February 2003 Volume 1 Issue 1



# Seven News

This newsletter is the official publication of 7Th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association Inc.

Incorporated in Queensland - No 1A - 13547
Postal Address: PO Box 8143, WERRINGTON COUNTY, NSW 2747

Email: porkyseven@bigpond.com Homepage: http://www.7rar.asn.au

#### " Dear Members

I trust you had a safe and enjoyable festive season and that 2003 gives you numerous opportunities to catch up with your mates. By now you will be aware that we recently lost two of our stalwart members in Ron Sigg and Peter Amos. Both made significant contributions to the Army and our Battalion and will be sorely missed. On a brighter note, Tony, Bob May and myself met in Wagga Wagga recently to progress Reunion planning. I am pleased to report arrangements are well advanced and we are confident you will enjoy this major activity in our Associations calendar. Please advise Tony of your attendance even if it is tentative at this time. On your behalf I am pleased to congratulate Ken Bladen on being made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his tireless work for veterans in WA through the RSL. Well done Ken. Finally, I encourage all members to attend Anzac Day activities and to remember not only those who fell beside us in Vietnam but also those who have passed away since and those of 5/7RAR currently on active service in East Timor.

Lest we forget

David"

#### REUNION ATTENDANCE WAGGA WAGGA 15-18 AUGUST 2003

Listed on the following pages are the names of those members and their wives/partners and guests who have indicated they will be attending the Association reunion in Wagga Wagga over the period 15 - 18 Aug 2003. If you are planning to attend the activities, specifically the Dinner and your name is not on this list please fill in the form on page 6 and return it to the address on the form ASAP. Numbers attending need to be finalised not later than the 31 MARCH 2003 to ensure a suitable venue is secured for our dinner, to be held on Sat 16 Aug, numbers are critical as there are limited venues with seating capacity to cater for over 420 seated.

The most suitable venue to seat up to 420 is without doubt is the Wagga Wagga RSL Club, at the time of publication of this newsletter, the total number of members/spouses/partners/guests who have sent in their form totals 277, however, I am aware there are a number of members who have made reservations for accommodation but have not notified me of their intention to attend. Facilities in the Wagga Wagga area that can seat a group of around 420 are very scarce therefore, if you don't advise me of your intention to attend and you show up and we exceed the above number then some people will be disappointed. Therefore I ask all members to advise me by the close of business Monday 31 March 2003 if you are planning to attend the dinner on Saturday 16 August 2003.

ONCE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN FINALISED AND COSTING SET MEMBERS ATTENDING THE DINNER WILL BE ASKED TO PAY IN ADVANCE. WHEN PAYMENT IS RECEIVED A TICKET WILL BE SENT TO MEMBERS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE RECEPTION DESK TO OBTAIN ENTRY INTO THE VENUE. IF A MEMBER PAYS IN ADVANCE FOR THE DINNER AND IS UNABLE TO ATTEND, A REFUND WILL BE ARRANGED IF ADVICE OF NON-ATTENDANCE IS CONFIRMED WITH THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY 14 AUG 2003. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER WILL BE ON LOCATION IN WAGGA WAGGA FROM WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 2003 AND CAN BE CONTACTED AFTER LUNCH, BY PHONE ON (M) 0418 624 211 OR AT THE RSL CLUB MOTEL ROOM 10, IF OUT LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH RECEPTION.

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I encourage maximum attendance at this reunion for a number of reasons, least of all the location is fairly central, also we are all getting older and this opportunity now only comes around every three years, so roll up and reunite with all your old mates tell a few fibs and generally have a great time reminiscing your service in "THE SEVENTH", IF YOU DON'T COME YOU WILL RGRET IT IN THE FUTURE MARK MY WORDS.

Included in the newsletter is a new order form for reunion merchandise that will be available for purchase. All previous orders advised to the Executive Officer will be cancelled and new orders will be accepted only on the form enclosed with this Newsletter. Each piece of merchandise is illustrated in colour with the price quoted for your benefit to enable selection, orders will only be placed with the manufacturer for those orders received by the Executive Officer on the attached form. Members are asked to ensure that the correct size is provided for each item as no spare sizes will be ordered. The President and Executive Officer have seen the Items to be supplied and can assure the members that the quality is very good. Extra items may be ordered during your stay in Wagga, if sufficient time is given or you want the item on-forwarded to your home address, see XO on arrival for details.

On Friday 15 August a reception desk will be set up inside the RSL Club in "Champions Corner" adjacent to the entrance from the Motel side of the Club, the desk will be manned by members of the association during the day commencing at 10.00am. Members can check in at the desk where visitor information packs, activity sheets and your pre-paid merchandise will be available for collection. The Executive Officer/Treasurer and other members of the Management Committee will be available to assist with any problems members may have.

The visitor information packs provided are a very comprehensive guide to the local area and surrounds and provides you with all the necessary information on a variety of organizations, services, tourist attractions essential services and where necessary emergency services available in and around Wagga Wagga. Some members will have received this pack from Laurene King at the visitor information centre advertised in the last Seven News, more will be available from the information desk on 15 Aug.





# Fri 15 Aug 2003 :-

From 10.00am Information desk manned inside RSL Club.

(members are asked to check in at the desk during the

day to collect merchandise and info sheets on activities)

6.30pm Informal get together and welcome by President at RSL

Club. (Attendance optional, club bistro open for meals

as required, chance to meet up with old mates.)

# Sat 16 Aug 2003 :-

10.30am Form up in assemble area, (Bob May Marshall).

11.00am Participate in Vietnam Veterans Day March as part of

Riverina Group, (Medals to be worn). Wreath laying at

Cenotaph at completion of march.

6.30pm Assemble at RSL Club for Dinner. (Dress, Coat & Tie

with medals, ladies after five).

7.00pm Move into Dinner. (When all assembled 7RAR Gonfalon

will be marched in, also vacant chair to represent

absent comrades.)

# Sun 17 Aug 2003 :-

11.00am Special General Meeting, (RSL Club). Presentation by

David Webster on progress of Pictorial History.

(Lunch available after meeting, members to indicate

attendance on form at page 6.)

# Mon 18 Aug 2003 :-

Time TBC Attend the dedication ceremony for the Vietnam Veter-

ans Legion, Riverina Branch at Army Recruit Training

Centre Kapooka.

Time TBC 7RAR Memorial Service, Soldiers Chapel, Army Recruit

Training Centre, Kapooka. The format will be, service inside chapel to be conducted by Chaplains to be led by Fr Keith Teefey, Chaplain 7RAR 2nd Tour. After short service inside chapel congregation to move outside to 7RAR Plaque where service will be concluded. This will conclude the organized activities, members will be free

to go their own way from here.

# **D COY 1<sup>st</sup> TOUR REUNION**

#### THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2003 AT WAGGA

The Platoon Commanders of Delta Seven – 1<sup>st</sup> Tour wish to advise all members of the Company that there will be a reunion at Wagga at 7pm on Thursday 14 August at a restaurant to be advised. It will be a pay-as-you-go meal. All Atts and Dets are most welcome to join us, so if you know of any Gunners, Sappers, MFCs or Pioneers who served with us in SVN, please tell them about this special function.

Contact: Ross Ellis: (02) 62863797(H) or 0412 122330 (M)

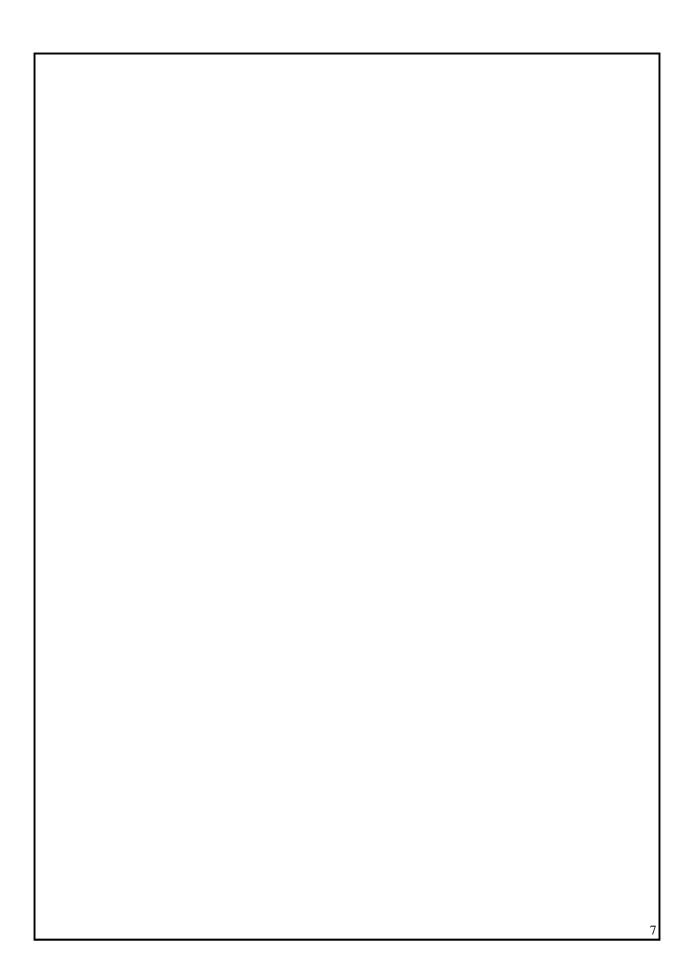
# **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES/PHOTOS**

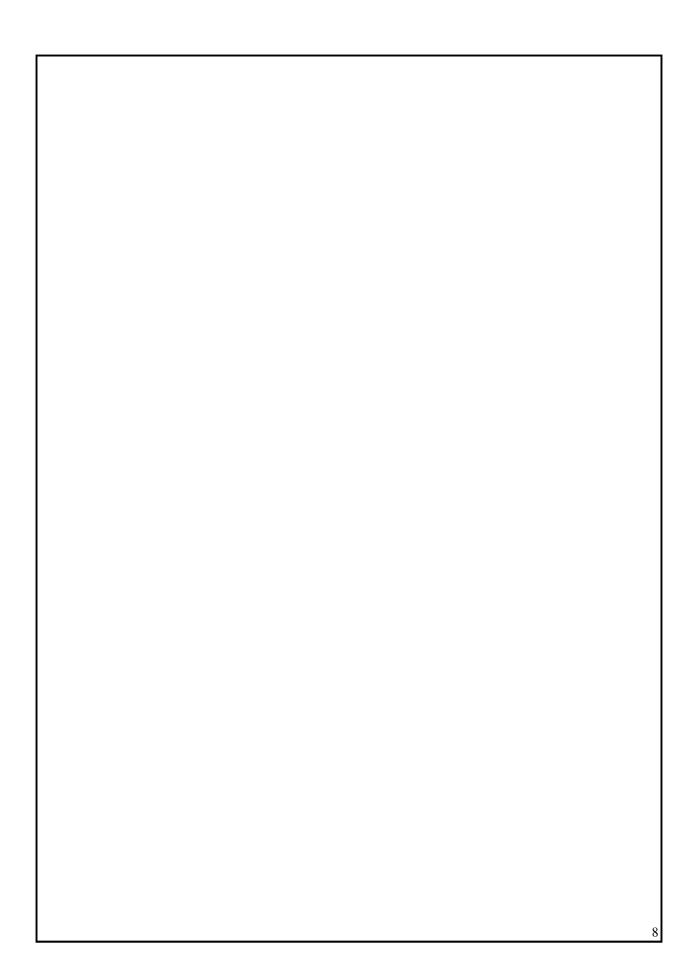
Much material is received by the editor for inclusion in the various newsletters and only a certain amount can be published in each issue. If you have sent in material for the news and it is not included in the next issue then I apologise for the omission but will try and publish it in a future issue.

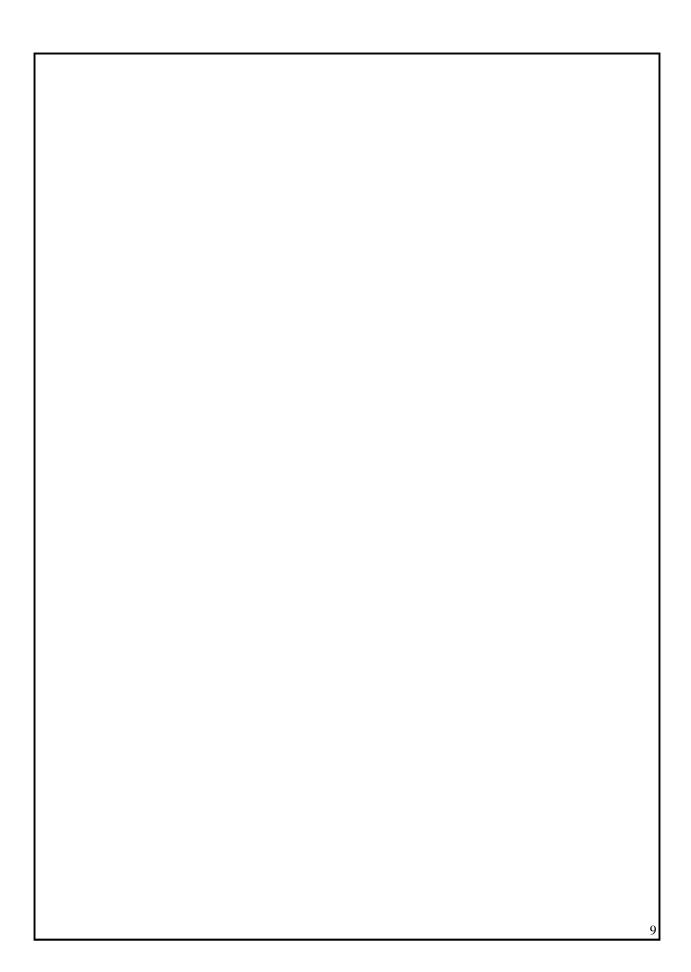
Tony Keech XO/ED

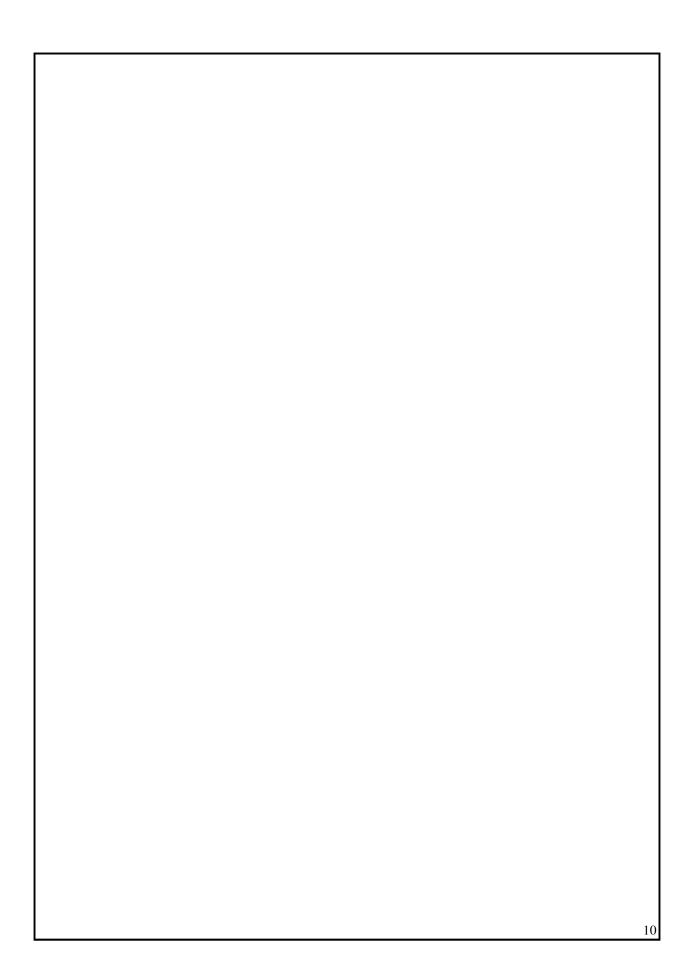
# <u>REUNION 2003 QUESTIONNAIRE</u> [PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE XO BY 31 MAR 2003]

Membership Number PlatoonCoyYear
NameAddress
Phone (h) ( ) (w) ( )
Email@
It is my intention to attend the Association reunion in Wagga Wagga over the period Fri 15 August and Monday 18 August 2003. Please include my name on the attendance list for the Association Dinner to be held Saturday Evening. Estimated cost per head is \$40.00 for the dinner.
I will be accompanied by the following: -
NameRelationship NameRelationship NameRelationship
After the Special General Meeting on Sunday 17 Aug lunch will be available I will also be attending the lunch, total numbers for catering purposes will be Estimated cost of lunch will be \$20.00 per head.
Please return the above form to: 7RAR ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 8143
WERRINGTON COUNTY
NSW 2747
OR
FAX (02) 4721 3772
OR
Email: - porkyseven@bigpond.com









DIANNE GARRY WILLIAMS CHRISTA WOOD

WHITTINGTON
RUTH WILLIS ROSEMARY WOOD

KEVYN WILLIAMS

DAVID WILLIS MARY WRIGHT ANN WILLIAMS

KEN WOOD KEN WRIGHT

ANTHONY WILLIAMS

Please note that this list is in alphabetical order, be sure that your partners name is listed if not the same as your surname. The above list is correct as at 11 Feb 2003.

#### STILL SERVING

storey of interest came to mind when I received a Christmas card from one Lieutenant Colonel Ian Robinson, CSM, Deputy Commandant, Regional Training Centre, NSW, I thought that it would be of interest to members of the Association to be reminded that we still have ex-members of 7RAR still serving in the Regular Army today. One is the member referred to above and the other is Warrant Officer Brian Boughton, OAM, The current Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army. (To my knowledge the only two still serving)

On behalf of all members of the Association I would like to congratulate the above mentioned members and wish them good luck and good soldiering for having served their country with such distinction and dedication. If anyone else is still serving the nation in the Regular Army I would be happy to acknowledge them in the Newsletter.

Tony Keech XO/ED

# **WANTED**

Eddie Gooch A3 is looking for Rodney "Ron" Owens.

Alan Collins A2 is looking for "Snozzzz" Hayes.

Mindy Sutherland is looking for J. A. K. Scott DCM, 4 RAR.

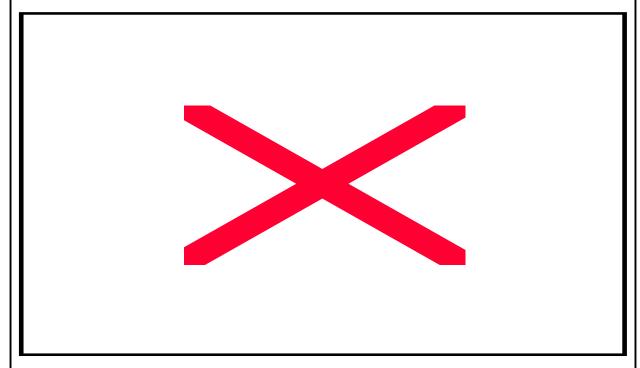
## SYDNEY GET TOGETHER

On Wednesday 18 Dec 2002 some of the "Sydney Pigs" had a Christmas lunch at the Ryde Ex-Servicemen's Club to discuss some pertinent points about the arrangements for ANZAC Day 2003 and other general points related to the activities of the Association in the Sydney metro area. A flyer will be sent out to all metro area members to gauge the feelings of where to gather after the march. As you can see there was a good roll up for the lunch, one of these is held about every two months so if you are interested in attending please contact Len Schulz on the foll:

Ph (h) (02) 9613 9587 or (w) (02) 9808 5222.

Standing left to right:

Len Schulz. Mathy Hoenslaars, Tony Keech, Steve Taylor, and Tony Williams

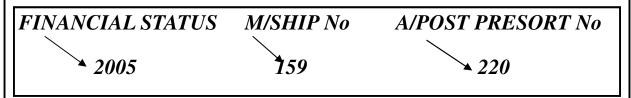


Seated - left to right:

John Abernathy, Terry Harper, Tim Avery, Bernie Cox, Rye Cook and Rod Lyons.

# YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER/GENERAL POINTS

Any members ask about their membership number, your number appears on the address label of the Newsletter, all address labels, (except those for overseas members) show three sets of numbers at the very top of each label, (see specimen below). These numbers in order from the left are: The left hand number is the year your financial status as a member expires, the middle number is your membership number and the right hand number is an Australia Post area presort number, (Australian residents only).



A syou renew your membership the Association Membership Card will be sent to you, on the front, your membership currency date is stamped on the bottom right hand corner, on the back details show your name, your sub-unit if known and your membership number, please use your membership number in all correspondence or when requested as it makes identification via the Association data base quick and foolproof.

If you are intending to move or have moved from your last advised address please let me know to facilitate the prompt delivery of your newsletter or any other correspondence. When sending money to the Association for any reason please make all cheques/money orders payable to 7RAR Association, please <u>DO NOT SEND CASH</u> through the post. If you are sending a money order please fill in your details on the back of the money order. From experience some mail does go astray in transit, if you have sent your membership renewal to me and you do not receive a letter and your new membership card within a reasonable time please contact me ASAP, it may have gone astray. Tony Keech. XO/ED

#### New Members/Re-enlistees since last Seven News

Please amend details in last issue as follows: email address for Peter Mc Grath should read: petermac1@ozemail.com.au. Email address for Greg Jacka reads: gjacka@pahth.com.au.

David John Fairweather 137 Nearra Street DEAGON QLD 4017 Ph (07)3869 4236 - A3 2nd Arthur James Dennis 93 Darling Crescent MT ISA QLD 4825 Ph (07) 4743 8254 - MORS 1st

Adrian William Taylor 5 Cronulla Drive REDWOOD PARK SA 5097 Ph (08) 8251 4885 - B4 2nd John Edwin Matthews 26 Cannan Crescent MACGREGOR ACT 2615 Ph (02) 6255 1333 - C7 1st Email: johnmatt@bigpond.net au

Arthur David (Joe) Wass 3 Breen Street SARINA QLD 4737 Ph (07) 4943 0959 - C9 1st Peter James Hedrick 289 Great Ocean Road APOLLO BAY VIC 3233 Ph (03) 5237 6302 - C/CHQ 1st Email: Hedrick@vicnet.net.au

Ian Stanley King Innes Street BINNAWAY NSW 2395 Ph (02) 6844 1577 - F/Aslt 1st

Joseph Anthony Doyle 21 Dominic Parade MELTON VIC 3337 Ph (03) 9743 4349 - A3 1st

Geoffrey Graham Chandler 18 Alexander Ave MODBURY NORTH SA 5092 Ph (08) 8395 7303 - B 2nd

Mervyn John Eaton 8/5 Crabtree Mews O'CONNOR WA 6163 Ph (08) 9314 5495 - C Coy 65/67

Robert <u>Dean</u> Lemmich "The Folly"
Beaconsfield Road
OBERON NSW 2787
Ph (02) 6336 3581 - BC Party 1st

Michael Harding (Mick) Straker 14 Plumer Street CROYDON VIC 3136 Ph (03) 9725 4072

#### New Members/Re-Enlistees cont

William Leslie (Bill) Charlton 25 Heron Circuit YAMBA NSW 2464 Ph (02) 6646 8130 - D12 Pucka 65/66 Email: BILLCHAR@TPG.COM.AU

Anthony John Wright Church Road HAMILTON VIC 3300 Ph (03) 5572 1330 - A1 2nd Email: wrighta.e@ansonic

Peter Anthony Ward 37 Dudley Street FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011 Ph (03) 9332 8401 - D12 1969 Email: waw@ iprimus.com.au Maxwell Arthur Palmer 29 River Street NYAH VIC 3594 Ph (03) 5030 2867 - B6 1st

Graeme Anthes 18 Waigani Street BLI BLI QLD 4560 Medic 1st tour

Ian Thomas Mc Naughton PO Box 1409 BROOME WA 6725 Ph (M) 0417 921 326

#### **New tax Return for late submissions**

# THE NEW TAX SYSTEM AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE 1040 EZ 2 DO - TAX FORM New Simplified Tax Form for 2002 Taxes 1. How much money did you make? \$\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Send it to us,

# <u>Vale</u>



As one by one, the autumn leaves fall in the forest deep.

So one by one, to each must come the touch of sleep.

As one by one, the roses burst awake again beyond the light.



So one by one, the soul shall awaken beyond the night.

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

Norman Laurence Curby 1st tour, passed away in 2002.

Robert George Martin, AM, RFD, 1st tour, passed away on 10 Oct 2002

Raymond Patrick Smithson, 1st tour, passed away in Dec 2002

Thomas Edward (Paddy) Clarke, 3 Pl, A Coy, 1st tour, passed away 15 Dec 2002

William Henry (Bill) Michael, 8 Pl, C Coy, 2nd tour, passed away 31 Dec 2002

Russell Harvey Sleeman, 3 Pl A Coy, 1st tour, passed away 13 Jan 2003

Brian Daniel Mc Kenna, 4 Pl, B Coy, 1st tour, passed away on 24 Jan 2003

Ronald Francis Sigg, BEM, CSM D Coy, CSM Support Coy both tours, passed away Friday 31 January 2003

Peter John Amos, OAM, A/B/D/Admin Coys both tours, passed away Tuesday 4 Feb 2003

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord May they rest in peace.

Our sincere condolences are also extended to: -

John "Blue" Saxby, catering platoon both tours, who lost his loving wife June in Sep last year,

and

Barry Fulton, C Coy 1st tour at the loss of his loving wife Marie on 27 Sep 2002 and his loving Mother on 7 Oct 2002.

Lest We Forget!

A message of thanks from Ron Sigg's wife Kim - the following is part of a letter she asked me to print in the newsletter:-

To yourself and all the members of 7RAR Association I want to say thank you all for your support given to Ron, he has had cards, letters, phone calls and home visits from quite a few of the boys and is really overwhelmed by the support everyone has given him and it has meant so much to him.

#### PROPOSED REUNION FOR THE MEDICAL PLATOON

# 7 RAR 1<sup>ST</sup> TOUR 1967/68

By the sound of things it would appear the forthcoming 7 RAR reunion in Wagga Wagga will be a successful one and a good opportunity for members of both tours to get together. For members of our medical platoon, we had the unique experience of having a "foot in both camps" with our medical and infantry responsibilities. As with other members of 7 RAR, a number of us have not been travelling well. Some of us have maintained regular contact with each other. Others have not.

gether again and re-establish contacts and supports. The organising committee has indicated that we could utilise the nights of Wednesday 13 or Thursday 14 August – perhaps either for drinks, or dinner, or both. We will try to contact everyone individually, but in the meantime, please give one of us a call with your ideas.

John Davidson	D COY	[07] 3205 5977
Peter Hedrick	C COY	[03] 5237 6302
Doug Ramsey	B COY	[03] 9891 6880
Tony Williams	RMO	[02] 9415 3066

## THINK ABOUT IT

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

If life gives you lemons, squeeze the juice into a water gun and shoot other people in the eyes.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

If you can't beat your computer at chess, try kickboxing.

If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

If you try and don't succeed, cheat. Repeat until caught. Then lie.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Never buy a car you can't push. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you don't have a leg to stand on.

(Jim Husband Take Note)

Never try to teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time and annoys hell out of the pig.

Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

I hope life isn't a big joke, because I don't get it.

If I had the power of God for 24 hours, you could bet I would change a lot of things. But if I had God's wisdom for 24 hours, I wouldn't change a thing.

I never start something that I am not going to fi.....

# "Battalion Piggy Stamp"

Opposite is a copy of the Battalion Pig shown to size as a self inking stamp available from Don Cruden at a cost of \$35 incl postage, item Ideal for use to stamp letters/parcels etc. 5 cm

Send your order with payment to: -

Don Cruden

26 Little River Cove

JANEBROOK WA 6056

Email: mardon@arach.net.au

3 cm



(Actual size 5 cm high x 3 cm wide)

	(Actual size 5 cm nigh x 5 cm wide)
29 Mar	<u>2003 CALENDER</u> Vietnam Vets Memorial Svc Duntroon Chapel (Medals)
	Refreshments will follow.
31 Mar	Cut - off date for reunion returns.
25 Apr	ANZAC Day Nation wide. (See details pages 18 & 19).
16 May	Noms to XO for Election of Management Committee.
28 May	Proxy form for AGM returned to XO.
31 May	AGM, Statesman Hotel, Canberra.
02 Jun	Cut-off date for 2/2003 Seven News.
06 Jun	2/2003 Seven News to printer. (On streets 8 days later).
10 Aug	Lunch to commemorate the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha, for
	attendance contact Bill Fogarty Ph (02) 6288 3337.
15 Aug -	
18 Aug	Association Reunion Wagga Wagga.
18 Aug	37th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Vietnam
	Veterans Day.
01 Sep	7RAR's 38th Birthday. (Do your own thing).
08 Sep	Cut-off date for 3/2003 Seven News. (XO may be absent)
19 Sep	3/2003 Seven News to printer. (On streets 8 days later).
Oct	2/7th Annual Pilgrimage to Puckapunyal. (Details later)
23 Oct	2/7th Battalion AIF raised 1939.
08 Nov	Seventh Battalions Remembrance Day service, Garrison
	Church , The Rocks.
23 Nov	Birthday, The Royal Australian Regiment.
26 Nov	Cut-off date for 4/2003 Seven News.
03 Dec	Birthday 5/7RAR (Mech).
05 Dec	4/2003 Seven News to printer. (On streets 8 days later).
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#### **ANZAC DAY DETAILS**

#### <u>Sydney</u>

Dawn Service: Cenotaph, Wreath laying at Regimental Square, breakfast at

Fortunes of War, Church service at Garrison Church 0800hrs. Further info from Justin Jordan Ph 0418 220 639 or Len Schulz

Ph 9638 7257.

Form up for march top end of Bent street, look for banner, dress coat, tie, medals. After march back to Fortunes of War initially then as decided by the members.

#### <u>Melbourne</u>

Dawn Service: Shrine of Remembrance, as per time notified in

media, no official activity.

March: Form up in Swanston Street behind Banner.

Reunion: Albert Park Yacht Club, (On Beaconsfield Pde near Kerford)

Rd) Lunch on repayment.

Further info from John Gilmore Ph 9580 5881 or Go Goggins Ph 9471 0310 0415 510 783

#### Brisbane

This newsletter is a bit early for QLD RSL as they have yet to announce full details for ANZAC Day 2003. The details given below are as for last year. Watch the web site at <a href="http://www.7rar.asn.au">http://www.7rar.asn.au</a> for any changes as it gets closer to the day.

A Dawn Service is planned at the Contemplation Building at the National Memorial Walk at Gallipoli Barracks (turn left at the roundabout) commencing at 0500. The facility exists for members to park their vehicles at the barracks, attend the service and then enjoy a Gunfire Breakfast at the 6RAR Sgts Mess (pay as you go).

Transport: Remember you are entitled to free train travel when wearing your medals. Trains will be running every 30 minutes from 0600 hrs on the Saturday timetable.

Form Up: The RAR Association will form up starting the corner of Elizabeth

and William streets. 7RAR are last in the order of march this year but in any case look for the "Pig Banner". The RAR Association anticipates stepping off at approximately 1130hrs - 1200hrs.

Reunion RV: Victory Hotel from 1300 hrs (Licensing Laws decree no trading on ANZAC Day before 1300hrs) This law honours us veterans so don't fight it. In any case experience would indicate by the time the march has ended and people have had their post march chat and then walked to the Victory (approx 200 metres) it will be 1300hrs anyway. Food and refreshments will be available on a pay as you go basis.

General: If you know of any Pigs who may be out of the loop then call them and invite them along. In any case, be there and see your mates! It's what the day is about.

Further info if needed from Kev Gillett Ph (07) 3865 4411.

#### Canberra:

Dawn Service: Stone of Remembrance, front of Australian War Memorial.

March: Form up on ANZAC Parade behind RAR Banner, see press for timings.

<u>Perth:</u> See information in Best from West report on page 32.

Adelaide: See local press for timings. No other detail available.

<u>Darwin Dawn Services:</u> Palmerston Cenotaph 0600hrs. (TBC) RSL from 0500hrs.

Darwin Cenotaph 0600hrs

#### March:

Form up on our banner on the Esplanade near Knuckey St intersection by 0945hrs. Post march at RSL.

#### ANZAC DAY IN BIRDSVILLE

Some members of "Porkys People" are said to be planning a trip to the outback for ANZAC Day activities, names to hand are Jim (Snowball) Molony, Kevin (Gonna) Greer, Arthur Dennis and Arthur (Darkie) Butler. All said to be going to Birdsville to meet up with Shorty Dwyer and talk about the price of oil on the stock market! Believe that if you will. Hope you all have a good time and don't get into any mischief.

Tony Keech. XO/ED

# <u>2003 AGM - 7th BATTALION THE ROYAL ASUTRALIAN REGIMENT</u> ASSOCIATION INC (QLD)

By direction of the Management Committee and in accordance with the Rules of the Association, notice is hereby given that, The 2003 Annual General Meeting and election of Officers of the Management Committee will be held at:

THE STATESMAN HOTEL, CURTIN, ACT Commencing at 6.00pm SATURDAY 31 MAY 2003.

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ARE TO BE SUBMITTED, IN WRITING SIGNED BY THE NOMINEE, HIS PROPOSER AND SECONDER, TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NOT LATER THAN 12.00PM, FRIDAY 16 MAY 2003.

#### **BUSINESS**

Any points for general business are to be submitted in writing to the Executive Officer not later than 12.00pm, Friday 16 May 2003.

#### <u>ATTENDANCE</u>

Members attending please advise the Executive not later than 12.00pm Friday 30 May 2003. If you cannot attend and wish to appoint a proxy please complete the form overleaf and return to the Executive Officer not later than Wednesday 28 May 2003. In view of lack of attendance at some of the previous Annual General Meetings, it is advised that members appoint a proxy, of their choice, to ensure the day to day running of the business of the Association is not disrupted by the lack of attendance at the Annual General Meeting.

In accordance with the Rules of the Association a minimum of 21 members must be present to constitute a quorum, if not the meeting must be adjourned to the next week at the same time and place. In view of this if you cannot attend please appoint a proxy to ensure the meeting can proceed at the time and place advised above, the XO can advise on who will be attending the AGM. Please appreciate that the Members of the Management Committee give their time freely and any adjournment of a meeting is a great inconvenience to those who travel to these meetings.

Listed below is the curren	nt Management Committee: -
President:	Colonel David Kibbey, AM.
Vice Presidents:	Colonel Doug Gibbons, AM.
	Mr Jim Husband, OAM, BEM.
	Mr Don Cruden.
	Mr Rod Lyons.
	Mr Ross Ellis.
Secretary:	Mr Kevin Gillett
Treasurer:	Mr Bernie Cox.
Exec Officer/Editor:	Mr Tony Keech
Historian :	MAJGÉN Mike O'Brien, CSC.
Hon Auditor:	Mr Mark Moloney.
	LTCOL Peter Morrison.
FORM FOR APPOINTM	MENT OF PROXY for 7RAR ASSOCIATION
<u> </u>	1211 01 1 110X 1 101 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
<i> </i>	of,
Being a financial membe	er of the abovenamed Association, herebyOr failing him,
	ofas
	on my behalf at the (annual*) general meet-
ing of the Association to l	be held on theday of200
And any adjournment the	reof.
Signed this	day of200
Signature	
l	
This form is to be used in	favour*/against* the resolution.
1 `	desired). (Unless otherwise instructed, the
proxy may vote as he the must be present at the me	

#### **VIETNAM VETERANS HELP US SAVE OUR MUSEUM!**

The Vietnam Veterans National Museum has been operating 7 days a week for 4 years, and is situated at Phillip Island in Victoria. The basis for establishing it there is simply because it is one of the top ten tourist places in Australia, and that's where the vets formed the original group that started it.

The museum has been established by Vietnam Veterans and is manned entirely by volunteers. We have received no financial assistance from the Government in running the museum, despite requests. Last year we had 17,000 visitors from all over Australia and overseas and including many bus loads of school groups. Many of the visitors are Vietnam Veterans or family of Vietnam Veterans.

p till now we have been leasing the museum site and buildings, however the building has been sold and we have to vacate in mid Feb 03.

have purchased a bellman Hanger (valued at \$200,000), which has been dismantled and transported to the site at a cost of \$32,000. We have already raised and paid for this however it will cost a further \$98,000 to erect and meet tourist building requirements. The overall value of the new museum, including contents, when finished will be almost \$1 million. The museum's current assets are valued at \$400,000.

To obtain information about the museum, please visit our web site at http://www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org

Provided the street of the str

# "BUYA BRICK"

\$25 INDIVIDUAL DONATION OR \$100 FAMILY DONATION WILL HAVE YOU RECORDED ON OUR NEW MUSEUM BUILDING.

# PLEASE SEND A CHEQUE OR POSTAL NOTE MADE PAYABLE TO MUSEUM PATRIOTIC BUILDING FUND: -

## c/o Vietnam Veterans Museum 57 Phillip Island Road SAN REMO VIC 3925

Please include the name that is to go on the brick (or family names) and if a veteran, your unit.

P tax-deductible receipt will be forwarded to you with confirmation of the name to be inscribed.

I nit organizations or groups can have plaques installed for \$500 or \$1000.

For further information contact: John Methven OAM, President Vietnam Veterans Museum 57 Phillip Island Rd, San Remo Vic. 3925 Ph 03 56785999 Fax 03 56785995 Email: vvmuseum@nex.net.au

# HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST

Message from John (Teeney) Preston and Mindy Sutherland (Mon 20 Jan), Canberra, thanks to all those who have phoned with expressions of concern and support for all those "Pigs" who live in Canberra during this time of danger with the current bush fire alert.

Further to the bushfires in Canberra, advice received from General Grey (Wed 22 Jan 2003), John Press 2IC C Coy 2nd tour lost his house and all personal possessions. Our thoughts are with John, Carol and his family during this time of misfortune. Anyone wishing to contact John can do so on the following mobile number, 0416 264 127, please give consideration to the emotion and displacement John will be experiencing.

Tony Keech XO/ED

# REMEMBRANCE DAY AT HOLY TRINITY GARRISON CHURCH THE ROCKS, SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2002

On Sunday 10 Nov 2002 the Annual Remembrance Service of the Seventh Battalions was held at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church, The Rocks. Numbers were down on previous years from both groups, 2/7th and 7RAR Association. Unfortunately 2/7th have their excuses as their numbers are the casualty of time but, 7RAR Association numbers were down for reasons unknown. We must ensure that the legacy of "The Seventh" Battalions does not die because of the demise of the first two Battalions, we, 7RAR must carry on the traditions established by our predecessors.

Photographed outside The Garrison Church, L to R - COL David Kibbey, AM, President 7RAR Association, MAJGEN Sandy Pearson,



AO, DSO OBE, MC, Patron 2/7th Bn Association and Tony Keech XO, 7RAR Association.

7RAR Association members in attendance at the Remembrance Day service held at The Garrison Church, The Rocks, Sunday 10 November 2002.



# Back Row

L to R: - Steve Taylor, David Kibbey, Justin Jordan, Tony Williams,

# Front Row

L to R:- Ross Ellis, Tony Keech, Rod Lyons, Jim Slavin & Ken Ward.

Also in attendance were Helen Kibbey, Wendy Lyons, Jennifer & David Taylor, & Beverley Ward.

# <u>PIONEER REUNION AT SINGLETON ARMY CAMP</u> 29 NOV - 1 DEC 2002

The pioneers held their annual reunion at the Singleton Army base over the above period, the following attended the activities: -

• Stoney and Robyn Bourke, Trent and Joan Grall, Dennis Field, Len and Wendy Schulz, Ken and Kathy Kelly, Eric Mc Coombe, Ron and Brenda Mc Leod, Ian and Judy Lankester, Robbie and Ruth Cathcart, Les and Jill Deeble, Gordon and Judi Henderson, Darryl O'Keefe, Steve Bowles, Scotty Holden, Phil and Sandra Mc Lean, Bob and Barbara Curry, Ken and Jan Christenson, Chris Morrow, Terry Boardman, Norm and Robyn Spruce, Bob and Lyn May, Terry Bryceson Darryl and Donna Bourke, Cisco Ravenscroft, Bill and Tina Waters John and Christine Lankester and Tony Keech.

The activities began on Friday afternoon 29 Nov with a happy hour at the SGTs Mess, all were made most welcome by the members of the mess. After a late breakfast on Saturday the group was given an opportunity to observe and fire the indoor weapon training system. A most interesting system for training our soldiers to shoot without going to the range.

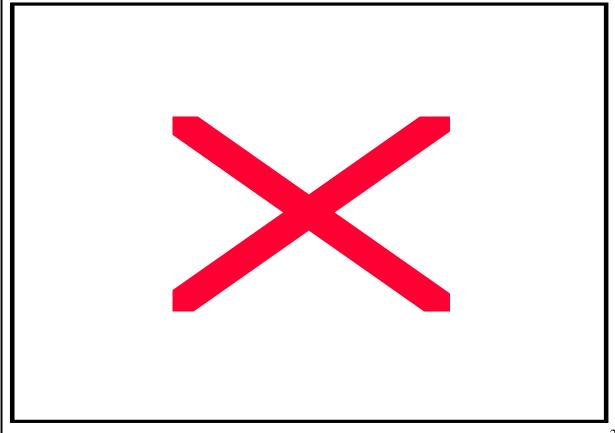
After lunch the Infantry Corps Museum was open for business and most took the time to browse the exhibits and make the odd purchase from the Corps Shop. That evening the group assembled in the mess for a dinner. This type of activity was unfamiliar to most as the support provided to the mess was civilian contract, the food and service was first class. A good time was had by all, after dinner the group adjourned to the mess ante room for coffee and other after dinner activities.

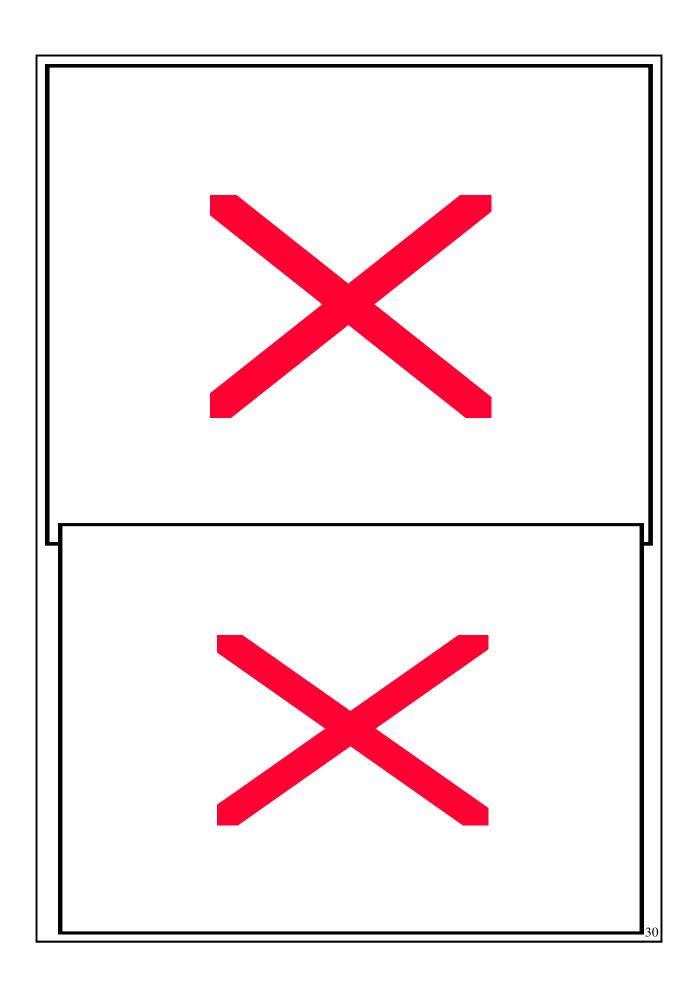
Over the page are some snaps of some of the troops enjoying themselves over the weekend, you will notice that some are drinking the lite amber liquid to ensure they kept their wits about them for most of the time. I must congratulate Stoney and the pioneers for a most enjoyable weekend, the staff at Singleton SGTs Mess also looked after everyone.

Tony Keech XO/ED



Assault Pioneers Reunion Father & Son Home on the Range Stoney & Darryl Bourke.





Some of the group seated in the indoor weapon training simulator range complex.





Back to school for this lesson on the weapon training simulation system used to train the modern soldier, below, nothing more dangerous, a pioneer with a weapon.





# **PIGS IN QUEENSLAND**

Paddy Landers vs the Immigration Department. Paddy served with us on the first tour and eventually returned to Ireland where he still lives. Paddy's health went pear shaped and a couple of years ago he came back to Australia on a visit. Most of his visit was spent in Greenslopes Hospital where he was eventually classed as TPI. Notwithstanding this status the Immigration Department bureaucracy put every obstacle in the way and managed to drag his application for immigration to nearly three years.

Just a week or two ago he and his wife have been granted citizen status (with limitations in place for a while) and we can look forward to seeing Paddy and his wife at this years reunion. Although I was the middle man and helped where I could, the greatest help came from Graham Edwards (Pnrs 2nd Tour) and his ever helpful staff member Tim Walster. Tim tells me he is changing jobs and going to work for Senator Cook at Kalgoorlie. I would hope to see Graham at Wagga Wagga with Paddy in tow to thank him for his help.

Queensland has had a quiet year. I tried to have a reunion late in the year but Pioneers took all the Pigs to Singleton (they always seem to be taking all of something!) and most can only handle so many reunions. With the national reunion looming in Wagga an effort will be made in Queensland to encourage all to attend.

Kev Gillett.

#### THE BEST FROM THE WEST

#### <u>ANNUAL PIG SWILL</u>

OW! What a wonderful Xmas gathering we had on Sunday 8 Dec. Our thanks to Glenn Moore and his lovely lady Sue Carter, whom Glenn informs us did all the organising. In fact when we offered praise to Glenn he refused to accept anything, saying "It was all Sue's" organising and he wasn't going to buy in "So from all of us Sue – a BIG THANK YOU.

Ow who was there — Alan & Betty West, Mick & Joan O'Halloran, Dale & Deb Marshall, Rick Low & Carol, Gary Williams & Teresa, Charlie Matheson & Pam, Peter & Liz Davies, Merv & Patricia Easton, Bill & Carol Edwards, Tony & Cheryl Cocodis, Noel & Patricia Bell, Vik Neimanis, Bob & Clare Dixon, Jock, Margaret & Paul Henderson, Bet Percy, Keith Gurner, Peter & Sue Lutley, Ken & Steph Bladen, Graham Roberts, Evelyn Cowyer, John Davies, Ray Lamont, Peta Winchester, Wally (Kraut) Kleszcz, Dennis (Budda), Sarah & Joshua Liddelow, Casey (Tulips) Epskamp, Don Cruden, Doug & Brenda Fieldhouse. We were graced with the presences of Richard (Shorty) Hylard, Barry (ex AATTV) & Joan Silk, Graham & Irene Crick (ex 1RAR who ironically had joined up with Doug Fieldhouse) and all are at present touring around Australia.

Spunky also caught up with them for a FORMAL/INFORMAL dinner at their Caravan Park. The reason it was FORMAL/INFORMAL? The dress for the evening was: Shirt, Tie, Medals and.....Shorts & Thongs. (See accompanying photo). Also with us were 7RAR members from Victoria, Gordon & Lyn Tredrea, who were guests of Noel & Patricia Bell. Whew! If anyone's name is missing, it's because you didn't sign the "guest" book.

Special mention must be made of Glenn Moore's friend Terry (ex 4RAR bless his soul) Donnelly who provided us with his songs and guitar playing melodies during the afternoon. His efforts were very much appreciated and added to the enjoyment of our function.

Tony Cocodis said our 7RAR grace before we tucked into a wonderful feed of beef, chicken and pork, complete with salad followed by Xmas pud, cheesecake and coffee.

Fieldhouse of a Certificate of Appreciation for their continued support (and control) of the WA Branch of the Association. We think it is ironic as it was the WA Branch that came up with the idea and layout of the Certificate, that our two stalwart members should receive such as well-deserved award. (See accompanying photo).

Spunky of course rose to the occasion and paraded around in full combat gear, right down to Flak Jacket, Helmet, GP's, personal webbing, pack, AR-15 rifle and.....silk Boxer Shorts. (See accompanying photo). Well done, Spunky! Thanks again to Unit Photographer John Davies for his excellent snapshots, we have included a few here. Thanks mate.

#### NAME TAGS

For all members, whether going to the WAGGA WAGGA reunion or not, the WA Name Tag is a must – place your orders NOW – Cost \$10.00 (incl. Postage & the new magnetic holder, which replaces the nasty pin type clip). Make sure that you buy a Name Tag for your ladies as well, as they ARE most definitely a part of the great 7RAR family.

# WAGGA WAGGA REUNION

s Don Cruden said at our Xmas gathering, the National Executive of the Association want your details of attendance NOW – we want to see a large contingent of WA members present, as we have provided at past reunions. Nominate NOW please. Also, can you please inform Don Cruden if you are travelling by vehicle to the reunion, as we need the WA banner to be taken over and freight by air is costly. We would appreciate it if anyone who could take the banner could ring Don on (08) 9374 0014.

# <u>VIETNAM VETERANS CELEBRATING YEAR OF THE OUTBACK</u>

This was a tremendous weekend, organised by the Country Vietnam Veterans Association and held at Bruce Rock, some 240 km east of Perth, and the dozen or so PIGS who attended had a great time. We need to be reminded occasionally that we need to support these types of function as often as possible and to show the banner around the country. Great stuff fellas!

#### ANZAC DAY

Remember guys; Anzac Day is not far away. Same meeting time, 9.30 am in St Georges Terrace near Pier Street for the march at 10.00, then afterwards at Rigby's Tavern.

#### **FUNNY**

blonde and a lawyer are seated next to each other on a flight from Los Angeles to New York. The lawyer asks if she would like to play a fun game. The blonde, who's tired and just wants to take a nap, politely declines and rolls over to the window. But the lawyer persists and says the game is easy and fun. He explains, "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5, and vice versa." Again, she declines and tries to get some sleep.

The lawyer, now agitated, says, "Okay, if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500." This catches the blonde's attention and, and figuring there will be no end to this torment unless she plays, agrees to the game. The lawyer asks the first question: "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" The blonde doesn't say a word, reaches into her purse, pulls out a \$5 bill and hands it to the lawyer. "Your turn", says the lawyer. She asks, "What goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four legs?" The lawyer, puzzled, takes out his Laptop computer and searches all his references, no answer. He taps into the air phone with his modem and searches the Net and the Library of Congress.

Vo answer. Frustrated, he sends e-mails to all his friends and coworkers -- to no avail. After an hour, he wakes the blonde and hands her \$500. The blonde says, "Thank you," and turns back to get some more sleep. The lawyer, who is more than a little miffed, wakes the blonde and asks, "Well, what's the answer?"

Without a word, the blonde reaches into her purse, hands the lawyer \$5, and goes back to sleep.

And you thought blondes were dumb.

#### TREE REVENGE - TREE HITS GOLFER

Brian "Griffo" Griffiths suffered the ultimate Golf Course Tree Revenge a few months ago. Griffo was playing in the final round of his club championships, he was three under par and had it shot to bits when he hooked his drive on the seventh into some trees. In what can only be described as a nasty act of revenge, a tree overhanging the seventh tee dropped a limb right on top of him. Griffo suffered a broken sternum, a broken collarbone, two broken fingers and lacerations to his face and a badly bruised leg. He spent the night in hospital but has almost made a full recovery and has started playing again. (Of course, there is no truth in the rumour that he plans a new addition to his golf bag, a Stihl chainsaw).

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Remember, the newsletter is only as good as the contents, so please contact me if you have anything to report, no matter how trivial. I can be contacted on:

(08) 9448 3109 at home and

(08) 9323 4579 at work, or email

geoff.murray@mainroads.wa.gov.au.

Cheers Geoff Murray

Combat Pig, Spunky Fieldhouse, (check out those shorts).



L to R: Spunky Fieldhouse, Ken Bladen, Don Cruden.



Back Row L to R: Jeannette Hylard, Joan Silk, Spunky, Irene Crick, Shorty Hylard, Pam Lane: Sitting: Barry Silk, Graham Crick Alan Lane



# **PICTORIAL HISTORY UPDATE**

If irst and foremost - all the photographic material is safe and sound in the stone cellar under my house near Gundaroo. In mid Feb students at the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) will begin scanning the photos with the professional scanning equipment owned by the school. I will be there with the students to ensure that photos are not accidentally mixed up or misplaced and to provide advice and guidance they may need. Ross Ellis and I will check the work we completed earlier to make sure that we have not missed any suitable photographs for inclusion in the book. When the scanning is complete the photos will be returned (with thanks not only for their contribution but also for their patience) to their owners.

hen the currently held material has been scanned and the photos returned, we will then tackle the material held by Andy Mattay. Andy has agreed to release the material for scanning by the CIT students, so many of the photos from 7 in 70 will be available for inclusion should we want to do so. Bill Fogarty agreed to copy to CD the 7RAR photos held on the War Memorial database before he retired so these will be available to use in electronic format. The format for the pictorial history is very similar to the excellent publication titled "My Vietnam" by Chris Lewis. I purchased my copy from the War Memorial for \$59.95 and consider it to be great value for money. I have shown this work to the CIT students who believe they can match it in terms of quality - the content is of course up to us.

I hope to have a few mock up options of the book (in terms of the number of pages, picture quality, page size and so on) for display at the reunion in Wagga in August with an indication of the price for each option - so there will be a few decisions to make during the reunion. If all goes according to plan the book will be completed by the end of the school year. The reason for this relates to the involvement of the CIT students. Their return on investment is a completed book which they can include in their CV's when looking for work. If this is not completed by the end of the year they have nothing to show for their efforts. If all goes according to plan it will be a busy year - and I will need some help along the way. Thank you for your patience and perseverance.

David Webster.

