a lot of recent behind-the-scenes work to assist the State branch to make this a successful event.

We need plenty of help from everyone, especially from those going to encourage their old mates still tossing up as to whether or not the go, to come along and enjoy the ride. More on this subject later in the meeting.

And let us not forget that in the last 12 months we have lost 24 of our members; 23 ex 7RAR soldiers from Vietnam days, and one 2/7th soldier from WW2.

Thank you again for your support. May the Association continue to grow and benefit its members in the ensuing 12 exciting months ahead.

MOVED.....Rod Lyons SECONDED.....Jim Fitzsimon that the President's report be accepted. CARRIED

(b) Secretary/Webmaster - Kevin Gillett. No Report.

(c) Treasurer - Bernie Cox.

You have the profit and loss sheet and you can see we made a loss for this year, as this is not a Reunion year this is the normal. It is also of note that we have not increased our membership fees since 2003.

Our revenue source has not changed since 2003 which is going on nine years and our main commitment is for the printing and postage of the newsletter which runs to around \$17,000.00 per year, when you take into account that membership fees are \$20.00 per year for a single year and about \$15.00 for a five year membership.

Therefore we made a loss of \$9,533.30 this is also excessive because as we have purchased stock instead of showing it as an asset I have written it off as we buy it.

I don't mind that as you can see our cash reserves are over \$100,000.00 made up of cash in the bank and investments, we had \$50,00.00 in Challenger Howard Mortgage Trust, when the GFC struck the Govt gave guarantees to the banks the that did not filter down to the 2nd tier organisations. We have now drawn that down to around \$14,000.00.

We have replaced that with a fixed term deposit of \$45,000.00 with the ANZ Bank at 6.00% last July, what this will translate to when it matures is anybody's guess. We also have around \$30,000.00 with Fiducian, India/China share fund and with the markets all over the place at the moment we have made a loss this year of \$1,394.86.

With the way the Share market is performing it would be reasonable to look at moving most of our assets into fixed term deposits which have a good record in these turbulent times.

I think we will need to look at other ways of sustaining our capital by way of more money from reunions or other means of raising money, it is recognisable that we are running at a \$10,000.00 shortfall each year.

MOVED.....Bernie Cox ,

Seconded.....Bob Murdoch that the financial report be accepted.

CARRIED

7RAR Association Inc

Profit and Loss Statement

Year ended 29 Feb 2012

Income

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>	
Sales of Pict History	1,170.00		1,393.00	
Less cost of Sales	805.27	364.73	867.21	525.79
Sale of Merchandise	4,867.50		1,328.30	
Less cost of Sales	4,718.75	148.75	1,056.85	271.45
Profit from sales		513.48		797.24

Other Income

Proceeds from VC Cap				
Raffle	0.00		2,848.00	
Reunion 2009	0.00		0.00	
Members Subs earned	12,146.04		11,706.66	
Investment Income	1,124.21		1,026.25	
Donations/Advertising	750.00	14,020.25	740.00	16,320.91
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>		14,533.73		17,118.1

Expenses

Wreaths/Gifts/Presentations	1,139.10		2,049.10	
Donations	573.18		1,500.00	
Printing	13,537.00		11,067.89	
Postage	3,362.04		2,615.12	
Telephone	2,866.49		2,338.99	
Office supplies	383.46		835.20	
Computer costs	1,437.76		1,435.09	
Merchandise stock w/off	0.00		621.00	
		24,067.03		24,212.39
<u>NET RESULT</u>		-9,533.30		-7,094.2

7RAR Association Inc

Balance sheet at 29 February 2012

<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>	
Cash at Bank	13,837.61		58,096.91	
Cash on Hand	0.00		0.00	
Investments	87,092.58		54,486.35	
Pictorial Stock	13,503.73		14,309.00	
Merchandise Stock	4,069.90		4,682.90	
Sundry Debtors	2,952.97		2,202.97	
<u>Current Assets</u>		121,456.79		133,778.13
<u>Non Current Assets</u>				
Office Equipment	14,079.75		14,079.75	
Less prov Depreciation	<u>13,163.75</u>	916.00	<u>12,395.75</u>	1,684.00
Gonfalon		<u>1,981.00</u>		<u>1,981.00</u>
Total Non Current Assets		2,897.00		3,665.00
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>124,353.79</u>		<u>137,443.13</u>

<u>Current Liabilities</u>	<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>	
Members Prepaid Subs	14,890.81		10,425.54	
Total Current Liabilities	14,890.81		10,425.54	
<u>Non Current Liabilities</u>				
Members Prepaid Subs	28,941.97		36,963.28	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	43,832.78		47,388.28	
Members Funds at Beginning Of Year	90,054.31		97,148.55	
Add Profit for Year	-9,533.30	80,521.01	7,094.24	90,054.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES & MBRS FUNDS	<u>121,353.79</u>		<u>137,443.13</u>	

(d) Executive Officer _ Tony Keech:

Executive Officer/Editor: - Tony Keech 2012

The current membership of the Association stands at 1191, (about 170 serving members from 7RAR) most are financial to this year.

Members can check their financial status by checking the first set of figures at the top left of their address label. During the reporting period three issues of the Seven News were published.

I hope everyone is pleased with the presentation of the publication with the addition of a couple of colour pages. There are currently two sponsors to the value of \$750.00 per annum, with guarantees only until the end of the year. My personal thanks to Bernie Folkes for all his support in labeling the Seven News in the past.

Please remember that the newsletter is only as good as the articles I receive from the members. Also as indicated in the newsletter we are looking for assistants to the three positions that are mostly exposed to the membership, i.e. Executive Officer/Editor, Treasurer and the Secretary/Webmaster.

Please examine your conscience and if you can see your way clear to understudy any of these positions get in touch with the current incumbent.

That's all I have for this and I look forward to serving you for as long as I am able.

MOVEDTony Keech.

SECONDED.....Bernie Cox that the Executive Officer's report be accepted.

CARRIED

5. Matters arising from the reports, there was much discussion on the subject of the financial status and the means of investing our funds in the most productive areas to raise money with little risk. This led to the general consensus that fixed deposits were the most reliable to secure a good return.

6. The President, Rod Lyons declared all positions on the Committee of Management vacant and handed the chair over to the Executive Officer, Tony Keech to conduct the election of the new Committee of Management.

7. The Executive Officer assumed the Chair and advised the meeting that there were no new nominations for the positions on the Committee of Management and that all current serving members have indicated their willingness to serve again for the next twelve months, therefore the following members were re-elected to the Committee of Management for the 2012-2013 period:

President;	Rod Lyons;
Vice Presidents	Jim Fitzsimon, COL Shane Gabriel, DSC
Secretary/Webmaster	Kevin Gillett;
Treasurer	Bernie Cox;
Executive Officer	Tony Keech, OAM;
Committee Members	Bob Murdoch; Brice Stokes; and
Historian	MAJGEN Mike O'Brien, CSC;

As our Hon Legal Officer has not been in contact with us for two years we are now in need of a new HON Legal Officer.

MOVED Tony Keech, SECONDED Bernie Cox that LTCOL Lachlan Mead be appointed as the Association HONORARY LEGAL Officer. CARRIED.

For information, LTCOL Lachlan Mead served with the 7RAR Battle Group in Afghanistan as COL Gabriel's Legal Officer, therefore he is also a member of the Association.

Bernard Worsley, Chartered Accountant, Adderton Accounting, Ermington was re-appointed as Auditor and Mindy Sutherland was re-appointed as the Liaison Officer for wives, widows and welfare

8. The Association Patron's are:-

Colonel Eric Smith, DSO, (CO 1st Tour)

Major General Ron Grey, AO, DSO; (CO 2nd Tour) and

Lieutenant Colonel Mick Garraway; (CO 7RAR - MECH)

9. I would now like to hand the chair back to the President, Rod Lyons.

10. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO AGM IN SYDNEY 20/05/2012

Thank you all for your confidence in re-appointing me President of our 7RAR Association. It is an honour and I will continue to work to the best of my ability for the good of our members, and will be grateful for the continuing help of those of you on this Committee.

Again welcome all of you to our home and to this meeting. And a special welcome to one of our two our Patrons, Colonel Eric Smith, CO of 7's first tour of duty in Vietnam 1967/68. And welcome to Michael von Berg who as our guest who will later address us on the benefits of joining the RARC.

Last night I was looking at my Address at last year's AGM, and 'My Vision' which I outlined. Well, I hope it did not sound like a politician's promises; but looking back we have covered many of the points that I made at the time. Without going through all of them might I say that there is still work to be done and I'd like to comment on some:

1. We still need closer ties with our State Branches and the National body. This is evident as we head towards the Melbourne Reunion in August.
2. I believe we have had the required number of Committee meetings during the year, but we could always enjoy a few more members present - although I realise we are all busy with numerous commitments.
3. We've helped members in various ways; some 7RAR and some 2/7th. And Tony Keech has especially maintained a great rapport with 7 in Adelaide attending a number of functions in the last 12 months representing the Association.

The 2/7th (in NSW at least) has only a few men left standing.... General Pearson & Bill Cowie marched this Anzac Day; Jim Clarke is now house-bound & Max Wright is OK with some family help. They have no idea of the whereabouts of RMO Bruce Petersen, & Winton Christie (my uncle) died recently.

4. Post Anzac Day March (Sydney) lunch - this year we still had not found a venue to suit all men. Some went to the Castlereagh Club & others to the Bowlers Club. Tony & I did a recce there last week and will most probably recommend the Bowlers at 99 York Street city in 2013.
5. We have established a 'home' for the Brass Pig in the 7RAR lines in Adelaide - hopefully it will in time be placed in the museum at the barracks.
6. Red Friday - we still have a number of "Support our Troops" badges left; they sell for \$3 each & we envisage selling what's left in Melbourne in August.
7. ANMC - I feel it's time to push ahead once again with presentations to various government & military personnel. This will be a follow-up to John Press's letters of November 2010. We plan to have a Petition in Melbourne & to get as many members as we can to support the move.

8) Melbourne 2012 – please endeavour to rustle up further support to make this Reunion a real goer! Tony will update us on Melbourne.

9) I'm still keen to look at the bigger picture, outside the circle, and to raise support for the Gurkhas. The original idea came from General Grey. I have come up with a plan & will outline in more detail should I be able to get hold of a kukri from Nepal..... a number of our 'mates' trained & some fought with Gurkhas who in recent years many have fallen on hard times due cut-backs on their service with foreign units, especially the British army.

10) Vietnam Entertainers – we are in touch with Sylvia Raye, Dinah Lee, Lorrae Desmond, & welcome them to functions through the year. Should we sponsor one to Melbourne 2012 for our formal dinner?

11) Last, but not least, let's not forget 7RAR members in less fortunate circumstances than most of us. From my own experiences recently, I recall meeting Pat 'Bull' Mahoney & Peter Commerford on Anzac Day this year. These guys need a follow-up; & I'm sure there are many others.

Thanks for your support...Let's encourage all Australians to support our armed forces. I'd suggest you all read yesterday's article in the centre pages of the Telegraph, outlining the precarious position we Australians could find ourselves in from China the 'Hidden Dragon'- in the not too distant future.

Congratulations to Brice Stokes' daughter Hesta, a medical student and now joining the army! Also to my wife Wendie-Sue for the fabulous food she has prepared for our lunch today.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

(a). The XO briefed the meeting on the status of the preparations for the reunion. We need to encourage the members to support the reunion. It should also be emphasised that the Three Yearly Reunions are run by the States specifically for the benefit of the Association and we should also make clear that before merchandise is purchased there is payment received for the items listed for sale by the organisers.

Bernie raised the point that a member of the Committee of Management should liaise with the State organisers to oversee the preparation for the conduct of the event to outline the specifics for the running of the event i.e. numbers required to break even, range of merchandise offered and other financially oriented events. Mike Von Berg suggested that we also look for sponsorship.

(b) The XO raised the subject of purchasing New Gonfalons for each of the States. We have just had a new 2/7th Gonfalon made to replace the old one we have been using, the reason being that Bill Cowie one of our remaining members has taken possession of the old one as a memento of his service with the unit.

(c) Mick von Berg briefed the meeting on the aims and objectives of the RARC.

The following is a coverage of Mick's points.

At a meeting of the SA branch of the RAR Association he was appointed as a Vice President. On being appointed he commented that he did not need another watering hole as he had a number of other organisations that he belonged to for this reason.

Later he was asked to attend a meeting of the National Executive in Brisbane and here he decided that the RAR Association needed to be run properly and it was decided to become incorporated and set up a proper constitution. After this took place an AGM was programmed and 7RAR were to be represented by John Press, the then current President, unfortunately he could not attend and Roger Wainwright was appointed his proxy.

At this AGM there was 100% approval of the new constitution and all Battalion Associations were made members. This cannot be changed without 75% approval. More importantly we (RARC) are the only ESO with direct access to the Chief of Army and The CDF via our Head of Corps and Colonel Commandant General Mark Kelly, (NB these positions are now elected not appointed).

As part of our status we, (myself, Mick Garraway and Laurie Lewis) sit on the Veterans Advisory Committee, (VAC) in SA which has direct access to the Cabinet via the Minister for Veterans Affairs. We have gained great success with our submission to the Govt dealing with the MRCA. We are also on the Conditions of Service committee.

We have obtained some major successes recently which includes a success with the tax system dealing with soldiers wounded in action. We have also influenced the displaying of the 4RAR Colours at the Infantry Centre. With all these points in mind we consider that 7RAR should join the RARC, by the way they are currently the only Association not a member, therefore membership is not an issue you are already a member by virtue of the constitution, but we would like you to be a participating member. Contributions are \$200.00 per year for each member battalion.

12. The President expressed his thanks to Mick and advised the meeting that we now need to brief all members of the committee on the points raised and come to a decision regarding the RARC. Colonel Eric then asked what the RARC expected from us and Mick advised that input was the major aspect of our participation in the Corporation. The subject was also raised as to how we became a member without our participation at the meeting that formed the RARC, it was advised that our proxy voted in favour of us being a member.

It was also advised that as a member of these ESO's it gives the RARC a total number of around 85,000 personnel, (i.e. serving members, veterans and their families) who are in a position to influence the decisions of the governing bodies.

It was also advised that the RARC cannot direct the Battalion Associations in any way, shape or form.

Mike Von Berg suggested that the RARC could be involved in the raising funds for the Gurkhas.

13. The XO raised the subject of our sponsorship of the "Matty Hopkins" Memorial Trophy presented to the Section Commander of the Champion Section of 7 Platoon at Infantry Centre on their march out on completion of their Corps Training. Matty's Widow Victoria lives in Singleton and presents the trophy when available.

14. The ODE was recited.

15. The President declared the meeting closed at 1445hrs.

CALENDER SEP-DEC 2012

1 September 47th Birthday 7RAR.

11 November Remembrance Day Church Service at the Garrison Church the Rocks, followed by lunch at a nearby venue. Please advise XO if attending both activities by Wed 3 October.

14 October Possible farewell pared for 7RAR at Edinburgh.

23 November Cut-off date for articles for 3/2012 Seven News.

4 December 3/2012 Newsletter posted.

When was the last time you got a free upgrade?

Most DVA card holders will be aware that as part of the Commonwealth Hearing Services Program, you are eligible to receive entry-level hearing aids at no cost¹.

We decided entry level isn't good enough for our Veterans. National Hearing Care has put together a comprehensive package that now includes a free-top up or upgrade to more advanced digital devices. Previously these devices would have required you to pay an upgrade fee.

The VIP ELITE Package



Package Summary:

- FREE TOP UP or upgrade of hearing devices¹
- FREE ongoing hearing services¹
- FREE batteries¹
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Only at National Hearing Care do you get a FREE upgrade. Talk to us today about your eligibility.

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¹ Conditions apply to clients under the Commonwealth Hearing Services Voucher System. This offer is only available to holders of Gold Repatriation Health Cards and White Repatriation Health Cards for conditions that include hearing loss. This offer includes specific top up devices. These will be discussed with you during your appointment.