

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Next year has many significant anniversaries for 7 RAR. As we all know, 2015 is the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign. August will mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine in which our adopted predecessor, 7th Battalion Australian Imperial Force took a key part.

It also commemorates 70 years since the end of WW2, where 7 Battalion was reborn as the 2/7th Battalion, and served with great distinction in Egypt, Syria, Tobruk, Pozieres, and in New Guinea at Kokoda.

Equally important for surviving members, is that 2015 also denotes the rebirth of the Battalion 50 years ago, as the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. 7RAR was formed to fight in Vietnam, where they conducted two tours of duty, were involved in several noted battles, and were awarded numbers of honours.

2015 is also coincidentally, 15 years since 7 RAR served in Timor Leste, and denotes 10 years since its first involvement in Afghanistan.

2015 commemorates 100 years of service to this nation by the Seventh Battalions, and demonstrates graphically the willingness of our courageous young men and women, to engage in the defence of this country in places such as Gallipoli, Tobruk, Vietnam, Timor Leste, and now Afghanistan.

As many of us advance in age we realise that we may have fewer opportunities to gather with our friends. If you are considering coming to the Reunion (15th – 18th October next year) in Adelaide, now is the time to act. Remember accommodation is tight and the deadline for booking is 30th March 2015.

When you come the reunion, look for serving soldiers in 7 RAR and encourage them to join our Association. They are our future!

Spare a moment to have a look at the fine work Kev Gillett has done on our Internet site. The biggest recent change is the addition of short biographies of key personalities in the battalion. If you can add to them - please do.

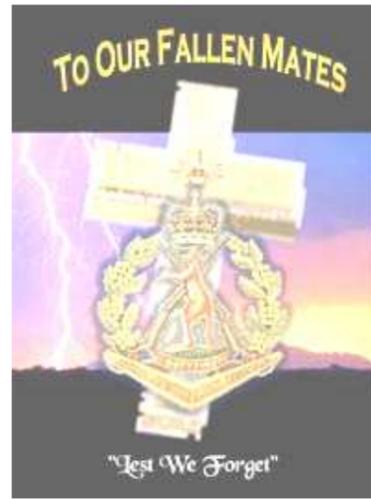
We particularly would like to add ones on Don (Blue) Muir, Danny Neville, Ron Sigg and any of our soldiers killed in action.

Mike O'Brien

President



A couple of oldies, (L) Pepe Turra and ® Kev Harker



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.**

**2785028 William Richard Cutler, 1st tour, passed away
Wednesday 7 November 2012.**

**3788730 James David Feeney, C9 1st tour, passed away
Thursday 21 August 2014.**

**2791520 Henry John Dynarzewski, D10 2nd tour, passed
away Monday 26 August 2014.**

**38082 Rodney Salter, Sigs 1st tour, passed away Thursday 16
October 2014.**

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2015 CALENDER

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Friday 6 April | Cut-off for articles for 1/2013 Seven News. |
| Tuesday 14 April | Post 1/2015 Seven News. |
| Saturday 25 April | ANZAC Day, state details in April issue. |
| May 2013 | Assoc AGM, date and location confirmed in April issue. |



From the— EDITOR'S DESK

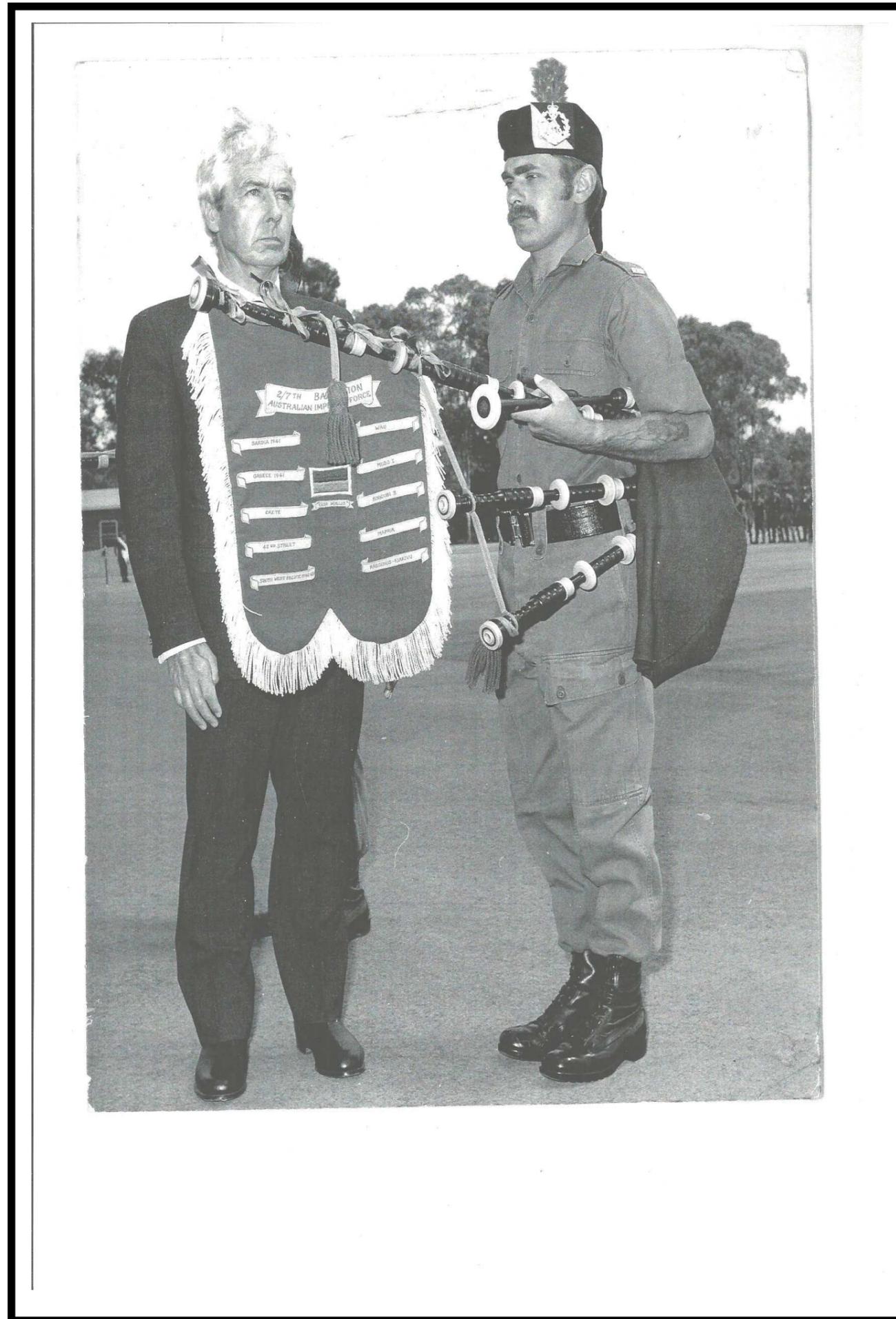
There was some confusion regarding members financial status, to clear up the point dealing with the first set of figures on the address label, at the time of printing if your number was 2014 or BELOW then you are un-financial, if it was shown to be above 2014 then you are financial to that date, i.e. 2015, 2016 and so on. Membership form on page 22 of this issue

Members please help me keep the correct contact address of your membership by advising me if and when you leave the address that your latest newsletter is delivered to.

TO CURRENT SERVING MEMBERS OF THE BATTALION, IF YOU ARE POSTED OUT OF THE UNIT EITHER ON POSTING TO ANOTHER UNIT OR YOU TAKE YOUR DISCHARGE PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS.

The photo on the opposite page was taken at Holsworthy in December 1974, in the photo is the late Brian Fitzedward-Fogarty, at the time, President of the NSW Branch of the 2/7th Bn AIF. Brian presented the Battalion with two Pipe Banners on behalf of the Association. Barbara, Brian's widow is asking can anyone provide her with the name of the Piper.

Paul Greenhalgh was the CO of 5/7RAR at the time. Please be aware that the reunion registration date is March 2015, please register before this date otherwise you will miss out. See update from organising committee on pages 14-19 & 24-29.



LOOKING FOR

From: Barry Golding <Barry.Golding@PrometheanPlanning.com>
Subject: LINDSAY, Greg

Message Body:

Second Lieutenant Gregory Lindsay attended Brisbane Boys College and I met his only surviving relative, Mr Kent Wood, at a recent reunion. He would like to make contact with Greg and I said I would do what I could to help. If you could help Kent I am sure he would be most appreciative. His email is kent@kdwood.com.au

Kind regards

Barry Golding Sapper 1735005

WARNING WARNING WARNING

A message to all members who are currently un-financial, you can check your status by checking the first number that appears on your address label. If it is not 2015 or above then you are un-financial and you will be removed from the Association database as of the April 2015 and will not receive a copy Seven News. below is a copy of your address label, please check it now.

↗ 2015	↗ 123	↗ 968
FINANCIAL STATUS	M/SHIP NUMBER	POST PRESORT NO
NAME		
ADDRESS LINE 1		
ADDRESS LINE 2		
COUNTRY/STATE/POST CODE		

To all members on behalf of the Committee of Management I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2015.

Tony Keech, OAM XO/ED

7RAR CHAMPION SOLDIER

A 7RAR private who was awarded for his bravery in an insider attack has been recognised for his military skills.

A 7RAR digger commended for his calmness, courage and decisive action during an insider attack in Afghanistan in 2013 has been named champion soldier for 2014. PTE Andrew Wastell, of SPT Coy, said he was surprised when he received the champion soldier award on 22 August, after the 7RAR military skills competition. "I'm not the best at everything, more of a jack of all trades," he said. "My section and I put a bit of a study in heading up to the battalion comp and the section came fourth." He received the highest individual score on the tab data, in shooting, general military knowledge and medical stands.

SGT John Smallacombe, 7RAR Operations and Training Sergeant, was involved in organising the competition and said PTE Wastell was the clear winner. "The individual assessments were not just based on the soldiers' skill level, but also on the soldiers' temperaments and demeanour throughout the competition," he said. PTE Wastell deployed to Afghanistan from August 2013 to January 2014. He was embedded as an infantryman within the Force Protection Platoon with the Kabul Support Unit at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy.

"It was a really good experience working with the Brits," he said. "Some were Scottish so we had a bit of trouble communicating with them on the radio at first. PTE Wastell recalled going with a New Zealand sergeant to a meeting with the RSM of the ANA 2 Kandak. "After the meeting we came out for handshakes and to say goodbye and we started getting shot at from behind," he said.

"One of the other guardian angels had a round hit his magazine and another one scrape his body armour and the Kiwi sergeant got shot in the foot."

PTE Wastell said he turned around and saw an Afghan soldier about to follow up on his first burst so he neutralised the threat. PTE Wastell said his next part was the hairiest. "We were in the middle of an Afghan battalion and they all formed up around us," he said.

"WE called in 'man' down to get an extraction ASAP - they weren't far away, but there was a big crowd between us and them. "It was a curious crowd rather a hostile one." PTE Wastell said it all happened pretty quickly. "My actions were all instinctive - I didn't actually think about it until later," he said.

While it feels good being recognised for the incident, I was only doing my job and wasn't expecting anything," For his courage and actions that saved his mates' lives, and supported the achievement of the mission, PTE Wastell was awarded a CJOPS gold commendation.

Story compliments of Army News.

CO's O Group.



7RAR Wins Pte Graham Cornes Trophy in hotly contested match

The inaugural Graham Cornes Trophy Aussie Rules match between 7RAR and 16ALR took place on October 23, in the first competition outing for both units since the arrival of 7RAR to Adelaide in 2011. The game was played at Alberton Oval, home of Port Adelaide Football Club, and resulted in a hard fought victory 15.8.98 to 7.8.50 to 7RAR.

An inspirational pre-match speech from Port Adelaide premiership player Kane Cornes helped 7RAR team narrowly take the first quarter. The match was hotly contested in the midfield, however, the 16ALR defence was no match against a strong 7RAR forward line, which converted nearly all opportunities.

It was no surprise to anyone that the best on ground went to 7RAR full forward PTE Daniel Starr, of Mortar Platoon with an impressive 10 goals.

The best on ground and PTE Graham Cornes trophy were presented by SANFL legend Russell Ebert, who paid tribute to the performances of the players on the field, as well as the wider contributions of both units in the South Australian community.

The trophy is named after former soldier, SANFL player and Adelaide Crows Football Club coach Graham Cornes, who was drafted into the Army in 1968. He deployed with 7RAR in the 1970-71 tour of Vietnam, as part of Mortar Platoon.

During pre-deployment training at Canungra, after a request to the CO by the President of the Glenelg Football Club, Graham returned for a weekend to play in the SANFL grand final before flying back the same day and deploying to Vietnam shortly after.

Story compliments of the Army News.

PIGS IN SOUTH AUSSIE

ALWAYS IN ACTION.

WEB PAGE

MONTHLY LUNCHES

BATTALION EVENTS

REUNION 2015



WWW Checked our page lately?

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

Our web page continues to improve. If you have not yet visited I suggest you do and see Noel Biggins' most recent updates.

Monthly Lunches

The past few have been poorly attended. Current soldiers outnumbered old pigs 3 to 1. That does not mean we did not have a good time. We did. A new record was set at the November lunch. The only red consumed was one glass. We must have had an off day as it is usual to empty several bottles of the Battalion's colour. The site for coming lunch can be found on the web page <http://www.7rarsa.asn.au> – though if numbers do not improve we will need to find a new way to meet up. December's lunch is set for the Ambassador Hotel on King William Street.

At November's lunch we farewelled Lt Col Mal Wells who takes up a posting in the UK. Battalion Padre, Capt. David Prior, was also wished well as he is being moved onto other SA military units. Each has contributed to the association and its members during their time with Seven.

Battalion Events

Few exercises have been held during the year as the Battalion has been used to support training exercises of the other Battalions and selected units. There have been many courses run and or attended for promotions and skill developments. 2015 is likely to be a more "routine" year before a year of "readiness".

As this report is being written Onyx, the Battalion's Mascot, is being spayed. Funds for this operation have come from the National Association. Now that she is maturing it is planned that she will more frequently attend the lines. Like most soldiers she is accommodated off site!

REUNION 2015

Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th October 2015

As we have mentioned elsewhere and at other times registrations will closed off early in the New Year. This is a requirement of the venues as facility demand is great. The association is not in the position to reserve and pay for bookings that are not filled. Do not expect to roll up on the 14th of October and find a vacant space – chances of success are about zero.

The Saturday night has been left free for recovery and or privately arranged small group dinners.

We have received some interest in dinners for past and present Officers and senior NCOs. These can only be organised if members of each group are prepared to handle all arrangements. The most probable sites are the respective messes at Keswick Barracks. Expressions of interest are to be directed to Noel Biggins.

This year the weather in Adelaide at reunion time was mild with 24° during the day and 16° overnight. No rain was recorded.

Cheers to all

Chris Ashenden

7RAR CAR FLAGS



Hey everybody I still have a good stock of small and large car flags, large @ \$15.00 plus P & H and small @ \$10.00 plus P & H. I also still have a quantity of the 7RAR Lapel Badges and the Red Support our Troops badges for sale. 7RAR Lapel Badges \$5.00 each plus P&H and Support our Troops Badges \$3.00 plus P&H.

PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

Remembrance Day 2014



I had a different Remembrance Day this year. Usually I go to the Shrine or to the service run at the Heidelberg Repat Hospital. I found out that Craigieburn SES were keen to institute a similar service for their area. Several years ago they were instrumental in starting a local Anzac Day Service which now attracts several thousand attendees and includes local community groups, schools and other emergency services. This first service only had a small number attending but contained all the elements of the normal service.

Just as we were getting underway Kevin O'Callaghan (Past Controller and MC) noticed all the kids at the local Early Learning Centre avidly looking on. They were invited to come over but had to decline as it would be considered an 'excursion' and they would not otherwise be covered! After the ceremony Kevin and I went over to the Early Learning as Kevin had a box of poppies which we handed out to the kids and their teachers. I found out that the Centre normally lights a candle and has a minutes silence on Remembrance Day. They have an invitation for next year.

VC Memorial Park Euroa November 16 2014

Thanks to an email received from Graeme Chapman, we were alerted to the dedication of the VC Memorial at Euroa. Two of the three bronze statues to be unveiled honoured members of the 7th Bn AIF – Cpl Alexander Burton and Lt (later Major) Frederick Tubb – who won their VCs at Lone Pine on 9th August 1915. The third statue honoured Lt Leslie Maygar who gained his VC in the Boer War and later served with the 8th, Australian Light Horse.

Euroa is the only town in the Commonwealth to have this many citizens granted the Victoria Cross which provided the impetus for this project. The statues were unveiled by the Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Alex Chernov.

The speeches (even by the polities) were short but the local 'thank yous' showed a wonderful level of support from the community. The crowd numbered close to a thousand and were fed to a great sausage sizzle using facilities provided by Rotary.



LtoR: (Lt Tubb), Ian Dunn, Allan McGuiness, Bill Anderson, Tom Bourke, (Lcpl Burton)

AGM and Christmas Breakup December 3

We'll be sending out an email to remind fellow Pigs on our list about this function as the Newsletter will be coming out after the AGM has been held. If you don't receive an email from Ian Dunn (the current and, hopefully, the future Secretary) would you pass on your email as the Committee would be very happy to keep you informed about any Victorian activities.

Parting Shot

"Always go to other people's funeral, otherwise they won't come to yours"

-Yogi Berra (American baseballer)

Bill Anderson (0419-877-463)



Reunion 2015 September Newsletter

"Lazy Hazy Days of Spring?"

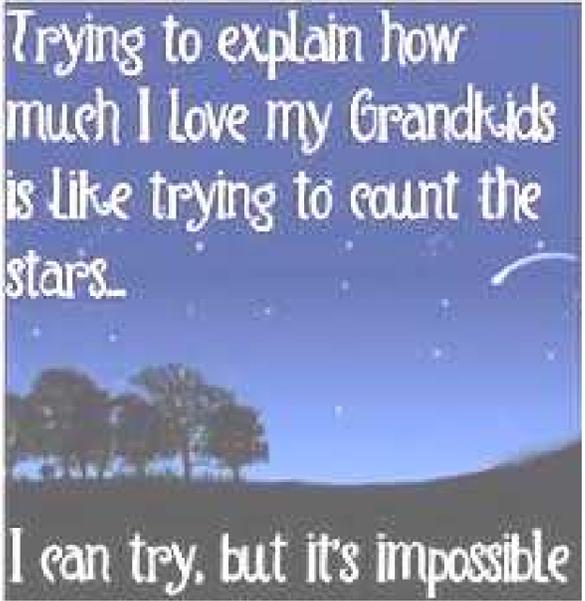


Well it must be the effect of seeing the sun again after several long cold wet months, but we seem to have reached a bit of a hiatus for the moment, with a lot of things squared away, and the rest still waiting on other people, so the committee is having a bit of a breather'.

Kerry - as is his usual at this time of year - is away in Queensland, fishing for Red-Claw (better bring some back for me again K)



Trying to explain how
much I love my Grandkids
is like trying to count the
stars...



I can try, but it's impossible

Tony is having a great time
bonding with his grandchildren
- who he adores -and me - I am
just sitting back 'veging' -

(much to the annoyance of Bev, who can be
heard to mutter from time to time things
such as 'can't you get out from under my
feet?' and 'if you can't find anything to do, I
can come up with a long list'. Worse than a
Drill Sergaent)



Registrations



Well - registrations are
continuing to come in -
albeit still a bit slow at this
stage - but realistically - and knowing you lot of old - we realise that
most people will probably wait until after Christmas to register.
That's alright - just don't all do it at once or I will be swamped
trying to log and register several hundred people in a short time.

(each registration takes about five minutes per person to enter and check - this is because we have to make sure details are all correct, monies match up with registration for events, tickets for individual event are printed, and everyone is seated with whoever they want to sit with). Might not sound like much, but multiply by several hundred and the time just goes!

Platoon Champs



Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered (there's that dirty word again) to be your 'Platoon Champion'.

In case you missed this - Platoon Champions undertake to get out and stir all other members of their old platoon into registering.

This is a really important thing, as it is the comradeship and bond between mates which underpins and drives these reunions. So - many thanks so far to:



Wal Harris



Peter Kerley

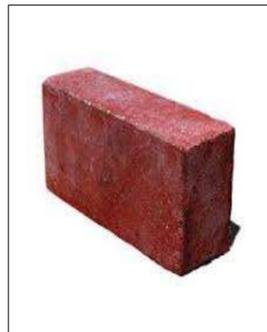


and Stoney Bourke

and hopefully we will see even more of you getting together to urge your more recalcitrant mates to register.

REMEMBER - This might just be the last really big National Reunion - so don't miss it!

Brickbats to the Government (again).



On a slightly quieter note, we were planning on having three different A.W.M. displays at the reunion - 'Saluting Their Service', 'Bravest of the Brave', and 'Snapshots of Gallipoli', but now we will only have two.



The Government has announced more cut-backs, and has taken \$800,000.00 in funding from the Australian War Museum. This means that they can no longer afford to tour the 'Snapshots of Gallipoli' exhibition, and we miss out.

This seems particularly paltry on the part of the Government - especially as 2015 is the centenary of Gallipoli, but that's the way it is



Nevertheless, your reunion committee is not the sort to lay down and simply roll over, and we will be trying to source additional things to take the place of this display. More news as and when it happens - stay tuned.

Special Tables for Groups

While the general rule we are working to is to try to seat platoon members together for the Formal Dinner, several groups have approached me about having tables set aside for people who might not necessarily have been in the same platoon, but who want to sit together.



This is no problem - AT THIS STAGE

All you have to do is contact me and give me a list of those people who you want sitting at your table/s and I will set aside tables for you.

However - it will then be up to you to harass those people on your table to register as soon as possible so we can lock those tables away.

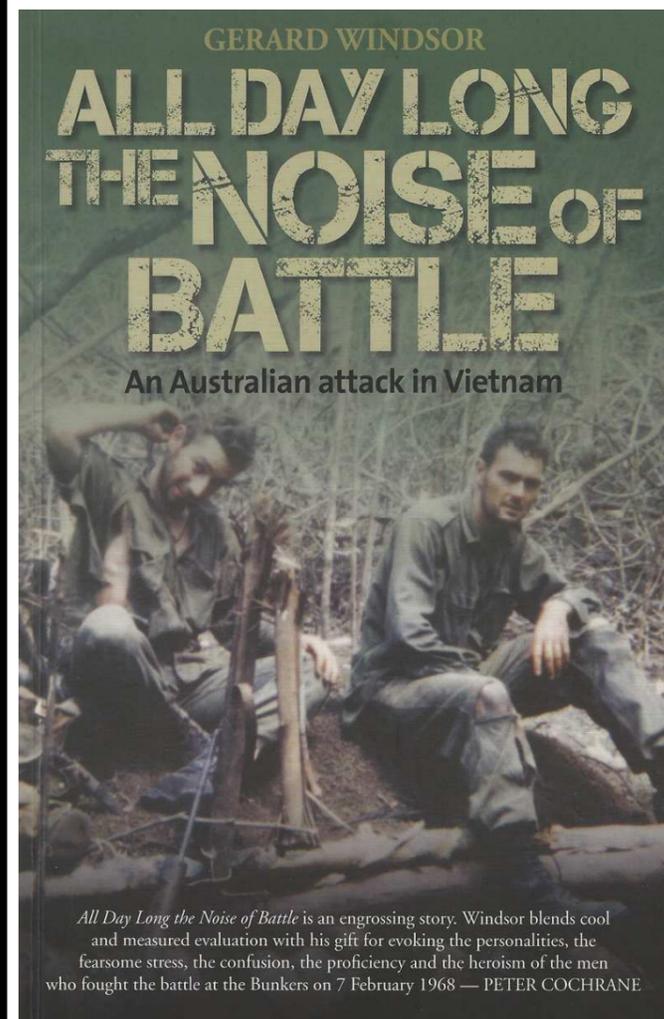
There will have to be a close-off date for any such arrangements, and we certainly won't be able to do this after Christmas - so get in fast if this is what you want.

Also - once Christmas is past, if there are any empty seats on those allocated tables, they will have to be filled on a first-in, best-dressed basis, and this might mean you won't get to sit with who you want.

Well that's about all for this month, so Cheers, and catch up soon.

Noel

A MUST READ



This book is a very interesting read for all those members of the battalion who served on either tour but more important for those on the first tour. I served with B4 first tour and until I read the book I was unaware of the intensity of this particular battle during the TET offensive. Please get a copy and read it.

Ken Wright B4 1st.

“MATTY HOPKINS MEMORIAL TROPHY”

As you have seen in previous newsletters we sponsor a trophy for the Section Commander of the Champion Section, 7 Platoon Rifleman Wing on their march-out. Above is a photo of Vicki Hopkins, (“Matty’s Widow) with CPL James Graham Quinn, the Section Commander of the Champion Section on their march-out on Friday 14 November 2014.



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.....

M'SHIP COSTS \$20 PER YEAR OR \$80 FOR FIVE YEAR, \$5 FOR FIVE YEARS FOR SERVING MEMBERS OF 7RAR FOR THE FIRST PERIOD
(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
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

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

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

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

Please use above membership form when renewing your membership.

**IF USING THE DIRECT DEPOSIT OR ELECTRONIC TRANSFER METHOD
PLEASE USE YOUR NAME OR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER IN THE
TRANSACTION.**



THE GARLAND
ON RAINBOW BAY



Members, I have been in contact with the Manager of St George's Holiday House, located at Rainbow Bay, QLD. Currently available for use up until 31 January 2015, they will close for re-development to re-open mid 2016. Above is the new look of the House when finished. It is available to all Serving and ex members of the regular

ENTRY LEVEL PROPOSED PLANT SPECIES



All apartments have access to the entry level gardens
• Beautifully landscaped gardens featuring native species

• Swimming pool, spa, cabana, and barbecue area
• Direct access to Rainbow Bay across Marine Parade



The Garland
192 Marine Parade
Coolangatta
QLD 4225 Australia

www.thegarland.net.au
info@thegarland.net.au

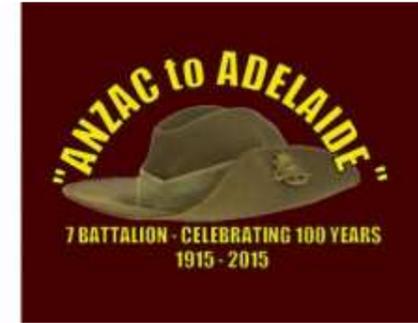
SPAHS
PO Box 5122
Robina Town Centre
QLD 4230 Australia

www.spahs.com.au
info@spahs.com.au



DISCLAIMER Images showing the building, views and floorplans are indicative only and should not be relied upon for accuracy. Dimensions, layouts, finishes and specifications are subject to change and may eventually differ from those shown. Furniture, décor and plants shown are for illustrative purposes only.
The Service Personnel Anglican Help Society Inc. (SPAHS) operates St. George's House for serving and retired members of the Australian Defence Force, some merchant navy personnel, their spouses, widows, and their dependant children. SPAHS offers holiday accommodation to these groups at a very modest rate in a community atmosphere. Profits from the operation of St. George's House support the work of Anglican Chaplains serving in the Australian Defence Force.

Armed forces; NS members; War and Defence Widows. Anyone interested in staying at the House you can contact them via email: stgholidayservpers@bigpond.com or Ph (07) 5536 1261 before Noon Mon to Thu and until 2.00pm Fri.

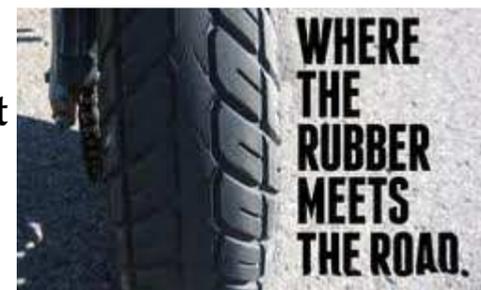


Reunion 2015
"ANZAC to Adelaide"
October Newsletter



**O.K. People The holidays are over
This is where the work really begins**

Now that we've had bit of a break last month, we need to get serious again.



We now have only 21 weeks before registrations for Reunion 2015 close. That's right - only 21 weeks left, so if you are thinking about coming - make up your mind and register soon!

ALSO - ACCOMODATION

just to remind everyone again - there are several big events timed for the same weekend as our reunion- including an International Tri-athlon competition, and

Accommodation will be tight so book now.



As I said last month, registrations are continuing to come in - albeit still a bit slow at this stage - but realistically - and knowing you lot of old - we realise that most people will probably wait until after Christmas to register.

"Hurry up and Wait" still prevails!

That's OK - just don't all do it at once or I will be swamped trying to log and register several hundred people in a short time (each registration takes about five minutes per person to enter and check - this is because we have to make sure details are all correct, monies match up with registration for events, tickets for individual events are printed, and everyone is seated with whoever they want to sit with).

Might not sound like much, but multiply by several hundred and the time just goes!

HOWEVER!

If I can implore you to register sooner, there are a couple of different ways of doing it.

- The first and easiest way is to lodge your registration form electronically from our web page.
- Failing this, the next best way is to download a paper registration form and use 'snail mail' to get it to me.



Remember - you can pay either by Paypal, cheque, Bank Transfer, or by selling your children into slavery - the choice is yours.

Finally - REMEMBER - you are NOT registered until you have - PAID!

We opened a recurring payments option last year to ease the burden for those who wanted an easy way of paying, but can not accept any more such arrangements because of time constraints, so from now on we must ask for payment when you lodge your registration forms.

At present there are a number of people who have put in their registrations, but who have not yet paid. This causes a lot of extra work for us, and we have to keep a running log of those people, and periodically contact them and remind them to pay.

Unfortunately - No Can Do anymore.
So - NO MONEY - NO REGISTRATION.

Special Tables for Groups

We have already received requests from several groups who want to sit together for the Formal Dinner, and we have allocated them their own tables. At this stage - anyone wanting to book a 'group table' is welcome to



do so - just drop me an email with the names of your group members and I will set tables aside for you.

As I said last month - This is no problem
- AT THIS STAGE.

All you have to do is contact me and give me a list of those people who you want sitting at your table/s and I will set aside tables for you.

However - it will then be up to you to harass those people on your table to register as soon as possible so we can lock those tables away.

There will have to be a close-off date for any such arrangements, and we certainly won't be able to do this after Christmas - so get in fast if this is what you want.

Also - once Christmas is past, if there are any empty seats on those allocated tables, they will have to be filled on a first-in, best-dressed basis, and this might mean you won't get to sit with who you want.

New Battalion Commander .

Lieutenant Colonel David McCammon (an ex-B Company 7RAR OC) takes over as 7 Battalion Commanding Officer on 8th December this year, and will be CO during the reunion period next year.



LtCol McCammon comes highly regarded, is apparently very pro-Association oriented, and we are looking forward to working constructively with him on the military aspects of the reunion



Welcome David, and best wishes and regards to the retiring CO Colonel Mal Wells.



During the reunion we will be unveiling and dedicating four bronze plaques, commemorating the 7 Battalions, from the inception of 7AIF which fought at Gallipoli and on the Western Front - and won four Victoria Crosses, through the Battalion's reincarnation in WW11 as the 2/7AIF, and finally, the third incarnation as 7RAR.

This will be an especially poignant event and reflects a proud military history for the 7th Battalions , bridging 100 years of dedication, heroism, and sacrifice.

We are very pleased to be able to report that we have now commissioned and paid for these four bronze plaques, and two granite plinths, and look forward to them being laid soon.

We have approached the Governor General, His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove to do the unveiling, who has indicated his interest, and now just await his confirmation.



Alternative Events

Adelaide Oval VS Keswick Barracks Army Museum



Just need to point out that these two tours are ALTERNATIVE tours - they both run concurrently - therefore, please only book for one or the other - not both.

Well, once again that's about all for this month, so Cheers, and catch you up soon.

Noel

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

To all PIGS everywhere, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanks to all the WA PIGS for your support during 2014.

ANNUAL PIGS SWILL

Our Christmas luncheon was held at the RSL Headquarters in the Gallipoli Room on Thu 27 Nov. and was attended by about 70 PIGS and wives/partners. We changed things a bit this year, with Don welcoming everyone for their attendance and thanking all for their help over the previous 12 months. He then proceeded to read out the Honour Roll for the 1st Tour of Vietnam, and then handed over to Geoff Murray to read out the Honour Roll from the 2nd Tour of Vietnam, followed by Charlie Matheson for Afghanistan. Graham Edwards then recited two verses of the Ode, followed by Ian McNee, who said Grace. Whew, after this we were all ready for a bit of liquid refreshment, followed by a great meal. During the meal, Ian McNee gave a brief rundown on the progress of our Gallipoli trip in August 2015, including our commemorative sets of four bookmarks dedicated to the four Victoria Cross winners from 7th Bn A.I.F. at the Battle of Lone Pine in August 1915. Whilst the bookmarks are a commemorative item, they are also a fund-raiser and are on sale for \$5 per set of four and were available for sale on the day. Another highlight of the lunch was the unveiling of "Lanky Pig", donated by Judy Lankester and complete with dog tag. A very successful lunch and thanks to all who attended and made it a great day.



"Lanky Pig" with dog tag.

During construction



Johann cutting pavers

Jock surveying the progress



Almost finished

ALBANY COMMEMORATION 1914 – 2014 (By Ian McNee)

Here are some photos taken in Albany at the Celebrations of 100 years since the first convoy of Australian and New Zealand troops left Albany for WW1.

In the photo are Don Mantach, Geoff Brophy, Peter Hedrick, Kanga -Keith Battersby, Ken Braidwood, Ray Marr, Ian Jury, Charlie Matheson and Ian McNee. We marched with the RAR Association.

Others who marched with Vietnam Vets or RSL Branches included Mick O'Halloran, Noel Bell, Clive Chapman and others!!!

Naturally, Graham Edwards as the WA State RSL President was up front leading the march down the Main Street of Albany.

With at least 40,000 visitors in Albany for the weekend, the crowd was up to 10 deep all the way through the march.

The Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, took the salute.

A Commemorative Service followed the parade with a Naval Sunset Ceremony and Light Show and Concert finished the day.

Several naval ships from Australia, NZ and Japan were open for visitors as was the new Albany Anzac Centre. This new Anzac Centre is absolutely fantastic - worth a visit from anywhere in Australia.

A great weekend for all those who were there - opened the Commemorative services for the centenary of Anzac.

HENDERSON BACKYARD BLITZ (By Margaret Henderson)

Many thanks go out to the PIGS who helped Jock with his backyard, namely Robert Cusack, Johann Van Der Wal, and last but not least Casey Epskamp. The work carried out was hard but the end result was worth it: poisoning and removing grass, that was a chore on its own, ask Cusack, building up split level ground, digging in soak wells and drains. Now, don't think for one minute it was only the PIGS, one or two SOWS helped out as well, they also got stuck into digging holes and shovelling sand and pea gravel. There was also brick paving and bloody heavy limestone blocks, which were cemented into place, Casey kept asking who had the idea for the blocks, maybe he had a mind block because the idea was his, so he could only blame himself. The compactor was used on the raised level and on the finished surface, this is where Joh came to find that he loved compacting and he made this job his own, plus he brought along the music to keep us all entertained whilst he worked. The pea gravel was sealed, the edging was concreted into place. There was a section of colourbond fencing erected and replaced around the entrance to the carport, garage and shed. While all this was going on around him, Jock went against the Doctor's orders not to overdo things; he had not been out of hospital long after his heart op!! He found it hard to take orders and he also shovelled sand and pea gravel, and he also made the odd cup of tea and coffee. The SOWS kept the food going, lunch was a long session on Army stories and putting the world to rights and after a time, Casey brought us back to earth and work, which was his right as he was our landscaper and organiser. I would like to thank Clint Epskamp for the loan of his equipment, again many thanks to you all. Margaret





Some of the PIGS who attended

BRUCE ROCK VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION 2014

Well the usual numbers turn up year in and year out, I wonder just where the remainder of our members are? We support ANZAC DAY (and rightly so), but Vietnam Veterans Day (18 Aug) and the Bruce Rock gathering attracts very few of our, in excess of 100, members. WHY ????????

In attendance this year were Don Mantach and Don Bryant carrying the banner - and may I add that their physiques as such helped stabilize the banner with the high wind (ha ha). Also marching were Geoff Brophy, Kanga Battersby, Don Cruden, Steve Chamarette, Bob Curry, John Salmond and Richard Adams.

On the side-line (injured) was our cheerleader John Burrows and I do know there were a few wives also cheering us on.

The atmosphere and the whole town get behind this event so can our members please help support this gathering by their attendance.

From Don Cruden.

WEBSITES

Don Cruden has suggested a couple of websites that members may be interested in:

colourpatch.com.au

bpcmilitaria.com.au

14th INTAKE NASHOS

The 14th Intake Nashos were out to dinner again, this time at Trattoria Valdarno in Dalkeith, where about 30 PIGS and their wives/partners gathered for a great meal and the odd drink or three. Amongst those attending were: Peter and Sandra Vlachou, Gordon and Di Dickson, Griffio and Joan Griffiths, Geoff and Lorraine Murray, Alan Leivers and Jane, John and Kerry Burrows, Colin and Caroline Tye and their two daughters, Jim Wilson and Cheryl (all the way from Northcliffe in the far south-west of WA), Johann and Lorena Van der Wal, Barry and Anne Hutchins, Graham and Helen McKeon, Chris and Margaret Chapple, Lee and Dianne Boyd & Gavin Rodie. Thanks to Peter Vlachou for organizing the night out, well done mate.



Back row L to R: Barry Hutchins, Chris Chapple, Jim Wilson, Lee Boyd, Colin Tye, Brian Griffiths, Gavin Rodie, Alan Leivers, Gordon Dickson

Front row L to R: John Burrows, Peter Vlachou, Graham McKeon, Johann Van der Wal, Geoff Murray

MEMBER'S DETAILS

A number of emails have been returned as undelivered, generally caused by members changing email addresses. Can members who have email and don't receive them, please confirm their email addresses by sending an email to: geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au, with a cc to: dcruden1@bigpond.com.

Also, please include new address details and phone numbers if they have changed.

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

Make sure you have a nametag before the Adelaide reunion, remember it's only ONE year away.



Approx. 6.0cm x 4.0cm



Approx. 9.0cm x 6.0cm

NEWSLETTER

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

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



Above: Wagga Wagga reunion 2003. Below: Perth 2006



Gallipoli August Offensive Battlefield Tour

29 July – 11 August 2015

Day 1. Wednesday 29 July

Afternoon departure for tour members via Singapore Airlines.

Day 2. Thursday 30 July

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

Evening: Tour welcome dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: ISTANBUL

B L D

Day 3. Friday 31 July

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

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

Overnight: ISTANBUL

B L

Day 4. Saturday 01 August

This morning travel by coach to Gallipoli with lunch upon arrival at the Kum Hotel.

In the afternoon we visit Kilitbahir for discussions on the failed naval battle that preceded the landings.

Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 5. Sunday 02 August

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

Lunch at the hotel.

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

Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 6. Monday 03 August

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

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

Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 7. Tuesday 04 August

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

Lunch at the hotel.

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

Overnight: GALLIPOLI

B L D

Day 8. Wednesday 05 August

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

Lunch at the hotel.

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

Evening: Dinner at hotel.

Overnight: GALLIPOLI B L D

Day 11. Saturday 08 August

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

Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: ISTANBUL B L D

Day 12. Sunday 09 August

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

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

Overnight: ISTANBUL B D

Day 13. Monday 10 August

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

Day 14. Tuesday 11 August

Arrive Australia early evening.

Please note due to change in the Singapore airlines schedules, we have had to change the itinerary, it is reduced by one day.