

President's Message

I'm proud to have been elected President of your Association.

On your behalf, I'd like to thanks Rod Lyons for his sterling work for us over the last few years. I'm please he has agreed to stay on the Committee as our Immediate Past President.

My thanks also go to Tony Keech, the stalwart of our group, who works tirelessly for all of us. I also want to thank Kev Gillett for our very informative and always improving internet site.

The big event in our forthcoming calendar is the Adelaide Reunion 15. Put Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th October on your calendar now! Please also remember that the deadline for bookings is 30th March 2015. The work being done behind the scenes for this reunion is painstaking and extensive but it needs our cooperation - last minute bookings may be too late!

My priorities over the next year are to continue to serve the Vietnam veterans in our Association but to add as many serving 7 RAR soldiers and veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. Our links with those who still serve the nation are of vital importance.

In the meantime, keep healthy

Mike O'Brien

EXTENDED ANZAC DAY - SPECIAL OCCASIONS, APRIL 2014

I was privileged to meet some of our 'legends' over the weeks of our Anzac Day celebrations

this year. Attending the annual RSL War Veteran's Remembrance Day Service and March at Collaroy Plateau on Wednesday 23rd April, I accompanied my father-in-law Surgeon Commander Malcolm Stening OAM,VRD (Ret'd). The Guest of Honour Daniel Keighran VC was allocated to push 101 year old Malcolm's wheelchair and I was to march with them. It was a great thrill for both of us. Malcolm was a naval veteran of *The Battle of the Coral Sea* in HMAS Australia and several major battles in the Pacific in WW2. He was also in the British battleship HMS HOWE supporting the fierce fighting neutralising Japanese positions when the US Marines came ashore at *The Battle of Okinawa* on 1st April 1945.

Even with inclement weather we of 7RAR enjoyed a brilliant Anzac Day in Sydney beginning with The Dawn Service with the facades of city buildings opposite the Cenotaph lit up with the most amazing scenes; there followed our 7RAR Service at Regimental Square, our Anzac Day Service at The Garrison Church at The Rocks after a quick breakfast at *The Fortunes of War Hotel* (now back on the agenda) and The March followed by a variety of venues to old haunts in the city. A great day catching up with our old comrades and our own 'Seven'legends.

On Monday 28th April again I was fortunate to meet another of our VC winners, Ben Roberts-Smith VC, MG at an evening 80th birthday party for Lady Joan Cutler, wife of the late Sir Rodin Cutler VC. Ben was super impressive, a giant, a nice guy, happy to talk with one & all, and I managed to get in a few minutes with him where he mentioned he'd had some involvement with 5/7 Bn, before he was whisked away by some doting women! He's involved with Lady Cutler's charity '*The Sir Roden & Lady Cutler Foundation*'.

Overall an amazing week - a once in a lifetime!

Rod Lyons

Immediate Past President/Committee Member 2014/15

Pigs in Paradise

Not quite paradise at the moment with low temperatures and westerly winds. In the last month or so we have actually had temperatures in single figures. Maximum, that is. Most days then ramp up to low or mid 20s. Commencing tomorrow Queensland is the venue for Recce Pl 2nd as they hold a reunion through to next Wednesday which is the anniversary of the death of LCpl Neil Richardson. The event is at Coolangatta, centred on the Coolangatta Surf Club. Nearly 30 are coming so a good turnout for what is the second annual reunion. Pl Commander Col Rowley is turning up with wife Cheryl so it will be good to catch up with them.

Others coming are;

John Excell, Ted Molloy, Bob Hayles, Rod Alexander, Lee Chapman, Pat Quinn, Gary Patterson, Pixie Priestly, Gil Scolyer, Ray Lawrence, Rod Purcell, Rob Edgell, Ross Roberts, Pat Kelly, Kerry Richards and myself. Most are accompanied by their wives and in one case, Lee Chapman, by three little piglets!



Recce Pl - ready to go home

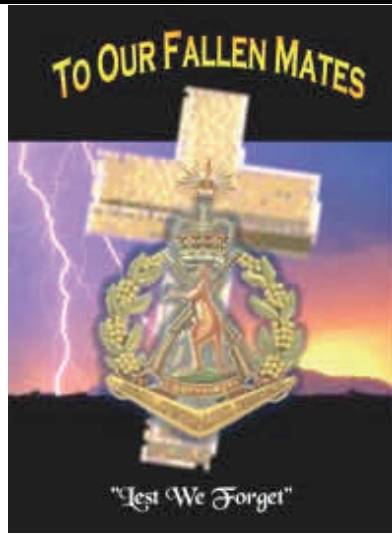
Recognize anyone?

Website

Info is still needed for the RSMs bios with the first RSM, Doug Clively's

details well underway. I still need info on Blue Muir and maybe 7RAR could remember to post me the current RSM's bio. Members should note up the top right hand side are Digital Books, known in geek talk as flip books. Mike O'Brien's Conscripts and Regulars is there. Flip books give you a search ability so do use it. There are also two publications on the history of the Royal Australian Regiment. I commend both to you.

Kev Gillett Brisbane



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 former
friends and comrades in arms.

*3788663 Anthony Paul Norris, 8 Pl C Coy 1st tour, passed away Tuesday
15 April 2014.*

*36396 Anthony Raymond (Tony) Best, Sigs both tours, passed away
Friday 23 May 2014.*

2785032 John Lygoe, 1st tour, passed away Saturday 7 June 2014.

*5713785 John William Brinkworth, D12 1st tour, passed away Saturday
28 June 2014.*

*55822 Ian Douglas Lankester, PNRS 2nd tour, passed away Thursday
3 July 2014.*

3788774 Colin Raymond Wright, D12 1st tour, passed away Thursday

17 July 2014.

36432 Peter John Murphy, MID, OC 2 TP, 3 Cav Regt, passed away Thursday

7 November 2013.

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NEW MEMBERS

Judith Short:	John Lawson
NOK Robert (Hookey) Hughes	B6 2nd Tour
Lesley Phillips	Alan (Albert) Crofts
NOK Michael Phillips 1st Tour	B6 2nd Tour



From the – EDITOR'S DESK

WARNING WARNING WARNING

At the time of publishing this edition of Seven News there are 192 members who are currently un-financial. Can you please check your address label of this issue and check the first set of numbers on the top left of the label, this tells you your current financial status, see specimen below:

2014	000	204
NAME		

If your number shown above is anything other than 2014 then you are un-financial, some members have been un-financial since 2005. Please check your number and fix the renewal if yours is out of date. If you have not renewed your membership by the December issue of Seven News then you will be removed from the database and will not receive any more copies of the Seven News. I would also ask all members if you move please let me know, this applies in general to serving members but also to all if applicable.

Also if you renew your membership by a direct deposit into the Association bank account can you please advise me of your action and if there is any changes in your details currently on the Association's Database. Ladies and Gentlemen you are driving me insane with direct deposits to the Association bank account, lately there have been a number of direct deposits into the account without a name or membership No;

This makes it impossible for me to identify who has made the payment, if you are going to make a direct deposit please put your Association Membership Number as a reference, and if you have access to the internet send me an email advising me of your payment with any changes to your contact details that I have on the database PLEASE.

As you can see by the Reunion reports from Noel, we only have about 180 members and guests registered for the reunion to date, please make it your aim to register by the cut-off date shown in the SA Reunion reports.



Caught holding the bags of the Entertainers on Vietnam Veteran's Day as they laid a wreath in honour for all those who toured Vietnam and gave the troops so much pleasure.

"As you can see I am now a fashion model for the Handbag Shop".

Enough of the frivolity, back to business, please do not leave it till the last minute to register for the Reunion, the boys in SA have worked like Trojans to put together an event that you will

not forget, and it will allow us oldies to catch up with the current serving PIGS. Tony Keech, XO/ED

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 2014

Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Dalziel WELLS, DSC, SA

For distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations as the Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment Task Group on Operation SLIPPER from November 2012 to June 2013.

Lieutenant Colonel Wells commanded the Australian Task Force at a critical stage of Australia's campaign in Afghanistan. He consolidated gains with the 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army's 205th Corps, enabled critical Australian engagement activities and led efforts to draw down equipment and stores from the Australian base at Tarin Kowt. He orchestrated his Task Force's efforts with skill and dexterity, and his achievements advanced Coalition and Australian objectives measurably.

Major Michael John KEARNS CSM, ACT

For distinguished performance of duty in warlike operations as the Officer Commanding the Brigade Adviser Team, 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, on Operation SLIPPER, from October 2012 to June 2013.

Major Kearns gave a distinguished performance as senior adviser to the Afghan National Army 4th Brigade Headquarters. His obvious expertise instilled confidence in his Afghan National Army partners, leading to greatly improved outcomes. He was directly responsible for moving the Afghan Army to the fore at a crucial juncture in the campaign in Uruzgan. His performance was of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Mr Petros (Peter) VLACHOU, OAM, WA

2A Highlands Road, North Perth WA 6006 For service to the Greek community of Western Australia.

Trustee, Hellenic Community of Western Australia, since 2012.

Board Member, Hellenic Community Aged Care Facility, 1999-2011.
Inaugural Board Member, St Andrew's Grammar School, 1990-1993;
Acting Chairman, 1993.

President, Greek Australian Professional and Business Association of Western Australia (GAPBA), 1988-1990; Vice-President, 1986-1988; Treasurer, 1994-1995; Editor, GAPBA Bulletin, 1985-1986; Member, Social Committee, 2000-2001; Member, Committee and Special Projects, 1984-1986.

Member, Hellenic Football Club (Floreat Athena Football Club), 1968-1999; served on many committees; Life Member, 1984; Club was disbanded in 1999. Justice of the Peace, since 1981.

Awards/recognition include:

Award for outstanding service, Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia, 1997.

On behalf of the President and all members of the Association I extend congratulations to all the recipients of these awards. We have always had great workers within the ranks and some are honoured for their work outside the organisations that we know of. It is most important to all members that they are kept in touch with these warriors. Well done to all those men and women.

**MINUTES OF THE 7RAR ASSOCIATION INC (QLD) ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD SUNDAY 29 JUNE 2014**

1. The President, Rod Lyons declared the meeting open at 1310hrs with six members present and 17 proxy votes recorded.
2. The following apologies were tended, MAJGEN Ron Grey, COL Eric Smith, Kevin Gillett, Bernie Cox, Brice Stokes, John Burrows, Peter Vlachou and Mindy Sutherland.
3. The XO read a synopsis of the minutes of the 2013 AGM. The matter of a re-write of the Battalion History in view of the battalion's involvement in Iraq, Timor Leste and Afghanistan was discussed. There were no other matters arising from the minutes as read. More discussion would be raised as the meeting progressed.
4. Annual Reports:
 - (a) The President presented his report to the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT (AGM June 2014)

Herewith my third and final report to you the 7RAR Association's Committee, some three years since I took on the role of President in May 2011. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the Management Committee for their efforts over the last 12 months and also the past 3 years. Special thanks to our XO Tony Keech and all who have worked to keep the Association in good shape, namely Secretary/Webmaster Kev Gillett, Treasurer Bernie Cox, Committee members Brice Stokes and Bob Murdoch. To our Vice Presidents Brigadier Shane Gabriel and Colonel Mick Garraway my thanks for their assistance as and when required, and to Major General Mike O'Brien our very own 7RAR Historian for many years. Thanks also to our Honorary members: Mindy Sutherland, responsible for wives/widows and welfare; our Honorary Auditor Bernard Worsley and Honorary Legal Officer LTCOL Lachlan Mead for their work behind the scenes in their various capacities. Last but not least (by any means) thank you to special Patrons Colonel Eric Smith and Major General Ron Grey for their wise counsel which has guided us over the years when we have sought their advice.

To all who are here today, welcome; especially any who are not, at this stage, on the Committee. New committee members will always be very welcome.

An update on our Patrons: General Grey along with his wife Avril send their very best wishes to all 7RAR members. The General sounded quite well when I last spoke with him and I believe they enjoy their new surrounds in the Southern Highlands. Colonel Eric Smith and Bett are now back in Canberra and also send very warm wishes to everyone. When I spoke to him last week he indicated he'd love to come up today, but felt it was just not possible. (Some of you may remember Bett's amazing fall down our steep set of basement stairs at the 2012 AGM!)

We also remember LTCOL Ian Mackay ex CO 7RAR who regularly attends our various Garrison Church services, Anzac Day marches and functions; and LTCOL Malcolm Wells the current CO of 7RAR; We look forward to welcoming the CO elect of 7RAR LTCOL David McCammon DSM at the end of this year.

As I reminisce over the last few years we of the 7th Battalions fondly remember our great friend General 'Sandy' Pearson of the 2/7th who passed away on the 7th November 2012 at the War Vets Village at Narrabeen. There are many others whom we all feel the worse for their loss but the better for having known them.

Recent years have seen significant events for our Association and its members.

* Adelaide Presentation of Queen's and Battalion Colours by the GG - September 2011. The current 7RAR soldiers immaculate and spectacular display. Adelaide made us all very welcome.

* Melbourne Reunion - August 2012. A great success, great atmosphere and great camaraderie; culminating in a spectacular Dining-In evening for 493 members, family and guests.

* RARC - Singleton AGM. 7RAR joined the RAR Corporation after much deliberation, in late 2012 we officially joined and became members of the RARC.

The immediate future for members:

* Our 7RAR 50th Anniversary Reunion 2015 in Adelaide 15th-18th October is not far away. We expect a record turnout in South Australia.

* The 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing at Anzac Cove in 1915 also means that April 2015 will be a very special one for all Australians. Anzac Day in all States will see record crowds and participants both here in Australia and overseas.

FUTURE GOALS:

* ANMC. After years of talk we need to resolve this with petitions to appropriate leaders in the country starting with the PM. With the recent change of Federal Government, I think if handled well, we could impress the leaders to start positive thinking towards an *Australian Arlington*. Recent media articles suggest Tony Abbott's for it, yet the RSL's against it. (They talk about re-interring bodies; this is not our idea - it's for future war dead and notable Australians - Google 'Arlington' for specifics). I'd be happy to work to assist on this project if agreed by the new 2014 Committee.

* STATE BRANCHES. I believe our State ties are closer than some years ago with recent 7RAR events in various capitals, but there's room to improve.

I think we should consider including each State President in our National Committee in some format, so as to let States have a direct say in our national decisions and part of the bigger picture. (There are suggestions that our meetings and even AGM's could be held interstate to involve more members in this vast land).

* COMMITTEE MEETINGS. A move towards more regular Skype/Telstra-type meetings to cover the country from east to west may be worth pursuing.

* LIFE MEMBERSHIP. We need to firm up the parameters for Life Membership of the Association.

- * **WEBSITE BIO'S.** We need to input bio's of 7RAR legends before we lose their stories.
- * **MEMORABILIA.** Can we ensure our memorabilia (the brass pig) remains intact and secure.
- * **RED FRIDAY BADGES & CAR STICKERS.** I suggest we resolve to move the current stock and renew both for our 50th Anniversary in 2015.
- * **GURKHAS.** Continue to support these old soldiers with a raffle and a genuine Nepalese Kukri as the main prize at Reunions.
- * **VIETNAM ENTERTAINERS.** Continue to support, Sylvia Raye, Dina Lee, Lorrae Desmond and others.
- * **7RAR 'OLD SOLDIERS'.** Always support them, especially those in need.
- * **ANZAC DAY LUNCH (Sydney).** Work towards a common venue.
- * **7RAR NEWSLETTER.** Needs more support, input, editing and proof-reading.
- * **REUNION 2015.** Ensure it's video'd for posterity & 7RAR history. (\$10-15 a DVD)

Thank you one and all for your support over the last 3 years. I've enjoyed the privileged ride and hope I can still be of some future use to the Association.

All the very best to the new 2014 Committee and President.

Moved Rod Lyons, Seconded Tony Keech that the President's report be accepted.
CARRIED

(b) The Secretary/Webmaster's report was read to the meeting:

Webmasters Report

By nature of my interests I am web centric and I do appreciate not all members of the executive are but you need to be aware that a lot of our members refer to the site regularly and as such it is an important communication tool.

Stats

The website draws between 1,000 and 15,000 visitors per month. That's visitors, not hits and is a true reflection of how many people visit the site. Hits to date for 2014 are nearly three quarters of a million while visits total 55,000 for the same period.

The top country visitors are China, Australia, Ukraine, USA, Russia and France in that order.

The top ten downloads are all Newsletters with the latest newsletter being downloaded 118 times.

Future Development.

The biggest short-fall in the website is a lack of Nominal Rolls and other input for East Timor, Timor Leste, Afghanistan and Iraq. The Vietnam Nominal Roll is consistently the biggest draw-card to the website and I can only imagine the same would apply for post-Vietnam tours, if I had the data. I have approached the Battalion but, understandably, they have other priorities.

Notwithstanding that fact there will be soldiers of all ranks now in less demanding jobs or discharged who could drag out the rolls. Maybe one of these soldiers could even put up his hand to help me get it together.

The site needs more input from the current generation. Considering it was developed while 7RAR was off the ORBAT, and, that the webmaster is a Vietnam Vet, then it is understandable, however I continue to feel the site doesn't cover the full range of our unquestionable proud service.

It is almost criminal that we don't have a book on the history of the battalion, such as Mike O'Brien's, available for sale.

I now have the book available on DVD and soon as an e-book but can we look at doing another edition. I know Mike and his old publishers aren't contemplating a reprint but it is the definitive book on 7RAR in Vietnam and we almost owe it to the country to do it.

Governments are, or were, throwing money at veterans. Do we have a member in the know on government grants?

The website could be a store front for 7RAR with everything you wanted to know about the battalion either available for perusal or by purchase of a book or books. We can do a deal with guys who have written books and market them through the website as well.

I said the above last year but got no interest. I repeat the point because I think it has merit.

Webmaster logging off

Moved Tony Keech, Seconded Mick O'Brien the Webmaster's report be accepted.
CARRIED

There was much discussion dealing with the subject of an update of the battalion history as mentioned by Eric Smith in last year's meeting. The major points were, nominal rolls of those members who were with the battalion on each deployment, the money available for a re-write and most importantly the privacy of compiling the rolls of those serving with the unit on each deployment. There is a 35 year control on all these lists before they can be released.

It was suggested that we ask the battalion to raise these lists and keep them so when the 35 year period has expired someone can access them and publish them in an updated history of the Battalion.

(c) The Treasurer's report was unavailable due to Bernie being detained in Tamworth due to family circumstances. See balance sheet page 25 of this issue.

(d) The Executive Officer/Editor presented his report.

Executive Officer/Editor: - Tony Keech, OAM

The current membership of the Association stands at 1194, (about 170 serving members from 7RAR most are financial to this year, there are still 197 other members un-financial.

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, this costs the Association around \$6,000.00 per issue with printing and postage.

Please remember that the newsletter is only as good as the articles received from the members.

I would like to say that I am disappointed in the response from members to send in a proxy for the AGM, to date I have received 16, which fortunately covers the requirement for numbers at the AGM this year. Some discussion has been had dealing with the distribution of funds from reunions, e.g. 25% to the conducting state/org and 75% to the Association.

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. Tony Keech.

Moved Tony Keech, Seconded Bob Murdoch the XO's report be accepted.

CARRIED

5. Matters arising from the reports were deferred to general business.
6. The President, Mr Rod Lyons handed the chair over to the Executive Officer to conduct the election of the Committee of Management for period 2014 - 2015. All positions on the Committee of Management were declared vacant.
- (a) Moved General Ron Grey, Seconded Colonel Eric Smith that Mike O'Brien be nominated for the position of President of the 7RAR Association for the period 2014-2015. There being no further nominations the motion was CARRIED.
- (b) Moved Mike O'Brien, Seconded Rod Lyons that Mr John Lawson be nominated for the position as a member of the Committee of Management for the period 2014-2015. The motion was CARRIED.
- (c) As there were no other nominations for the remaining positions and all other members of the previous Committee had indicated their wish to re-nominate for these positions, Moved Tony Keech, Seconded Mick Garraway that they be re-elected, CARRIED.

The new Committee of Management for 2014-2015 is:

President/Historian	MAJGEN Mike O'Brien. CSC;
Immediate Past President	Mr Rod Lyons;
Vice Presidents	Brigadier Shane Gabriel, DSC Colonel Mick Garraway, AM;
Secretary/Webmaster	Kevin Gillett;
Treasurer	Bernie Cox;
Executive Officer/Editor	Tony Keech, OAM
Committee Members	Bob Murdoch; Brice Stokes; John Lawson;

Hon Auditor

Mr Bernard Worsley;

Hon Legal Officer

LTCOL Lachlan Mead; and

Mrs Mindy Sutherland was appointed as Hon member for wives, widows and welfare.

The Current Patrons are:

COLONEL Eric Smith, DSO, (CO 1st Tour);

MAJOR GENERAL Ron Grey, AO, DSO, (CO 2nd Tour); and

LIEUTENANT COLONEL Malcolm Wells, DSC, (CO 7RAR).

7. The President, MAJGEN Mike O'Brien, CSC resumed the Chair and addressed the meeting.

I have heard of another book being written by Mark Dapan.

I would like to thank Rod and all of the members of the Committee for their work in keeping the Association as one of the strongest today. We look forward to handing the baton over to the younger generation in future. Where needed we will provide support to all members of the Association especially the younger generation. I will make contact with the current CO and the incoming CO in the future. That's all I have for now and thank you for electing me as your President for the next year. I must mention I will be away for most of next year especially around the Gallipoli period.

8. General Business:

(a) Update on the 2015 Reunion:

The organising committee have sent a number of reports which are included in this newsletter so I won't include that in these minutes.

(b) Life Membership:

Moved Bob Murdoch, Seconded Rod Lyons the following criteria be implemented, For a Member of the Association be Honoured as a Life Member:

LIFE MEMBERSHIP
7RAR ASSOCIATION

A MEMBER OF THE 7RAR ASSOCIATION, WHO IN THE OPINION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, HAS RENDERED LONG AND/OR MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MAY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BE ELECTED A LIFE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

THE NOMINEE MUST BE PROPOSED AND SECONDED BY A CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION AND A RESUME OF HIS/HER CONTRIBUTION TO THE ASSOCIATION MUST ACCOMPANY SUCH NOMINATION. ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER NOT LESS THE FOUR (4) WEEKS PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OR AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

THE MEMBER PROPOSED FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP MUST NOT AT TIME OF ELECTION OWE ANY MONIES TO THE ASSOCIATION.

THE RESOLUTION MUST BE PASSED BY NO LESS THE 75% OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OR MORE PREFERABLY AT THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD DURING OUR REUNIONS WHEN MORE OF THE MEMBERSHIP IS PRESENT.

THE LIFE MEMBER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR LIFE AND THIS TITLE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE.

CARRIED

(c) Website:

As discussed previously it is important that we find an understudy for Kevin for the website and also if at any time we allow other social media sites access then the webmaster be in control of the site and have the authority to delete any item considered not applicable.

(d) ANZAC DAY SYDNEY:

Due to the lack of support for the Church Services held at the Garrison Church on ANZAC Day and also Remembrance Day it was decided to cancel these two activities. We need to have greater control of the members who march behind our Banner.

(d) Red Support Our Troops Badges:

It was decided to take these badges to the Reunion in SA and sell them for maybe \$1.00.

(e) Ghurkha Support:

Rod spoke regarding this very noble cause and it was decided to continue with our support to the Ghurkhas via a raffle of a Kukri at each of our reunions.

(f) ANMC Petition:

In view of the current support for an Australian National Memorial Cemetery by the current Prime Minister it was decided to resubmit a letter to those members whom we sent to in 2011 and collect a petition at the reunion next year to support our cause.

(g) 2/7th Members:

The XO briefed the meeting on the number of 2/7th members we still have on our books. We still have three who have acknowledged contact.

(h) 7RAR Member Support:

As we are well aware there are a number of agencies that provide support to members either serving or retired but it was discussed that if anyone has knowledge of someone who may need a little personal support then we should accommodate them.

(h) Membership Subscriptions:

It was decided to advise the membership that subs will have to rise in view of the fact that it costs around \$6,000.00 dollars each edition of the Seven News which obviously runs to \$18,000.00 per year. A notice regarding this will be placed in the next Seven News.

There being no further business the President recited the ODE.

9. The President declared the meeting closed at 1500hrs.

VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY SYDNEY

On a very soggy Monday in Sydney Vietnam Veteran's Day was held despite the weather.



The Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO arrives at the Cenotaph as the principal guest for the ceremony. The crowd was well down on previous years due to the inclement weather.. It was also one of the last official duties for the Governor as she leaves office after many long years as the NSW Queen's representative.

Next page a photo of the very wet Cenotaph and the Ladies from the Entertainers who kept our spirits high during our time in Vietnam.



Above: the wet Cenotaph.

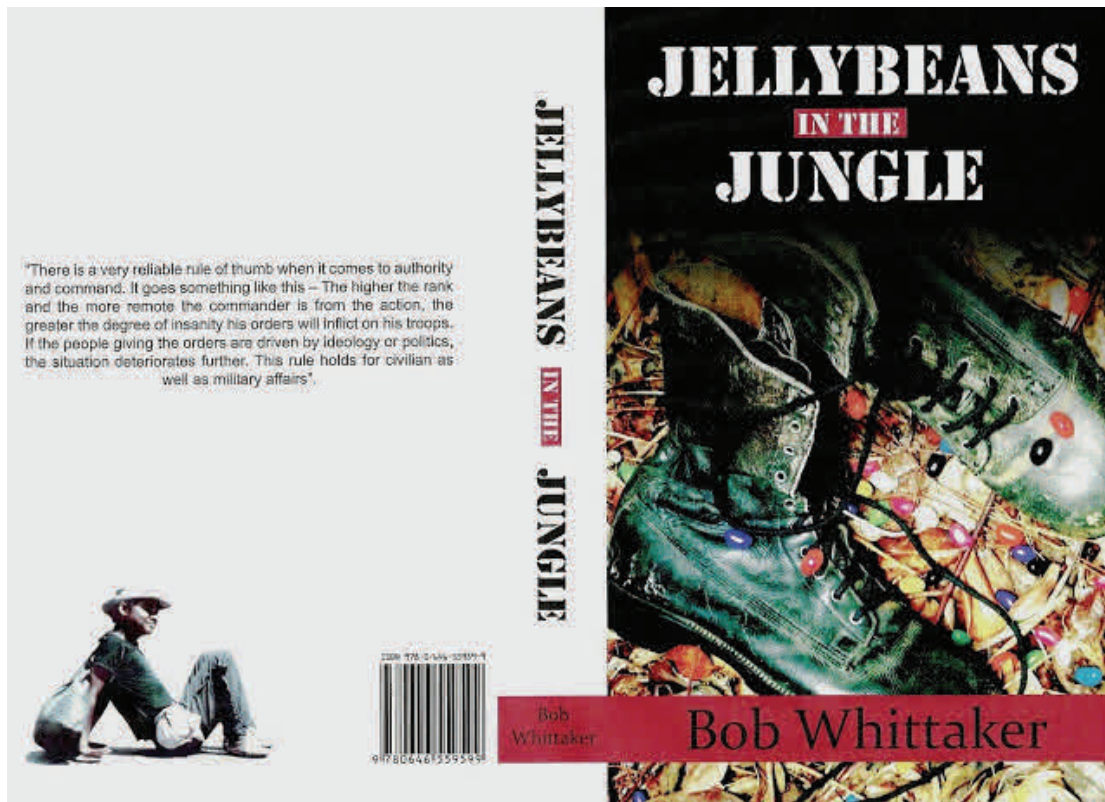
Below: L t R Lynn Fletcher, Jade De Paul, Dinah Lee & Sylvia Raye.





Above: Wreath laying and below the boys have a drink after the event.





The Story

Jellybeans in the Jungle is one man's attempt to make sense of his experience as a Nasho during Australia's war in Vietnam. In 1969 Bob Whittaker was called up for National Service as a primary school teacher working in western Queensland. He subsequently served in 7RAR during its second tour of duty in 1970. This book tells the story of his recruit and corps training, his posting to 7RAR, his operational service in a variety of postings, and his return to Australia.

He describes encounters with both enemy and friendly troops, his R & R in Bangkok, a Saigon guard, and finally his return to Australia and his rehabilitation as a teacher of children with disabilities. Bob returned to Vietnam in 2006 and 2007, and his reflections during these journeys provide a fascinating insight into conflict and reconciliation. Chapters

Prologue Rookies Getting Ready Jellybeans Sailing North On Operations Friendly
Fire T.A.O.R. Night Moves Bunkers Jungle Liturgy Sony Radio Unauthorised
Discharge Battle at the Horsehoe Not the Sistine Chapel Saigon Guard Rubbish
Picquet "Welcome" Home Aftermath Epilogue - Going Back Reflections To secure

your copy go to - <http://jellybeansinthejungle.blogspot.com.au/>

SEVENTH BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

Balance Sheet at 28th February 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash equivalents	71646	73645
Other Receivables	12129	13602
Inventories	18140	19329
TOTAL Current As-	101915	106576
Non Current Assets		
Property, Plant and equipment	2702	2820
TOTAL ASSETS	104617	109396
Current Liabilities	5685	8421
Non Current Liabili-	32217	27006
TOTAL LIABILITIES	37902	35427
MEMBERS FUNDS	66715	73969

Update to Reunion 2015 - 'ANZAC to Adelaide'

Lots of things have been happening down here, and most have been covered in our monthly update newsletters which I send out to all whose email address I have - at the current time this is about 580 members, so with partners, this means that probably in excess of 900 people get an update every month or so.

As you probably know by now, we have been having a lot of problems with the State government, and particularly with one of their subcontractors - Spotless Services.

Spotless Services administer the Torrens Parade Ground and adjacent parks for the government, and they are 'bloody-minded' about how flexible they are. They exhibit behaviour which emulates the short-sightedness of lots of bureaucrats who have a small amount of authority, and who seemingly like to wield it at their whim.

One of the major issues has been that their on-site administrator has repeatedly stated that he can't take bookings for the Parade Ground any further than 12 months ahead, yet has gone and booked two other events for the next three years or so. After much negotiation and correspondence backwards and forwards, we found ourselves no further forward on this issue, and unable to lock-in a venue for the Sunday. This was further exacerbated by the State government then deciding that they would use the Parade ground as a parking lot for whenever there is any event on at the revamped Adelaide Oval, thereby adding even further doubt on the availability of the venue.

Therefore, we approached the Keswick Army Barracks about using their facilities, and were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and support offered to us by the RSM Adrian Hodges, and the command staff at Keswick. Because of this, we have therefore moved all the Sunday activities to Keswick Army Barracks, and now have reassurance of a more than adequate venue, without the issues of security, toilets, parking, or liquor licensing - a much better outcome all round.

We have also negotiated another - and better event - also at Keswick Barracks, which will run alongside the Adelaide Oval tour. See below:

NEW EVENT!

We are really pleased to announce that we have successfully negotiated another tour for the reunion - this one is of the Army Museum at Keswick Barracks, which is only a couple of kilometres out of the central business district of Adelaide, and well-serviced by buses and trains, so access is no problem.

The Keswick Army Museum is rated as the best Military Museum in Australia, after the AWM, and what they have on show is impressive.



Not only will the tour take in the museum and its exhibits, but will also include a History tour of the barracks, static displays of military arms and vehicles, and excitingly, a full tour of the 'sheds' where all the items that can't fit into the museum are stored. Some of these items go back to the First World War and beyond, and are normally not available for viewing.



As well, there will be a 'gourmet BBQ thrown in, and beer in the Sergeants Mess at a couple of dollars each - something to moisten those parched throats.

Note: Any members who have already registered and nominated to attend the Adelaide Oval Tour, but who would now prefer to go on the Army Museum Tour instead, simply drop me an email and I will change your preference for you.

Also, as we get closer to the event, we have taken steps to minimise last-minute confusion (for ourselves) and have decided to close off registrations at the end of next March, and are no longer accepting any new periodical payments - all registrations from now will have to be fully paid at time of registering. Some members are still wanting to register and pay later, but this is causing extra work, and we will only accept future registrations which are accompanied by the full fees - see below:

REGISTRATION

A couple of very important items to pass on about registration and attendance at the Reunion.

- First - We have decided to close off registration at the end of MARCH 2015. This gives everyone wishing to attend the Reunion plenty of time to think about it and get their registrations in, and gives us the necessary time to close off bookings, and make final preparations. We know that some will not be happy with this decision, but listening to the urging of our peers in both Victoria and Western Australia - and taking on-board their experiences with reunion bookings - we feel that this still gives everyone ample time to register - if intending to come - and also allows us time to finalize everything before the actual event.
- There will be NO registrations accepted after the end of March 2015.
- Second - As we are now only a bit over twelve months away from closing the books, it has now become impractical to continue to offer Periodical Payments for new registrants, so we have now closed the Periodical Payment option.
- ♦ Third - As we stated earlier, we are actively working to reduce the costs as much as possible, and all savings will be passed on to members. Currently, pricing for Single members is \$335.00 instead of \$375 - and pricing for Couples has also dropped, and is now set at \$660 instead of \$720 as previously announced. This is due to what we believe are two important considerations, one being that the ladies never drink as much as the men, and secondly, we believe that we need to pay back some of the wonderful support our partners have given us over the years. As sponsors come on board, we hope to be able to reduce costs even further.

At present time we have 162 people registered to attend the reunion, and strongly urge members thinking of attending to register as soon as possible. Numbers are limited for specific events, so if you don't want to miss out, register now.

We have also made arrangements with Keswick barracks to facilitate the battalion so they can conduct a full Drum-Head ceremony on the Sunday, and they are also helping facilitate our requirements for bands, pipers, and buglers.

Further, we are negotiating with the Officer's Mess at Keswick to hold a 'get-together' for officers - past and present - on the Thursday evening.

In conclusion, all information is - as has been - available on our web-page at www.7rarsa.asn.au and members are strongly urged to visit the site and have a look.

Anyone unable to navigate the site, or who does not use the web is invited to ring me on 0410412724 and I will do what I can to assist them.

Cheers

Noel

MEMORIES OF YESTERDAY

OC A Coy 2nd tour with mates on his Birthday in Sydney





"ANZAC to ADELAIDE"

Well things are starting to come to a head now, and we can report that we are getting on top of most things, and that the program is now pretty much locked-in.

Program available for download here - <http://7rarsa.asn.au/wp/new-program>

DATE	TIMES	EVENT	LOCATION
Thu 15 Oct	12noon - 5.00pm	Registration & Welcome	Adelaide Convention Centre
	4.00pm - 6.00pm	Meet & Greet	Adelaide Convention Centre
	7.00pm - Late	Company Get-Togethers	Various City Locales
Fri 16 Oct	9.00am-11.00am	Memorial Service	St Peters Cathedral
	11.30am- 1.00pm	Plaque Dedication	Memorial Walkway
	1.30pm- 3.00pm	Special Gen Meeting	Masonic Hall
	7.00pm – Late	Formal Dinner	Adelaide Convention Centre
Sat 17 Oct	8.30am – 4.00pm	Pl & Intake Get-togethers	Various Locales
	8.30am – 4.00pm	“Ladies Shop-Till-Drop”	City and Glenelg
	12.00pm – 4.00pm	Ladies Garden Party	Government House
	12.00pm – 4.00pm	Adel Oval Tour	Adelaide Oval
	12.00pm – 4.00pm	Army Museum Tour	Keswick Barracks
Sun 18 Oct	11.00am – 1.00pm	Drum Head Service	Keswick Barracks
	1.00pm – 4.00pm	Final BBQ & Farewells	Keswick Barracks

EXTRA BLACK TIE DINNER

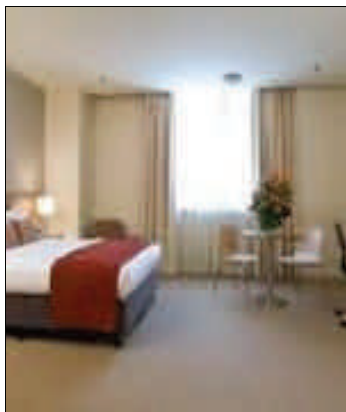


We have had a request or two for extra events - such as a Black Tie' Dinner to celebrate the Birthday of the Battalion, but need to reiterate that the *entire reunion is focused on the birth and growth of the battalion* - commencing 100 years ago at Gallipoli - and importantly for us - the birth of what we now know as 7RAR 50 years ago. Therefore, we feel we really have the birthday bit well and truly covered. To incorporate yet another formal dinner into the mix would - we believe - blow the costs out of the water.



BIRTHDAY CAKE

There has also been a request that we mount a birthday cake for the battalion - "*a la*" Tweed Heads - in order to 'one-up' the Canadians as to who has the biggest battalion birthday cake. Unfortunately, this will also not be happening unless individuals - or National - wish to organise and fund it themselves. In that case, we would be happy to then incorporate it into the formal dinner.



ACCOMODATION

Apart from the accommodation already listed on our web-page, there are many other hotels and apartments available in Adelaide (<http://7rarsa.asn.au/wp/accomodation/>). Unfortunately, a lot won't open bookings until one year out from the event.

We have recently spoken with the Mercure Grosvenor Hotel - which is located directly across the street from the Convention Centre where we will be holding the Meet & Greet and the Formal Dinner - and which is also centrally located to all other events - and they will start taking bookings from 15th August 2014 - so get in quick.

Their phone number is 08 8407 8888.



'MEET THE MUPPETS'

In this new section we introduce the members of the Reunion 2015 Committee to you so that members can put faces to names and get a (slightly distorted) idea of who is working their hearts out for them on this reunion.

(Will also allow members to identify and harass committee during the reunion - if anything is not working - run them down and demand answers - you might even get some - but probably not the ones you want). To meet your committee members - go here: <http://7rarsa.asn.au/wp/profiles/>

REGISTRATION



Just the usual monthly reminder that time is slipping by rapidly, and there are only 35 weeks left in which to register.

We are closing the books at the end of next March - probably seems a long time away - but it will go very quickly. Need to close off then as most places want to be paid by then - so if you forget to register, you could miss out, and this is the one reunion you will really kick yourself for missing.



PLATOON CHAMPIONS

As for you Platoon Champions - how about getting out again and 'stirring the troops' - I realise that most grunts tend to wait until the last minute, but in this case that might mean you will miss out - so decide now and act.



REUNION 2-15 – "ANZAC TO ADELAIDE"

ONLY 32 WEEKS LEFT TO REGISTER

REMEMBER – IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID, YOU'RE NOT REGISTERED!

Hi Guys and Girls

Just a quick update this month to let everyone know that things are going reasonably smoothly (waiting for the bump, though) and we are starting to be able to 'tick' off a lot of the events – at least as far as locking them in is concerned.

Latest Program is available at <http://7rarsa.asn.au/wp/new-program/>

First, our major issue was changing from Torrens Parade Ground to Keswick Barracks for the Drum-Head and the Farewell BBQ, but we have been absolutely swamped with support from Keswick, so everything has actually worked out for the better. One bonus is that beer at the BBQ should be at 'Army Prices'.

The other thing about Keswick is that it is only about one kilometre out of the city, and there are buses and trains which stop at the front gate – only about ten minutes by train or bus, and we are working on getting free transport for all if possible.

The other major venue change is that we look like having all the Company Get-Togethers at Glenelg, which again is only a direct tram or bus ride there and back, with public transport leaving every 15 minutes. This will also be a bonus for those choosing to stay at the West Beach Caravan Park, which is very close to Glenelg.

There has also been some talk about an 'Officers Get-Together' and we have obtained support for same from the Officers Mess at Keswick – so now over to the Officers – if you guys would like a separate Get-Together, then get together and let me know (no pun intended).

Second - issue is accommodation. We have managed to sort out deals with a lot of the hotels and apartments in and around Adelaide, and the details are on the web under "Accommodation". The one bug-bear to date has been the Mercure, which has been holding out. The advantage of the Mercure is that they are less expensive than most other hotels, and they are directly across North Terrace from the Adelaide Convention Centre, where a lot of the events will take place. However, after extended discussions last week, the Mercure has now come to the party, has opened preferential booking for our reunion members, and is offering discounts - so check them out on the "Accommodation" page and book.

Book at <http://7rarsa.asn.au/wp/accomodation/>

Third - there has been a bit of 'argy-bargy' about the cost of the reunion, so I thought I would set out a comparison for everyone to think about - see below. 5RAR is holding their 50th reunion next February-March, and this is an ideal opportunity to compare like with like, and value for value. So here goes.

5RAR

7RAR

\$200		\$300	
EVENT	Details	EVENT	Details
Registration	Registration Name Badge	Registration	Registration Name Badge Goody Bag Polo Shirt Hat Various other 'Goodies' Raffle for \$1000 of accommodation
Meet & Greet	Finger food <u>Limited free drinks</u> <u>Other drinks at bar prices</u>	Meet & Greet	Two hours of 'Up-Market' finger food Three free drinks Two hours of <u>subsidised</u> drinks
Coy Get-Togethers	Finger food Cash Bar for drinks	Coy Get-Togethers	Finger food Three free drinks <u>Subsidised drinks there-onwards</u>
Memorial Service	Twin Towers Theatre	Memorial Service	St Pauls Cathedral, with full-dress Colours Party, Bugle, and Piper

Formal Dinner	Three-course Dinner Drinks package for 3 hours	Formal Dinner	Three-course Dinner 3-hour Drinks Package Port Concert with Eric Bogle & Electric Juice Piper Bugler Photos
		A.W.M. Displays	'Three separate displays of V.C recipients and 'Bravest of the Brave'
		Plaque Laying	Dedication by either Governor, or Gov. General of two granite plinths and four bronze plaques, commemorating 7 battalions from Gallipoli to Afghanistan Refreshments
		Garden Party	Garden Party and Lunch for the ladies at Government House
		Platoon Get-Togethers	Get-Togethers for Platoons, Intakes, etc.
		Keswick Army Museum Tour and BBQ or Adelaide Oval Tour	Tour of the Army Museum Tour of the 'Back Sheds' Tour of the Historic barracks Static Display of weapons and equipment 'Gourmet' BBQ Beer at 'Army Prices
		Drum-Head Parade	Drum-Head Parade and tribute to those fallen Full Colours Party
		Farewell BBQ	'Gourmet' BBQ Three free drinks Subsidised drinks thereafter Photos
<p>The Reunion Committee think that we are offering exceptionally good value for money – and remember – you only pay for what you want to attend – as few events as you like – or all for \$300.00. Pretty cheap for more than a dozen events over four days we think – especially when you compare with what 5RAR is offering.</p>			

So in summary, get your registrations in ASAP – we are now down to 32 weeks for registrations, and that time will slip away very quickly.

Remember – if you haven't paid, you're not registered.

Go to <http://7rarsa.asn.au/wp/members-registered-for-reunion-2015/> to see if you are registered.

Cheers, and see you all at ANZAC to Adelaide – REUNION 2015.

Noel

PIGS IN SOUTH AUSSIE

ALWAYS IN ACTION.

WEB PAGE

MONTHLY LUNCHES

ANZAC DAY

SUOI CHAU PHA

REUNION 2015



WWW Checked our page out lately?

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

Our web page is constantly updated. If you have not recently visited I suggest you do and see more recent developments. Constructive comments are always welcome. Please utilise our merchandise and reunion pages.

Monthly Lunches

These have been a bit chaotic the past few months with organisers on leave or sick. We are back on track for the remainder of the year so come and join your mates. The site for the next lunch can be found on the web page under the link "Future Events". <http://www.7rarsa.asn.au>.

Most lunches see a group of younger diggers in attendance. Whilst much has changed over the past 45+ years some of the gripes are near identical. The interchange of ideas is always beneficial and well worth attendance.

ANZAC DAY in the city

The Battalion won the honour of presenting Onyx, the Battalion mascot, at the ANZAC Day march. There were a few hassles as the march organisers did not recognise the appropriateness of an Infantry Battalion marching with its mascot so she was left to see the Battalion assemble and march off. It was quite a fitting start for the soldiers most of whom had served in Afghanistan in the previous 12 months.

It will be appreciated from the following photos she is quite a young pig. By the time she paraded for Suoi Chau Pha she had outgrown her original dress uniform – so a new one has been requisitioned. The boys from WA may recognise their flag has been incorporated as feature of the uniform.



Onyx at her best



Onyx at attention as her 7th Battalion soldiers start the ANZAC Day Parade.

State Association numbers were down with reinforcements coming from Victoria and Queensland. With “colour sergeant” Chris O’Neil out on the day, President Chris Ashenden was volunteered to call the step. Fortunately the parade marched at a steady pace as (young Nasho) Chris’s “Halt” commands were nowhere near the calibre of those of (mature Reg.) Chris. Someone was heard to say at the conclusion of the march “If O’Neil’s not here next year to keep the unit in order I’ll kill the bastard!”

Having said that after the march there was a good mix of current and past members of the Battalion lunching at the Lion. Onyx was in attendance and received much attention from Battalion personnel and other members of the Royal Australian Regiment as well as the general public. It will be interesting what happens at the march in 2015.

SUOI CHAU PHA

Members of the 7 RAR family, old and young, male and female joined at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, Torrens Parade Ground to honour members of the battalion Killed in Action over that past 100 years.

In welcoming the 50 plus attendees Association President Chris Ashenden briefly reflected on the origins of the Battalion - being formed by Lt Col H. E. "Pompey" Elliot in the early days of August 1914. Nine months later it was bloodied and proven with the Anzac Landing. On this day, 6 August, in 1915 it joined the Battle of Lone Pine where 4 members of the Battalion were awarded the Victoria Cross. 1045 members were killed and 2076 were wounded in that First World War of 4 years in the hell holes of Gallipoli and the Western Front.

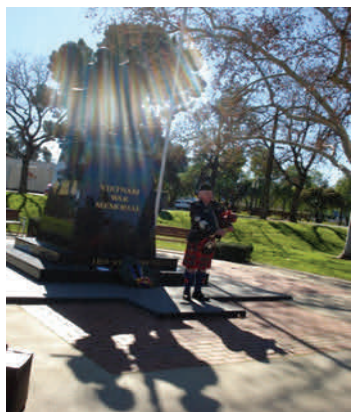
Just over 21 years later the 2nd 7th was formed. In 5 years of heavy fighting in conditions as diverse as the dry deserts around Egypt to the wet tropical jungles of Papua New Guinea 226 men of the battalion were killed and 473 wounded.

The Battalion's current C.O., Lt Col Malcolm Wells, related the significance of Suoi Chau Pha and the other actions in South Vietnam to the current soldiers of the Battalion.

The flags were lowered to half mast and the catafalque party of current serving soldiers of the Seventh took their place around the memorial. Selected action reports from both tours of Vietnam were read, each followed by reciting the names of those dying in Vietnam. Events surrounding the fight in which Corporal Matthew Hopkins was killed in Afghanistan in 2009 were read.

Following the laying of wreaths, reciting the Ode, playing of the Last Post and Rouse by Bugler Paul Bampton (of the Australian Army Band, Adelaide), the observance of 2 minutes silence honouring all killed and subsequently dying of wounds of war, and other relevant observances, Piper Des Ross played the lament.

At the end of the service and after personal reflection there was an adjournment to the London Tavern for toast to "The Battalion" and "Absent Comrades". Over drinks and a meal the various genders of soldiers past and present and accompanying family members enjoyed each other's company and discussed issues of mutual relevance – a number of which have not changed substantially over the past 5 decades.



RAR Association SA Piper Des Ross plays the Lament at the conclusion of Suoi Chau Pha Commemoration 2014.

REUNION 2015 – "ANZAC to Adelaide" – 7th Battalion 50th Birthday

In just over 12 months we expect to see most association members along with partners and families making their way to Adelaide what will be a really great get together and celebration. In the mean time it is necessary to register and organise accommodation. Catering and accommodation facilities throughout Adelaide are in high demand so early registrations are essential.

Details of the program and directions for registration are to be found elsewhere in this edition of 7news as well as on www.7rarsa.asn.au. Follow up NOW and initiate prompt action – and get ready to enjoy.

Training is optional.

Other matters

The association has responded to needs of a number of younger veterans and anticipate calling on other states to follow up young soldiers who seek to reestablish a life in their home state. Sadly not all mature members are travelling well. Our thoughts are with you all and especially to those who are full time careers to partners

Cheers to all Chris Ashenden

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

Greetings from WA to all PIGS, both old and new.

ANZAC DAY - PERTH

It may be just me, but I think the crowds for the Anzac Day march in Perth keep getting larger. It was a tremendous feeling marching amongst a very large herd of PIGS, not just from the Vietnam era but also many more recent PIGS, wonderful to see. Glen Moore and Noel Bell carried the banner, with our contingent being led by Graham Edwards and Ken Bladen, with RSM Spunky Fieldhouse trying valiantly to keep us all in step. Hon. Albert Jacob, MLA, in memory of his uncle Paul Navarre, K.I.A. 2nd tour and John Bell, for his brother Alec Bell, K.I.A. 1st tour, also carried flags as they do every year, well done guys. I noticed a few Slouch Hats being worn this year, the traditional Army style by Casey Epskamp and Geoff Murray and the more rugged-looking bush style by John Davies, hope to see a few more next year. It was also great to see so many ladies joining us, including Pam Bell, Betty Baty, Ann Cowen, Midge Liddelow and Nola Lamont. Margaret Moylan joined us later for drinks at the usual "watering hole" Rigby's. Julia Jacob was a notable absentee this year, after so many years of attendance. Hope to catch you next year Julia. All in all, a marvellous day.



The WA PIGS stepping off for the march.

THE COST OF RUNNING A 7RAR STATE ASSOCIATION

Dear WA members

During April this year your committee (Alan, Geoff and me) asked for a donation of \$20 to cover the cost of a Reunion 2015 brochure covering the 7th Battalion in WW1, WW2, Vietnam and Afghanistan. We sent out 94 emails and 20 letters. Only 31 members responded and we graciously acknowledge their contribution. We cannot run the State branch on the smell of an oily rag. We last asked for a donation (to help our bank account) in 2005 and your response was magnificent. We, your committee, give our time, computer usage, telephone calls etc free of ALL costs. The only way we have of getting money is to conduct a raffle at our Xmas luncheons - here only 43 members (including their partners) contributed around \$250 (and remember the prizes are given to us free of costs) OK I've said my piece. Our donation hotline is still open for your contribution.

Regards Don Cruden

R.I.P IAN LANKESTER

Today Wed 9th July we buried one of our own - Ian Lankester, Pioneers 2nd tour and another PIG taken too soon. We sent out over 60 emails and I thank Geoff Murray, Steve Chamarette, Chris Wark and wife Jan (who travelled over 260km return), Spunky, Stretch Stajkowski & self for attending this service. Graham Edwards & Bob Currie had previously sent their apologies for their absence. I wonder what happened to all our other members? Special thanks to Spunky for his greatly appreciated organizational skill at funerals.

Don

WIDOWS REMEMBRANCE TAG

This is the remembrance tag, which Don will present to Ian's widow Judy.



ALEC BELL RESERVE

There are plans to rename a reserve in the suburb of Victoria Park "Alec Bell Reserve", after Alec Bell, K.I.A. 1st Tour. It has been a long struggle for this honour to be bestowed upon Alec but it looks likely to happen and when the park is dedicated in his name, we would like to see a large gathering of PIGS in attendance.

PETER VLACHOU OAM JP

Congratulations go to Peter Vlachou on the award of the OAM in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to the Greek community. I cannot think of a person more worthy of the award, well done mate.

SICK PARADE

John Salmond, pioneers 2nd, has just been released from hospital after a bout of bowel cancer and has commenced chemotherapy.

ANNUAL PIG SWILL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

- The Christmas lunch has been booked for Thursday 27th November 2014 at the Anzac House in St Georges Terrace.
- Upstairs in the Gallipoli Room, open from 11.00am - 4.00pm
- There is a lift available if required
- 2 course meal \$30.00 per head
- Roast lamb + vegies plus rhubarb + apple crumble with custard
- Tea + coffee available
- Veteran friendly place, parking if you wish
- Only 10 min. walk from Perth Underground or Esplanade
- Money MUST be paid up front, NO paying on the day or we'll be charged if you don't turn up, see payment details below:
- Drinks at great prices and meals are decent portions
- We need final numbers by 20th November so contact:

Don Cruden

26 Little River Cove

Jane Brook WA 6056

08 9374 0014 dcruden1@bigpond.com

- **Make cheques out to: 7RAR Association**
- **Alternatively use direct credit to:**

BSB 066132 Account 00913220

(Include your name so Don knows whom it's from)

VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY IN KINGS PARK

Vietnam veterans of all services and corps gathered in Kings Park on Sunday 17th August at the Vietnam Veterans memorial to recognise Vietnam Veteran's Day. A larger contingent than in past years lined up behind the PIG banner, carried this year by Keith Battersby and Colin Kelly, including Don Cruden, Ian McNee, Steve Chamarette, Geoff Murray, Peter Vlachou, Geoff Brophy, Ron Mitchell, Vic Niemanis and Bob Dare.

Nola Lamont and her friend Gerda were there to support us, as was Helen McNee, always great to see you ladies. It was a moving service, in front of a large gathering of veterans, distinguished guests and family and friends. There was also a large number of ex-ARVN members marching in their camouflage gear, with the Vietnamese women in their gaily-coloured traditional Ao Dai outfits adding a lot of colour to the day.

COMMEMORATIVE TRIP TO LONE PINE - GALLIPOLI 2015

As you are probably aware, we are organising a trip to Gallipoli in August 2015 to commemorate the four Victoria Crosses awarded to members of 7th Bn A.I.F. at the Battle of Lone Pine, exactly 100 years earlier. We have also been in contact with descendants of the four Victoria Cross recipients, with hopefully some of them able to accompany us on the trip. There are two options available, a 7-night tour to Istanbul and Gallipoli, before returning to Istanbul to return home or venture further afield.

The other option is for a 16-night tour; including the 7-night tour and then continuing on to further explore Turkey for an additional 9 nights. The Australian Government is organising a commemorative service, where we plan to lay a wreath, at the Lone Pine cemetery on the evening of August 6th, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the start of the battle. A similar service will be conducted the following morning at the Nek, to remember the infamous Light Horse charge at the Nek.

Please refer to the details elsewhere in the newsletter; however if you wish to find out more about the proposed trip, or request a full itinerary, please contact:

Ian McNee

08 9242 1865

ianmcnee1@iinet.net.au

Geoff Murray

08 9448 3109

geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au

Steve Chamarette

08 9227 9845

sunridge@it.net.au

We are asking those interested to register their interest by the end of October 2014, to either the Travel Agent or those listed above.

QUICK VISIT TO WA

John Heydon, Pl. Cmd. D11 2nd Tour and his wife Margaret made a quick visit to Perth on their way to Margaret River in the South-West for a few days and caught up with a few 7RAR stalwarts whilst here.



L to R: peter Vlachou, John Burrows, Steve Chamarette, John Heydon



L to R: Sandra Vlachou, Margaret Heydon, Joann Chamarette, Kerry Burrows.

NAMETAGS (Note: For BOTH Men and Women)

Our NAMETAGS are available in two sizes, the original size and the version, which is half as big again. Each small tag costs \$13, with the larger tag at \$18, 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 (made payable to Geoff Murray) or money order in the post when you place your order, delivery is about three weeks. Post it to:

**Geoff Murray
30 Bouvardia Way
GREENWOOD
WA 6024**

Alternatively, you can do an Electronic Funds Transfer to:

BSB 066132 Account 00913220



Approx. 6.0cm x 4.0cm



Approx. 9.0cm x 6.0cm

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	<u>geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au</u>

Cheers - Geoff Murray

PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

Anzac Day 2014

7RAR was represented well again this year and we generally performed well for the large crowd lining St Kilda Rd, as usual (unfortunately) there are a small number that spoil it for the rest - but this seems to be a problem that affects many other veteran associations and the RSL (as the lead agency) will have to address this in future - especially as we commemorate the various anniversaries over the next 4 years. Post-March activities were again based on the Limerick Arms Hotel and we are very grateful for the assistance they provided us this year. They went out of their way to make us even more welcome by having cold jugs waiting for us, as well as a special menu developed for us so that we didn't have any problems with 'rations' - the meat tray was also appreciated (I how can you not have a raffle without a pub meat tray! - (Vegans, eat your heart out).

The calling of our Roll of Honour was a highlight as usual - and Dieter Dutka joined our readers for the call. This year we also remembered those former 7RAR KIAS with other Units - there were 8 of them - as well as 3 members of our supporting arms - 2 Sappers and a Gunner. As usual everyone in the Limerick stood during this ceremony .

Raffles were well subscribed - and proved a good distraction with all patrons, not just 7RAR, joining in. The main prize this year was a framed print "The Last Great Cavalry Charge' - the Light Horse at Beersheba. It was donated by Will Anderson (RAAC), who was chucked that the 'Cavalry Charge' was actually undertaken by Mounted Infantry - not the precursor to Armoured Corps. I've lost my notes on who won, but I remember that the winner immediately donated it to his (7RAR) father on the basis that he would get it back as part of his inheritance. The Ladies Beauty Treatment (donated by long-time supporter Shirley) was won by a young non-7RAR lass, who was very happy with her prize.

Lone Pine Commemoration/All the 7s (10 August 2014)



LtoR:

*7RAR Roo Dowley, 7Bn AIF
John Baird 2/7th Paul Nixon
(hidden)*

2014 marks the 99th year that 7 AIF landed at Gallipoli so next year will be a most significant anniversary for all of us who trace our history back to that original 7. We were very fortunate to have a number of family members representing 7Bn AIF and 2/7th AIF. We have a very simple ceremony where we commemorate the service that all 7s performed over the years – we also remember that 7RAR is still an active Battalion. August is also an anniversary for Suoi Chau Pha and we were very honoured to have Neville ‘Nobby’ Clark, MC join us this year as he played a significant part in that battle.

Full marks to the Shrine for the assistance they provided to make the Ceremony flow smoothly. Adrian Lombardo welcomed us and from there we conducted our arrangements- Bob Arnott laid our wreath on behalf of all the 7s. Arrangements this year were probably the best they have been since 7RAR (Vietnam era) took over – this was due in no small part to the work that Ian Dunn put in with the Shrine admin, 7AIF and 2/&AIF representatives.

The after ceremony lunch at the Limerick Arms went down quite well.

Parting Shot

War is God’s way of teaching America geography – Ambrose Bierce.

Bill Anderson (0419-877-463)



LtoR: Bob Arnott, Alan McGuinness, David Wain, Ian Dunn and 'Nobby' Clark MC.

Below: A blast from the past.



Gallipoli August Offensive Battlefield Tour

29 July – 11 August 2015

Day 1. Wednesday 29 July

Afternoon departure for tour members via Singapore Airlines.

Day 2. Thursday 30 July

Upon arrival in Istanbul you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. Check into hotel and freshen up for lunch. This afternoon we enjoy a cruise along the Bosphorus, seeing beautiful mosques, palaces and old wooden houses on both the European and Asian shoreline.

Evening: Tour welcome dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: ISTANBUL

B L D

Day 3. Friday 31 July

Begin today with a guided tour of famous sights of the old city, including the Hippodrome, the beautiful Blue Mosque and the Basilica Cistern. Following lunch at Konyali restaurant overlooking the Bosphorus inside the grounds of Topkapi Palace, explore the Palace, the main residence of the Ottoman Sultans for over 400 years.

Evening: Dinner is at own arrangements, providing time to explore the many colourful cafes of this amazing city.

Overnight: ISTANBUL

B L

Day 4. Saturday 01 August

This morning travel by coach to Gallipoli with lunch upon arrival at the Kum Hotel. In the afternoon we visit Kilitbahir for discussions on the failed naval battle that preceded the landings.

Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 5. Sunday 02 August

This morning we enjoy a special highlight boat tour along the Gallipoli coastline from Anzac Cove to Suvla Bay for an unforgettable view of the ridges and valleys from the sea, just as the Anzacs would have seen it on the landing 100 years ago. (weather permitting).

Lunch at the hotel.

This afternoon we drive along the coast for our first visit to the Anzac beaches to discuss the landings, including a walk up to Plugges Plateau for a wonderful overview. We will visit Ari Burnu Cemetery, where the Dawn Service was held until 2000, Beach Cemetery and the grave of John Simpson Kirkpatrick, "the man with the donkey", and Anzac Cove.

Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 6. Monday 03 August

This morning we head to the southern tip of the peninsula for a guided tour of the landings at Cape Helles and the Krithia Battlefield. Visit the huge Turkish Memorial and "S" Beach at Morto Bay, and "V" Beach, the planned main British landing.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant overlooking the Aegean, followed by a visit to Redoubt Cemetery for a discussion of the attack on Krithia by the 2nd Australian Infantry Brigade.

Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 7. Tuesday 04 August

Begin today with a guided tour of the ANZAC front line from Lone Pine, Johnston's Jolly, Steele's and Courtney's Posts to Quinn's Post, considered the key to the ANZAC beachhead.

Lunch at the hotel.

This afternoon we begin our in-depth consideration of the August Offensive - plan, objectives, successes and failures.

We drive to Suvla Bay to discuss the British IX Corps landings, seeing Fisherman's Hut on the way. We return to the hotel via the village of Bigali, headquarters location of Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Kemal's 19th Division on 25 April 1915.

Evening: Dinner at Hotel.

Overnight: GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 8. Wednesday 05 August

This morning we return to Second Ridge to discuss the 1st Brigade attack at Lone Pine and the subsequent attacks on German Officer's Trench and The Chessboard.

Lunch at the hotel.

This afternoon we visit Walkers Ridge and Russell's Top, before discussing the disastrous attacks at The Nek and Chunuk Bair.

Evening: Dinner at hotel.

Overnight: GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 9. Thursday 06 August

This morning we have the option of two historical walks. You may choose to walk down Rhododendron Ridge, the New Zealand infantry's approach route in their assault on Chunuk Bair, with a short side trip to the Farm Cemetery. The other walk is down Artillery Road, the supply route developed for the attack at Lone Pine, to the beach. On the way visit Shell Green Cemetery where the famous cricket match was played in December 1915.

After rest in the afternoon, this evening we will return to Lone Pine for a special commemorative service.

Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 10. Friday 07 August

Begin today with a first-light commemorative service at The Nek, scene of the tragic charge by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. Later in the morning we drive to Canakkale where, after lunch, we will visit Troy for a guided tour of the ruins of this ancient city, or an optional free afternoon, to visit the fortress and naval museum, taking the opportunity to see the replica of the Turkish minelayer Nusret that laid the mines in the Dardanelles, causing so much damage to the allied navies.

Evening: Dinner at leisure in one of the many waterfront restaurants in Canakkale, before returning to the hotel.

Overnight: GALLIPOLI

B L

Day 11. Saturday 08 August

Today we leave the battlefield behind for the return trip to Istanbul, with lunch en route at Kosk restaurant. This afternoon visit the Grand Bazaar with over 4000 stalls for shopping and souvenir hunting.

Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: ISTANBUL

B L D

Day 12. Sunday 09 August

After breakfast, we visit Hagia Sophia, one of the great marvels of architecture and the most important Byzantine monument in Istanbul. The remainder of the day is free for final shopping and souvenir hunting. Lunch own arrangements.

This evening enjoy a farewell dinner whilst enjoying a magnificent view of Istanbul by night.

Day 13. Monday 10 August

After breakfast the tour comes to an end with a morning transfer to the airport for return flight to Australia.

B

Day 14. Tuesday 11 August

Arrive Australia early evening.



Wagga Wagga reunion 2003

