

Presidents Message

Doug Gibbons Pl Comd 5 Pl 7RAR Vietnam 1970 passed away 28/06/2010.

On leaving the Bn Doug served in SASR, 3RAR, CO Norforce, and as Commander Northern Command.

As a measure of this successful career Doug, mentioned to me on many occasion the highlight of his time in command was with 5 Pl in 7RAR. Well done Doug, and farewell.

John Press



From the — EDITOR'S DESK

As 2010 draws to a close a large number of members financial status expires, please check the four digit number at the top left corner of your address label, this indicates the year your financial status expires. If you are renewing your membership please

fill in the form on page 3 of this newsletter and return it to me with your renewal fees.

We are aware the battalion will commence their move to Edinburgh later this year and should be in location by the end of March 2011. From all accounts the battalion is looking forward to their move and establishing themselves and families in SA.

I have ordered new banners for WA, VIC, NSW and QLD, SA has their banner already. The banners will be sent to each state rep when completed, the only requirement will be for states to organized their own poles which SA purchased from Bunnings hardware store. Finally, I still have tickets available in the VC Cap raffle, this will be drawn early September, cut-off date for tickets will be COB 27 August 2010, don't forget to send a self addressed envelope with your ticket purchase.

On behalf of the President and all members of the Association I would like to welcome aboard all the New Members currently serving with 7RAR or just posted out, they are listed on page 5 of this issue.

Tony Keech, OAM XO/ED

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2010 CALENDER

6 Aug	43rd Anniversary of battle of Suoi Chau Pha.
18 Aug	44th Anniversary of Battle of Long Tan.
1 Sep	45th Birthday 7RAR.
14 Nov	Remembrance Day service at Garrison Church The Rocks.
19 Nov	Cut-off Date for articles for 3/2010 Seven News.
6 Dec	Post 3/2010 Seven News.

7RAR Incorporated in Queensland - No 1A - 13547 ABN No: 35 124 126 574
Application for *Membership and/or *Renewal of Current Membership
(* Delete where applicable)

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

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

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

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

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

Wife/Partner's Name.....

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

Remarks/Hons/Awards/.....

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

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

M/SHIP COSTS- \$20 PER YEAR OR- \$80 FOR FIVE YEARS, \$5 FOR FIVE YEARS FOR SERVING MEMBERS OF 7RAR-- PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL
(your dates for renewal will be shown on your membership card when issued)

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

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

Office Us Only:

MBR No:.....Presort Indicator.....Receipt No:.....

Date received...../...../..... Records Entered.....

Membership Card Issued..... Signature.....



**Rest ye oh Warrior, You will battle no
more,**

**No longer to live the horrors of war,
Your duty was done with honour and pride,
Farewell oh brother, until we march by your side.**

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

**Q1585 John Jendra, 7th Australian INF Battalion AIF, passed away 29
April 2010 in Cairns Base Hospital.**

**214113 Graham Wesley (Snowy) Rae, 1st tour, passed away,
car accident near Cardwell QLD 12 May 2010.**

**217148 John Ross Jepson, Catering Pl both tours, passed away
weekend 15/16 May 2010 in Clarmont QLD.**

3797835 Kevin Laurence Dobson, 2nd tour, passed away 20 May 2010.

Gylian Sexton, widow John, both tours, passed away 23 May 2010.

**57089 Peter Douglas (Gibbo) Gibbons, AM - OC B5/BHQ 2nd tour,
passed away Mon 28 June 2010, in Adelaide.**

**At the going down of the sun, and
In the morning, We will remember them**

Lest we forget.

NEW MEMBERS

Fin 2011 MBR No: 865
Michael John Phillips
72 Bellbird Road MT ELIZA
VIC 3930 PNRS 1st Tour
03 9787 6349 0415 374 012
mphil@myfinancialconsultant.com.au

Fin 2011 MBR No: A28
Mary Alleen Temple
102 Pattison Street, EMU PARK
QLD 4710 Widow Bill A2 1st Tour
0402 552 778

Fin 2015 MBR No: 1448, CAPT Jamie David Smith, 6 Flowerbank Close,
SINGLETON NSW 2331, Ph (02) 6575 0004 Email: jamie.smith@defence.gov.au

Fin 2015 MBR No: 1456, LT Christopher Lang, C8 7RAR, 4/38 Gardens Hill Cres,
The Gardens, NT 0800: Email: christopher.lang@defence.gov.au

The following members are all serving members of 7RAR at the following
address: 1 BDE Officers Mess, BINH BA LINES, ROBERTSON BARRACKS,
PALMERSTON, NT 0830:

Fin 2015 MBR No: 1449 LT Tim Bligh, ADMIN Coy;
Email: tim.bligh@defence.gov.au

Fin 2015 MBR No: 1450 LT Joshua Branch, ADMIN Coy;
Email: joshua.branch@defence.gov.au

Fin 2015 MBR No: 1451 LT Redmond Dale, 2 Pl A Coy;
Email: redmond.dale@defence.gov.au

Fin 2015 MBR No: 1452 LT Michael Hall, ADMIN Coy;
Email: michael.hall@defence.gov.au

Fin 2015 MBR No: 1453 LT Jordan Caine, A Coy;
Email: jordan.caine@defence.gov.au

Fin 2015 MBR No: 1454 LT Andrew Marin, 3 Pl A Coy,
Email: andrew.marin@defence.gov.au

Fin 2015 MBR No: LT Kane Mifsud, 4 Pl B Coy,
Email: kane.mifsud@defence.gov.au

Great Aussie Poem

*The sun was hot already - it was only 8 o'clock;
the cocky took off in his Ute, to go and check his stock.
He drove around the paddocks checking wethers, ewes and lambs,
the float valves in the water troughs, the windmills on the dams.*

*He stopped and turned a windmill on to fill a water tank;
and saw a ewe down in the dam, a few yards from the bank.
"Typical bloody sheep," he thought, "they've got no common sense,
"they won't go through a gateway but they'll jump a bloody fence."*

*The ewe was stuck down in the mud, he knew without a doubt;
she'd stay there 'til she carked it if he didn't get her out.
But when he reached the water's edge, the startled ewe broke free
and in her haste to get away, began a swimming spree.*

*He reckoned once her fleece was wet, the weight would drag her down.
If he didn't rescue her, the stupid sod would drown.
Her style was unimpressive, her survival chances slim;
he saw no other option, he would have to take a swim.*

*He peeled his shirt and singlet off, his trousers, boots and socks,
and as he couldn't stand wet clothes, he also shed his jocks.
He jumped into the water and away that cocky swam;
he caught up with her, somewhere near the middle of the dam.*

*The ewe was quite evasive, she kept giving him the slip.
He tried to grab her sodden fleece but couldn't get a grip.
At last he got her to the bank and stopped to catch his breath.
She showed him little gratitude for saving her from death.*

*She took off like a Bondi tram around the other side;
he swore next time he caught that ewe he'd hang her bloody hide.
Then round and round the dam they ran and though he felt quite puffed,
he still thought he could run her down, she must be nearly stuffed.*

*The local stock rep came along, to pay a call that day;
he knew this bloke was on his own, his wife had gone away.
He didn't really think he'd get fresh scones for morning tea,
but nor was he prepared for what he was about to see.*

*He rubbed his eyes in disbelief at what came into view;
for running down the catchment came this frantic-looking ewe,
and on her heels in hot pursuit and wearing not a stitch
the farmer yelling wildly "Come back here, you lousy bitch!"*

*The stock rep didn't hang around, he took off in his car.
The cocky's reputation has been damaged near and far.
So bear in mind the Work Safe rule when next you check your flocks:
'Spot the hazard, assess the risk, and always wear your jocks!'*

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS AND AWARDS

COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE:

Lieutenant Ashley David JUDD, NSW For :-
Distinguished performance of duty in warlike operations and in action
while Commanding 2 Platoon, Combat Team Tusk, 7th Battalion Battle
Group (Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 1), Chora Valley,
Afghanistan 29 December 2008.

Congratulations Ashley from the President and all members of the
Association.

BLOND - REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with that expensive double-pane energy efficient kind, and today, I got a call from the contractor who installed them.

He was complaining that the work had been completed a whole year ago and I still hadn't paid for them.

Helloooooooo.....just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So, I told him just what his fast talking sales guy told me last year, that in ONE YEAR these windows would pay for themselves!

Helllooooooo? It's been a year! I told him! There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally just hung up.

He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot.



RUNDLE MALL ADELAIDE

"A Day Out" by Marguerite Derricourt was commissioned by the Adelaide City Council in 1999 as part of the Rundle Mall upgrade. A competition for suggestions from the public resulted in each of the four pigs being named. Installed at a cost of \$75,000, the inclusion of the sculpture to the Mall initially caused much controversy, but has since become a popular attraction to children and adults alike.

(Maybe they knew that 7RAR would end up in Adelaide long before we did)



Terry Bryceson and Col Sydor at Long Tan 2010 ANZAC Day.

The message below was sent by GO GO Gogins VIC

Thank you for asking me to read out a section of the honour roll on Sunday. Even though I served in East Timor with 6RAR and 5/7RAR, to be asked to read out the names of the men my uncle served with in Vietnam was incredibly moving and a great honour.

I'd also like to thank the members of the 7RAR Association for being so welcoming on their day and I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon/evening (I can say that now, but not on Monday morning, when I had a hangover that would've killed an elephant!)

Regards

Bart Robertson Nephew of Billy 'Pockets' McLennan



THANK YOU: 7RAR Association Treasurer Bernie Cox (left) and Executive Officer Tony Keech, OAM make a presentation to WO1 Dave Allan, 1st RSM since the re-raising of the battalion.

Support is one of the things that has surpassed all wars and is a vital part of what the defence force is all about. Today veterans are supporting those who are overseas, and when CPL Mathew Hopkins was killed In Afghanistan, the members of the 7th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment Association were there to offer support to his family and fellow battalion mates.

For the first time since 7RAR returned from Afghanistan, the Association has been able to visit some of its members and made the most of the chance to present the Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One Dave Allan with a gift. After the Vietnam War the number of Battalions within the Regiment were reduced and so 5RAR and 7RAR were linked from 1973 until 2006 when commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Timor facilitated the un-linking of 5/7RAR.

WO1 Allan is the first RSM of 7RAR since the battalion was re-raised and the 7RAR Association executive officer Tony Keech, OAM on behalf of the Association wanted to recognise his deeds during his three years with the Battalion. "The Association is here to provide those serving members with continual moral and emotional support - it is our camaraderie," he said.

The Association is very important to those serving overseas and as an instructor at the Singleton School of Infantry now, he wants to ensure those coming through the Singleton Military area and are posted to 7RAR, maintain the relationship with the Association. "It is fantastic that they are here offering support to us while we are overseas," Dave said. "They are here saying, hey we had a good tour, but now what can we do for you". "It gave us a good feeling knowing that those blokes were looking after Mat's family while we remained overseas." The 7RAR Association has around 1100 members of which 40 or 50 from the re-raised battalion recently joined.

(This presentation occurred on Friday 14 May 2010 at the Rifleman Training Wing, School of Infantry, SINGLETON.)

Photo and storey courtesy of the Singleton Argus.

I am getting information together about the M108s (designated 6 troop) which served in A Sqn 3 Cav Regt in Vietnam in 1967/68 in order to write a short book to record their activities. I think it is a unique story. As far as I've been able to determine, it was the only Troop/ Battery of SP Guns that Australia has ever fielded on active service. Also, so far, it is the only Troop to have served in the RAAC made up of Armour, Arty and Inf. Seems a shame if the details are not recorded somewhere. I hope someone in the 7RAR association has knowledge of the troop. I am weaving personal anecdotes into a more or less chronological story. If they are able to remember any details about people or particular events that would enliven the story it would be a big help. Any material used will be acknowledged.

I can be contacted by

Mail: 18 Whitty Cres, ISAACS, ACT, 2607

Email M108.Cav@bigpond.com

Mobile 0408 442 186. Thank you - Colin Campbell



Mal Robinson presents 2WEB's (Radio Station) Liz Hedge with a red lapel pin on behalf of the 7th Battalion Association for her promotion of Red Friday - a campaign that asks people to wear a red item on Friday's to support Australian troops overseas.

QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONOURS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to John Straskye, D Company Medic 2nd tour who has been honoured with the Order of Australia Medal, (OAM) in the Queens Birthday honours list. John served 22 years in the regular army and then joined the Australian Federal Police.

His award is in recognition of his service to the community over the past forty three years in the Australian Regular Army and the Federal Police. John is the author of the NSW Pig Website.

Some snaps from Joe and Karen Turra 27/4: Below ;- Saigon today.



Below: General Vo Nguyen Giap's attack map on Saigon.





Above and below: Nui Dat from afar and Joe standing in the rubber in the 7RAR lines.





Above: the Horseshoe today:
Below: The spoils of war on display in Hanoi today.





Joe with a veteran from the battle of Khe Sanh.

Below: Long Dien today.



NEVER CHEAT ON A COUNTRY WOMAN!

A country wife came home just in time to find her husband in bed with another woman. With super-human strength, born of fury, and cutting firewood, lifting sacks of feed, and bales of hay, she dragged him down the stairs, out the back door, and into the barn.

She put his manhood in a vice and then secured it tightly and removed the handle. Next she picked up an old carpenter's saw..

The banged-up-cheater was terrified and hollered, ! "Stop! Stop! You're not gonna cut it off with that rusty saw, are you?"

The wife, with a gleam of revenge in her eye, put the saw in her husband's hand and said

"Nope....You are! I'm gonna burn down the Barn!"

Apologies for the poor quality of the letter below and photo of headstone on following page. Unfortunately this is the best I could do with the material I received.

The Returned & Services League of Australia
(Queensland Branch)
Charleville Sub-Branch Inc.

RSL Sub-Branch Ph/Fax (07) 4654 1177
Email cylfersl@bigpond.net.au

Charleville RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
PO Box 209
Charleville QLD 4470



Lest We Forget

Barry O'Brien
33 Scherger Street
MOOROOKA Q 4105

Dear Mr O'Brien,

We received your letter and tabled it at our last General Meeting on the 16th May 2010.

I have taken it upon myself to do a little research for you and regrettably I found your friend Anthony in our Charleville Cemetery. I have taken a photo of his grave site for you.

Every year for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day we honour our fallen and departed soldiers by placing a poppy on their grave site.

I hope this letter puts your mind at rest.

Yours Sincerely

Leisa Pemberton
Treasurer

23/5/2010

The Price Of Liberty Is Eternal Vigilance

Headstone for Anthony Huon Dwyer 1st tour, who passed away 27 April 2006. Grave is located at Charleville, QLD. Again apologies for the quality of the reproduction.





3rd NATIONAL DIGGER'S BOWLS CARNIVAL 2010

ATTENTION: ALL CURRENT DEFENCE FORCE & EX - SERVICEMEN/WOMEN

\$10,000 PRIZE MONEY

WHERE:	DUBBO. NSW. 2830
VENUES:	DUBBO RAILWAY BOWLING CLUB & WEST DUBBO BOWLING CLUB
DATES:	TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 14th, 15th & 16th September, 2010.
FORMAT:	TRIPLES - NOMINATED TEAMS (3 BOWLS) 5 GAMES OF 15 ENDS EACH TEAMS OVER 2 DAYS PLUS FINALS & CONSOLATION ON FINAL DAY
COST:	\$35 EACH PLAYER - TOTAL INCLUDES LUNCH EACH DAY
PROCEEDS:	ENTRY FEES & PROCEEDS TO 'STARLIGHT FOUNDATION' CHILDREN'S CHARITY

PROOF OF DEFENCE FORCE SERVICE REQUIRED
NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2009.

Enquiries:

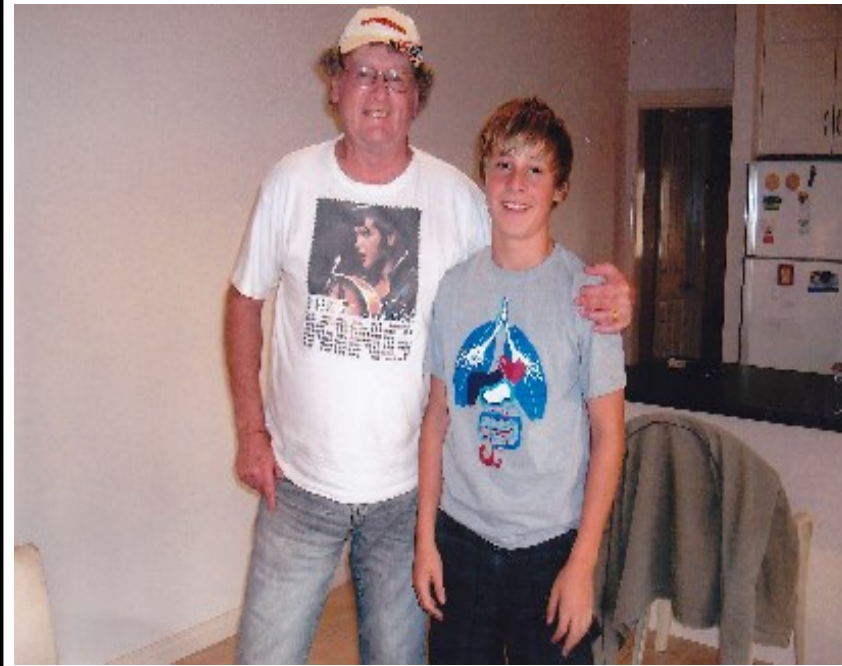
Dubbo Railway B/C - 02 6884 2044
www.dubborailwaybowlingclub.com.au
Eric Chamberlain - 0447 139 737

West Dubbo B/C - 02 6884 3000
www.westdubbobowlingclub.com.au
Email - ericchamberlain@optusnet.com.au

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David Hulley and John Finn at home.



David in front of the Vietnam Veterans honour roll at Horsham RSL Club.

A FEEL GOOD STORY FROM JOHN FINN A3 1ST TOUR DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID HULLEY

Prior to this year's ANZAC Day I received a call from a mate of mine, he asked me if I would mind doing an interview re Vietnam with his Grandson, David. He lives in Melbourne about 300 km away so I thought to myself a long way to come for an interview. I guess he felt a little more comfortable with a friend of his grandad, the interview was part of David's curriculum, he was required to interview a Vietnam Veteran with a set line of questions.

Although a little dubious to begin with, I warmed to the occasion. On the date set for the interview David arrived with his mother who was keen to sit in on the event. The interview was hard hitting and direct and straight to the point, I'd been put through the wringer but, somehow felt better for it.

A few weeks after the interview I received a letter from David thanking me for consenting to the interview. He remarked that he got a fantastic insight into the life of a soldier in the Vietnam War. He indicated that he understood how it must have been difficult for me to relive the memories. Its times like this that make you take the time out for a few minutes and appreciate the fact that not all is bad in the world that we live in. I can assure you, that after receiving David's letter, it really gave me a boost.

John Finn A3 1st tour.

ANZAC DAY IN SYDNEY 2/7th Bn AIF

The ANZAC Day march in Sydney for the 2/7th Bn was an excellent occasion. The weather, although showery was kind to us, fortunately, nobody had to unfurl their brollies, or raincoats. Members marching were, Wal Newby, Jim Clarke and Bill Cowie. Unfortunately the names of family members present were not noted, but they welcome for their support. Ian Mackay, as usual was our leader and kept us in step when the drumbeat was not audible, certainly made a difference as was evidenced by the cheers from the sideline. Ian then doubles back, after our finish, to join 7RAR.

Family members, plus Sandy Pearson and Max Wright, helped make the get-together at the Catholic Club, a wonderful event despite the crowding. John Atkinson represented the 2/7th at the Paddington RSL with the 7RAR. Our next formal get-together will be at the Garrison Church on the 14 November for Remembrance Day service. Mindy Sutherland, during one of her hospital visits in Canberra came across a 2/7th member and kindly sent me his details. I rang him at home after his discharge and had quite a yarn, his details are NX 205425 Francis Rees and he asked to be remembered to members of 2/7th.

Bill Cowie 2/7th Bn AIF.

ANZAC Day NSW 7RAR Association

Hope all Pigs around Australia had a safe day and did partake of the nectar of the god's.

Here in the big smoke, we had a good turn out on the day, I didn't make it to the Dawn Service but I believe quite a few pigs did, then on to Regimental Squire for the Wreath Laying and down to the Fortunes of War for breakfast and then the service at Garrison Church 'well done'.

The march formed at Bent & O'Connell Sts. behind the NSW Banner it looked like the rain would stay with us, but then you can be lucky it was a nice day for a stroll down memory lane, after the march a lot of Pigs then went to the Paddington RSL for drinks & some nibbles.
Roll Call!!

Ian McKay, Rod Lyons, Bob Murdoch, Rye Cook, Tony Keech, Bernie Cox, Warren Davy, Tony & Maria Bonvino with the Son-in-law, Bernie & Dale Folkes with Michele Celler, Bob & Vy Schmiede, Rev Robertson, Barry & Helen Chandler, Bob & Barb Malt, Gary Seton, Phil McNicol, Janice Collins, John Atkinson 2/7th, Don Gillies, Jim & Carol Booker, Colin & Pam McNicol, Chris & Linda Edge along with son David & wife who also dragged along two ring ins Graeme Tooth and Bob Hopper both from 5RAR no one can say we won't feed & water a pussy cat, Peter Sexton, Wendy & Len Schulz, if I have left anyone out you can buy me a drink next time.

NSW will be holding a dinner on Saturday 18 September 2010 at the Paddington RSL (details later) for the first Soui Cha Pha and Battalion birthday Dinner, this is something that we here in NSW should be doing as the other states conduct these events on a yearly basis.

Now at this time of our lives more than ever, we need to keep contact with each other, so we can keep an eye on or be there, to support your mate when he needs help the most and we can only do this by making sure that we can meet for lunch or such on a regular basis at a club somewhere in the city, and also to make sure that our wives come along as they are just as important to this association.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you on the 18th Sept 2010, if any of you NSW/Sydney Pigs have any ideas that will help us to be a more united Pig Sty by all means contact me or CEO (Tony).

Bluey Schulz
Support Coy / Aslt. Pnr / Transport.

(PLEASE DON'T FORGET I STILL HAVE A GOOD SUPPLY OF THE
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS RED FRIDAY PINS PRICED AT \$3.00 PLUS
POSTAGE AND PACKAGING)



Above and Below: The 7RAR contingent lead by Colonel Eric.





Above: Bernie Folkes and Tony Bonvino.

Below: Tony Keech and Bernie Cox.



THE BEST FROM THE WEST

G'Day from WA to all PIGS everywhere.

ANZAC DAY - PERTH

As you can see from the photos, Anzac Day in Perth was wonderful with bright blue skies. Our banner was carried by Clinton Dixon, son of our late member Bob Dixon and Griffio Griffiths, led out front by Ken Bladen. We also had Albert Jacob MLA(State) and John Bell carrying the Australian flags in honour of their Uncle and Brother respectively, an honour they have carried out with us over many years. Our large contingent also included Kevin Pattle, who was visiting from over east. We had the pleasure of the Australian Army Band to lead us and this reduced the need for RSM Spunky Fieldhouse to be overworked. We certainly welcomed having a brass band (in lieu of a Pipe band) and all marched in correct step, so here's hoping that we can continue to have this band in future years. Julia Jacob and Ann Cowen were among the ladies who marched with us and afterwards we gathered at Rigby's for our usual get-together, where Margaret Moylan joined us as well. Betty Baty missed the bus and didn't make it, we missed you Betty. Clare Dixon and family also joined us upstairs for our family gathering. We raffled a wonderful mirror (complete with Rising Sun/Lest We Forget inscription and courtesy of Alan West) and raised \$600 which we donated to the RSL Overseas Fund to assist current serving members. An RAAF Vietnam Veteran won the prize, much to the regret of our Army buyers. Oh well there has to be a winner! It's always terrific to catch up with mates from other battalions and corps, which I guess is what makes the day so special.



L to R: Brian Griffiths, Kevin Pattle, Peter Vlachou on the Esplanade after the march



Happy PIGS L to R: Casey Epskamp, Colin Tye on the esplanade.



Barry Hutchins (L) in Canberra on Anzac Day, with 1RAR guys. Barry happened to be in Canberra and wanted to march, so hooked up with these 1RAR guys, veterans of Coral.

VALE DOUG GIBBONS

All 7RAR 2nd Tour PIGS are in shock over the recent death of Doug Gibbons, the much-loved commander of "Gibbo's Guerilla's", 5 platoon, B Coy. Doug was a great bloke and a wonderful platoon commander and will be sorely missed, a life cut way too short. We all send our sincere condolences to Doug's family, his many friends and colleagues and to all those members of "Gibbo's Guerilla's".

R.I.P. Doug.

Here is a moving tribute to Doug from Gavin Rodie:

To those of you who were unable to attend Doug's funeral, I have attached a few pictures for you to reflect upon. It was a sunny but cool day in Adelaide. Centennial Park is a lovely cemetery with delightful meandering pathways, varying headstones & monuments, water features & landscaped gardens that were perpetually manicured & lots of birdsong; a delightful picturesque place to rest one's head for eternity. To those of you who knew Alan Aldenhoven, who served with us in SVN, he too has been laid to rest here in this peaceful place of tranquillity. The Florey Chapel is in a building that houses three chapels which overlook the gardens. The friends & family who came by to pay their respects to Doug on the day were greeted at the door of the chapel by a Guard of Honour, consisting of a large variety of military personnel; Officers & OR's, who at one time or another worked with Doug, served with him, or were associated with Doug in some form or another during his career in the Army.

The service was uplifting with several friends paying tribute to Doug. Doug's brother Vic spoke about Doug as they grew up as a family, Doug, Vic, Helen & Phil all of whom at one time were associated with the Royal Military College Duntroon. Doug, as is commonplace with the eldest sibling had his moments with the younger ones. Vic shared snippets of family life with the Gibbons.

Ian McNee paid tribute to Doug from the point of view of a dear friend, an officer & someone who shared some exciting adventures in life with Doug. What was most interesting to a lot of us was the fact that the speakers came from different stages of Doug's life & career, including his years in retirement from the services. We were able to learn a lot about Doug's life story. He had a lot of chapters to his book that we were unfamiliar with. There were many facets to Doug's life that we were totally unaware of. Doug undertook several projects & raised funds for a number of community activities in Darwin. He worked tirelessly, had a penchant for crosswords & tidiness. In his later years, having left the Army as a full Colonel, Doug took every opportunity to indulge in his love of sailing, having crewed with his friends to diverse parts of the world. The amazing part was that as late as April this year, Doug took part in a golf tournament & just about cleaned the board with his prowess.

Doug's funeral service had a Military theme which made it all the more significant & quite a moving experience to all of us ex servicemen who attended. I did notice tears in the eyes of a lot of us during these poignant parts of the proceedings

Doug's passing was quite swift, he was sailing from the Sunshine Coast to Darwin when he took ill & came off the catamaran in Cairns & as is his want reported directly to the hospital. Doug was immediately flown down to the Gold Coast for further tests. All in all, it was a matter of 8 weeks since Doug was diagnosed with cancer that he sadly passed away.

The get-together of family & friends to celebrate Doug's mortal life was held at the Belair Hotel in the Adelaide hills. It was a pleasant drive with panoramic views over Adelaide & to the Coast, where we were welcomed by all the Gibbons & Mcnee families.

A large crowd attended the celebration of Doug's life's journey. It was a time that we were all able to partake in sharing our own journey & recollect the wonderful times that we shared with Doug over the years. It gave us a wonderful opportunity to meet with the extended Gibbons & McNee families & for us to participate in sharing our experiences with Doug's close knit family.

The whole family expressed their gratitude & appreciation for each & every one of you who had texted Doug, sent him cards, called him etc. Doug was overwhelmed by the support he received, the prayers, the caring & the well wishes that he had received from all over, especially some of us who had been lost for nigh on 40 years.

To all of you, I have been asked to convey the whole families' sincere thanks & gratitude for all the support that was so readily given to Doug during this trying time. Every one of you has played a wonderful part in making the last few days for Doug memorable by being there for Doug in heart & spirit. Sam has been a solid rock through this ordeal & like her Dad she has been an incredible tower of strength to the family. Sam may I say has worked tirelessly & given her all in every respect to ensure that Doug's last days were spent in peace & comfort.

Sam we salute you & in saying so we trust that we can keep in touch with you & Pat over the coming years.

Sincerely, Gavin



R.I.P. DOUG



At
t h e B e l a i r

Hotel - Back Row L to R: Bernie Cox, J J Smith, Mike O'Brien,
Keith Molyneux, Gavin Rodie, Doc Russell, Gilbert Green.
Front Row L to R: Geoff Mainke, Meggsy Morrison, Bruce Ravenscroft.
Also present but not in photo: Tony Keech, Graham Cornes, John Lawson.

VALE : GYLIAN SEXTON

An outdoor memorial service was held for Gylia Sexton, widow of our late member John, at SASR Club "The House" Campbell Barracks Swanbourne on Friday 28th May 2010. WA 7RAR members in attendance were John & Kerry Burrows, Steve Chamarette, Don & Margaret Cruden, Spunky Fieldhouse, Mick O'Halloran, Dale Marshall, Gary Williams and Betty Baty (widow of our late member Jim). Betty placed 2 red roses on the memorial table on behalf of Ted & Julie Lewis, CSM C Coy 1st tour. It was a very moving ceremony with tributes from Gylia's grandchildren and son Michael. The SASR setting was an ideal location for such a service.

All family members were thankful of the support offered by all 7RAR members. We have invited Steven to march with us on future ANZAC Day services in Perth whereas Michael will continue to do so at Exmouth where he works. Gylia's death was most unexpected as days earlier she had undergone a hip replacement and was progressing well after the operation. Our sincere condolences are offered to all family members.

SICK LIST

Charlie Matheson has been crook but is on the mend. Get well soon Charlie.

VISITORS

Don Cruden had a call from Alby Alberd who was in Darwin saying he was travelling with Shorty & Jeanette Hylard and would be in Perth sometime in August. Don asks that all those who served with Alby or Shorty in 3RAR 1963-65 (D Coy & Tpt) and 7RAR 1st tour again D Coy or Tpt be prepared for this visit. Don will advise as many members that he knows within WA for a drink session, possibly at ANZAC HOUSE.

BOB DIXON - a note from Clare Dixon

Just a follow-up to let you know that we scattered Bob's ashes on Saturday, 17th April at sunset at Lara and Steve's farm in Northcliffe. To be at the farm was Bob's wish. So on a rise in front of the cabins there is a flagpole that Bob and Steve made and erected, and it is at this spot we scattered his ashes to the wind. Steve created a beautiful log bench that has been placed under the flag pole; I had a plaque made for it. It is just the perfect spot to sit and ponder and take in the beautiful view.

We flew the flag that was over his coffin. Several people went down to the farm from Perth and a lot of townsfolk came along. The sunset was beautiful, there was no wind, the cows in the paddock all came around for a look and calves were running and playing in the background. It was just perfect. I've attached a couple of photos.

We also had Anzac Day, where Clint carried the 7RAR banner in memory of Bob and I was presented with a badge to wear in memory of Bob. The weather was perfect once again and the whole family went to the March and the 7RAR luncheon. It was an emotional day but we all enjoyed it. A couple of photos are also attached.

I have been feeling a bit brighter since we scattered Bob's ashes, I think it was a relief to carry out his final wishes. I've been to the doctor and although I have some spurs on my neck that causes me pain, all my blood counts came back really good. I see the oncologist at the end of this month. I'm not sure if he will do any tests.

All the family are keeping well and just taking one day at a time in our grieving. My love and best wishes to you all.

Love Clare



to R: Clare Dixon, Clinton Dixon, Brian Griffiths before the march.

L



Bob's memorial bench seat.

WARNING ORDERS FOR WA PIGS:

VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY

- Sunday 15 August 2010
- Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, May Drive, Kings Park
- On parade 0930 -1030 hrs, form up east of Lake
- March behind the PIG banner 1040 hrs
- Service commences 1100 hrs
- Medals to be worn, we want a large contingent marching

ANNUAL PIGS SWILL

- The Bull Creek Air Force Association, includes Museum Tour and 3-course lunch
- Sunday 21 November 2010, 11:30am for Museum Tour, 1:00pm Lunch
- \$35 per Head all-inclusive
- Send cheques, made out to 7RAR Association, to:
 - Don Cruden
26 Little River Cove
Jane Brook
WA 6056
Ph: 08 9374 0014
- For those who want to drink and not drive, take the train to Bull Creek station, then it's a short walk to the Association
- Money "Up Front" for catering purposes, so NO tickets issued on the day.
- RSVP by Friday 12 Nov 2010
-

BRUCE ROCK VIETNAM VETERANS GROUP WEEK/WEEKEND

- The Bruce Rock week/weekend is on again, lots of activities including Golf, Bingo, a Rifle Shoot, Lawn Bowls, Concerts, Street March with Brass Band, B-B-Q etc and many more. Everyone really has a good time
- Monday Nov 1 - Sunday Nov 7, a whole week of activities
- March Saturday 6 Nov 1430hrs, meet at the Hotel, look for the BANNER
- For more details contact Sue Turner on 0427 091 035
- For Oval Parking, contact Bruce Rock Shire 9061 1377
- Everyone who has attended in the past raves over it, great week or weekend so we would like a large contingent of PIGS ON PARADE.

VETERAN'S POETRY - OUR ROCK by Jim Wilson

As we stand in the main street of Northcliffe in the pre dawn darkness, front and centre of our memorial in town.

My thoughts just drift away to standing in another place, eyes straining, ears twitching, alert for sound.

Early morning and dusk were the most likely time of attack, so the military experts said, and to their word we were bound,

I have come to value dawn's promises of fresh life and dusks closing scenes, the subtle message of different eras, militarily and culturally filtered down.

As we swatted off chomping ants, mosquitoes and clinging plants and avoided stepping on thirty five varieties of snakes, prickly heat rash affected, sweat dripping, I came to appreciate our old town.

In the monsoon season, the rain replaced sweat, water dripped out of the arse of your pants, and leeches attached themselves to you in places that if verbalised might astound,

We patrolled in the jungle seeking the Viet Cong, sometimes we got lucky, finding the bunker systems deserted, they had buggered off, better sometimes not to be around.

We set up ambushes in rice paddies, trying to avoid the M16 mines, not always successful, if not cautious in the aftermath, problems could compound,

Forty years on we have lost that edge and alertness of other days, creaking twinging muscles, some follically challenged, most still retain the charismatic smile, but fitness can be unsound,

But today we straighten up sloping shoulders, kinked backs and dodgy knees and lock in place the arthritic hip, old memories profound,

We are honouring our veterans and I am proud to be standing amongst the crowd, at our ROCK, with my mates, at this service in our town.

NEWSLETTER - WA CONTENT

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

(08) 9448 3109 at home and

(08) 9323 4579 at work, or email

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

SPUNKY'S CAR



Spunky is so proud of his car and number plate that I just had to show it.

NAMETAGS (Note: For BOTH Men and Women)

Cost	\$13.00 small	\$18.00 large	No postage required
Time	About two to three weeks		
Information required	Name required, including nicknames, size & quantity		
How to pay	Include with order a cheque or money order		
	Make cheques out to Geoff Murray		
How to Order	Contact Geoff using details below:		

Geoff Murray
30 Bouvardia Way
GREENWOOD
WA 6024
geoff.murray@mainroads.wa.gov.au
Work Tel (08) 9323 4579
Home Tel (08) 9448 3109



CHEERS
GEOFF MURRAY

WINNER OF THE JOHN QUINLIVAN TPI SPECIAL AWARD, 2009
STORY WRITING & ARTS COMPETITION

Barry Marsh was born in June 1945 the son of Margaret and Ray and younger brother to Margaret. He grew up in East Doncaster, left school in 1960 and started a solid plastering apprenticeship with his father straight away. He was called up to the army in early 1966 but was deferred until July of the same year, completed recruit training at puckapunyal, infantry training at Singleton and then back to pucker where he joined 7RAR. Later off to Shoal Water Bay for exercises and jungle training at Canungra.

In April 1967 he left Australia on board the Sydney bound for South Vietnam. Barry spent a year there then returned home to Australia on the Sydney on 26th April 1968. He was back home in East Doncaster and out celebrating his safe return with his best mate (Bruce) when they were involved in a car accident. Barry was admitted to the Repatriation Hospital in Heidelberg (he was still in the army). His spleen was removed and while in hospital he met Jan who was nursing him. Two years later they were married - still together 40 years later.

After recuperating from his operation Barry returned to work for his father in the solid plastering business and continued there until 1985 when his father retired. Barry and his wife Jan then formed their own company and the solid plastering business continued. Along the way they had 2 children, a daughter and a son and at present one granddaughter. Barry continued plastering until he was forced to slow down and his son David formed his own company. He finally retired and later and was made TPI.

Barry and Jan moved to Anglesea around 2002 and then Barry started his hobby of woodwork. He had his father's machinery and gradually taught himself to use the lathe and to do various carving.

Sometime during 1998 Barry was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and has fought a continuous battle with this debilitating disease. He saw the design for the captive ball in a magazine and decided to try to make one. Despite the tremors and lack of concentration of Parkinson's Disease he completed the task.

(Story from VIC TPI magazine courtesy of Ken (Blue) Ward)

RAY SIMPSON, VC, DCM. BOOK PROJECT

Ray Simpson, VC, DCM, was one of Australia's most highly decorated soldiers since Harry Murray (VC, DSO & BAR, DCM) and Albert Jacka (VC, MC & BAR) in WW1.

Better known as "Simmo" or Chudda" Simpson, he served in many units during his time. He served briefly in the Islands at the tail end of WW11, then in Korea with 3 RAR from '51 to '53. Then 2 RAR in Malaya from '55 to '57. Followed by the SAS Company during the '57 to '64 period. In 1962 he was a member of the initial training team (Australian Army Training Team Vietnam {AATTV}, the "Team") in South Vietnam. He served nearly 50 months all told with the AATTV in SVN.

He was awarded the DCM with the Team in September '64 in an action in which he was severely wounded. He was awarded the VC for gallant deeds whilst again serving with the AATTV in May 1969. A long overdue book on his life story is being compiled by Mick Malone and Peter Lutley. Mick ex SASR and later RSM 1 Commando Regiment and Pete ex 7RAR 2nd tour SVN and then SASR. They wish to interview, chat or correspond with anyone who served or associated with Simmo who can add something to his story. This covers his service in WW11, Korea, Malaya, the SAS Company, 1 Commando Company, the AATTV or elsewhere. Even your opinion of the bloke can help. He was a unique individual and they are keen to put on paper the life of Simmo with anecdotes and all, including his professionalism towards the art of soldiering.

Does anyone know about Simmo trying to get back to Vietnam with 7RAR, possibly asking about it in the 1969 period? They are vitally interested in the times he visited 7RAR in Vietnam, when as a member of the AATTV and later as a "civi" in early 1971. It appears that after he was invested with his VC in May 1970 in Sydney by the Queen, he pulled the pin from the army and then did "Dixie bashing" for army units around the place, possibly including at 7RAR at Holsworthy! Then he appears in Nui Dat in early 1971!

He was a good mate of Danny Neville, most probably being in the same boys home together in the 30's in Carlingford, Sydney. These stories need confirmation, how, when and where. Were you there, let them know. They are also after insights into his private life including his Japanese wife, especially when she was living with him in Malaya with 2RAR in the '55-'57 period and later in Perth in the 1957- '64 period.

Obviously any documentation and especially PHOTO's are much sought after. (All photos will be copied and returned). He was one of Australia's most decorated soldiers, he served in the RAR, his story is long overdue to be told.

Please contact Mick and Pete by email or phone and they can take it from there.

Note: All proceeds after costs will be directed to the Australian SAS Association.

Mick Malone: Home: 08 92953911

Peter Lutley: Home: 08 93858037

Mobile: 0417964530

Mobile: 0416307734

Email: info@imprimaturbooks.com.au

Email: querrabin@hotmail.com

MYSTERY OF MISSING AIMING POST LIGHT SOLVED
STORY FROM NEVILLE (NOBBY) CLARK FO A 1ST TOUR

PHANTOM EXONERATED

After forty years one of the great mysteries in 106 Bty folklore has been solved. For those who may have forgotten the incident due to the "Fog of war" as Robert McNamara once described it or just have a bad memory, I'll recount the incident.

1967 THE INCIDENT

On one of our many operations (I don't remember which) we set up a fire support base in the sticks and went through the usual procedure of putting out the aiming posts, setting up the parrellelosopes etc.

The next morning one of the Guns (I don't remember which I reported a missing aiming post light a number of theories were put forward. The first being that VC had got through the perimeter and stole the light... Questions were asked of those on picket at the machine gun pit nearest the aiming post but it was obvious that if VC had got into the position there would be more serious issues than a missing light.

The second theory was that the light had not been stolen but misplaced by the relevant gun crew, but the Gun had fired a couple of missions the previous night so theory no two was also discarded. Unfortunately suspicion then turned to the Phantom and in the absence of any other evidence the smear stuck The good name of the Robin Hood of 106 Bty was to remain tainted for the next forty odd years. However in retrospect any profiler worth half his salt would immediately point out that the Phantom's MO was not to steal anything but to leave a present.

2010 LIGHTSURRENDERED

Over the last several years Terry Evans, Anthony James, Chook Fowler, Ian Ryan and myself have been members of the Diamond Valley Vi-etnam Veterans and attending their Friday night get togethers. During that time We've had a convivial ale with hundreds of different Vets. Recently I got talking to a 7 RAR Vet who WIA.

When I told him I'd been in 106 Bty he talked about the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha and went on to say the 106 Bty OP's were the only blokes in the army that had ever taken the trouble explain to him how the process of getting a round onto the ground worked. At the end of the conversation he said "seeing you were in 106 Bty I'll drop something at your place next week".

A couple of weeks later he turned up with the missing aiming post light and impressed upon me that it still worked because he had put a new battery in it. I told him about the drama his actions had caused and finished by saying " mate you realize you put that gun out of action for night firing until the light was replaced". He replied " yeah I felt bad about it for a long time ". Since receiving the light I have spoken to numerous 106 members who recall the incident but so far no one remembers which gun the light was stolen from, Can any one who does remember give me a call on (03) 9435 6856' I hope to place the light in the Vietnam Veterans display case at the Greensborough RSL.

Bob Rutherford

THE BLIND VETERAN

An old, blind veteran wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake. He finds his way to a bar stool and orders coffee.

After sitting there for a while, he yells to the waiter, "Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?" The bar immediately falls absolutely silent. In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him say's "Before you tell that joke old timer, I think you should know five things:

The bartender is a blonde girl with a baseball bat;

The bouncer is a blonde girl;

I'm a 6 foot tall, 175 pound woman, with a black belt in karate. The woman sitting next to me is blonde,..and a professional weightlifter.

The woman sitting next to me is blonde...and a professional weightlifter.

Now think about it seriously, Mister. Do you still wanna tell that joke?"

The blind veteran thinks for a second; shakes his head; and mutters, "No, not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times.

A COY 1ST TOUR REUNION

Boy oh boy what a great reunion was had at Tweed heads last November it will take some beating. Qld had done a great job, and Melb have something to compete with. Well last Anzac week was also a very memorable reunion for a few of us from "A Coy" 1st tour, where a dozen of us got together at "Hervey Bay" Thanks to Graeme Mottershead & his lovely family, who hosted our reunion. They provided meals & refreshment & a portion of the cost,s for over a period of 5 days Well done Bernadette, Graeme, & family. Among those he attended, were "Bluey" Joe Ward, John Morton, "Black Jack" Doulis, Keith King, Patty Crough, Dan Kelly, Roger Gentle, Jeff "Horse" Kirkman, George Cossey, Stuart Jacka, Roger Fawns, & Graeme Mottershead plus our better halves. On the Monday following Anzac day we went out to Roger Fawns place, & were lucky to see our "A Coy Chef" from our tour 67-68 Cliff Johnson.

Some of us had not seen Cliff since Vietnam, & boy that was great. We held a bit of a meeting at Rogers place & have decided to have a get together next Anzac Day 2011 in Townsville . So if any "A Coy" from the first tour would like to join us in 2011 please do so as the more the merrier. Patty Crough was with Ray & Merv from Vic who were both Viet Vets & mingled with our lot really well. In fact Ray did most of the cooking at Motts place, well done Ray.!! My wife & I had the pleasure of staying at George & Anne Cossey lovely place along with Christine & Roger Gentle. Well thats all for now Take care .

Cheers Jack Doulis.

Photos opposite:

Top L to R:

Bluey Ward, Roger Fawns, Graeme Mottershead, Stuart Jacka (crouching) Cliff Johnson, Jeff Kirkham (Hidden) George Cossey, Dan Kelly, (Kneeling) Black Jack and Roger Gentle.

Bottom L to R:

(Back Row) Bluey Ward, John Morton, Black Jack, Keith King, Patty Crough Dan Kelly:

(Front Row) Roger Gentle, Horse Kirkham, George Cossey, Stuart Jacka, and Graeme Mottershead.



PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

Anzac Day 2010

There was about 90-100 on the March - with 7 looking well turned out as usual. The new venue for post-March turned out quite well also, although numbers were down on previous years. We had a few younger veterans join us and we had a member from 5/7 help us during the reading of the Roll of Honour.

Reunion 2012 Planning

An initial meeting was held on April 18 and some sub-committees formed to develop the program and establish suitable venues. At this stage we are looking to the first weekend in August to link in with Suoi Chau Pha and the 'All 7' Shrine Pilgrimage, but keeping away from Vietnam Veterans' Day which can be a fairly busy time for a lot of us. Also being investigated are optional day tours to the Museum at Phillip Island and Puckapunyal (you wouldn't recognise the place now!) The next Planning Group is scheduled for August 1 at Duckboards, starting at 1:00 pm. All welcome, please come with ideas.

We are also after Expressions of Interest - if you are planning on coming could you please send an email to either Go Go Goggins (piginsh@hotmail.com) or Bill Anderson (lastwill@hotkey.net.au). Not quite a Pig in a Poke because we won't send you a bill if you don't come.

Shrine Pilgrimage/Suoi Chau Pha Lunch (Sunday August 8)

The ceremony commences at 1100hrs. We form up at the 7th AIF Tree and march up to the Eternal Flame to celebrate all the '7s'. If we have rainy weather (and we've been having rain at last), the ceremony will be held inside the Shrine. We will then adjourn to a nearby venue, possibly the Palmerston or Limerick Arms for our Suoi Chau Pha lunch. Please let Go Go know if you can come.

Monthly Meetings & AGM

We've moved back to Percy's Hotel in Carlton - meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on August 11, starting at about 7:00pm - after dinner. This meeting is also our AGM - members are very welcome and you don't have to worry about being 'dobbed in' (unless you want to!)

Parting Shot

You should always go to other people's funerals - otherwise they won't come to yours"

Bill Anderson

Email: lastwill@hotkey.net.au

Ph: (03) 9336-1317



Above: L to R: Bob (Shakey) Oakes, General Grey, Dave Willis and Denis James, enjoying a convivial during the ANZAC period in Bungendore.

Below: L to R: George Wenhlowskyj, General Grey and Avril.



NOMAD

*Some medal ribbons from Long Tan,
A four-wheel drive and a caravan;
His roaming travels never cease,
Though all he seeks is quiet and peace.*

*His hair is long and mainly grey,
He takes prescriptions every day;
If you try to have a chat with him,
He sits there with a face that's grim;*

*He listens now to what you say,
But you know his mind is far away.
He wasn't always down like that,
He used to smile and laugh and chat;*

*He used to grin and be upbeat,
Till he got booed in Flinders Street,
When, marching with his coppers there,
He found his own folk didn't care.*

*He'd done what he was told to do,
No carryon or ballyhoo;
He hadn't asked to be sent there,
He simply went to do his share;*

*But sometimes he can still see scenes,
Of bombs and flares and jungle greens:
He lost 500 mates up there,
His hair now grey that once was fair;*

*His brow more creased, his face more
lined;*

*He tries to think of happy times,
But happy times have passed him by,
And now he sometimes sits and cries;*

*His wife has tried to comfort him,
She gets his pills and other things;
Then, while he's lying there asleep,
She sneaks outside to have a weep.*

*Instead of honour he deserved,
From his great country that he served;
All he got then were snarls and curses,
The thing that made it really worse is,*

*The government that sent him there,
Should be so mean and so unfair;
To dump him in his hour of need,
As change in politics decreed.*

*So, when you see his caravan,
With medal ribbons from Vietnam;
Then show the man some respect.*

*Not ignorance nor cruel reject,
For he deserves your admiration,
And grateful thanks from this, his nation.*

Copyright, Paul Bowans, 2004

OPPOSITE →

Ken McFadyn was born in Melbourne in 1932. He studied with former WW1 Australian War Artist Sir William Dargie at the National Art School in Melbourne and was appointed official war artist in 1967 at the age of 35. He served with the Australian forces in Vietnam from July 1967 until May 1968 attached to 2RAR. This is the first comprehensive survey of Ken McFadyn's life and work. Ken McFadyn died in March 1988 of a heart attack while extinguishing a fire on his property at Millgrove in Victoria.

Cover image (pictured opposite) by Ken McFadyn, Back from patrol. 1968, Oil on canvas on hardboard, 24.6cm x 47.4cm. Australian War Memorial (ART 40740)

Vietnam on Canvas

Ken McFadyen: an Artist at War



Vietnam on Canvas contains a rich balance of Ken McFadyen's life, art and military service in Vietnam. Fellow artist Sandra Finger Lee has researched Ken McFadyen's life, his training as an artist, selection as official war artist and his military training to prepare for his service in Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. Sandra weaves the story of Ken McFadyen's paintings into the story of the day to day operations of the Australian Task Force in Vietnam.

Sandra describes the subjects Ken McFadyen painted and how he balanced his responsibilities as war artist with his obligations to the soldiers he accompanied. Finally, Sandra Lee describes Ken McFadyen's work after he returned to Australia and how his service in Vietnam continued to haunt the artist.

The book contains stylish and purpose designed maps showing the Australian Task Force operational area and the layout at the task force base at Nui as it was when Ken McFadyen arrived there in 1967.

McFadyen, Ken.

To Order

Vietnam on Canvas is a deluxe limited edition publication and will be available in spring 2010. The recommended retail price is \$79.50 (includes GST) plus posting and handling. This publication will be sold through Barrallier Books and selected bookshops.

To reserve your copy or to place an order, contact Ian Gordon at:
books@barrallierbooks.com or visit www.barrallierbooks.com.

Members of the Barrallier Book Club will receive free postage and handling.

Visit www.barrallierbooks.com for free membership.

PIGS IN SOUTH AUSSIE
ALWAYS IN ACTION.

2nd TOUR MEMORIALS
MONTHLY LUNCHES
SOUI CHAU PHA
LAYING UP OLD BANNER
BATTALION ARRIVAL



The past few months have been quite hectic for many of our members with ANZAC Day and the 40th Anniversary of second tour.

ANZAC DAY 2010



Numbers were down to about 30 this year however, under the command of W.O. Chris O'Neil, we did get into step and, toward the end of the march, our "halts" were quite sharp and received deserving cheers and hand claps from the appreciate viewers. A factor found enhancing the march was the sight of a few muslim school children, girls especially, waving Australian flags and cheering as formations of Australian service personnel marched by.

**Second Tour - 40th Anniversary
- Grave site visits**

The adjacent photo was taken of our visit to Stan Larsson's grave. He is buried next to his father - a WW2 veteran. His mother visits weekly. His widow has not remarried.



Pictured (from left) are Chris O'Neil, Chris Ashenden, Steve (Joe) Csorba and Kerry Eichner (all 1st Tour) and Bob Whinnen (2nd Tour).

Note the use of the new banner so that we are inclusive of members who have served Post Vietnam.

Most grave sites of those buried in South Australia who died whilst in Vietnam on the second tour have been visited with a wreath and sash placed on the grave. Where possible a family member has been presented with a 7 RAR sash.

For most families the memories are still raw and our visits and contacts have been appreciated. Our ceremonies have been simple and meaningful those who served with them. The visitation program was particularly well supported by 1st Tour men. Our visit to Pt Augusta was enhanced with local vets joining us and the presence of a piper.

The Adjacent Photo shows 7 RAR men to the left, Local diggers, WW2, Korea & Vietnam, Family representatives of those KIA, and The piper



Monthly lunches

Next is THURSDAY 19TH OF AUGUST @ STRAHMORE HOTEL, 129 NORTH TERRACE.

These are receiving increased participation. Whilst some topics for discussion are usually proposed, the conversations are free flowing and occasionally on the proposed subjects.

The June lunch was particularly successful as 2 boys from the country had been able to arrange appointments close to the date/time. They and their wives attended and added much to the time.

Soui Chau Pha Memorial

As per standing orders this will be held at the Torrens Parade Ground on Friday 6th August at 1100hrs. Of the ceremony we will move to the Royal Australian Regiment Association (SA) Club Rooms at 13 Beatty Street Linden Park for drinks, dinner and laying up of our old banner in an area dedicated to 7 RAR. \$20.00 will be sought (more accepted) toward the cost of meal and other costs of the day.

Reunion 2015

Our selected goals of 1,000+ attendees and the best reunion ever remain in place. An extensive list of activities is being expanded to ensure the time together is rewarding. The 50th anniversary dinner is likely to be formal. Company and units will be asked to organise their own reunion event. Free time will be available and partner activities organised.

Battalion Arrival

Married personnel are expected before school resumes in 2011 with single personnel arriving in February & March. Your pigs in SA will be working with RAR Association (SA) to assist with transitions into life in SA for all personnel and their family members.

SA 7RAR web page

With a number of members on the sick list and MIA there has been a delay with its promulgation. It would be great if someone out there is able to devote some time to the technical aspects of establishment and ready maintenance – there are plenty of ideas on relevant material.

Vale Herbie

A moving ceremony was held on June 26th at the War dog memorial at Goolwa to recognise mine detection dog Herbie who along with sappers Smith and Moreland had recently been KIA in Afghanistan. Around 100 hounds of all sorts attended and were accompanied by approx. 300 humans. An honour guard was provided by serving dogs from RAAF base Edinburgh.

The opportunity was taken to present a 7 RAR sash to Chris O'Neil (organiser of the event) to commemorate 7 RAR dogs, especially tracker dog Cassius who died of heat exhaustion in Vietnam whilst a member of Chris's pack.

General Communications

Communications to all members is difficult as not all are on email, the preferred medium. Will those who have email and are not receiving regular SA messages please provide Chris Ashenden cash-ende@bigpond.net.au with their current address. Please advise him also of other pigs to whom you will pass on such communications. Alternatively, if you have no email addresses please work through your circles of mates to have them pass onto you such communications.

Chris Ashenden

Pigs in Paradise

Monthly Get Togethers:

The Queensland chapter of the Association are now holding an End of Month Get Together on the last Thursday of each month. So far we have held two with limited success but time will bring more together. Last month almost 20 attended including Gary & Julie Patterson from Victoria, Lee Chapman, Pat Quinn and Dianne Entwistle, Jim Papandreas and Anne, Leigh and Vicki Christie, Mungo and Leanne McCabe, Andrew Thompson and Anna and Myself and Joan.

There were apologies but those that attended had a good time.

The next one will be on Thursday 29th of July so if you are anywhere near Brisvegas drop in at The Rat in South Brisbane.

Jim Cox Memorial

In early September some Pigs gathered at the tiny town of Marlborough to attend the dedication of a memorial to two of the towns Vietnam KIA. One of these was Jim Cox, Charlie Company 1st Tour.

Peter Upton and I drove up from Brisbane, Ted Lewis trained it and others, including Doc and Marie Savage, Ray and Sue Greenwood, Barry Fulton, Tony Bennett, Randal O'Hare and Greg Mace come in from local areas. The ceremony was organized and run by the Vietnam Vets from Yepoon as part of a program to have all KIA diggers recognized by a memorial in their local community.



Greg Mace, Doc Savage and Randal O'Hare



Ray Greenwood & Barry Fulton



Randal O'Hare, Ted Lewis & Greg Mace

Suoi Chau Pha Day:

We traditionally gather on the Sunday closest to the 6th of August to commemorate the men lost at the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha and also those who were killed in action on both tours, subsequent to the tours and the one soldier lost in Afghanistan, Cpl Mathew Hopkins.

This year is no different. We will conduct a short ceremony followed by lunch and refreshments. The trees and plaques of all the 7RAR guys lost in action will be marked with a small Australian flag to enable us all to say hello to our mates.

When:

Sunday 8 August 2010 commencing 1030 hrs for morning tea and 1100 hrs for the service

Where:

Reflection building National Memorial Walk (NMW) Enoggera Barracks. For those not familiar with the National Memorial Walk visit the website at <http://www.rar.org.au/QLDNMW.html>

Dress:

As per ANZAC Day - Coat, tie and full size medals

Who:

All members of the 7RAR Asscn, ex and current members of 7RAR and their families are encouraged to attend.

Catering:

BBQ to be provided by the NMW Dad's Army staff.

Costs:

\$10.00 per head. This may appear expensive but it is one way we can support the National Memorial Walk and the magnificent work the organizers do.

Drinks:

XXXX Gold, wine and soft drinks will be available from the Dad's Army crowd at the NMW

Furniture:

Seating is limited so it would be a good idea to bring some chairs.

Attendance:

It is important that we know exactly who is coming. Please email me, with names of attendees. We need this for catering purposes AND for entry to the Barracks. If you don't tell us then you will have to stop at the Security Office (on the left just before the Lloyd St entrance) and endure a process of identification and production of a photo ID. If you do tell us then you just stop at the Main Gate and announce your name and purpose of visit.

RSVP to Kev Gillett at kev@7rar.asn.au or phone 3865 4411 or 0429 054 805

Make sure your mates knows about this. If you know someone who isn't on the web or doesn't get the Newsletters then phone them and pass on the details.

That's all from Paradise

Kev Gillett
Brisbane



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