

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - APRIL 2014

Again our April edition Newsletter goes to print just prior to the Easter holiday break with most of us looking forward to some down-time with family and friends. It's also a good time for reflection on those near and dear to us whom we may have lost since Easter last year; and for those who are not in the best of shape and who need a helping hand. This year Easter falls just before Anzac Day with Easter Monday followed by Anzac Day on the Friday, which means a three day week for many of us. Again let's not forget our comrades in less fortunate circumstances than ourselves and thank the heavens above that our troops are back from Afghanistan after a decade of war and peace-keeping work in a foreign land.

ANZAC DAY 2014

Anzac Day this year on Friday 25th April gives us a chance to catch up with old mates at the end of the week just after Easter and the weekend of 26th and 27th April to recover. For those of us who attend the Sydney Anzac Day services and the March, I'd like to see a bigger roll-up at our Annual Service at the Garrison Church at The Rocks, and with our numbers thinning we would really welcome any 7RAR Afghanistan veterans and families and friends and encourage them all to join us prior to the Anzac Day March. Timings of the Service and the day can be found in this newsletter, and we are very pleased to hear that this year our old stomping ground, *The Fortune of War Hotel* will be open for breakfast after the service for all ex 7RAR soldiers and mates.

No doubt our State branches in cities around the nation are gearing up for Anzac Day this year, and lets remember that this year's event will be a good 'trial' for next year which as we're all aware is the 100th Anniversary of the legendary Anzac landing at Gallipoli.

MALAYSIA AIRLINES MH370

This time last year I wrote about Qantas flight QF32 which on 4th November 2010 came close to an aviation disaster flying out of Changi Airport in Singapore, when shortly after departure an explosion shattered an engine on this A380 Airbus, and the Captain Richard de Crespigny's brilliant flying with the assistance from Senior Check Captains on board, saved the day averting a potential disaster with a complement of 469 passengers and crew on the aircraft.

The pilot Richard de Crespigny trained with the RAAF for 11 years and it was to stand him in good stead during the complex misadventure.

Today we are looking down the barrel of a massive air disaster which has captured the imagination of the world and is now in the hands of a previous Australian CDF, Air Chief Marshall Angus Houston who heads the multi-national task force in the search. There is the added stress of finding the aircraft's 'black box' before it's beeping device stops, making it near impossible to find it in the ocean some 1800 nautical miles from Perth in W.A. Search ships and rescue aircraft have their work cut out for them as the area is enormous and the depth of the ocean in parts thousands of metres. The lost aircraft had a complement of 239 passengers and crew on board and has been lost since March 8th. The co-operation of various nation's military forces involved is huge as it heads towards a month since its tragic loss was first reported.

SPITFIRE ACE OF ACES - (the Wartime Story of Johnnie Johnson)
First published in the UK in 2011 and written by well-known prolific author on aspects of Spitfire and Battle of Britain history Dilip Sarkar, this book covers the wartime story of the RAF's top-scoring fighter pilot of the Second World War who shot down 38 1/2 enemy aircraft. The book is a must for Spitfire enthusiasts and also for those of us who served with his son Chris Johnson in 7RAR's second tour of duty in SVN. Johnno (jnr) ex Sandhurst was 1 platoon commander in A Company, and had a great rapport and was well-liked and respected by his men. His father retired an Air Vice Marshall with the following medals, nineteen in all: CB, CBE, DSO & 2 Bars, DFC & Bar.

OUR PATRONS
My wife and I were fortunate to visit General Grey in Bowral in February and it was good to see him looking so well after major surgery. He continues to battle with some health problems, but manages to travel with his wife occasionally. They are away as I write this, however before leaving he extended his very best wishes to all 7RAR members and families for a great Anzac Day and for this year 2014.

Colonel Eric Smith is well and is also away at the moment. He approaches his 89th birthday on the 28th April this year, and we will have to celebrate his 90th in style in 2015!

Our serving Patron, LTCOL Malcolm Wells CO of 7RAR now based in Adelaide has written an interesting article on the current 7RAR and its recent deployment in Afghanistan, on pages 18 & 19 of this Newsletter.

THE FUTURE

The next 12 months will be busy with our Adelaide Committee fine-tuning the "Anzac to Adelaide" Reunion 2015 which is well-documented in the pages ahead.

This June the 7RAR Association AGM will see a new committee lead us into an exciting 2015 & beyond. Hopefully we'll see more participation from 7RAR's ex-Afghanistan soldiers who are most welcome.

Our 'bucket list' is still full of challenges for us to press on with: an Australian National Memorial Cemetery; continued assistance to the Gurkhas through the Gurkha Welfare trust; "Support Our Troops" badges to raise funds, and more.

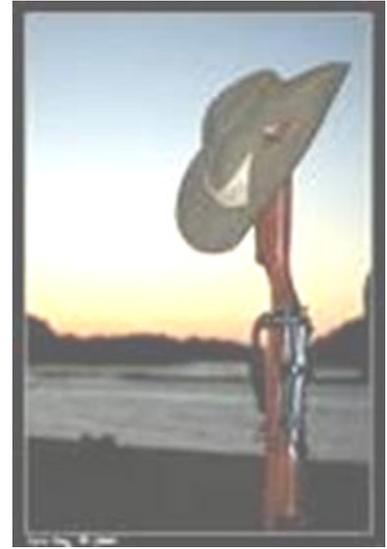
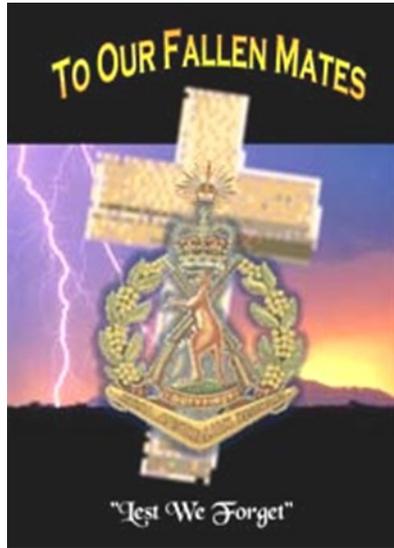
We wish our newly appointed Governor-General, the Hon .General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC, all the very best for a terrific term of office, and we welcome this Vietnam veteran and career soldier to the top position in the land.

Thank you to all the committee for your support and especially to XO Tony Keech for his tireless efforts to steer us along the track as we grow older.

All the best to the '7RAR family' for a happy, safe and pleasant Easter, and another terrific Anzac Day with good comrades and old friends.

All the best in life and good health.

Warm regards,
Rod



VALE

**Rest ye oh Warrior, You will battle no more,
No longer to live the horrors of war,
Your duty was done with honour and pride,
Farewell oh brother, until we march by your side.**

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

**218330 Denis Patrick James, Mors 2nd tour, passed away
Sat 25 Jan 2014.**

**1731416 Phillip Jude Minniecon, A1 1st tour, passed away
Wed 29 January 2014.**

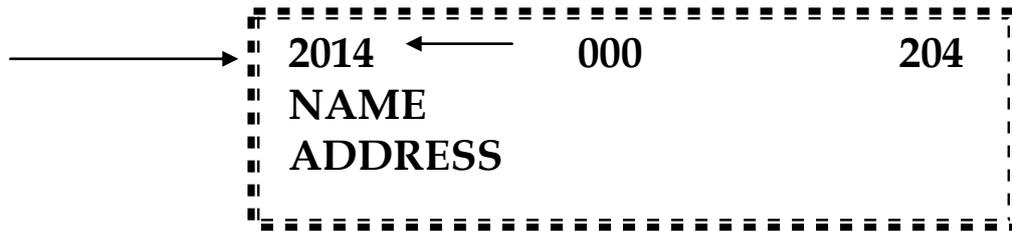
**3789297 George Edward King, D/CHQ 1st tour, passed away Monday
24 March 2014.**

**2973447 Paul Thomas James Edmonds, D10 2nd tour, passed away
Tuesday 4 March 2014, see message page 19.**



From the – EDITOR'S DESK

At the time of publishing this edition of Seven News there is 218 members who are currently un-financial. Can you please check your address label of this issue and check the first set of numbers on the top left of the label, this tells you your current financial status, see specimen below:



If your number shown above is anything other than 2014 then you are un-financial, some members have been un-financial since 2005. Please check your number and fix the renewal if yours is out of date. I would also ask all members if you move please let me know, this applies in general to serving members but also to all if applicable. Also if you renew your membership by a direct deposit into the Association bank account can you please advise me of your action and if there is any changes in your details currently on the Association's Database.

Please note the date for the Annual General Meeting is Sunday 29 June this year. The late date is the result of some members of the Committee of Management being unavailable due to other commitments during the period of May and early June. If you can attend please do so and advise the XO of your intentions, if you are unable to attend please forward your proxy to the XO by the date indicated in the AGM notice on page 34.

Also be aware that the Association will have to increase membership fees soon due to the rise in every commitment we have, with the printing, postage and daily running of the Association, fees have been unchanged since 2003. Be aware of the extra service at Lone Pine in Aug 2015 as announced by the Govt recently if you plan to go and have not registered.

Tony Keech, OAM XO/ED

HIGHEST HONOUR TO DIGGER WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson warmly welcomed the Australian Government's decision to posthumously award the *Victoria Cross for Australia* to the late Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird, MG.

"Corporal Baird was a true Australian hero, his actions on 22 June 2013, while serving in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, were truly remarkable. He displayed the highest level of gallantry, making the ultimate sacrifice to protect his comrades," Senator Ronaldson said.

"The actions of Corporal Baird will be forever instilled in Australia's military history. The Victoria Cross was awarded in recognition of his most conspicuous acts of valour, extreme devotion to duty and ultimate self-sacrifice."

Corporal Baird will join a small group of gallant Australians who have been bestowed Australia's highest military honour. The *Victoria Cross for Australia* has recently been awarded to Corporal Mark Donaldson, VC, Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith, VC, MG and Corporal Daniel Keighran, VC for their actions in Afghanistan.

"This is a lasting symbol of the Australian Government's gratitude for Corporal Baird's brave actions and I hope that his family will accept this great honour on his behalf," Senator Ronaldson said.

"I know that Corporal Baird's family are proud of their son's efforts and that his service has been recognised with this award."

"Today we also think of Corporal Baird's mates, the men and women who live today to tell the story of Corporal Baird's life, his service for his nation and who were privileged to know him. Today will be a day tinged with both sadness and pride for a mate who made the ultimate sacrifice heroically defending his mates from danger."

Corporal Baird's parents were presented with the award by Her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia at Government House, Canberra on 18 February 2014.

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2014 CALENDER

- Fri 25 April ANZAC Day.
- Sun 29 June AGM see details pages 34-36.
- Wed 6 August 47th Anniversary Battle of Suoi Chau Pha.
- Mon 18 August 48th Anniversary Battle Long Tan.
- Mon 1 September 49th Birthday 7RAR.
- Tue 2 September Cut-off for 2/2014 Seven News.



BEYOND THE CALL

Beyond The Call, is a book produced by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and deals with the situations of Defence Force personnel who have experienced problems on returning from their deployments to areas of conflict.

It is a free publication and is available to anyone who would like to read the stories of those members who have experienced difficulties re-adjusting to life away from their time in the combat area and how they have overcome their problems.

There are many stories from wives, partners and other members close to those who have had difficulties adjusting to life back in the community and how they have assisted and supported these members. If you are interested in this publication please contact your local DVA office or free call 1800 026 185 and ask them to send you a copy.

Tony Keech XO/ED



ANZAC to Adelaide - Reunion 2015

Newsletter 5 - February 2014.

Only 88 weeks to go!

Hi Everyone - and a Very Happy New Year.

This is our first Reunion 2015 Up-date for 2014, and once again we want to let everyone know that things are progressing pretty well, although there have been a couple of "bumps in the road".

As most of you will already be aware, our first 'glitch' came about because the State Government decided that they wanted to use the Torrens Parade Ground for bus parking for the cricket, and consequently we got 'bumped' and have had to shift the reunion to one week later - starting now on Thursday 15th October and running through Sunday 18th.



NOT HAPPY!

(Fancy thinking that Vets should come first - what is the world coming to?).

Anyway - 'onward and upward' as they say!
However, only a few weeks later we were informed that we could no longer have the planned Concert on the banks of the River Torrens - because - you guessed it - the State Government has earmarked the entire site for a bi-athlon event that weekend.



NOT HAPPY AGAIN - but 'PUSH ON'.
(We are nothing if not stubborn - you could almost say 'pig-headed').

So - after careful thought (and much swearing) we decided to approach the Adelaide City Council, who turned out to be very supportive indeed

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THEREFORE

- it looks like we will be holding our Concert in the middle of the city, in the newly revamped and 'up-market' Victoria Square. Much better option really - lots of pubs close by, lots of street vendors, lots more atmosphere



All-in-all though, most things are looking pretty good, and I am sure that as the few remaining weeks rip by, things will get even more settled and finalized - we will keep you informed and up-to-date as the reunion gets closer.

Registration

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

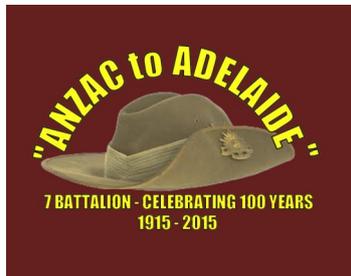
First - We have decided to close off registration at the end of March 2015. This gives everyone wishing to attend the Reunion plenty of time to think about it and get their registrations in, and gives us the necessary time to close off bookings, and make final preparations. We know that some will not be happy with this decision but, listening to our peers in both Victoria and Western Australia - and taking on-board their experiences with the reunion bookings - we feel this still gives everyone time to register - if intending to come - and also allows us time to finalise everything before the actual event.

There will be NO registrations accepted after the end of MARCH 2015. REMEMBER YOU MUST BE FINANCIAL TO ATTEND.

Second - As we are now only a bit over twelve months away from closing the books, it has now become impractical to continue to offer Periodical Payments for new registrants, so we have now closed the Periodical Payment Option.

Third - As we stated earlier, we are actively working to reduce the costs as much as possible, and all savings will be passed on to members. Currently, pricing for Single members is \$335.00 instead of \$375.00 - and pricing for Couples has also dropped, and is now set at \$660.00 instead of \$720.00 as previously announced. This is due to what we believe are two important considerations, one being that the ladies never drink as much as the men and secondly, we believe that we need to pay back some of the wonderful support our partners have given us over the years.

As sponsors come on board we hope to be able to reduce costs even further. Again any members who have already paid will receive a refund for the final difference.



Reunion Registration Now Open

Registration for ANZAC To Adelaide - Reunion 2015 is now open.

Go to the our home page on the web at 7rarsa.asn.au, then '2015 Reunion' in the black menu bar, then at the 'drop-down' select 'Registration - Reunion 2015' and follow the prompts.

Please note: EVERYBODY MUST COMPLETE A REGISTRATION FORM, WHETHER ALREADY PRE-PAID OR NOT.

So go ahead and register - it is never too early.

We also have our accommodation page up and running, and we will add further options for accommodation as we go, ranging from five-star hotels to caravan parks and family apartments.



'Paper' Registrations

As we have progressed, we have realised that a lot of members don't use the computer, and so may be missing out getting information about the Reunion.

We will be advertising extensively in national's newsletter, and to help those who choose not to use a computer, we have devised hard-copies of all information, including registration forms and Programs, and we are happy to 'snail-mail' these to anyone who wants them.

All people have to do is contact me, either by phone or mail, and I will send them the necessary paperwork.

However, it is up to all of you reading this to get the information across to your mates, and help them get in touch.

Nevertheless, if you can use the electronic registration, it will save us untold hours of extra work, and we would really appreciate as many as possible utilizing this method of registration.

Well that's about it for now, but we will continue to keep everybody up to date with what's happening.

Cheers

Noel

Our mailing address is:

admin@7rarsa.asn.au

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE

Mr. Poor Young Sod,
13 Hadluck Court
HOME TOWN, AUSTRALIA.

National Service
Registration Office
145 Eagle Street,
ERISEANE, QLD.

Registration No. 3798903

CALL-UP NOTICE

You are hereby called up for national service with the Military Forces of the Commonwealth.

You are required to present yourself to Officer Commanding,

at **Adelaide Reunion 2015 Headquarters, Adelaide**

on the **15th** day of **October**, **2015**, at **2.00p.m.**

This notice should be presented together with your Certificate of Registration when you report for service.

Dated this **Twentieth** day of **March** **2014**

(D. Head)
Secretary

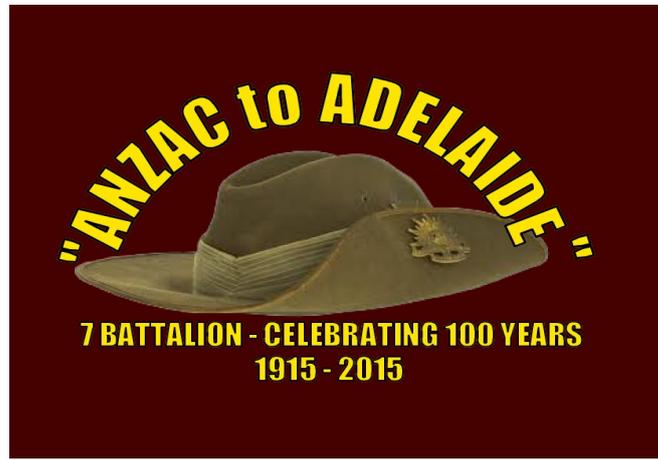
NOTE: If between now and the date when you are required to report for service, you sustain an injury or contract an illness which may affect your fitness for service, please advise immediately, with supporting medical certificate, the Registrar, National Service Registration Office.

If in complying with this notice, you incur expenses for fares, meals or accommodation en route over, and above what has been arranged for you, you should make applications for reimbursement on arrival at the Training Centre. If you do make such a claim please make sure this notice is attached to it.

NS 27 (Rev 5/55)

**This is your
CALL UP NOTICE
For
REUNION 2015**

(Should look familiar to all Nasho's!)



Hi Everyone!

Well - back again.

Letting you all know that you have less than one year from now to register for Reunion 2015.

Registrations close on 30th March 2015.



It is really important that you get your registrations in early - particularly if you want to sit at the Formal Dinner with your mates.

I am working at seating platoons and sections together as much as possible, but it really is a case of 'first in, best dressed', and if your registration is late, you may not get to sit at the same table as your mates.

If you want to be seated with specific people, send me an email at the time you register, with the names of those you want to sit with, and I will do my best to try to accommodate you.

At the moment we already have more than 80 people registered, and some platoon tables are already booked out.

This will only get more so as time passes - so hurry if you don't want to miss out.

To register, go to http://7rarsa.asn.au/wp/?page_id=2934
and simply follow the instructions - just make sure you tick everything you want
to attend before submitting the form.

For accommodation, go to http://7rarsa.asn.au/wp/?page_id=2890

For a map of all venues and event sites,
go to http://7rarsa.asn.au/wp/?page_id=3185

Program Update



Well - one thing we are finding is that even starting more than three years out
from the event, the programming is really a 'moving feast'.

Concert

Seems that we sort out one issue, only to find two more - oh well - pretty standard
fare for grunts!

First - we have cancelled the proposed Concert.

We were offered the use of Victoria Square by the Adelaide City Council, but they
required that we make it an 'open' event to the public. This meant that we had to
run our own security, etc, etc, and this just proved too much, and far too
potentially costly.

As well - two very well-known performers raised their fees substantially because
they apparently can ask much more \$\$\$ during the Gallipoli Centennial year.

Their new fees would really have blown the budget out of the water.

So - we are now going to incorporate part of the Concert into the Formal Dinner -
Eric Bogle has said that he will sing for a 'good bottle of Scotch', and being a huge
fan of his, I know he will give exceptional value.

We will also be having a number of other artists and performers, including a
comedy performance from 'The Old Fella', and music and song from Linda
McCarthy and Electric Juice,

This will really get the place jumping!

Those good people who have already registered and paid for the concert will be
getting a refund shortly, so no need to think you have been ripped off. There will
be a small increase in the cost of the Formal Dinner to cover the cost of the
entertainment, but I know it will be well worth the small extra amount.

Platoon Get-Togethers



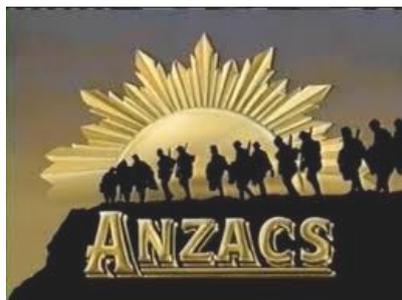
We have also set aside time for Platoon and Interest Groups get-togethers. This should ensure that those who want to specifically spend time with their Platoon mates will get the opportunity, and there will be - for example - a get-together for 4th Intake , which should be pretty big considering the number of 4th Intake guys there are.

These get-togethers will be organised by the members themselves - not us - but if you want to organise one and need assistance, just let us know.

The boys are also working hard on a number of other initiatives, and as they develop, I will keep you all informed. We are striving to add value while getting the price down - no mean feat - but we push on.

These newsletter updates will now come out on a more regular basis, and will probably become monthly by the end of the year.

If there is anything that you think we might consider adding to the program, drop me an email and we will consider it if possible.



In the meantime, have a great ANZAC day, and round up those mates of yours that you haven't seen for some time.

Importantly - get them to at least register for this newsletter, even if they haven't made up their minds yet about coming to Reunion 2015.

Cheers
Noel

7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association (S.A. Branch) Inc.

Patron: His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia



SOUTH VIETNAM 1967-68 AND 1970-71, TIMOR 2007, IRAQ 2008, AFGHANISTAN 2006, 2009, 2012, 2013

MESSAGE FROM LTCOL MALCOLM WELLS, CO 7RAR

2014 is a year of significant change for 7 RAR; something that is not new for the battalion.

Over Christmas, with a minimum of fuss, 7 RAR transitioned from its previous mechanised battalion organisation to what is known as a standard infantry battalion. Readers will rightly observe that there is nothing 'standard' about 7 RAR, instead for the first time since the early 1970s, the battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment are structured, manned and equipped similarly.

This is part of the Army wide reform called Plan Beersheba aimed to consolidate the lessons learnt from the last decade of operations and to meet the challenges of the coming decades. For 7 RAR it has meant the handing over of the much loved M113AS4 vehicles to the 1st Armoured Regiment, and the ending of a capability that in many ways has defined the battalion for some 40 years.

The APCs remain in Adelaide and the skills and expertise built up over the decades are being responsibly passed to ensure that the hard won familiarity and knowledge is not lost. In the last week of January two 7 RAR platoons quietly slipped back into Adelaide airport from Kandahar and Kabul, with other groups having done similarly from Tarin Kot just before Christmas.

This ended the Battalion's responsibility to operations in Afghanistan that begun in October 2012. During this time 7 RAR soldiers have achieved an enormous amount in progressing our Campaign in Afghanistan. In the final year in Uruzgan the men and women of Porky Seven have advised the Afghan National Army in Uruzgan to a point where they have now assumed independent responsibility for security operations in the Province. This ended the journey begun by the Battalion in October 2008 when the Battalion began our relationship with the 4th Brigade as MRTF-1.

Much progress has been made since then, and the sacrifice and service of our Battalion has been central to this. In this most recent deployment period, 7 RAR has also facilitated the operations of the Uruzgan Provincial Reconstruction Team, provided much of the combat capability that has allowed Australia to formally take the lead of Combined Team - Uruzgan, supported the redeployment of tons and tons of equipment from Uruzgan, and established two platoon sized force protection teams in Kandahar and Kabul that are central to Australia's on-going contribution of advisors to the Afghan National Army.

So with this operational period concluded, the battalion will now reset its capabilities over the next 18 months. Our primary focus during this time is on developing specialists and leaders within the battalion. After a frantic period, establishing a sustainable routine is also critical.

.....
The unit is now running a weekly sports competition, is able to support soldiers representing Army and the ADF in sport, has conducted modest adventurous training activities, and continued to strengthen our relationship with the Adelaide community.

Of course after this operational phase, and with our restructure, getting our equipment in order is another big challenge. Our major upcoming training commitment is A Coy deploying to Rifle Company Butterworth for three months in late April. Although we are resetting, we are certainly not resting!

Duty First!

LTCOL Mal Wells
CO 7 RAR

NOTICE

My name is Nicole Edmonds, and I am Paul Thomas James Edmonds's daughter.

My father was a Private - 2793447.

He served in Vietnam with 7RAR in 10 Platoon D Company from the 4th October 1970 to the 8th of February 1971.

My brother, William, and I are sad to have to let you know that Dad passed away on the 4th of March in Chile. We are still working through the process of bringing him back, but at this stage we intend to hold a memorial service for him on the 5th of April in the Blue Mountains, NSW.

I will be back in touch once we are able to confirm the details.

William and I would be grateful if you could pass on this news. If anyone who knew our father won't be able to attend, and would like to write something to be read out, please email:
nicedmonds@yahoo.com.au

Regards,
Nicole Edmonds
0400 546 602
William Edmonds

**PIGS IN SOUTH AUSSIE
ALWAYS IN ACTION
WEB PAGE
MONTHLY LUNCHES
ANZAC DAY
REUNION 2015**



WWW Checked our page out lately?

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

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

Monthly Lunches

The site for the next lunch can be found on the web page under the link "Future Events". <http://www.7rarsa.asn.au>. Most lunches see a group of younger diggers in attendance. Whilst much has changed over the past 45+ years some of the gripes are near identical. The interchange of ideas is always beneficial and well worth attendance.

**ANZAC DAY in the city
Association**

Following the dawn service members are urged to proceed to "Mantra on the Park" (Hindmarsh Square) for breakfast.

Assembly point for the March is Pulteny Street near the North Terrace intersection.

We have recruited a mascot. Depending on training and other protocols, including uniform fit and promotion, the young porky will march with either the Association or Battalion.

The primary lunch location is the Lion Hotel in North Adelaide. With a little luck and reasonable map reading, members will not be unduly delayed imbibing at the Torrens Parade Ground or British Hotel.

Battalion

There will be a dawn service at the base with personnel then transported to the city where they will march "under arms". A number are likely to navigate their way to the Lion and have requested space at ground level as "That's where the talent is."

REUNION 2015

Dates remain as Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th October 2015.

There have been some changes to the program due to increased asking price by performers. A more detailed update is available elsewhere in this newssheet or on the web site.

Other matters

Our secretary Noel Biggins has stepped aside to concentrate his efforts on the Reunion 2015. He also retains his portfolio of Web Master. Thanks Noel. We need a volunteer to assume the role of Secretary. Who will step up to the plate?

Karen Fleming, daughter of a member has taken on the role of accountant and the SA RSL has sponsored software to meet the demands of various activities. Many of our members are not trotting well these days and are having to cut back on activities. A number are fulltime carers for partners.

Since the New Year I am aware of one member having a heart valve replacement and two others having sections of cancerous bowels removed. Two other have had relapse of earlier problems and so it goes.

Given the above matters we urge the National Association to quickly proceed to appoint the Reunion 2018 Committee. A great challenge we have faced is the demands of handling late changes of venue and increased fees. These and similar variation have placed additional burdens on the organizing committee.

Whoever takes on future reunions will need to be quick on their feet and able to manage ambushes. Our boys, Noel, Tony & Kerry are doing a great job but will not be available post 2015.

It needs to be recognized that reunions are rewarding for attendees and organizers - but to be successful the organizers need to be fit and able to manage changes - things that are more difficult as one matures.

We need to reach out now to younger personnel but I fear it will be more than a decade before they are sufficiently settled to assume responsibilities for managing the association at state and national levels. Our committee has recruited a member of 5/7 who contributes but we need more to ensure the successes of the past remain as bases for future support for all pigs.

Cheers to all
Chris Ashenden

Pigs in Paradise

BRISBANE - ANZAC DAY 2014

DAWN SERVICE

All are invited to attend the Dawn Service at the Contemplation Building, The RAR National Memorial Walk, Lavarack Parade Gallipoli Barracks. Your Committee will be there and will lay a reef in commemoration of 7RAR soldiers lost in battle

Dawn service - National Memorial Walk - all gates to Enoggera Barracks will be open. Drivers licence photo id needed for entry.

Service at NMW commences at 0455am. Ensure you are in Enoggera Barracks by 0430am because of the large volume of traffic entering.

Prior to service there will be tea/ coffee/ orange juice/ water/ rum

Breakfast for a small fee will be available at 6RAR or 8/9 RAR

BRISBANE CITY MARCH

All 7RAR members are encouraged to march in the city.

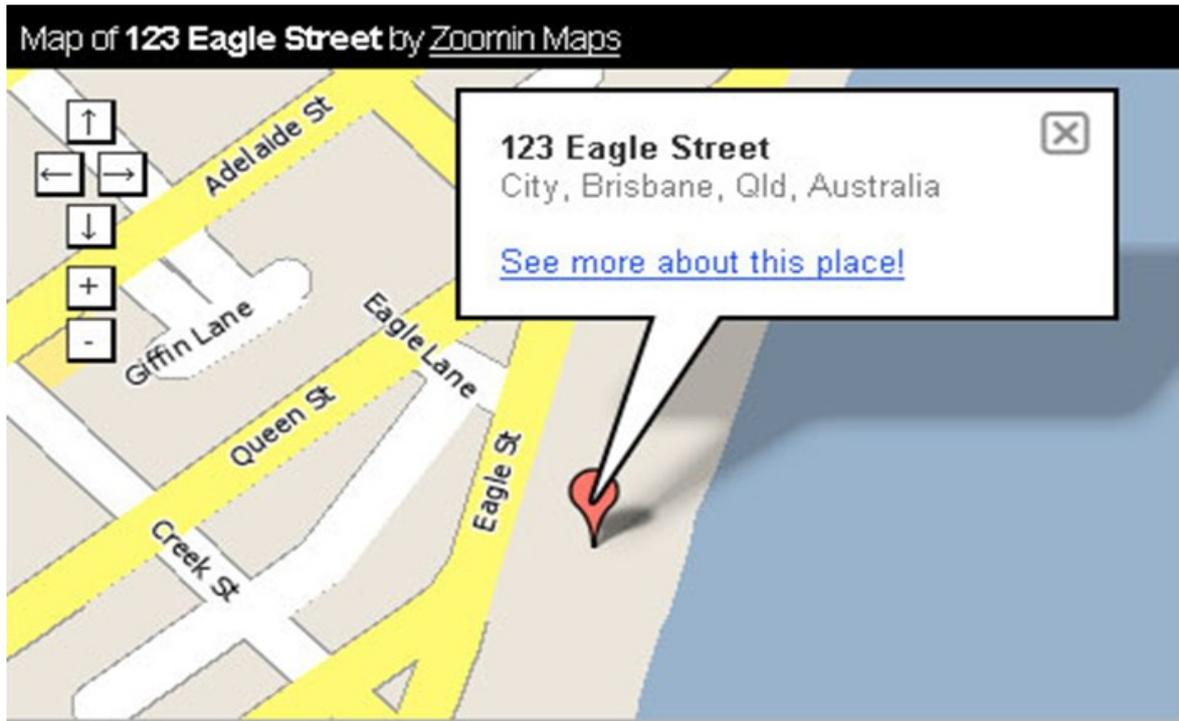
Assemble at the FUP (Crn George/ Charlotte St and Mary Street) at 1000 Step off at 1100 (subject to change)

Transport to FUP own means but remember public transport is free when wearing medals.

Dress is coat & tie or smart casual plus medals

Reunion.

Location: The Pig 'N Whistle at Eagle Street. They will be open at the end of the parade and are situated just a short walk from where we are dismissed. Members are reminded to fit in with the Qld Liquor Licensing laws we need to purchase some food to go with drinks for about the first hour - up to 13:00.



POSTAGE STAMP COST RISES TO 70 CENTS ... NEW POSTAGE CONCESSION FOR PENSIONERS

Please see below the details of the postage increase and how to get a concession stamp, also visit

<http://auspost.com.au/about-us/increase-to-basic-postage-rate.html>

SUMMARY

Australia Post will increase the basic postage rate from 60 to 70 cents from Monday 31 March. Australia Post will introduce a concession rate stamp to maintain 60 cent postage for 5.7 million eligible Australians until 2017. Australia Post says that the current stamp price no longer reflects the true cost of delivering each letter and stamp price increases have not kept up with inflation.

The 10 cent increase will allow AP to partially offset the growing losses in its letters business. Being mindful of the potential cost-of-living impact this increase might have on Australians - particularly pensioners, job-seekers and low-income earners - a Concession Stamp Rate will be introduced. The 60 cent rate will be held for them until 2017.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

Concession rate stamps will be available to any individual who has a Commonwealth Government concession card.

Eligible customers will be required to register for an Australia Post concession card, and you should call at a Post Office as soon as possible to do this.

PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

2012 Remembrance Poster

In early March the Sydney Morning Herald and Melbourne Age ran a story about how DVA had produced a poster showing a wounded soldier being taken off a medevac Iroquois. This was based on an original b&w photo but the Department had 'Photoshopped' it to colourise the photo and deleted a cigarette being held by the person holding the plasma bottle.

This person was identified as Dr Jack Bromley - but it appears that it was actually LAC Kerin (Kerry) Williams. The interest to us was that this was the medevac associated with Suoi Chau Pha on August 6, 1967. The full story is quite fascinating and you can get this from:

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/truth-comes-for-vietnam-vet-after-department-played-god-with-famous-photograph-20140301-33soo.html>

Passing of George King

We have just learnt that George passed away on Monday 24 March. I'm sure that members of 'D' Coy will remember him and there will be some Pigs to farewell him at his funeral.

He was a Port Melbourne boy through and through and I seem to remember him saying that he only left Port when the 'Boroughs' were playing away - (until he got called up - then he played well away!)

Anzac Day 2013

The RAR formation will be stepping off at 11:00 am this year - being led off by 5/7 RAR Association. 7RAR is scheduled to form up on Collins St East (North side). I think that means about halfway up Collins on the Town Hall side. Either way look for the Banner supplied by National.

Our Post-March venue is again the Limerick Arms 364 Clarendon St, South Melbourne (corner Clarendon & Park St).

Victorian licensing regulations prohibit selling alcohol before 12:00 noon - but there will be some cold jugs awaiting the post-March rush. Anyway, given our start time I don't think we'll be at the hotel until about 1:00 pm.

Meals are expected to be the high standard that the Limerick Arms is known for. At this stage there will be a choice of three meals at a cost of \$16.00 - probably Parma, Fish & Chips and 'Helluva Hamburger'

We'll be continuing our tradition of calling our Roll of Honour so please be on standby should we ask for your participation. I'm always impressed how the non-7RAR hotel patrons are very happy to acknowledge our service and that of our current Afghanistan veterans

Parting Shot

Whether you think you can, or think you can't - you're right
Henry Ford

Bill Anderson (0419-877-463)



Deal of the Week

RSL Members and families can get special discounts for stays at over 150 Accor hotels throughout April, with rooms [starting from \\$60](#)

LOOKING FOR

From: Brett Magarry <brettmagarry10@gmail.com>
Subject: fmr Kevin Philip

Message Body:

My name is Brett Magarry and I am trying to track my father down KEVIN PHILIP if anybody could help me or know if he is still alive please call me on 0412 148 035 or email : brettmagarry10@gmail.com

Our records show we had a Kevin Denis Philip with us on the 1st tour.

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

G'Day PIGS everywhere. Hope your 2014 is even better than 2013.

NUI DAT PHOTOS

John Davies has been given some recent photos of Nui Dat and has been trying to place them.



Possibly a view of Luscombe Field, maybe facing east.



Appears to be looking south from around the 7RAR lines somewhere, with what looks like the top of SAS hill in the background.

Anyone want to hazard a guess? If you think you know the locations, contact John on 08 9279 3418. All I can think of is that the colour of the dirt looks pretty familiar. (The photos are in colour in the notes but will probably be in black and white in the newsletter, sorry about that)

MONTHLY LUNCH AT PERTH RSL

Just got back home after our regular monthly get-together at Anzac House in Perth. Attendees are mainly 14th Intake Nasho's but everyone is welcome, 4th Friday of every month at Anzac House around midday. Meals are great and beer cold, company fantastic. This month we had: Gavin Rodie, John Burrows, Gordon Dickson, Geoff Murray, Peter Vlachou, Charlie Matheson, Lee Boyd (ex 6RAR), Joe Van Der Wal, Casey Epskamp, Jock Henderson and Barry Hutchins.

Alan West also popped in but couldn't stay. We usually put in a couple of bucks each and last month donated \$150 to "Soldier On", a great cause to help our latest diggers who may be suffering. Thanks to Pete Vlachou for his efforts in organizing the lunch every month, greatly appreciated mate.

WARNING ORDERS - 7RAR WA

Anzac Day - Check the "West" for details of the march form-up point, probably near Central Park building in St Georges Tce as per last year, look for the banner. Meet after the march at Rigby's in St Georges Tce for drinks and lunch.

Vietnam Veteran's Day Ceremony in Kings Park - Usually at the weekend closest to August 18th, meet at the Vietnam Veterans pavilion around 9.30 to 10.00, it really is a terrific service with a short march so numbers are always welcome. Check the "West" closer to the date for details.

Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans Gathering - usually end October/early November, put it in your diaries as it's a great weekend with lots of activities and a great way to catch up with old mates who may be touring the country and drop in. More details in the next newsletter.

Annual PIGS Swill - usually mid to late November, we are trying to ensure that the venue for the lunch is on a train line so drinking and driving is not a problem, watch for more details.

Last year it was at the Bayswater Tavern and was a great success, the venue is easily accessible by Public Transport so it may be there again, details to follow.

A reminder to all WA PIGS, reunion in SA is next year, so put aside all you pennies (showing our age here) and get there, it's going to be a ripper. Make sure you've got your nametags before you attend; our memories aren't what they used to be.

BOB CUSACK - Forward Scout, Pilot, now Thrill-Seeker

Bob "The Wog" Cusack recently performed his 150th skydive and these photos, courtesy of Dave Ingles, are proof of that feat:





NAMETAGS (Note: For BOTH Men and Women)

Our NAMETAGS are available in two sizes, the original size and the version, which is half as big again. Each small tag costs \$13, with the larger tag at \$18, both prices include delivery to anywhere in Australia.

To order, contact Geoff Murray as per details below and provide the correct name to be included on the TAG and the correct postal address.

To ensure prompt delivery, pop a cheque (made payable to Geoff Murray) or money order in the post when you place your order, delivery is about three weeks. Post it to:

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

Alternatively, you can do an Electronic Funds Transfer to:

BSB 066132 Account 00913220



Approx. 6.0cm x 4.0cm
Approx. 6.0cm x 4.0cm



Approx. 9.0cm x 6.0cm
Approx. 9.0cm x 6.0cm

NEWSLETTER - WA MEMBERS

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

Geoff can be contacted on:

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

Cheers - Geoff Murray

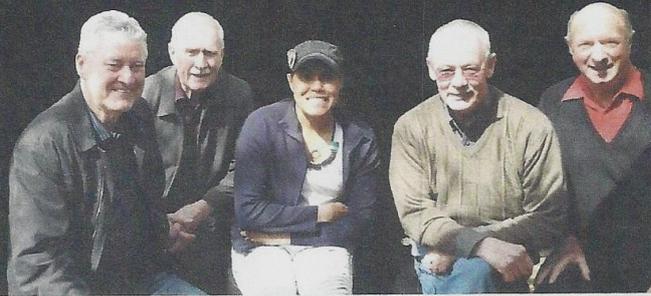
NEW MEMBERS

Desmond Walter Leeson
C8 1st tour

Vincent Joseph Thompson
Pioneers 1st tour.

BILL HUTCHINSON A COY 1ST TOUR
CHARITY APPEAL

**BLUEY'S
BUCKET**
HELP US TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN MALAWI



After consultation with and gaining the support of the Victorian Branch of the RSL, a group of us 7RAR 1967 Vietnam veterans are requesting your help with funding an extremely worthy cause.

After catching up at the 2012 7RAR Reunion in Melbourne and rarely having seen each other in 45 years, four of us mates from A Company, being myself **Bill Hutchison**, pictured far left (some of you who are punters may know me from the Harness Racing Media), **Barry Heard**, second from left (who would be well known to most as the author of the best-selling book on Vietnam and PDST "Well Done Those Men"), **David (Bluey) Howlett**, second from right and **Harold Hayes**, far right, decided on catching up for lunch a couple of times a year.

Dave who has retired from the Health Industry in Australia, along with partner Jeanette subsequently took up a posting for nominal money running a rural hospital in Malawi and at a recent lunch we had on his brief return to Australia, he told us of his heartbreak at losing newborn babies because of numerous sudden and prolonged power outages.

A donation of a generator from Australia had to be refused due to prohibitive costs to transport and fuel it, but David has since been able to source a Solar Powered/ Battery alternative from South Africa at a cost of around \$50,000 AUD.

We have considered raffles and other forms of fundraising but have decided to contact your club (one of sixty licenced RSL's in Victoria) asking for a direct contribution to what we have called "**Bluey's Bucket**".

\$1000 per club may be ambitious, but as a group of ex-Diggers who feel we should be putting something back after the many millions your RSL Welfare people have gotten for our guys in the way of Gold Cards and pensions etc, we'd love you to join with us and help.

St Michael's Guilleme Community Hospital is about an hour by road from Malawi's capital Lilongwe and more info can be accessed on the website www.stmichaelsguilleme.org

Enclosed is a video we've constructed with Barry Heard interviewing Dave Howlett, and some images of the hospital and the beautiful people it services.

Please don't hesitate to call me on 0419 482469 for further info and anything we can help you with to make this thing become a reality.

Hoping for a positive reply from you guys.

Yours faithfully

Bill Hutchison
(on behalf of Bluey Howlett and St Michaels Guilleme Hospital, Malawi).

**BLUEY'S
BUCKET
DONATIONS**

BANK TRANSFER (Payable to)
William Hutchison
BSB 063-130
Account Number
1040 3863

CHEQUE (Payable to)
William Hutchison
Malawi Account
82 Fulham Road
Alphington Victoria 3078



AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

It give me as great deal of pleasure to advise the Association that the following were recognised with the Medal of The Order of Australia, (OAM), for their contribution to the civil community in different ways in this year's Australia Day Honour's List, they are:

Neville John William Clark, MC, BA ED aka "Nobby", FO A Company 1st tour, awarded a Military Cross during the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha;

Al(bert) Green Gun Bombardier, 106 Battery 1st tour; Gun Sergeant, 106 Battery 2nd tour, the Direct Support Artillery Battery both tours; and

Anthony Earl Kelaher 7 Platoon, C Company, 1st Tour.

AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM INTERPRETIVE CENTRE, WASHINGTON DC.

As we are aware the US is planning to erect a memorial to all Australian's KIA or who DOW as a result of the Vietnam Conflict. Listed below are the names of members of 7RAR whose NOK the Office of War Graves do not have details of. Can anyone help with these details, please contact the Executive Officer with their details:

2784699 PTE NORMAN GEORGE ALLEN, date of death, 10 Nov 1967;

38110 CPL DONALD RAYMOND AYLETT, date of death, 6 Aug 1967;

216906 BARRY EDMOND FALLON, date oif death, 10 Nov 1967;

44897 PTE ROBERT EDWARD HUGHES, date of death, 22 April, 1970;

218697 LCPL NEIL THOMAS RICHARDSON, date of death, 27 Aug 1970; and

3797623 PTE ALAN TALBOT, date of death, 1 Feb 1971.

**2014 AGM - 7th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN
REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC (QLD) No: 1A - 13547**

By direction of the Committee of Management and in accordance with the Rules of the Association, notice is hereby given that the 2014 Annual General Meeting and election of Officers to the Committee of Management will be held at:

**45 CORNWALL AVENUE, TURRAMURRA,
SUNDAY 29 JUNE 2014 COMMENCING AT 1.00 PM.**

**NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT ARE TO BE SUBMITTED, IN WRITING, SIGNED
BY THE NOMINEE, HIS PROPOSER AND SECONDER, TO THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER BY NOT LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF
BUSINESS FRIDAY 13 JUNE 2014.
(FORMS ARE ON THE PAGE OPPOSITE)**

BUSINESS

Any points for general business are to be submitted in writing to the Executive Officer not later than close of business, FRIDAY 13 JUNE 2014.

ATTENDANCE

Members attending please advise the XO not later than FRIDAY 13 JUNE 2014. If you cannot attend please appoint a proxy on your behalf using the form on page 35 of this newsletter and return to the Executive Officer not later than close of business, FRIDAY 13 JUNE 2014. Please be advised that in accordance with the Rules of the Association a minimum of 18 members must be in attendance to constitute a quorum, this number includes signed proxy forms. To ensure the efficient running of the association please make the effort to attend, please appreciate that the members of the Committee of Management give their time freely and any adjournment due to the lack of numbers will necessitate the meeting to be adjourned and rescheduled to take place within ONE week of this date. (PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING, FOR CATERING PURPOSES PLEASE ADVISE THE XO IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY 13 JUNE 2014).

FORM APPOINTING A PROXY FOR THE 7RAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING 29 JUNE 2014

I.....Member Number..... Being a financial member
of the 7RAR Association hereby appoint.....Or in his absence
appoint..... To act as a proxy on my behalf at the
(Annual) General Meeting for the twelve months commencing Jun 2014.

The person nominated as my proxy is to vote (in favour of/ or against*) (one or
all*) of the resolution/s as indicated by me.

Signature.....Signed this.....Day of.....2014

Printed Name

(*Strike out that which you consider not applicable. Unless otherwise
instructed, the person nominated above may vote as he thinks fit. To be valid the
proxy form must be held by the Executive Officer and the person nominated to act
as the proxy must be present at the meeting).

A list of the Committee of Management is detailed below. (Members are
requested to consider nominating for the positions of Assistants to the Executive
Officer/Treasurer/Secretary/Webmaster to understudy these crucial positions).

7RAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| President: - | Mr Rod Lyons; |
| Vice Presidents: - | BRIG Shane Gabriel, DSC; |
| | COL Michael Garraway, AM; |
| Secretary/Webmaster: - | Mr Kevin Gillett; |
| Treasurer: - | Mr Bernie Cox; |
| Executive Officer: - | Mr Tony Keech, OAM; |
| Members | Mr Bob Murdoch; |
| | Mr Brice Stokes; and |
| Historian: - | MAJGEN Mike O'Brien, CSC; |
| HON Auditor: | Mr Bernard Walmsley, Addersens Accounting Services. |
| HON Legal Officer | LTCOL Lachlan James Mead. |

Mrs Mindy Sutherland was re-appointed as Honorary member for wives/widows
and welfare.

7th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC (QLD)

NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

I.....hereby nominate.....

For the position ofon the Committee of Management of the 7RAR Association for the period of one year from the date of the Annual General Meeting as published in the minutes of that meeting.

Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

Acknowledged by the nominee.....
date

7th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC (QLD)

NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

I.....hereby nominate.....

For the position ofon the Committee of Management of the 7RAR Association for the period of one year from the date of the Annual General Meeting as published in the minutes of that meeting.

Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

Acknowledged by the nominee.....
date

ANZAC DAY DETAILS SYDNEY

DAWN SERVICE

0430 hrs Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, be early or you will end up not being able to see the Cenotaph.

After the completion of the Dawn Service assemble at Regimental Square for our memorial service for the 7RAR members.

At the completion of the memorial service at Regimental Square, retire for breakfast to the Fortunes of War Hotel, our old RV before the changes, it is now back in business.

0800 hrs Memorial Church service at the Garrison Church the Rocks.

MARCH

1000 hrs Assemble in Bligh Street in order 1RAR to 9RAR look for 7 RAR New Banner. Step off time for march is 0900 hrs so assembly time is approx only, God only knows what the actual step off time will be. After march celebrations will be advised at the assembly area prior to march off.

This year we intend carrying the Gonfalons of both 7th Bn AIF and 2/7th Bn AIF in honour of our heroic predecessors.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS



When the Prime Minister announced that General Peter Cosgrove was to be the Next Governor General of Australia, our President on behalf of all members of the Association wrote and congratulated him on his appointment. His reply is on the following page.



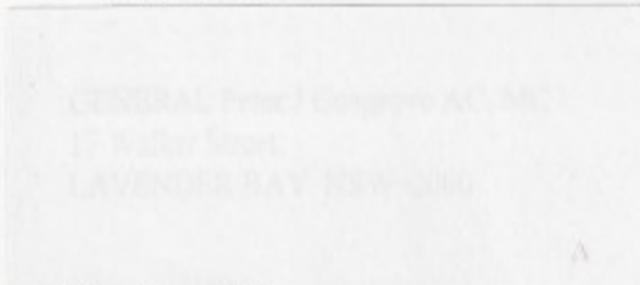
7th Battalion
The Royal Australian Regiment Association Inc.
(QLD)

Incorporated in Queensland
No: 1A-13547

PO BOX 8143
WERRINGTON COUNTY
NSW 2747
AUSTRALIA
ABN 35 124 126 574
Email: porky_seven@bigpond.com
Website: <http://www.7rar.asn.au>

28th January 2014

In reply please quote



Dear General Cosgrove,

I write on behalf of our Patrons MAJGEN Ron Grey and COL Eric Smith, our Committee and especially all members of the 7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Association to heartily congratulate you on today's announcement of your appointment by our Prime Minister Tony Abbott as the 26th Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

We all wish you and your wife Lynne the very best for a terrific and meaningful term in the highest office in the land which you so deserve.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Lyons".

Rod Lyons
President
7RAR Association Inc

From: General Peter Cosgrove AC, MC (Retd)

9th February 2014

Dear Rod,

Lynne's and my thanks to you, the patrons and all members, of the 7RAR Association for your very kind thoughts.

I have the fondest memories of 7RAR from my earliest days as a commissioned officer - when the Battalion joined the Australian Component of 1RAR in early 1969. In Vietnam, near the end of my year in-country, I explored getting an extended tour, with a transfer to 7RAR. Ron Grey was open to the idea but a chap on HQ 1ATT persuaded me to go home and perhaps come back on the AATV - of course as soon as I got home we started to contact our members in SVN and ~~that~~ that 2nd tour didn't eventuate. In 1973 as the Adjutant 5RAR, I became the first ADJT of the Linked Battalions.

The Regiment is a great family of families - as your kind letter shows yet again. I look forward to seeing the men and families of 7RAR soon. Again my thanks.

Warmest regards
Peter

7th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT INC (QLD)

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.....

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.....

MEMBERSHIP COSTS \$20 PER YEAR OR \$80 FOR FIVE YEARS, \$5 FOR FIVE YEARS FOR SERVING MEMBERS OF 7RAR FOR THE FIRST PERIOD OF JOINING

(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: - MR TONY KEECH, OAM
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
7RAR ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 8143
WERRINGTON COUNTY NSW 2747
(02) 4721 4349 0418 624 211
Email: porky_seven@bigpond.com**

**BANK DETAILS FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT OR ELECTRONIC TRANSFER
BANK - ANZ BSB:- 012 429 ACCOUNT NUMBER:- 3849 58583**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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

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

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