

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have just passed one of the most significant anniversaries in our battalion's story and one of national significance as well. General Ian Hamilton planned a wide August 1915 offensive, with attacks at Cape Helles and a new two-division landing at Suvla Bay by the British, New Zealanders and Australians would attack at the Nek and Chunuk Bair and several batons of the First Australian Division would attack the entrenchments at Lone Pine.

Lone Pine was the most sustained fight of the Gallipoli Campaign. It consisted of five days of the most vicious hand-to-hand fighting with bayonet, rifle and grenade. On the afternoon of 8 August 1915, the 7th Battalion, from Victoria, led by their commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Harold 'Pompey' Elliot, went into the Lone Pine battle to relieve the exhausted 1st and 2nd Battalions.

Of the seven Victoria Crosses awarded, four went to men of the Seventh Battalion AIF. Lieutenant William Symons was placed in charge of the left flank and led a charge killing several Turks with his CO's revolver. Lieutenant Frederick Tubb and Corporals Alexander Burton and William Dunstan fought side-by-side. Tubb was wounded, and Burton was killed in the savage fighting.

There were severe casualties: the Australian suffered over 2000, the Ottomans nearly 9000. It was the last major offensive of a Campaign that became stalemated.

As we commemorate our 50th anniversary later this year, we also need to remember the 100th of the Valiant Seventh.

I look forward to seeing you all in Adelaide

Cheers

Mike

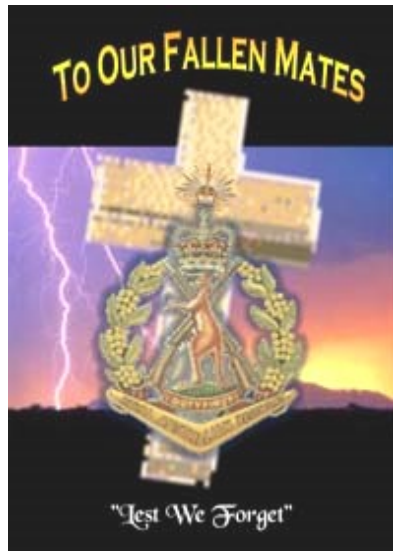
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CALENDER

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 Aug | 49th Anniversary Battle of Long Tan/Vietnam Veterans Day. |
| 1 Sep | 50th Birthday 7RAR. |
| 15-18 Oct | 7RAR Reunion, ANZAC to ADELAIDE. |
| 8 Nov | Remembrance Day Church Service Sydney. |
| 11 Nov | Remembrance Day, (All States). |
| 27 Nov | Cut-off date for 3/2015 Seven News. |
| 8 Dec | 3/2015 Seven News posted. |



VALE

Rest ye oh Warrior, You will battle no more,

No longer to live the horrors of war,

Your duty was done with honor 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.**

216470 Lon Clark Jarrold, 1st tour, passed away, Wednesday 11 March 2015.

**37505 Andrew Roman Gizycki, ADMIN 1st tour, passed away Tuesday 21
April 2015.**

**4718620 John (Jock) Mc Kay, Recce PL, 1st tour, passed away Saturday 2 May
2015.**

**1411300 Patrick Joseph Buckley, 7RAR 1st tour, passed away Tuesday 5 May
2015.**

**33723 Alexander Patrick (Blue) Thompson, RSM 1st tour/OC SPT 2nd tour,
passed away Sunday 31 May 2015.**

**16757 Kevin Edward Hawkins, Recce PL 1st tour, passed away Wednesday 10
June 2015.**

**15896 Graham Douglas Fox, C8 1965/66 Pucka, passed away Tuesday 16
June 2015.**



From the EDITOR'S DESK

Reunion 2015 approaches very rapidly, by the time you receive this newsletter it will only be a couple of months away. It looks like we will have around 600 at the dinner, more for some of the other

activities, this will include with approval of the Commanding Officer the members of the Battalion. We are very appreciative of the Battalion and also the Command staff of Keswick Barracks for the assistance they have given our SA organizing committee.

PLEASE NOTE THAT TO GAIN ENTRY TO ANY DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENT MEMBERS AND WIVES/PARTNERS/FAMILY WILL NEED A PHOTO ID, i.e. DRIVER'S OR PASSPORT.

The Association continues to support the presentation of a trophy to the Section Commander of the Champion Section, 7 Platoon, (Bien Hoa Platoon) Depot Company on their march out at the completion of their Corp Training at the School of Infantry. The last march out occurred on Friday 15 May, the photos on the following two pages are of that occasion. The Trophy is named in Honor of CPL Matty Hopkins who was KIA March 2009 in Afghanistan. His Widow, Victoria who lives in Singleton presents the trophy to CPL Michael Hardie, 3RAR .

THERE ARE CURRENTLY A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO ARE UN-FINANCIAL IF THIS IS YOU THEN THERE WILL BE A RED DOT ON THE DATE YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS EXPIRED, IF SO:

WARNING YOUR ARE UN-FINANCIAL CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL IF YOU HAVE A RED DOT THEN YOU ARE UNFINANCIAL TO RENEW USE THE RENEWAL FORM ON THE INSIDE BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWS IF YOU DON'T RENEW THEN YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE DATABASE.



Above: Tony Keech, Vicki Hopkins and Bernie Cox.

Below: Vicki presenting the Trophy to CPL Michael Hardie, Sect Comd, Champion Section, 7 Platoon.





Above: Vicki Hopkins with CPL Michael Hardie.

Below: Tony presents a 7RAR Lapel Badge to the six members posted to 7RAR.





This is a special poem written for Bourke's ANZAC Centenary Service.

Below is a poem written by Abe Liddell shown in the photograph with Vic Bartley at the ANZAC Day Service in Bourke. The poem was written as a tribute to our ANZAC'S by 11 year old Abe.

**"THE ANZAC'S"
(By Abe Liddell)**

**From the shores of Gallipoli, out into the sea,
The Australian soldiers gave their lives for all of you and me.
From deep into the trenches where it's dusty and hot,
Annoyed from the flies that you just can't swat.
Eating stale biscuits that you can't get down, While you beg to travel back to
your hometown.
Most men weren't allowed so they did their best,
Full of courage, larrikinism, honour and the rest.
You got to shoot, and what do you know,
A grenade is thrown, blows up and you fall down low.
From this Centenary and for ever more,
Wedged in our memory is The Australian and New Zealand Army Corp.
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

7RAR ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

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 CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS 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 NO LESS THAN 4 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OR AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

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

THE RESOLUTION MUST BE PASSED BY AT LEAST 75% OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OR 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 IS NOT TRANSFERABLE.

Above is the criteria to be used when nominating a member of the Association for Life Membership. Please use these when submitting a member for Life Membership on the form provided on the next page.

Tony Keech, OAM, XO

**NOMINATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE 7RAR
ASSOCIATION**

I.....Member Number.....
nominate.....to be
accorded the title of Life Membership of the 7RAR
Association in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The following service to the Association is considered to
render him eligible for this nomination:

(a) Length of service to the Association.....

(b) Details of this Service.....

.....

I.....second this nomination, Member
Number.....

Dated this day.....

This nomination must reach the Executive Officer not later
than four weeks prior to the Advertised Date of the upcoming
Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

Both Nominee, Seconder and the Member nominated must be
current financial members of the Association

Date Received and Criteria verified by Executive Officer
7RAR Association.

Date.....Signature.....



REUNION 2015 RAFFLE WINNERS

**The REUNION 2015 Prize Draw
for three nights accommodation at the luxurious**

5-star Intercontinental Hotel on North Terrace Adelaide

**during the reunion was drawn in the presence of the reunion committee using a random number generator,
and the very lucky winners are 2nd tour member and wife:**

Congratulations Cliff and Kate.

**The committee knows that you will be absolutely delighted with this,
and that your stay at the Intercontinental will be a highlight of the
weekend for you.**

**This is a truly luxurious hotel, and the
service, and accommodation are first class.**

**Cliff and Kate - we will be contacting you soon to arrange
your accommodation - congratulations from the committee, and we
know you will really enjoy your stay.**

**Below: A diagram of the three stages of the Cu Chi Tunnels in
Vietnam 2012. Just a little bit of reminiscing.**



MINUTES OF THE 7RAR ASSOCIATION AGM HELD MITTAGONG RSL
SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2015

1. The President Mike O'Brien opened the meeting at 11.00am with 15 members present and 11 proxies held by the Executive Officer. Before we started the official business the President raised the subject of the passing of Alex (Blue) Thompson whose influence on the Battalion extended over the period of his being RSM on the first tour and then Adjutant and OC SPT Company 2nd tour. A soldier respected not specifically in 7RAR but throughout the Army, also in the Tasmanian Fire Brigade. There was a great representation from the Battalion members at his funeral held last Friday 5 June also the current Battalion sent a representative.
2. The following apologies were notified: Eric Smith, Bob Murdoch, Tony Williams, Mindy Sutherland and Jack Doulis.
3. The XO read a Synopsis of the minutes of the 2014 AGM.
4. The President proposed that any business arising from these minutes be raised during general business.

5. **ANNUAL REPORTS FROM:**

(a) **THE PRESIDENT:**

The President opened the meeting and thanked all those present and those who had submitted proxies. He particularly welcomed the three former Commanding Officers present, Major General Ron Grey, Colonel Ian Mackay and Brigadier Shane Gabriel.

He outlined the aims of the Association and summarized his views on how it might change its emphasis in the future. It may well be that the forthcoming Reunion may be the last major reunion for those members who had served in Vietnam. The future membership would see a decline in the number of these Vietnam Veterans.

It would be hoped that 7 RAR soldiers with service in Timor, Afghanistan and the recent past would join the Association in numbers to replace them. However, we need to take account that such new members are likely to emphasise electronic means of communication rather than newsletters and reunions. This made development of our internet site and email transmission of our Seven News and important priority.

He stated that the Association should aim to preserve our current financial standing. Lowering the cost of postage, soon to rise, by email distribution of the Newsletter was essential.

(b) SECRETARY'S/WEBMASTER :

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

Stats

The website draws between 10 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 2015 are in excess of three quarters of a million while visits total 65,000 for the same period.

The top country visitors are Australia, Netherlands, USA, Russia and France in that order. China seems to have lost interest and has been replaced by Germany.

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

Development. Wikipedia

The Battalion has appointed a Lieutenant, Jesse Spiller, to develop 7RAR's website at Wikipedia. To include articles there he needs valid citations so he writes the article, sends it to me and I vet it by talking to the people involved in the incident and then I post an article on the website providing Jesse with a citable reference. If we didn't do it this way then those who look for any opportunity to knock us diggers will delete or, at least, question the articles.

Facebook

There are two 7RAR Facebook pages, one official and one not so. The unofficial page allows for diggers to comment, vent their frustrations and/or check up on who's what and where. The official page, run by the Battalion, has a more formal outlook.

Facebook is the future and it is where young and savvy soldiers go for their news and views. This raises the question of what part does the website take in their day-to-day lives. Answer, I think, is not much. From my perspective the value of the website then, is in its historical content. It is, and will be, the repository of all data, resumes, Vale and Noticias notes, anecdotes, stories and history of the Battalion.

It is, and will continue to be, a point of reference and a cyber-memorial. Not a day-to-day blog on what is going on with us old guys or the current batch of diggers.

Noticas and Vale Notices

These are timely and well received. The limitation of the hard copy Newsletter is that if someone passes away, the day after Tony releases a Newsletter it is three months before some people read the Vale notices thus not allowing the opportunity to attend any services. I thought that by posting a Vale notice on the website I had done my duty but in a conversation with Jim Husband it became apparent that was not the case. He complained I didn't tell him what was going on anymore which brought me to the realization that we have a body of members, with Jim at the front of the queue, who do receive emails but don't visit the website.

Webmasters Newsletter

I have sent out four so far. They basically consist of items I have posted on the web. The newsletter gives a link to the website for each article and thus more people are being introduced to the website. It isn't a big step from Webmaster's Newsletter to Association Newsletter. I have 980 email addresses and I'm not getting kickbacks. This email list is based on the Database I developed for the Tweed Heads reunion and has been updated by Noel Biggins in his reunion communications.

We need to consider Emailing newsletters.

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. I need history, stories, anecdotes and personality resumes of the current soldiers. I need a contact.

Merchandise

I have been in contact with a Peter Newport, son of Peter Newport of 2nd Tour. He has a flair for graphics and has been producing merchandise for 7 RAR and other Battalions. I recently received an email from an ex 7RAR officer at London House looking for memorabilia to "let people know where I come from" and do you, for example, have any cuff links?

There might be a case to have less reunion specific merchandise at reunions and have a more general inventory available all the time.

That's all for now, Webmaster logging off

(c) TREASURER:

As you can see by the figures on the profit and loss report the Association showed a loss of \$13,305.00 for the financial year. This is the result of the membership fees paid for a five year period by the majority of members.

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2015

<u>Income</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Members' receipts	10,415	7,650
Interest received	1,379	1,794
Howard Trust	136	(197)
Fiducian Trust	47	668
Gross Profit from Trading	420	811
Total Income	12,937	10,726
<u>Expenses</u>		
Computer expenses	151	1,635
Donations	118	1,300
Gifts/Wreaths/Presentations	1,018	845
Office Supplies	1,693	1,445
Printing	11,461	11,527
Telephone & Internet	3,169	3,629
Other Expenses	570	-
Total Expenses	21,344	24,031
<u>Loss for Year:</u>	8,947	13,305

BALANCE SHEET AT 28 FEBRUARY 2015

<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cash and Cash equivalents	71,646	64,067
Other Receivables	11,551	6,851
Inventories	18,140	17,019
Total Current Assets	100,222	87,937
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	2,702	2,702
Total Assets	102,924	90,639
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Members Fees (Current Portion)	5,685	7,784
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>		
Members Fees (Non-Current Portions)	32,217	31,138
Total Liabilities	37,902	38,922
<u>Members Funds</u>	65,022	51,717

If any member has any questions about the financial report please contact the Treasurer.

(d) EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

The current membership of the Association stands at 1128, (about 160 serving members from 7RAR all are financial to this year), there are still 143 other members un-financial. Members can check their financial status by checking the first set of figures at the top left corner of their address label. As of January, I removed 47 members who were un-financial between the period 2005 and 2009, as at this meeting there are currently 143 members who have been un-financial since 2010 to 2014, I indicated in the April Newsletter that if they do not renew their membership by the next Newsletter I will remove them from the database and they will not receive any more newsletters.

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. It would appear that the cost of postage is about to rise substantially therefore cost of posting the newsletter will increase. It is on the agenda to consider the raising of membership fees, a practical raise to \$30.00 per year or \$120.00 for five years.

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

I would like to say that I am disappointed in the response by members to send in a proxy for the AGM, to date I have received 10, which fortunately covers the requirement for numbers for a quorum at the AGM this year. 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.

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

Tony Keech.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPOPRTS.

(a) Kevin gave the meeting a comprehensive report dealing with the website and explained to all present that the website was probably one of the most important mediums we have dealing with the members communication with one another via the many facets of the electronic media, i.e. Facebook, Wikipedia and all the modern means people use to contact each other.

7. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT ELECTION.

The Executive Officer advised the President that the current Committee members have all indicated that they wish to stand for re-election.

It was moved Mike O'Brien seconded Shane Gabriel the previous Committee of Management be re-elected. CARRIED

The following is the Committee of Management for 2015-2016:

PATRONS

Major General R. A. Grey, AO, DSO (Retd), (CO 7RAR 2nd tour);

Colonel E. H. Smith, DSO (Retd), (CO 7RAR 1st tour) and

Lieutenant Colonel D. McCammon, DSM, (Current CO 7RAR).

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR 2015-2016

PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN: MAJGEN MIKE O'BRIEN, CSC;

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: MR ROD LYONS;

VICE PRESIDENTS: BRIG SHANE GABRIEL, DSC;

COL MICK GARRAWAY, AM;

SECRETARY/WEBMASTER: MR KEVIN GILLETT;

TREASURER: MR BERNIE COX;

EXECUTIVE OFFICER/EDITOR: MR TONY KEECH, OAM;

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S: MR ROBERT MURDOCH;

MR BRICE STOKES; and

MR JOHN LAWSON.

HONORARY AUDITOR: MR BERNARD WORSLEY.

HONORARY LEGAL OFFICER: LTCOL LACHLAN MEAD; and

LIAISON OFFICER FOR WIVES/WIDOWS AND WELFARE:

MRS MINDY SUTHERLAND.

8. The President addressed the meeting.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Before we get into general business the president advised the meeting that he has been advised by the CO 7RAR that the SA Govt has indicated that they are prepared to approve a grant for the updating of the Battalion's History seeing as how we have now been involved in activities other than South Vietnam, namely, TIMOR LESTE, IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN.

The subject of the live mascot "THE PIG" was raised and the status is presently the animal is being cared for by someone off base as there was a conflict with the RAAF having a pig on the base. The pig is made available when the Battalion wishes to parade with it outside the base.

The XO also briefed the meeting on the subject of the two paintings that the Battalion has asked the Association to have produced during their two tours of Vietnam. The Bn 2IC, Major Lachlan McKenna has been the organizer of this project and he has advised that a well-regarded artist has been approached to do four paintings, two from our tours in Vietnam and two from the battalion's tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. The cost for each painting is \$500.00. He has assured me that the quality of the paintings seen by this artist is of good quality.

(a) The XO briefed the meeting, updating the progress of the October Reunion in Adelaide. The date for registering for the reunion has now closed and to date we have around 450 registered to attend. The Battalion has indicated that all SNCO'S and Officers will attend and the CO has indicated that some of the soldiers may attend but have been unable to commit to the activities due to not knowing the training program for the second half of the year at this stage.

(b). The subject of New Gonfalons was deferred to the Committee for a resolution in the future.

(c). OTHER BUSINESS:

(i). LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

The criteria dealing with the Subject of Life Membership of the Association was addressed by the XO, who advised the meeting that this detail was accepted by the 2014 AGM and is published in the Aug 2015 Seven News for all to see. While on this subject the XO advised the meeting that there were two nominations to be voted on for Life Membership at this meeting.

It is moved Don Cruden, Seconded Doug Fieldhouse that Geoff Murray be nominated for Life Membership of the 7RAR Association. The motion was CARRIED.

It is moved Rod Lyons, Seconded Robert Murdoch that Tony Keech, OAM be nominated for Life Membership of the 7RAR Association. The motion was CARRIED.

(ii). There was much discussion dealing with the subject of keeping in touch with our membership. In today's climate most are using the electronic medium for closer contact with each other in particular our current generation. This medium provides us with a method of members receiving the Newsletter and any other information via our website and or the other avenues i.e. Face Book, Email etc. If we use these mediums for delivery of the Newsletter it could be an opt in opt out system.

John Lawson raised the subject of the purpose of the Association and the management of the finances to ensure we keep control of these aspects in the future. The subject of the purpose of the Association dealing with the welfare support for our members and their dependents is generally handled by the veteran's agencies and we are not in any position to provide other than moral support to these members.

As far as the management of our finances is concerned the President advised the meeting that the committee will take a closer look at the overall financial situation over the next two months and establish a plan for the future.

(iii).WEBSITE:

The National Executive and other senior members of the Association will look at updating the current information of our more senior members of the Association.

(iv). ANZAC Day Sydney: Most of the major activities for ANZAC Day have been resolved with the Church Service back in and all other activities are organized on the day by those attending.

(v). RED SUPPORT OUR TROOPS BADGES:

It was resolved to take the remaining stock to Adelaide and dispose of them there.

((vi). Gurkha Support:

Rod Lyons advised the meeting that he was in the process of obtaining a Kukri from his contact to be raffled in Adelaide during the reunion I have also got a 2nd and 3rd prize with the proceeds to be forwarded to the Gurkha Support fund.

(vii). ANMC PETITION SUPPORT:

Rod Lyons opened discussion on the renewal of the Association to petition the Government to establish an Australian National Memorial Cemetery. The discussion centered on the proposal by Prime Minister Tony Abbot raising this issue last year. It was decided to establish a petition to be signed mainly at the reunion in Adelaide but also set one up on the website.

(viii). The XO briefed the meeting on the number of 2/7th BN AIF still on our database. The number advised to the meeting by the XO was three active members but on checking the database there are still 16 members receiving the Newsletter.

(ix).The subject dealing with support to our members, this falls into a number of categories, the main one is moral support when we are made aware of someone who is in need of our support we should lend our support whenever we become aware of this situation. Most of the veteran agencies can provide monetary support when a critical situation arises.

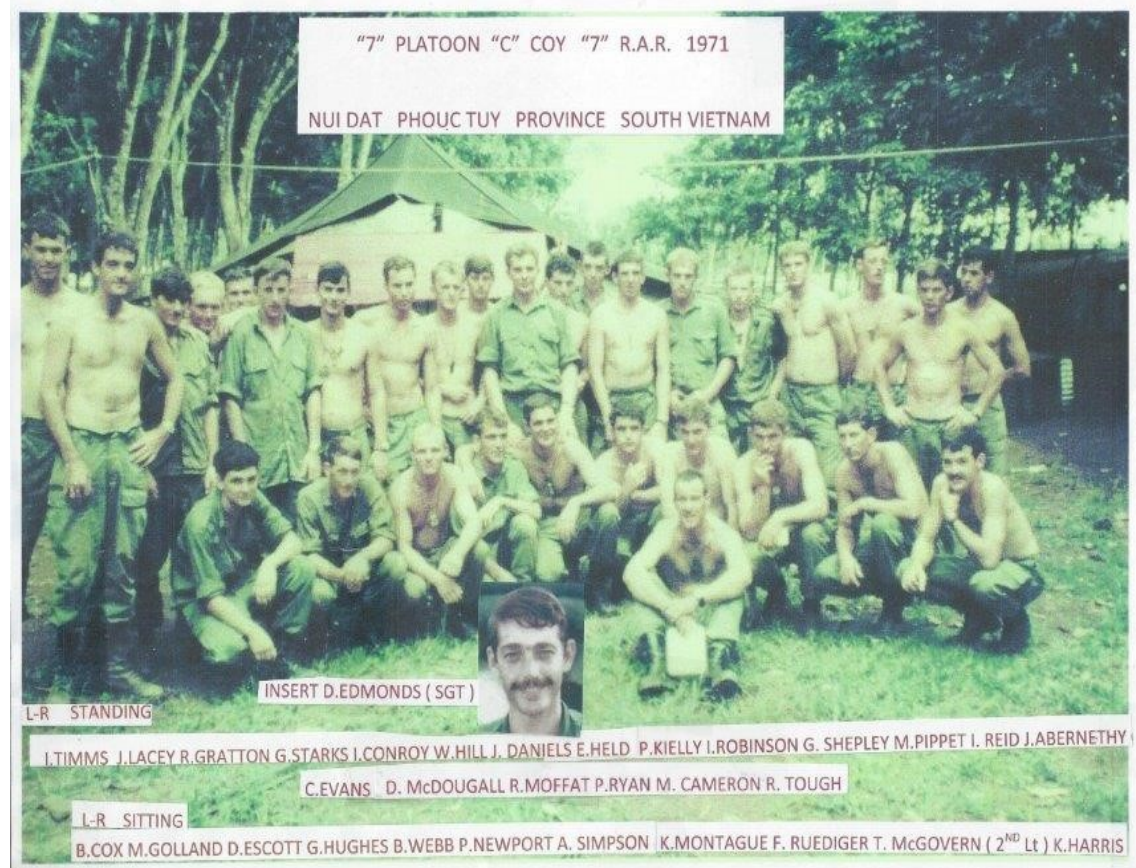
(x). The XO briefed the meeting dealing with the raising of membership fees. The fees have not changed since being raised to the current level of \$20 per year or \$80 for five years. This is needed with the proposal by Australia Post to raise the general postage from 60 cents to \$1.00 for normal letters and obviously an increase in larger items.

The proposal is to increase the fees as follows; \$30 per year or \$120 for a five year period. This will be a proposal at the Special General Meeting programmed for Adelaide.

11. The President called the meeting to order and be upstanding. The XO read the Honor Roll.

12. The ODE was offered.

13. The President closed the meeting at 1345hrs.



THE NEXT TWO PAGES MEMORIES FROM THE PAST.





No 83 smoke grenade marking the spot at Brigid - 1970

NDP BRIDGID 1970.



Home away from home at NDP Brigid - 1970

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

Greetings from WA to all PIGS, those who follow the original "Dancing PIG" and those who follow the ferocious "Boar". Remember, we are ALL PIGS and will always be PIGS.

ANZAC DAY - PERTH

Wonderful day in Perth for Anzac Day, a bit windy though, but fabulous weather and the crowds were amazing. Geoff Murray didn't march with us this year, but was asked by the RAR Association to march with a contingent of ten Aussies carrying Aussie flags and ten Kiwis carrying Kiwi flags, as part of the 100-year commemoration of the Gallipoli landing. He joined us later for the drinks and eats at Rigby's of course. We had an excellent turnout for the march, with more and more family members joining us as well, great to see. Albert Jacob MLA marched with us again, I believe 25 years without missing a march, in honour of his uncle Paul Navarre KIA 2nd Tour. John Bell, brother of Alec Bell KIA 1st Tour marched with us as well, although his son Ben carried the flag to honour Alec.

Many ladies were present as well, to name a few: Ann Cowen, Betty Baty, Nola Lamont, Midge Liddelow, Pam Bell (sister-in-law of Alec). Jock Henderson also managed the march, as did Bob Curry after both have had heart surgery recently. Glen Moore also had shoulder surgery three days prior but still managed to march, great effort guys. We raffled a mounted set of our Victoria Cross bookmarks at Rigby's after the march, very proudly won by Barry Hutchins who was thrilled. Peter Haynes and his wife, from the Gold Coast, were visiting and marched with us and joined us at Rigby's afterwards for a drink. They were on their way to explore more of WA, with next stop Albany and the Anzac Centre. Hope you have a great stay.

I've gotta say, Anzac Day in Perth keeps getting better, year after year and it's wonderful to see such a large herd of PIGS each year, with "Silver" Martin joining us this year, the first time he's been sighted for a long time, great to catch up mate. Also amazing is the number of mates from different units who just know that the PIGS are upstairs at Rigby's after the march. Spunky's daughter Lisa Fieldhouse sent in some photos that she took on the day so I have included them below:



Reg Bandy and granddaughter



Spunky's grandchildren Stevie Girl, Samantha, Shane, nephew Doug and Spunky



**Spunky and nephew Doug Fieldhouse (2/4 RAR)
(Note the “new” WA Caps)**

WARNING ORDERS - 7RAR WA

1. **Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans Gathering – this year 2nd to 8th November, it's a great week with lots of activities and a great way to catch up with old mates who may be touring the country and drop in.**
2. **Annual PIGS Swill – this year will be Thursday 26th November at Anzac House for lunch, see more details further in the notes:**
3. **Adelaide Reunion 15th to 18th October, if you need more details, check past newsletters.**

MEMBERS DETAILS - CHANGES

Note ALL WA members, if you change address, email address, phone number, any detail at all, please advise either Don on 9374 0014 or Geoff on 9448 3109 and we will advise national accordingly. This way we will be able to retain contact with our members.

MEMBERSHIP

For a lot of you, your membership runs out this year. Please have a look at the address panel on your latest 7RAR Newsletter, in the top left-hand corner is the year that you are paid up until. If in doubt, contact Don Cruden on 9374 0014, he will be able to sort it out for you.

Remember if you pay before the end of August, preferably 5 years for \$100, you can get in at the old rate. As of 1st September, the new rates will be:
1 year \$30, 5 years \$120, so get in early.

GALLIPOLI 2015

By the time you read this, the WA group of PIGS, families etc will have returned from their Gallipoli trip, to honour the four members of 7th Battalion A. I. F. who were awarded the Victoria Cross at the Battle of Lone in August 1915. We will be attending the Lone Pine ceremony at Lone Pine cemetery on August 6th, then the following morning attending the service at The Nek, the scene of the gallant charge by the 8th and 10th Light Horse. Everyone is really excited about the trip and we'll have the full story in the next newsletter.

MARCHING FOR ALEC BELL (by Ken Martin)

Receipt of an e-mail from Steve Chamarette concerning the park recently named after Alec Bell jogged my memory and I eventually found the attached certificate.

I travelled down from Muswellbrook in the Hunter Valley, where I was working, for the Welcome Home Parade in 1987 and not having anyone with me, I heeded a call to carry a flag for one of our soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Being an ex 7RAR member, I applied to carry one for someone from the Battalion and was handed the one to honour Alec Bell.

The naming of a park in Alec's honour is fitting recognition of his sacrifice and I agree when you hope that other towns will follow Victoria Park's example.

I should add that my wife, young son and a friend did travel down for the parade unbeknown to me and couldn't work out why they didn't see me with 7RAR. I have been forgiven!

Regards, Ken Martin

Great story Ken and thank you for sharing it with us.

See the attached certificate next page: A



AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES

WELCOME HOME PARADE

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

SATURDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 1987



Certificate of Participation

This is to Certify

KEN MARTIN

carried the Memorial Australian National Flag

in Memory of

PTE. A.E.J. BELL

7 R.A.R.

who lost his life in the service of his country

on

29TH JANUARY 1968

in the Republic of South Vietnam.


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

057

CERTIFICATE No.

AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES WELCOME HOME '87 PTY. LTD.

ANNUAL PIG SWILL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Christmas lunch has been booked for Thursday 26th November 2015 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 train stations
- 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 19th 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 Commonwealth Bank:
BSB 066132 Account 00913220
(Include your name so Don knows whom it's from)

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	geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au

Cheers - Geoff Murray

IN SEARCH OF NOK/RELATIVES

As you have probably read or heard over the past few months the Federal Government has offered to repatriate those members KIA in Vietnam who were buried in Terendak. The Office of Australian War Graves, (OAWG) are looking for the NOK/Relatives of PTE George Norman Allen, 7RAR who was killed in action on 10 November 1967. If anyone has any contact with any of those mentioned above please have them contact the OAWG at the following email:

wargraves@dva.gov.au. As has been advised by the DVA they are seeking approval from the families of those members buried overseas from the Vietnam Conflict to return their bodies to Australia.



Above: Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Ha Noi, Below: Crowd waiting to enter.



7RAR NEWS

Once again 2015 proves to be an extremely busy year for the 7th Battalion. The first six months have already set up the Battalion well for future operational commitments in early 2016. The transition from Reset to Readyng commenced with Exercise Predators Walk, conducted at Cultana with support from D-Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment, 1st Combat Engineer Regiment, 8 Close Health Company, 7th Signals Regiment and P3 Orions from 92 Wing RAAF.

Predators Walk was a gruelling five day activity that tested each company in an austere and complex environment. The exercise was structured as a progressive battle over 40km, commencing with dismounted patrolling followed by mounted M113 AS4 battle runs culminating with the establishment and conduct of a Main Defensive Battle with Anti-armour assets (Javelin MRAAW) in support. Individual companies were challenged and assessed within multiple complex environments, from village clearances, gas attacks to electronic warfare, concluding with a spectacular defensive battle, repelling multiple enemy armoured assaults.



Bravo Coy was fortunate enough to endure the hardships of the Jungle Training Wing at Tully. The 2 week exercise focused on individual, section and platoon level tactics in close country, culminating with Exercise True Grit. Bravo Company was reinforced by 9 Platoon, Charlie Company and the Duke of Gloucester Cup squad. This exercise confirmed SOPs and team building within an austere and challenging environment.



'The Battalion's focus remains expeditionary fighting in an austere environment against a sophisticated and difficult Enemy. As part of this we have also focused on combined arms training. Recently Charlie Company has participated in Exercise Reapers Run, held at Puckapunyal to support the School of Armours Regimental Officers Basic Courses (for both Tank and Cavalry Lieutenants), battling typical wet, cold and testing conditions. Concurrently, Support Company has been in support of 8/9 RAR Battlegroup on Exercise Talisman Sabre 15, working intimately with 1st Armoured Regiment's tank squadrons. Working with Armour and conducting live fire exercises is critical to developing the breadth of experience needed in today's modern Army.



7 RAR competed in the 2015 Australian Army Skill as Arms Meeting (AASAM) with sound results. As a team they placed 1st in the Obstacle Course shoot, and third in the Falling Plate shoot. Individually, PTE Todd Madden placed 24th overall in the domestic competition. He was named in the squad for the ADF to further compete in Britain early next year. PTE Abbott placed in the top 30 for the Self Loading Pistol Applied Marksmanship Practice. Snipers, CPL Kirstenfeldt and PTE Cross placed third overall in the AASAM Sniper Competition (separate from the main competition). These results demonstrate a commitment to marksmanship training in the 7th Battalion.



Forty members from the Battalion have been fortunate to assist various Special Forces activities as support staff. Conducting a wide range of activities from reinforcement cycle enemy party, airborne roping/rapelling and reality based training. In addition to exercise support, numerous specialised weapon system qualifications were attained, expanding the breadth of knowledge and skills within the Battalion. The opportunity for soldiers to be exposed to elite level training and tactics is invaluable to the unit.

Anzac Day marked a special day for the Battalion, commemorating not only the 100th Year Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, but the Battalion's 50th year as a unit. This was marked in true style with a commemorative photograph at Adelaide Oval with the Battalion as a whole including members from the Royal Australian Regiment Association, friend and families. It is a privilege that so many members of the 7RAR Association reside in the Adelaide area and could join us for such an event.



News from the Battalion and their current activities .

**PIGS IN SOUTH AUSSIE
ALWAYS IN ACTION.**

**WEB PAGE ANZAC DAY
GRAVESITE VISITS.**

**LONE PINE/SUOI CHAU
PHA**

COMING EVENTS



<http://www.7rarsa.asn.au> Checked out our page lately?

Regular visits to our web page are recommended as it is continually changing. Because dates and places of events may be changed due to external contingencies (A.K.A. SNAFUs) checking before heading out to an event may prevent personal explosions.

ANZAC DAY



What a fine body of men we were marching down King William Street to the cross of remembrance! If you look closely you will note some of the veterans from Afghanistan made up the final row. Their numbers increase yearly as more elect to march with their Battalion rather than with those from their war zone.

Sadly by the time of the photo our good mate Jock McKay had pulled out. He had lead being wheeled by his mate Ross as they crossed "To March together on ANZAC DAY" of their bucket list. Two days later Jock was admitted to hospital and died a week after the parade. Rest in peace mate.

GRAVESITE VISITS

By the time this News Letter is out you will probably have missed four of five visits to the grave sites of second tour soldiers on the 45th anniversary of their deaths in Vietnam. These short respectful commemorations, usually with family members present, include a toast to the service and fellowship of our departed comrade. Representatives of the Battalion attend whenever practical. A lunch follows each visit.

The photo below is of Stanley Larsson's grave, situated adjacent to his father's - a WWII veteran - and some of the members in attendance.



Remaining Visit is October 27 for Rex Davies at Stirling North Cemetery (Port Augusta) at 1100 hrs.

Lone Pine/Suoi Chau Pha Commemoration

A combined event was planned to be held at the Battalion however Brigade took over the Lone Pine Centenary Concept and made it a Brigade event. Suoi Chau Pha Commemorations to all 7RAR KIA was conducted at the lunch following.

To commemorate the sacrifice of the original 7th Battalion men the battalion had, as its Centennial Commemoration, acquired four direct descendent seedlings of the original Lone Pine of Gallipoli and planted them in the Memorial Garden. They were blessed by Battalion Padre Maj. Ken Schmidt. The Governor of South Australia , Mr Hieu Van Lee, AO, and Brigade Commander Brigadier Michael Ryan, then placed a poppy adjacent to each of the seedlings and commemorative plaques for each of the battalion's four recipients of the Victoria Cross for that engagement. Coincidentally the battle of Lone Pine commenced 52 years to the day prior to of the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha (6 August 1967) that is the date chosen by the Battalion to honour the supreme sacrifice of 7RAR personnel.

The photo below shows the seedling, plaque and poppy for Corporal William Dunstan VC. The Battalion's XO Maj. Lachlan McKenna read the citation for each VC as the poppies were placed in the ground. All in all it was a moving ceremony.



COMING EVENTS

1 September.

Invitation & Request on behalf of 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment

On 1 September the Governor General, His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AO will, as part of the Battalion's 50th Anniversary, open/consecrate the Memorial Rose Garden, at the Horseshoe Lines, Edinburgh RAAF Base.

All ex members of 7 RAR, along with their family members, are invited to attend. Further, persons willing to lay a poppy adjacent to the rose recognising one of our brother Killed in Action, are invited to volunteer their services to place a poppy adjacent to the rose of one they knew. Where practical a family member of the deceased will be invited to lay the poppy.

Provisional arrangements require your presence - with driver's license - at the RAAF Base Main Gate by 1000hrs on 1 September. Attendees will be escorted to the lines by Battalion personnel and escorted back to the gates at the conclusion of the event and subsequent activities.

Arrangements are being made for a lunch to then be held off base.

To facilitate the day's events will you please circulate this info to your mates and email Chris Ashenden cashende@bigpond.net.au the following info by 24 August:

Names of those expecting to attend the Ceremony and or lunch to follow,

Name of comrade(s) to be recognised by the placing a poppy.

Dress is tie, coat and medals.

As further info comes to hand our web page <http://www.7rarsa.asn.au> will be updated.

Members are urged to attend this historical event recognising those who made the supreme sacrifice and the import of the battalion on our lives.

October 15 - 17

"ANZAC to Adelaide".

So far only 12 volunteers are registered. This is insufficient. Even if you are not coming to the reunion there are ample opportunities to meet former comrades through volunteering your time. Members attending are welcome to join our volunteers. Please email Noel Biggins nbiggins@internode.on.net to register your availability.

There is no doubt the event is going to be remembered by participants as an outstanding commemoration and celebration.

November 13

AGM & lunch at Strathmore Hotel, North Terrace.

This will be our final gathering for the year and will bring to conclusion a most illuminative period in the time of SA Pigs. A number of current Committee Members (including myself) will be retiring. A new committee will need to be elected. Amongst matters likely to be addressed by the incoming committee are *developing involvement with younger diggers* and *addressing needs of those of the Vietnam era*.

2016

There will probably be a lessening of involvement by the Battalion. They have a heavy training schedule for the remainder of this year and well into the next year for; as things currently stand; the majority of personnel are scheduled for deployment to assist training of Iraqi forces in the middle portion of the year.

Looking forward to seeing many during the coming months of 2015 - & God willing, beyond

Cheers to all

Chris Ashenden, President of the Crow Eaters of Porky 7

LOOKING FOR!!

Members, please take note, on 7 August someone transferred \$80.00 into the Association's Bank Account under the name of Agent 13547, I have been unable to identify who the member is, if you are the member please contact the XO either by email: porky_seven@bigpond.com or phone (m) 0418 624 211. For all members if using the direct deposit or internet transfer to pay your membership fees please use your name or membership number, also let me know by email or a phone call please.

Tony Keech, XO/ED

PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

2015 Anzac Day

Melbourne turned on its finest weather for Anzac Day 2015 - cold and wet. It didn't dampen too many of us and 7RAR put on a fine show as usual. There was a fair bit of confusion regarding the Order of March but



it all settled down - eventually. The confusion was caused by the wrong order being advertised in 'Mufti' but the RAR Association will be working to overcome this for 2016 - more details in the first 2016 Newsletter. One highlight of the March was the magnificent display of knitted poppies lining both sides of Princess Bridge - these were part of the 5,000 Poppies Project (I think a couple of zeros should have been added to the final total). These poppies had been on display in Federation Square and then moved to the bridge for Anzac Day. It made a wonderful display with the rain actually adding to the effect. Note all the umbrellas, which didn't seem to reduce the crowd too much.



Melbourne Dawn Service

A very close friend of 7RAR - Neville 'Nobby' Clark MC - gave the Dawn Service address at the Shrine this year, all without notes. If you missed it I recommend you look it up on the internet. The web address is www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-25/melbourne-remembers/6420794 Cut and paste it into your browser and see a new perspective on Gallipoli. It's worth it.

Seymour Walk - May Meeting

Unfortunately we were not stampeded with other members for our meeting held at Seymour - but the visit to the remarkable memorial there was worthwhile and enjoyed by the participants who made the trip up the Hume.



LtoR: Tom Bourke, Allan McGuinness, Ian Dunn

Judging by the photo, Allan must have been recalling Vietnam.

2015 Lone Pine Centenary Ceremonies (6th and 8th August)

Being the Centenary Year for the bloody battle at Lone Pine there has been a number of ceremonies to commemorate this event.



On Thursday 6th August a number of us gathered at Wattle Park to remember this battle at the foot of one of the earliest Lone Pines. It was grown from a cone taken from the original 'Lone Pine' and brought back to Australia by PTE Thomas McDonnell. Other seedlings from that cone were given to the Shrine or planted in Terang and Warrnambool. The service was timed to coincide with the whistle blast that launched the attack. Representatives from 7thAIF, 2nd/7th AIF and 7RAR attended.



On Saturday 8th August we had the dedication of Moonee Valley's own 'Lone Pine' in Queen's Park, Essendon. The sapling was a gift to the city from the 58th/32nd Infantry Battalion Association in recognition of the many soldiers drawn from the Essendon area militias who helped form 7th AIF under then LTCOL Harold 'Pompey' Elliott.

The sapling was grown from a cone of the Australian War Memorial's 'Lone Pine' and was described as a 'granddaughter' of the original Pine. Padre (CAPT) Mark Dunn blessing of the sapling and plaque was very appropriate to the setting. Into an upturned WW1 helmet he poured water from an army canteen then used a sprig of flowering wattle to sprinkle the water.

Aleppo Pines

I had a visit from a member of my old Scout Troop just as I came back from Queens Park. He is a landscape designer and recalled that one of his briefs was to formulate the plantings for the Sunshine mosque some 25 years ago. Part of his design was the use of (slow-growing) pines as a windbreak - it wasn't until just recently he realised that he had chosen Aleppo Pines - very appropriate as the mosque catered for the Turkish community.

All the 7s Shrine Pilgrimage/ Suoi Chau Pha (9th August)

Our annual visit to the Shrine had an added importance for us this year as it was the centenary and we had a fair representation from members of the 7th AIF and 2nd/7th descendants – as well as the very welcome presence of ‘Nobby’ Clark MC.



A wreath honouring the KIAs of all the 7s (1915-2015) was laid by Rob Arnott. The Shrine Trustees always give us a lot of assistance to hold our ceremony and we are grateful to them for their help. We concluded the day's activities with a casual Suoi Chau Pha lunch at the Limerick Arms Hotel. ‘Pearly’ Gates made the trip from Mt Dandenong to catch up.

Allan McGuinness – Recovery List

We won't go into any lectures about ‘makeshift ladders’ and climbing same above a certain age. We have been missing Allan's attendance recently and hope his femur heals quickly. Friend should be gentle with him when they ring to offer their advice and condolences.

Parting Shot

“I've always loved pigs: the shape of them, the look of them, and the fact that they are so intelligent” - *Maurice Sendak*

Bill Anderson (0419-877-463)

GURKHA WELFARE TRUST RAFFLE - ADELAIDE RE-UNION

2015

Following the success of the 7RAR Association Raffle in support of the Gurkha Welfare Trust at our Melbourne Reunion in 2012 it was agreed that we run a similar raffle at our Adelaide Reunion in October 2015 to support the Gurkhas and their families; especially after the disastrous earthquakes of recent times which left many Nepalese dead and injured. The amount of \$3,000 was raised in 2012 and on receipt the GWT acknowledged the donation from 7RAR with sincere thanks and much appreciation.

Our prize in Melbourne, a genuine Nepalese Army Kukri, was won by Wally Harris. This was more than appropriate as he had served with Gurkha troops in Borneo in 1970 after his SVN tour of duty.

For our Adelaide Reunion we have had another genuine kukri sent over from Nepal as our major prize for the 2015 Raffle. However this year we have two additional prizes for the raffle.

Prizes:

1st Prize - A genuine Nepalese Army Gurkha Kukri

2nd Prize - Official Coin Collection - Royal Australia Mint

Anzacs Remembered WW1 1914-18

(14 mint coins, cards in a special booklet)

3rd Prize - The Hall of Valour - 100 Australian VC Winners

100 VC recipients stamps - mint 70c with photos

Name, Year, Conflict, Unit, Place of Action, in order

We look forward to all our 7RAR members participating in this raffle at the 2015 Adelaide Reunion in support of a very worthy cause for our 'brothers in arms', in a country that has recently suffered great hardship. Let's see if we can *raise the bar* on our efforts from our 2012 Reunion.

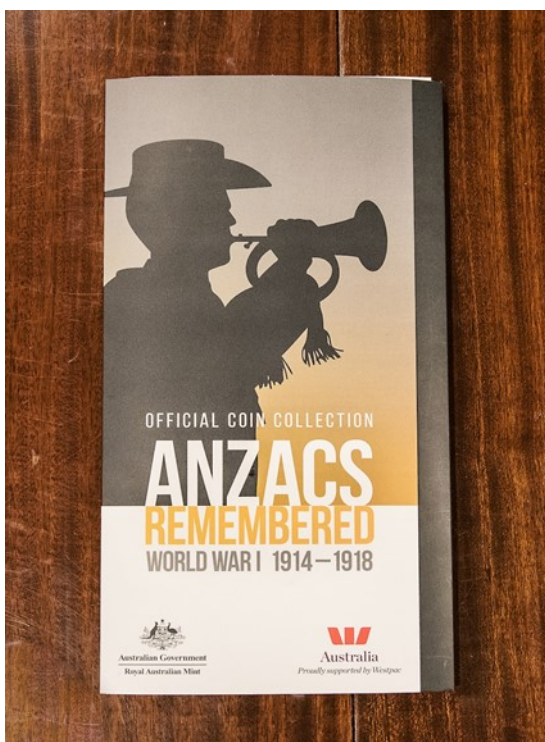
Rod Lyons

1Pl A Coy 2nd

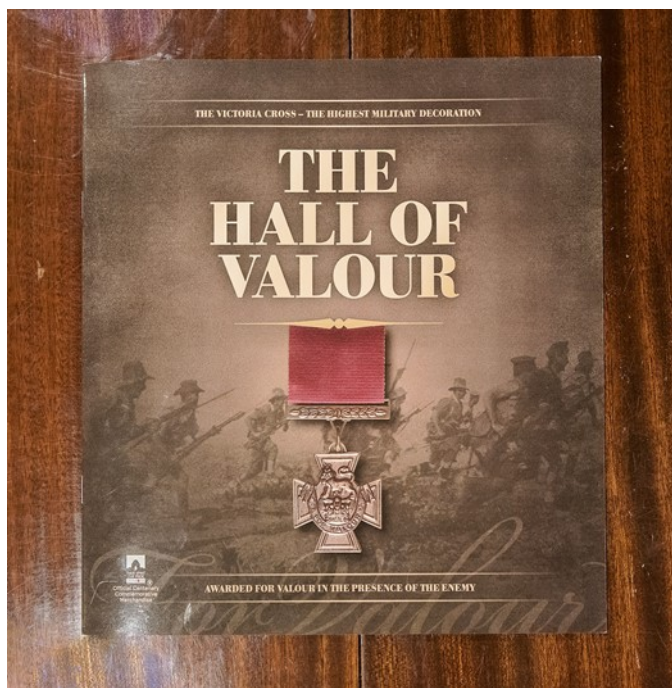
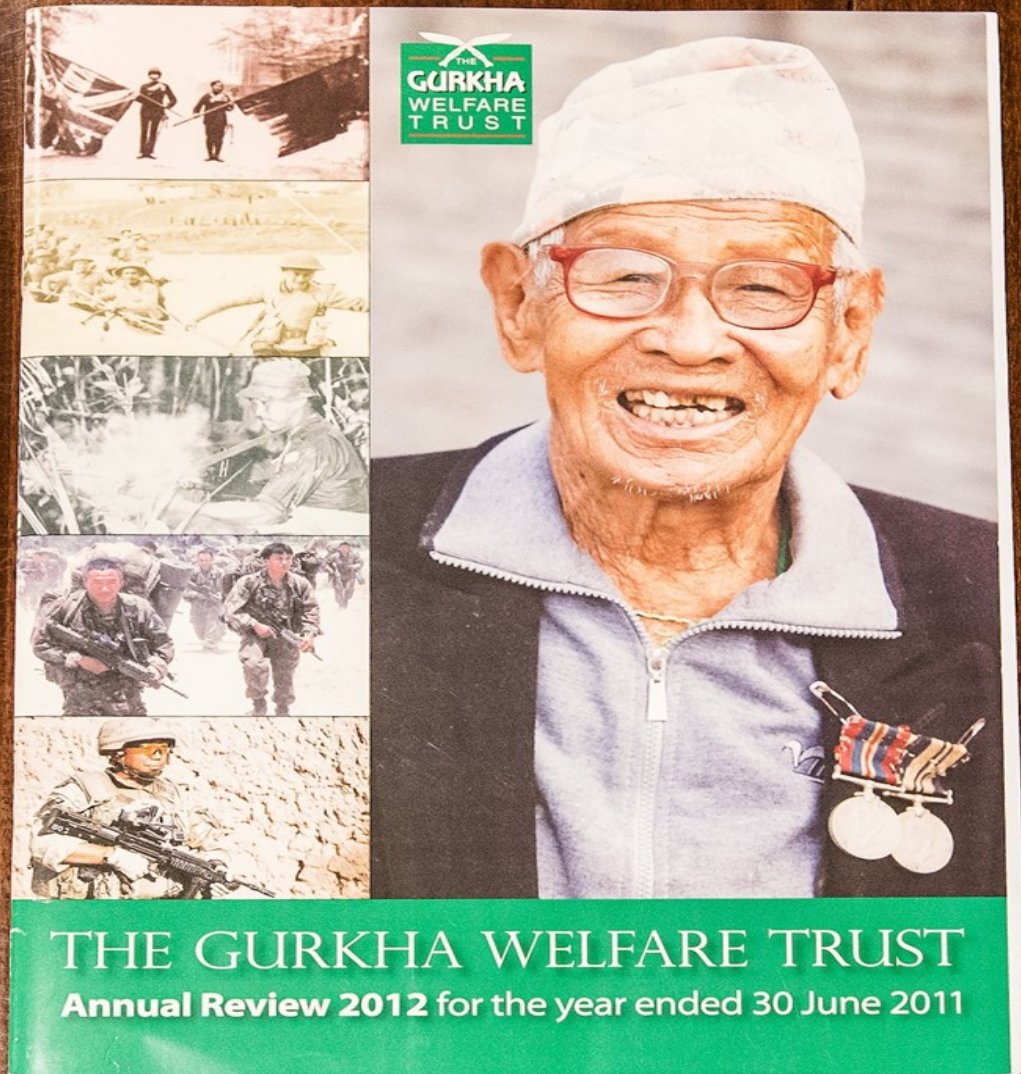
GURKHA RAFFLE PRIZED



THE KUKRI



ANZAC COIN COLLECTION



HALL OF VALOUR STAMPS

NEWS FROM SYDNEY

GOLD CARDS (over 70's!!)

For those of us who have never had a "Gold Card"- a DVA Health Card - take note. Once you turn 70 years of age, as Returned from Active Service veterans, you are entitled to apply for and receive a Gold Card from DVA. Ensure you apply to DVA asap on or before your birthday, as there are copious forms to fill in and it all takes time, weeks if not months.

You will then have to sort out if you remain in your current health care scheme, or part of it, or toss it in and depend on the DVA health conditions when dealing with medical, dental, optometrist appointments, public transport etc., not quite as straightforward as it appears, so check it out.

7RAR ASSOC'N RAFFLE - ADELAIDE RE-UNION IN SUPPORT OF THE GURKHAS

Please be aware that we are having a Raffle, as we did in Melbourne in 2012, to raise funds for the Gurkhas whose country Nepal has suffered catastrophic disasters in recent times. Please support this worthy cause in Adelaide with three terrific raffle prizes - see specific details elsewhere in this newsletter.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY (ANMC) PETITION

It is proposed that a 7RAR Assoc'n Petition will be available in Adelaide to sign for those of us who support the idea of an Australian National Memorial Cemetery (ANMC), similar to the USA's Arlington National Memorial Cemetery in Washington D.C. - a resting place for both servicemen & servicewomen. We have discussed this issue for some years and the most preferred venue would be our national capital Canberra ACT. You can read details by checking out Arlington on Google.

Our proposed petition will have space for: Name, Service #, Active Service Venue, Date(s), Soldier's Signature.

SYDNEY BASED 7TH BN GONFALON'S

It has been decided to hold our three special Gonfalons at the 7RAR HQ in Adelaide where they will receive daily exposure with our current active soldiers. In Sydney they only appear twice annually, at the Garrison Church services on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, to a small group of Sydney church-goers. At these Sydney services they will be replaced with the new gonfalon which has emblazoned on it our updated battle honours.

Look forward to seeing you all in Adelaide in October.

Rod Lyons

Pigs in Paradise

Winter months send us indoors so not much has happened in the sunshine state including not much sunshine, or warmth for that matter.

Not quite paradise as we struggle with very cold nights (below 10 degrees) not long after we had a rain event that dumped about 200 ml of rain in a couple of hours. My house is on top of a hill but still flooded and 10 weeks later the city, and my house are just getting fixed.

Went to Kenilworth to escape the city and bumped into Eddie and Marge Edmonds at Maleny. They are looking forward to the Adelaide reunion.

Had lunch recently with Stony and Robyn Bourke (Pnrs) and Col and Cheryl Rowley(Recce) at the new pub at Bribie just short of the bridge. If you are in the area visit the pub as it totally rewrites what a pub should be.

From the Webmaster

This item appeared in the website this week and as I know a lot of you don't visit the website I have reproduced it here.

Fortunes of War Plaque



Fortunes of War Hotel April 1995

Fortune of War Hotel, The Rocks Sydney

Originally this all started when Justin Jordan, 11 PL 1st tour, bought a pub in Paddington (The Four in Hand) and from the early seventies, ANZAC Day was celebrated there for many years. We moved from there to the Bellevue Hotel. Justin was instrumental in organising this venue for the Welcome Home Parade festivities in 1987.

Our D. Coy group and a few second tour guys, have laid a wreath at Regimental Square immediately after the Dawn Service for all these years. Since 1991, when Justin became manager at The Fortune of War, we have had breakfast there before going to The Garrison church service at 8AM.

When we first went to The Fortune, a WW2 mountain battery held a service in the bottom bar where they had many photos on the wall. This impressed us; the way they conducted themselves with respect and dignity and how it was done. We discussed putting a plaque above the fire place with the honour roll on it. Justin being a resourceful fellow procured the plaque which was an advert for rum or whiskey, had the writing machined off and "Honour Roll" inscribed.

During modifications to the hotel, we were asked to remove the plaque. Rod Lyons discussed this with John Binnie and myself and decided to present it to 7RAR.

We have breakfast there now before our church service and after the march; we go to Club 99 York Street, which has great facilities.



Back row: John Binnie , Daryl O'Keefe, Jim Husband Middle Row: Bill Cowie, Rod Lyons, Justin Jordan, Bob Moore, Jim FitzSimons Front Row: Ken Ward, Ron Allan, Ken Haynes

From Bob Moore

The next Webmasters Newsletter is being produced and will be released mid August

Webmaster logging off Kev Gillett

LOOKING BACK 2003 REUNION IN WAGGA WAGGA



7RAR IN AFGHANISTAN 2007

