

## AUSTRALIAN ARMY INDIGENOUS ELDER

The Army's inaugural Indigenous Elder, Uncle Roy Mundine, was appointed by CA LtGen David Morrison at a ceremony in Canberra on April 18.

A Bundjalung man, Uncle Roy had a distinguished 36 year Army career, enlisting in 1958.

Before his retirement as WO1 in 1995, Uncle Roy served in Malaya in 1959 with 1RAR and had two tours in South Vietnam with 5RAR in 1966 and 1969.

During his 1969 tour, Uncle Roy was Mentioned in Dispatches for his actions on April 25, 1969, during Operation Surfside where he was the leading section commander with 1 PI, A Coy.

On approaching a suspected enemy area, the then Cpl Mundine deployed his section on the ground and moved forward alone to reconnoitre the enemy position.

He sighted enemy bunkers and was about to signal further instructions when he detonated a mine that severed his lower right leg and caused severe wounds to his back and his other leg.

Members of his section started to move forward to his assistance into what was later shown to be an enemy minefield.

Although in considerable pain, Cpl Mundine ordered his section to stay out of the area and directed them to new firing positions after giving full details of the enemy bunker system.

For more than 40 minutes, he continued to give instructions to his section and refused to allow any members of the platoon to move near him until engineers had cleared a path through the minefield. This was typical of his outstanding leadership.

Uncle Roy was also awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1987 for his service as the Quartermaster of 49RQR.

Among his duties, Uncle Roy will represent serving and ex-serving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island personnel, advise Army's senior leadership, and participate in events of Indigenous significance such as National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.

Speaking at the ceremony, LtGen Morrison said the appointment signified Army's commitment to engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

"The appointment of the inaugural Army Indigenous Elder is an important milestone for Army and acknowledges the proud history of service that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have

provided to the Army and our nation," he said. "Uncle Roy had a distinguished Army career and is a respected and active member of the Indigenous community. He is an influential voice on issues related to Indigenous veterans and young people.

"We are privileged that he has agreed to be the Army's Elder."

Uncle Roy said he was delighted to be the inaugural Elder and was looking forward to working with the Army on its Indigenous activities.

"I think it was a very good idea to appoint an Elder and it is a great honour to have been asked by LtGen Morrison," Uncle Roy said.

"As the Army Elder, I hope to go out and talk to the younger people in Australia and enlighten them about the careers that are available to them in the military.

"Army is an awesome career which is great for young people as it gives them so many opportunities to do and learn new things."

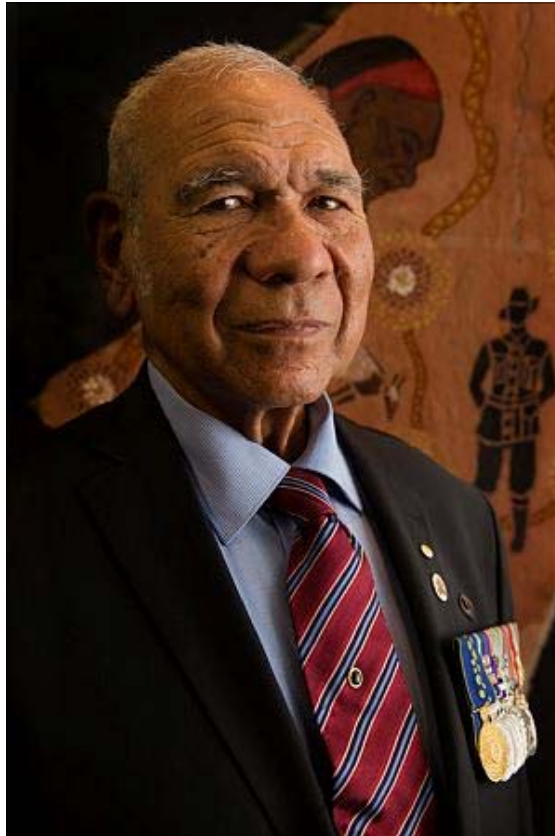
When asked how Army could encourage more Indigenous people to join, Uncle Roy said the key was getting out

and meeting people.

"The big thing you have to be able to do is talk to people and let them see the Army as an attractive option," he said.

"Getting out and talking to people about the Army and the experiences they can have will encourage young Indigenous people to start thinking about joining the services."

Uncle Roy had his first official function in May when he attended the launch of the Army Indigenous Song, 'On Every Anzac Day' at the Australian War Memorial.



Zeke Mundine OAM is surrounded by Generals, including CA LTGEN David Morrison AO, MAJGEN Stuart Smith AO DSC (son of Bernie Smith, KIA March 1969) and RSM-A WO Dave Ashley AM.

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## LTCOL PAUL BRENDAN SHIELDS, MBE

In 1997, LTCOL Shields was selected as the Australian exchange student for attendance at the Officer Cadet School New Zealand, and graduated into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps in 1998. LTCOL Shields commenced his Regimental service at the 5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion as a Mechanised Platoon Commander, and deployed to East



CO 5 RAR - LTCOL Paul Shields MBE

Timor from October 1999 to May 2000. In 2001 LTCOL Shields was posted as an Instructor at Rifleman Wing, School of Infantry, from which, he was promoted to Captain and posted as the Adjutant of the 11<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Western Australia Regiment.

From 2004 to 2005 LTCOL Shields was posted to the School of Armour as the Mechanised Officer Instructor, Tactics Wing, during which time he was awarded a Commandant Combined Arms Training Centre Commendation for excellence in the delivery of training. From January 2006 to August 2008 LTCOL Shields was posted on exchange to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards (1SG), British Forces Germany. During his attachment to 1SG, LTCOL Shields performed the roles of an Armoured Infantry Company Second in Command and the Battalion Operations Officer. In November 2007 he was promoted to Major and deployed to Basra as the Scots Guards Battlegroup Warfare Officer. On deployment on Operation TELIC 11 he was responsible for planning and coordinating over 60 Battlegroup level operations including 27 combined joint strike operations in Basra. In recognition for his personal contribution to the British Mission in Southern Iraq, LTCOL Shields was awarded as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

On return from Iraq, LTCOL Shields commanded B Company 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion from 2008 to 2009. In 2010 he completed Australian Command and Staff College attaining a Graduate Diploma in Management and Defence Studies from the University of New South Wales. Over 2011-2012 he was posted as the Senior Instructor Majors Team at the Officer Training Wing, where he led the development of the Majors Course and the Advanced Operations Course. In 2013, LTCOL Shields was posted on promotion to Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Division / Deployable Joint Force Headquarters, as the Staff Officer Grade One Future Plans. During his time at the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters he led the development of five major regional contingency plans for Headquarters Joint Operations Command, led planning for OP PHILLIPINES ASSIST 2013 and led OP OKRA Build Partner Capacity plans for Iraq over 2014 to 2015. In 2014 LTCOL Shields

deployed as the Commander of the Australian Joint and Interagency Planning Team, and subsequent Chief of Staff of Joint Task Force 659 on OP HAWICK, where his team led planning and supported the coalition operation for the recovery of the victims of the MH-17 disaster in the Ukraine.

LTCOL Shields holds a Bachelor of Behavioural Science from Griffith University, a Masters of Business (2013), and a Masters of Project Management from the University of New South Wales (2015). He is married to Evelyn and has two daughters, Sophia, born in November 2012, and Amelia born in October 2014. His interests include rugby, waterskiing, fitness and home improvement.

LTCOL Shields assumed Command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Australian Regiment on 30 March 2015.

### CO'S REPORT

It's an honour and privilege to return to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion and serve as the Commanding Officer. The Battalion was handed over in excellent condition from Colonel Barrett and I was impressed to see that the Battalion had earned the title of 'champion unit' in the Brigade. We have a strong team that will undoubtedly continue to rise to the challenges ahead. A lengthy reset period has been demanding, as reset certainly doesn't equate to rest. The Battalion has worked hard to maintain platoon and company competencies in a resource constrained environment, while providing significant support to the School of Infantry, Royal Military College as well as enabling 7 Brigades' collective training activities. The Battalion is now set to accelerate into the 'Readying Phase', and will soon benefit from the flow of equipment and personnel necessary to achieve the Ready Battle Group requirements and realise Army's modernisation plans. The twelve months ahead will see the Battalion tempo increase as we train to the higher end of Combat Team, Battle Group and enabled Combat Brigade operations, while undertaking modernisation of our digital command and control systems, receive the new soldier combat ensemble, introduce the enhanced F88 rifle, change out to new uniforms and receive a suite of new vehicles and supporting equipment. Ultimately, by the end of the next twelve months, the Tiger Battalion will transform significantly to provide the Government a highly capable, modernised Battle Group prepared to meet the challenges of both contingency and known operational commitments into 2016 and beyond.

Between April and August this year the Battalion will have seen multiple unit and sub-unit sized deployments. The Battalion deployed to Mount Bundy to conduct Exercise PREDATORS WALK in May, which saw the Platoons and Combat Teams conduct a demanding range of combined arms offensive, defensive, airmobile and live fire activities. In August the Battalion will undertake Exercise TIGERS CHALLENGE, a resilience training activity that will see our Platoons go head-to-head through a physical fitness competition, military skills competition and finish with adventure training activities. The Battalion will round-out August with the conduct of specialist courses and Exercise TIGERS TROT, which will see a return to Mount

## LTCOL PAUL SHIELDS, MBE - Cont.



Bundy for platoon urban training and a live fire platoon attack lane.


The Companies have been busy, with B Company deployed on Exercise VIGILANT SCIMITAR, a Company level air-mobile training activity as part of Battle Group GRIFFIN - 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment. B Company also sent a platoon to New Caledonia to conduct an international engagement exercise with the French Army. C Company deployed on Exercise KOOLENDONG which saw the Company attached to the United States Marine Corps (USMC) 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, where they undertook a range of high intensity Combat Team live fire air-assault operations at Bradshaw Field training area. D Company deployed to Puckapunyal for a month to support the training of our next generation of leaders coming through the Royal Military College – Duntroon. D Company will also participate in Exercise WIRRA JAYA, a bi-lateral international engagement exercise with Indonesia hosted in Java later in the year. Support Company has been growing capability for the Battalion, leading the conduct of a suite of specialist training courses as well as deploying in support of both Company and Battalion exercises. Logistics Company has made a concerted effort to provide the Battalion with exceptional equipment availability and serviceability states as well as 'right sizing' our equipment holdings. Logistics Company has also gone 'green' and deployed the company complete on Exercise PREDATORS WALK as well as providing C Company a logistics node in support of Exercise KOOLENDONG and Exercise TALISMAN SABRE.

Modernisation is in full swing with the receipt of the brand new battlefield management system (BMS) and the digitisation of our communication equipment and vehicle fleet. There has been a significant effort from the signals platoon and Companies in qualifying members of the Battalion in both the BMS and communications equipment to ensure we're capable to operate effectively as a digitised Battle Group. In September the Unit will receive the new Soldier Combat Ensemble to ensure that we train and deploy with the latest equipment.

The Battalion continues to prepare for the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. The Museum is undergoing a major overhaul and will be ready for unveiling before the Battalion's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday parade and ball, scheduled for November this year.

It's an excellent time to serve in the Tiger Battalion as we accelerate into the 'Readying Phase', modernise, line-up to undertake high tempo demanding Combat Team and Battle Group activities to prepare for contingency and known operations in 2016-17.

LTCOL Paul Shields, MBE  
Commanding Officer 5 RAR

 *Tiger Tales is printed and distributed, for 5 RAR Association, by The Pack Factory, 169A Penshurst St, BEVERLEY HILLS, NSW, 2209. Graeme Tooth, the principal of The Pack Factory, is a veteran of 5 RAR's 1969-70 tour of South Vietnam.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Tigers,

It has been a busy 6 months for our Association with the 50th anniversary reunion on the Gold Coast followed by Anzac Day commemorations. This will continue in coming months as the 50th anniversary activities loom in Darwin in early November. These activities have been promulgated widely and are again detailed on Page 8 of this issue. There has been a reasonable response from members but there is still time for others to commit to visit the top end as our closing date is 1 October.

As a result of the numbers so far attending, we have a quorum, so your committee has decided to hold the next Annual General Meeting in Darwin on Sat 7 Nov. This is consistent with the previously announced intention to move the AGM to Nov/Dec each year (normally in Sydney). The exception to this is when it is more suitable to hold the AGM to coincide with a major reunion or activity. Holding the AGM in Darwin also provides the opportunity for the CO, 2IC and RSM who are ex-officio members of the committee to attend, as well as current battalion personnel who are Association members.

The agenda and a nomination form for committee positions are enclosed with this issue. As committee positions under our new constitution are now elected on an annual basis I ask you to give thought to whether you are willing to offer your services for a period. You do not have to attend the AGM in Darwin to nominate. Once again I reiterate that a major challenge facing us is that of a suitable succession plan for our committee with the burden still being loyally carried by a few people. If you would like any information on likely committee responsibilities please contact me or our Secretary.

Progress is being made towards the refurbishment of the Memorial Wall at Binh Ba Lines with Brian Budden finalising a method for fixing the 50 plaques to the wall. When complete this concept will be passed to the Commanding Officer for his concurrence. Thank you again to those who have voluntarily and generously contributed to the refurbishment of the wall. If others wish to do so in honour of their mates, they can forward a donation to our Treasurer.

From 31 Aug to 2 Sep I will be representing the Association at the AGM and National Council Meeting of the RAR Association being held at Enoggera Barracks Brisbane. The members of the national council are all the battalion associations and the state/territory branches of the RAR Association duly represented by their Presidents or nominated delegate. If you have any matters you consider I should raise, please contact me.

This issue includes some in depth reports from the CO and all sub-units of the tiger battalion. In their busy training schedule, I thank them for the time they have taken to inform us of their activities. One thing that stands out is the opportunity to exercise with allied and regional nations which must provide a basis for some realistic and interesting training as well as an exchange of ideas and cultures.

Duty First

Roger Wainwright



## AROUND THE STATES

### WA



The Operation Slipper Welcome Home Parade was held in Perth on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. This parade was to recognise the deployment to Afghanistan for male and female Defence force personnel.

Our committee member here in Perth Michael Humphries, who served in Afghanistan with 5 RAR, organised former members to march behind the Association Banner which was carried by Bart Zammitt and Benjamin Dawson. The 5 RAR contingent had 15 members marching with thousands of people lining the streets to cheer them on.

The committee here decided not to wear Jackets and medals as this was the day for the men of Op Slipper. Eighteen senior tigers stood in the street wearing our 5 RAR t-shirts from the reunion and cheered loudly when the banner went past. Afterwards we adjourned to 43 Below for lunch and drinks with the younger veterans.

Great to talk to them about their experiences in Afghanistan. Later on 12 more Afghanistan veterans from 5 RAR joined us with their partners. Altogether we ended up with 70 people, making it a great day.



The 5 RAR Op Slipper veterans in Perth

### ANZAC DAY

This year, 100 years since Gallipoli brought record numbers of people to the Dawn Service and the March through the streets of Perth. I cannot remember seeing the crowds 8 deep along St Georges Terrace ever before.

We had 76 member's marching this year including Barry Ryan over from South Australia visiting his Mother. Barry was a Platoon Commander in B Coy 5 RAR 2nd tour of Vietnam.

We also had 17 of the younger Tigers, and 12 of the Old warriors wearing their rifle green berets, and I'm sure there will be more next year.

Afterwards we went to 43 Below where we had booked

### WA - Cont.



for 120 but the numbers were much greater.

5/7 RAR, led by ex Major Matt Shea marched behind their own Banner this year and then joined us at 43 Below.



The Perth 5 RAR contingent, some with the Infantry green berets.

So it was a great day catching up with everyone including Paddy Meckinstock who has just finished his rounds of chemo, and Bob Armitage who made the journey up from Mandurah, and didn't want to leave as he was having such a good time. Both are looking a lot better.

On Saturday 30th May a lunch was held at 43 Below to catch up with Jack Lake, CSM C COY on its 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour of South Vietnam.

15 members and partners attended and it was great to catch up with Jack and his wife Sue.

They had been staying in Mandurah and visited Bob and Jan Armitage. Jack said Bob was looking good and caught up with him on two other occasions.

Terry Major also took Jack out to see Kim Locke who was in Jack's Company.



Terry Bates, Peter Guyatt, John Halliday and Jack Lake are reunited at the Perth lunch.

Jack and Sue were catching the Indian Pacific back to NSW; it's always good to catch up with old mates.

Alan McNulty





## AROUND THE STATES - Cont.

### VIC



### QLD - Cont.

The weather in Melbourne on Anzac Day was less than kind – even more so than usual. Trying to organise the assembly of the Unit Banner on the very limited shelter on parts of the footpath was more testing than anything I can remember of any time in the Army, but somehow we all muddled through.

Then there was the communication breakdown between the March Marshalls and the RAR Association. The Marshalls were working from an Order of March at least five years out of date, so according to the RAR it was 4 RAR's turn to lead the March, but according to the Marshalls it should have been 8 RAR – memories of "great-coats on/great-coats off" spring to mind. Each time the RAR got it sorted the Marshall would come along and unsort it – then disappear.

As usual, the Tiger Battalion was very well represented, better (I think) than any other RAR Unit, and acquitted themselves well, notwithstanding an ever increasing number with failing health issues who are no longer able to march – but they all had their chits from the RAP. Well done to those Melbourne Tigers!

Of interest also, Daryl McCombe who served in Vietnam on 5 RAR's first tour and who (after the Army served several years as a Patrol Officer in Papua New Guinea) spent Anzac Day 2015 in Aitape PNG, on the North coast of PNG about 150 kms East of the Indonesian border. The significance of Aitape is that in October 1943, Australian conscript from Gunadah NSW, Sgt Leonard George Siffleet, Coast Watcher was captured and later beheaded by the Japanese there on the beach.

For almost 72 years this shocking event lay forgotten in the mists of time. This year the people of Aitape have dedicated a memorial to Sgt Siffleet, and for the first time they celebrated Anzac Day in his honour and furthermore, have committed to celebrating every Anzac Day from now on.

Perhaps also a reminder to the Metropolitan Victorians that on Vietnam Veterans Day, also known as Long Tan Day (18 August) we encourage those who care enough, to attend just below the forecourt of the Shrine.

10:00 Gunfire Breakfast including egg and bacon sandwiches, tea and/or coffee

11:30 The March begins

12:00 Laying of wreaths by the Eternal Flame

Doug Bishop



Paul Foley & Rod Hawkins

5 RAR was led by Bruce Schmidtchen and we numbered around 40, including current serving members plus, sons and daughters. Ron Shambrook's daughter, Kim Knox and my daughter, Sarah (18) marched with us.

After the March, most of us went to the Pig 'n' Whistle for lunch, and it was great to have the young people join us for a drink, and to

reflect on the stories of when we were young Tigers.

Paul Foley



## ABORIGINAL VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

The Aboriginal Veterans Commemorative Service was held at the Nations first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial in Adelaide on 29 May, 2015.

We were delighted to catch up with the Army's inaugural Indigenous Elder, Uncle Roy Mundine, who was appointed by CA LTGEN David Morrison (see page 1) at a ceremony in Canberra on April 18. 'Zeke', as he is known to most of us, was an invited guest speaker at the ceremony and later at the "Serving Country 100 Years and Beyond" display of indigenous soldiers who have served this nation in the Armed Forces.



Mick von Berg, 'Zeke' Mundine and 'Dogs' Kearney at the Commemorative Service.

Also in attendance with 'Zeke', were Bob 'Dogs' Kearney and Mick von Berg MC OAM, these three initially served together in E Company 1 RAR 1963 and later on 5 RAR's first tour of Vietnam.

### QLD

It was another perfect day to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day, the biggest parade in Brisbane for many years. The crowd numbers were up, and it was nice to see so many young faces waving their flags. Also, a lot of foreign visitors were paying their respects.

# A 102,804 TO 1 CHANCE



From 21 March until 29 April this year, Judges Park in Penrith, NSW, became Poppy Park. The park was transformed by 700 volunteers arranging 102,805 fabric poppies into the four petal shape of a huge poppy.

The project was the brainchild of Owen and Martin Rogers who wanted to commemorate the deaths of their great-uncles who died in WWI

102,804 of these poppies were red, representing every one of the Australian soldier who has fallen whilst on active service. There is one purple poppy and this is to remember all of the animals who died while in service of Australian troops on deployment.

Each red poppy has a card attached to the stem with the name of the serviceman, his serial number, the conflict they were involved in and the date that they died.



The Poppy Park in Penrith, NSW.

Margaret Hughes, the sister of George B Green, KIA 21 February 1967, visited Poppy Park because of losing George in Vietnam. Amazingly, amongst some many poppies, Margaret found the one carrying George's name. Margaret has purchased poppies for herself and her family but they could not select the poppy that carried George's name.

The aim of Poppy Park was to remember every soldier that gave their life on the battlefield for the freedom we enjoy today. As families fade and generations pass, the individuals who gave their lives during these battles may no longer have anyone to specifically remember them. Given this, if people were to choose a specific person then those that have no one to remember them will never be chosen and our wish for collective remembrance will not be achieved. It is the vision to see all poppies purchased therefore we can be assured that each of our fallen heroes are being remembered.

The organisers understand people also would like to individually remember a fallen hero they have a connection with. After distribution of the poppies, during May, people who had purchased a poppy were able to buy a reprint of the name card of individuals,

which they could then add to the stem of their poppy, so they will then have two cards, one to be able to part of the



The Poppy Stem with George's name.

collective remembrance as well as another so they can have their own individual remembrance.

In another item connected to the Poppy Park, Catherine Roberts posted on the 5 RAR Association Guest Book that she had bought and received the Poppy of 16196 PTE Raymond J Kennedy. The post is shown below.

**Date:** 22-Jun-15, 10:02 AM, GMT +11  
**Name:** Catherine Roberts <115.64.89.75>  
**Email:** *Removed for privacy reasons*  
**Location:** Australia  
**How did you find us?:** internet search  
**Number:** 92

I purchased a Poppy Park Poppy with the name Raymond John Kennedy SN 16196 KIA 14 August 1966. We are supposed to research 'our' soldier and keep their memory alive. Thanks to your website I have a lovely photo of him to go with the Poppy. Rest assured I will take the Poppy to Remembrance Day each year and be very pleased to keep his memory alive. Catherine

## NOTICES

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES AND ENQUIRIES

All enquiries regarding membership, or changes and amendments to your contact details should be forwarded to:

**Membership Officer, 5 RAR Association,  
82/117 Palm Meadows Drive, CARRARA, QLD, 4211.  
07 5594 4780 or garyt.5rar@gmail.com**

### ATTENTION LAWN BOWLERS

If you are a lawn bowler and would like to participate in a 3 day Tournament, from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, to be held in Dubbo, NSW.

There is \$10,000 in prize money up for grabs and the only requirement is that you are a serving, or ex-serving, member of the ADF. There is an Entry Fee of \$50 which includes all games, morning tea and lunch for 3 days.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact, Warren Binney on 0401 863-838.

### B COY 1969-70 reunion

B Coy 1969-70 are holding a Reunion in Yarrawonga, Vic, on the ANZAC Day weekend from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

For any further details please contact: Pauline Frauenfelder 0428 842-282 or paulineray@bigpond.com

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH - GOLD COAST

A Christmas Luncheon, to be held at the Currumbin RSL Club Nov/Dec, is in the planning stage. This will be the same format as we have done for the last 2 years when we have had 60-70 members and their partners attend.

If you like to have any further details, please contact Gary Townsend, Email: [5rar.assoc.update@gmail.com](mailto:5rar.assoc.update@gmail.com) or Telephone: 07 5594 4780



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### AUSTRALIA'S VIETNAM WAR

UNSW Canberra officially launched the 'Australia's Vietnam War' website on Thursday 27 May 2015.

The website displays the details of 4665 recorded combat incidents involving troops from the 1st Australian Task Force in Vietnam in the 1960s and 70s. Detailed information on every one of these incidents has been uploaded onto an interactive Battle Map. Vietnam veterans can access the details of individual combat incidents they were involved in, and upload their recollections, photographs and other digital material to form an expanding archive of details about the campaign. Researchers and others can utilise this website.

Visitors can filter information using fields such as date, unit, operation name and casualty count. Powerful analytical tools produce graphs to examine, for example, the causes of casualties suffered by a particular unit. Mapping overlays allow visitors to visualize trends and concentrations such as the areas of the highest concentrations of land mine incidents. Authentic Vietnam War-era military maps provide the context necessary to appreciate the plotted incidents, while present-day maps make it easier for people to plan visits to battlefield sites.

The site can be found at [vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au](http://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au)

#### 5RAR Association (Inc) - Financial Statement (as at 30/6/15)

In accordance with Clause 42. (5) of the 5 RAR Association (Inc) Constitution, this financial statement will be submitted to the AGM of the Association for approval before being lodged with the NSW DFT.

<b>OPENING BALANCE (1/7/2014)</b>		<b>\$ 22,528.68</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership Subscriptions	15,375.00	
Sales/Memorabilia	4,571.00	
Donations	414.00	
Memorial Wall Donations	6,392.75	
Reunion 2015 (REFUND \$8,400)	8,875.00	
Miscellaneous	90.00	
	<b>\$ 35,717.75</b>	
		<b>\$ 58,246.43</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Postage & Handling	3,392.49	
Printing/Stationery	4,371.13	
Dept. Fair Trading	171.00	
Reunion 2015	14,693.54	
Memorabilia	2,656.50	
Internet/Website	329.00	
Khan Tiger (Repairs)	1,142.00	
Floral Tributes	170.00	
5RAR Memorial Wall	14,014.00	
Subs — RAR Corp	300.00	
GST	635.56	
Bank Fees	20.10	
	<b>\$ 41,895.32</b>	
		<b>\$ 16,351.11</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>		
<b>BANK STATEMENT BALANCE (30/6/2015)</b>		<b>\$ 16,351.11</b>
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		
Cash Book/Bank Balance	16,351.11	
TERM DEPOSIT (50296157) (due 4/11/15 @ 2.60%)	22,744.26	
TERM DEPOSIT (50296165) (due 4/12/15 @ 2.60%)	23,933.92	
TERM DEPOSIT (50303660) (due 2/08/15 @ 3.05%)	25,657.28	
<b>TOTAL CASH EQUITY</b>		<b>\$ 88,686.57</b>
<b>## NOTE ## We received a REFUND from the 2015 Reunion of \$8,400.00, which in effect reduced the amount of the original advance (\$23,063.54) to \$14,663.54 which was the total amount of the subsidy.</b>		

### 5 RAR 50th ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES - DARWIN

5 RAR will host activities in Darwin on 5 and 6 November to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the battalion. The November timeframe has been chosen to coincide with the Inauguration Parade of 5 RAR held at Holsworthy on 5 November 1965.

All members of the Association and family members are invited to attend the activities. The activities are:

**Thu 5 Nov- AM - Freedom of Entry to the City of Darwin.** The battalion will march through the City of Darwin and receive Freedom of Entry in accordance with military tradition. 5 RAR Veterans and Association members have been invited to participate and march as a group with the battalion.

**Fri 6 Nov- AM:** The activities at Binh Ba Lines, Robertson Barracks, will be the opening of the restructured 5 RAR Museum, dedication of the 50 new plaques to our KIA on

the 5 RAR Memorial Wall and the presentation of the Warr-Khan Trophy to the most outstanding junior leader for 2015.

**Evening:** A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner/ball will be held at the Darwin Convention Centre. Dress will be black tie (dinner suit or lounge suit acceptable). Cost will be \$150 pp, includes a three course meal and some drinks.

**Sat 7 Nov- 9:00 AM:** 5 RAR Association (Inc) Annual General Meeting to be held at Novotel Darwin Atrium, 100 The Esplanade, Darwin.

5 RAR must have numbers and names of those attending to arrange access to Robertson Barracks and for catering for the dinner/ball. Please advise our Secretary, Geoff Pearson by email [gp@rbimports.com.au](mailto:gp@rbimports.com.au) or by telephone 0417 223 001. **Responses must be received by 1 October 2015.**



# THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



## Who We Are

The RAR Association (RARA) is a mutual association open to **the RAR Family** (current serving and past serving members of the Regiment and their families). It is dedicated to caring for and protecting the Family. **We are not The RAR Foundation**

The Association's motto "**Keeping the Spirit Alive**" recognises the binding force forged by those who served in the Royal Australian Regiment.

## Why We Exist

The Association was formed to extend the camaraderie established in service to after service welfare, care and wellbeing for the Family and remembrance of those who died in service.

Each RAR State and Battalion Association is independently incorporated. The National RARA provides co-ordination for the Associations and representation to Governments and external parties. The RARA is a member of the RAR Council (Regimental Colonel and Commanding Officers and RSMs of the RAR Battalions).

## What We Do

**PROVIDE ADVISORY & WELFARE SUPPORT** especially with transition to civilian life and access to community support agencies, pensions & welfare assistance, wellbeing advice, counselling support and helpful guidance as required.

**ORGANISE SOCIAL & COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS** such as family functions, reunions, commemorative services, concerts and other leisure events.

**PROVIDE NATIONAL REPRESENTATION** to National, State and Local Governments to protect our service entitlements and well being. The Association is non partisan: it does not support any political party.

RARA advocates by:

- direct access to the Government/Parliament and its relevant Departments and through DVA's Consultative Committees - Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT), Prime Minister's Advisory Council (PMAC), Younger Veterans – Contemporary Needs Forum and Veterans' Advisory Councils at both Federal and State levels
- active membership of ADSO (Alliance of Defence Service Organisations), and the RSL's Defence Personnel and Families Committee where it plays a leading role, and
- participation in combined ESO forums.

## What Results?

The Association's successes either on its own or as a part of ADSO and others include:

- For past serving: DFRDB Superannuation Indexation formula increased to maintain purchasing power, and protection of personal information release from The National Archives.
- For current serving: restoration of tax exclusion for wounded soldiers, conditions of service improvements, restoration of Christmas leave entitlements, restoration of WRA-ADF allowances and an increased indexation of ADF pay.

Issues in progress include:

- Correct indexation and payment for Veterans Disability Pensions.
- Repeal of the Government's intention to change the Services Pension indexation to CPI only in 2017 which also affects the VDP and War Widows.
- DFRDB Superannuation removal of the exclusion of under aged 55 years
- MSBS superannuation portability and an increased employers' contribution.
- ADF Super Scheme – a higher employer contribution rate than 15.4%
- Retention of experienced ADF members.
- Defence Housing.
- The Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal structure and process.
- Mental Health.
- Specialist medical services.
- Military justice.
- Reinforcing the unique nature of military service with a Military Covenant.
- Veterans' Homelessness

Further details of these issues can be found at the website <http://rarnational.org.au/>

## What You Can Do

1. **HELP US TO HELP YOU AND KEEP THE SPIRIT ALIVE**
2. **JOIN YOUR BATTALION ASSOCIATION NOW**

## 5 RAR MUSEUM DONATIONS

As you are probably aware the 5 RAR Museum in Darwin is being re-established and refurbished. It's condition had deteriorated after the delinking of 5 RAR and 7 RAR and the redistribution of items held.

To be able to restore, display and identify the items in the collection, the Battalion is seeking donations to cover the cost of this endeavour.

The museum is a high priority for the Battalion to have opened during the week leading up to the Birthday Celebrations as Nov is 50 years since we first paraded as a Battalion hence the timing.

Donations of over \$500 or Corporate \$1000 will be receipted and your name will be added to a Benefactors board in the museum.

The following is the BSB & Account details  
Acc Name: 5 RAR REGIMENTAL TRUST FUND HISTORICAL COLLECTION  
BSB: 642 170 Acc # 100245539





## DRESSING OF THE GRAVES

A "Dressing of the Graves" ceremony was conducted at the Wallaroo Cemetery grave site of Bernie Smith (KIA 9 March 1969) on 20 May 2015. This ceremony was part of the biennial KERNEWEK LOWENDER (Cornish Happiness) Copper Coast Cornish Festival, held on the north western Yorke Peninsula of South Australia. It incorporated floral tributes, graveside citations, and the involvement of local choirs, schools, attendants and bands.

The ceremony was extremely well conducted by the Wallaroo community and the local RSL. We had a fantastic roll up of first and second tour 'Tigers' and other veterans which was very much appreciated by the Smith family. The family members present included Bernie's widow, Janice, sons MAJGEN Stuart and Edward, sister Sondra, aunts, cousins and nieces whose names now elude me.

I was asked to speak at the grave site on behalf of the Battalion and on completion, through the assistance of Ian Ward, who is a personal friend of the family, the Battalion Sash was presented to Janice, this was well received.



Janice, Stuart and Edward with some of the Tigers who attended.

Ian lives a few kilometres away and is to be congratulated for the fantastic work he did on restoring the somewhat faded headstones on Bernie's grave, which looked a treat and did Bernie proud.

I had a long chat with Janice and Stuart after the ceremony who were extremely grateful of the wonderful turnout of the 'Tigers', their respect and acknowledgement of Bernie.

A quick late counter lunch at the Kadina pub and sharing another two hours of fishing stories with Spike Dwiar, who was my shotgun on the way home was a fitting and appropriate way to finish our day for one of our fallen warriors.

Mick Von Berg  
Recce PI 1966-67

*Quote: "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."*

John Stuart Mill

## JD ALLEN'S MEDALS

Just a little over three months after he returned from Vietnam in 1967, JD Allen (8 Platoon C Company) was tragically killed in a road accident near his home town of Lithgow, NSW. Also in the car was JD's girlfriend, Denise Wiffen, she was critically injured and spent a week in a coma. These serious injuries resulted in the loss of her right leg above the knee and almost the loss her left leg.

In Denise's words: "It was 5.00 pm at River Lett hill, on the Great Western Highway when the accident happened through no fault of John. A truck lost its brakes coming down the hill, hitting John's car head-on. I don't remember anything about the accident or some of the time that went before. To think that John went through his experience in Vietnam and survived and died in this way, is tragic."

In August of 2014, Roger Wainwright received a telephone call from Denise Wiffen, now Cash, from New Zealand where she had returned after the accident. She stated that she did not have any photographs of JD, so Roger immediately sent a photograph of JD and Curley Koblitz, his Section Commander to Denise.



Denise Cash and Daryl McCombe

Daryl McCombe, a Platoon mate of JD, sent the ten photos of JD that he had just had converted from slides to Denise as well.

After exchanging e-mails for a couple of weeks and realising just how serious JD and Denise's relationship had been, Daryl suggested to Roger and Denise that perhaps JD's medals were unclaimed and that they may be able to obtain them.

After a long and difficult process with Defence Force Honours, Daryl finally received JD's Medals. In March of this year he travelled to New Zealand and presented JD's Medals to a very appreciative Denise.

## QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONOURS

**OAM** - Michael Baron von BERG MC, OAM

**Medal of the Order of Australia** for service to rugby union, particularly in South Australia.

Congratulations to Mick who was the OC of the first Reconnaissance Platoon in 1966-67. He is the Chairman of the RAR Corporation and President of the RARA (SA).

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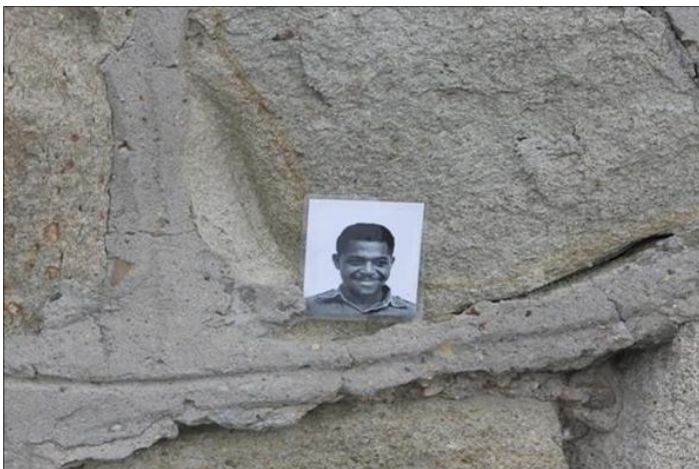
## SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION



The world is getting smaller through internet and more accessible international travel and we would all have experienced bumping into someone in London, Lismore or Latvia. But it is the experience of Mike Bevan (5 RAR 1969-70 and Treasurer, RAR Assoc SA) and his small tour group, that he quoted to me upon his return, that rates a special mention and it is quoted below.

*"On June 9, two of our party started our walking tour of the Anzac area at Gallipoli. Whilst walking from Ari Burnu to Hell's Spit along the beach (Anzac Cove), I noticed a photo of Norm Womal set in the sea wall. It was around seventy or eighty metres from Ari Burnu. As you can see, it is hardly weathered so had not been there long. It was the only such item I saw along the beach walk. I knew you would be interested in it. After we had visited Beach Cemetery, we went up to Plugge's Plateau via Shrapnel Gully. You can see down to Ari Burnu and towards North Beach. Anzac Cove is just out of sight."*

I was simply blown away emotionally when I saw the photograph which indeed was one of Norm Womal. Norm was one of my section commanders who I sadly lost in Vietnam on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1966. Michael took a photograph of Norm's photo placed on the wall which would be of interest to the 5 RAR first tour guys, many who knew Norm who was a very popular individual in the Battalion.



The photo of Norm Womal on the sea wall of ANZAC Cove

Some of the readers may remember that Jock Letford and I (see Issue 23, December 2009) secured some replica medals and had them framed for Norm's sister, brother in law and niece and we had The Fox, Michael Dennis present them at a ceremony in Bowen Queensland, during one of his and Anne's northern sojourns.

Life has some mysterious turns for all of us and this experience some thousands of miles from Bowen where Norm is buried, where a photograph of Norm was left by someone and noticed by Mike Bevan also 5 RAR second tour is more than a coincidence. If you join all the dots through first and second tour 5 RAR this is almost two degrees of separation or something far more spiritual? They mission now is to try and determine who left the photograph?

Mick von Berg  
Recce Platoon 1966-67

## 2LT BRIAN WALKER HONOURED



2LT Brian G Walker

At the end of each day, commencing at 4.55 pm AEST, the Australian War Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony. The ceremony begins with the singing of the Australian National Anthem, followed by the poignant strains of a Lament, played by a piper. At each ceremony the story behind one of the 102,000 names on the Roll of Honour is told. The Ode is then recited, and the ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

The OCS Class of June 1967 held a reunion in Canberra in June 2015. As part of their reunion they had arranged for 5411605 2LT Brian G Walker to be the subject of the daily AWM Last Post on Friday 5 June. Brian is the only member of their Class to be KIA. He died on 9 March 1969 whilst serving with D Company 5 RAR.

This daily Last Post ceremony is open to the public and is dedicated each day to one of Australia's Fallen. The daily service commences at 4.55 PM to coincide with the closing of the AWM.

The Service was attended and Wreaths were laid by Brian's widow Jennifer Henry, family members, his OCS Class members and 5 RAR Association members.

### STRETCHER BEARERS

There are some praising words to speak,  
Nay, loud words to shout on high,  
By we who might their mercies seek,  
Or extol the trades they ply;  
They don't care much when orders come,  
'Bout beating drum or trumpet blowing;  
Caring, they sustain Life's sweet thrum  
For men, whose blood is outward flowing.

Whirring hot shrapnel cleaves the air,  
And comrades fall mid stride;  
Small time have they for fancy care,  
They have no time to bide;  
Staunch well the rushing red blood,  
Give drugs to ease the pain,  
Spread Mateship's balm, in full flood,  
To lull dashed-Hope's refrain.

It's thus, in shattering War's surprise  
Some musicians earn their pelf;  
They give aid to men with stricken eyes,  
With little regard for self;  
Although they know what dangers come  
Amid the battle's flow,  
Hearing loud some different drum,  
They grab aid packs and go!

© Ron Boxall  
2IC D Company 1966-67



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# IN MEMORIUM

## 212569 ERNEST ROSS PATTERSON 13 July 1941 - 22 March 2015

SGT Ernest 'Doc' Patterson passed away on Sunday 22 March, in Hollywood Hospital WA, after a long illness.

Doc served with two Battalions on their tours of Vietnam, the first with 1 RAR in 1965-66, he then deployed with 3 RAR from February to October 1971.

Doc was a member of 5/7 RAR when it was based at Holsworthy and joined the 5 RAR Association after his discharge.

A cremation service was held for Ernest at Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park, East Chapel, Padbury, WA, on Thursday 26 March.



## 4717642 GEOFFREY LEONARD ARTHUR 19 February 1945 - 11 April 2015

PTE Geoffrey Arthur's funeral ceremony was held in Melrose SA on Thursday the 23 April. Geoff a farmer and a keen and experienced pilot died when his ultra-light aircraft hit power lines near one of his properties near Melrose SA.



Geoff was a machine gunner in 10 PI, D Coy on 5 RAR's first tour of Vietnam 66/67. Many of his 10 PI fellow warriors attended the funeral, some from interstate. A Guard of Honour was formed by his Country Fire Service comrades and ex-service personnel. Geoff was highly regarded by his OC as a soldier and as a bloody good mate by the 10 PI soldiers.

A wake was held in the local pub and the Tiger Battalion sash was presented to the family.

## 215394 GEOFFREY THOMAS WILCOX 6 March 1941 - 17 April 2015



LCPL Geoffrey 'Geoff' Wilcox passed away in Tweed Heads on Friday 17 April.

Geoff joined the Army in 1964 and was allocated to RA Inf. He served with both 1 RAR and 5 RAR and saw service in Vietnam with 5 RAR from 30 April 1966 until 10 May 1967.

He transferred to the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police in 1969 and continued to serve until 1984.

Geoff had been battling against cancer for the last few years.

His funeral was held on Thursday 23 April at Tweed Heads Memorial Gardens, 176 Kirkwood Road, in Tweed Heads.

## 4717737 HENDRICK MAALSTE 28 March 1945 - 22 April 2015



PTE Henk Maalste passed away in Berri Hospital, SA on Wednesday 22 April.

Henk was a member of 8 Platoon on the 1st tour of Vietnam. We knew that he had been ill and was admitted to hospital about three weeks ago. His passing was relatively quick though he fought to the end.

He celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in hospital with his family and friends.

Henk was returned to Broken Hill for his Memorial Service. This service was conducted on Wednesday 29 April at: Old Convent, Broken Hill Church of Christ, 232 Lane Street, Broken Hill. Members of the Association attended his funeral.

## 3786648 TREVOR JOHN STEVENS 9 February 1945 - 3 May 2015

PTE Trevor 'Bluey' Stevens passed away suddenly on Sunday 3 May after suffering a massive and unexpected heart attack.

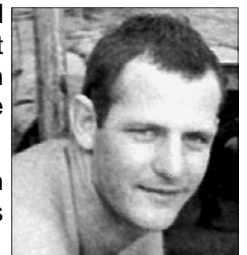


He was a 1<sup>st</sup> intake Nasho and served with 6 Platoon, B Company for the full 1966-67 deployment of the Battalion to Vietnam. Trevor was a good digger and was even better at stirring his mates up, he will be sadly missed by the men of 6 Platoon that he served with.

Trevor's farewell service was held at Springvale Crematorium, in Melbourne, on Wednesday 13 May. The service for Trevor was attended by his Section Commander, Geoff Luck, John 'Hodgie' Hodges and a good roll-up of Tigers from Melbourne.

## 2787492 JAMES CHARLES MATTHEWS 20 May 1946 - 14 May 2015

LCPL James "Jim" Matthews passed away on Thursday 14 May 2015 at Camden Hospital after battling brain cancer since it was diagnosed in June 2014.



Jim was a serving Police Officer with the NSW Police Force when he was conscripted for National Service.

During his army service he was posted to 5 RAR on 13 December 1967 and completed his operational tour in Vietnam with the Battalion in the Regimental Police Section of BHQ, from February to June 1969.

Jim's funeral service was held at Forest Lawn Crematorium, South Chapel, Camden Valley Way, Leppington, NSW, Australia on Friday, 22 May 2015.

# IN MEMORIUM

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## 4717641 ROBERT ANTHONY WINTERFIELD 4 January 1945 - 18 June 2015



PTE Robert 'Bob' Winterfield passed away peacefully, in the Mount Gambier Hospital on Thursday 18 June. He had been battling multiple cancers for a long period of time.

Bob served with 3 Section, 7 Platoon on the Battalion's 1966-67 tour of Vietnam as a rifleman and carried the M79. He was a well respected, efficient and friendly member of the Section and Platoon.

He was Wounded-in-Action on 8 December 1966, near Nui Thi Vai. This incident resulted in his repatriation to Australia.

A Cremation Service was held for Bob in his home town of Mount Gambier, South Australia.

## 18211 NEVILLE JOHN SMERDON 18 September 1944 - 29 June 2015



LCPL Neville 'Smerdo' Smerdon passed away suddenly, at home in Wagga Wagga on the morning of Monday 29 June.

Smerdo served for the Battalion's full 1966-67 tour of Vietnam with the Assault Pioneers.

He continued his service in the ADF until he took discharge after 20 plus years, including a time as an instructor at Kapooka.

For many years Neville was the 5 RAR Assoc liaison person with 5 Platoon (Binh Ba Platoon) at RTW, Kapooka.

A service was held for Neville at the Wagga Wagga Lawn Cemetery and Crematorium on Monday 6 July and attended by 5 RAR Assoc members.

## LIFE MEMBER CITATIONS



### Alan McNulty DCM LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD 2015



Alan McNulty enlisted in the Australian Army in January 1963 and was posted to 2RAR in Brisbane. In 1965 Alan was posted to 5RAR, then in 1966 as a section commander of 7 Platoon C Company he boarded HMAS Sydney for his first tour of Vietnam.

Staying on with 5RAR he returned to Vietnam with the Battalion for his second tour in February 1969 as the 3 Platoon Sergeant in A Company. On the 11th of May 1969 his Platoon was pinned down in a contact with the enemy. His Platoon Commander lay seriously wounded some 10 metres to the front of his position. With the assistance of a flame thrower and another soldier while showing little regard for his own safety, Alan was undeterred in rescuing his Platoon Commander.

While on operations in July 1969 Alan, whilst appointed as an advisor to a Company of ARVN, came under heavy automatic weapons fire. Alan took control of the situation, assisting the Commander to organise his defences. Over the next few hours, with assistance of helicopter gun-ships and artillery, he forced the enemy to withdraw.

In August that same year, his Platoon engaged a superior sized enemy force in bunkers. Despite suffering wounds, Alan continued to direct and inspire his soldiers, as he assisted with the evacuation of other casualties. In the process he was wounded a second time.

During his evacuation by air to Australia, his wounds proved so severe that the plane was redirected to Butterworth where an urgent operation was performed by a British surgeon. Eventually back in Australia, he spent many months recuperating, before rejoining the Battalion.

For his heroic actions in Vietnam, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal on February 23rd 1970.

In 1973 after having served 8 years with 5RAR, Alan was posted to Headquarters Terror Barracks in Singapore as a Staff Sergeant. He returned to Australia in 1976, being posted to the 16th Battalion - The Royal Western Australian Regiment before being promoted to WO2 with Army Recruitment in Perth.

After 20 years of Army service, Alan retired in 1983 taking up a senior management role with the Globus Group of Companies.

Alan was one of the first to "sign up" with the then newly-formed 5RAR Association. His enthusiasm for 5RAR has never waned, having taken over responsibility for the WA Branch of the Association since late 2004. It has since become a very strong, tight knit band of "Tigers" and without doubt, this can be attributed to the respect that he is afforded from that State's members.

He instigated a WA welfare committee to regularly visit ex-5RAR personnel who are ill or have fallen on hard times, both in their homes or in hospital. Alan was instrumental in encouraging the strong support for the annual visitation to Quinns Rock RSL and the local shire on their Vietnam Veterans' weekend, as well as Anzac Day and the Battalions' Birthday. And their Christmas functions are legendary!

Alan McNulty has served 5RAR and the 5RAR Association with distinction over more than 30 years, giving his time freely and he is an excellent candidate for the appointment as a Life Member of the 5 RAR Association Inc.



### Bruce Schmidtchen LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD 2015



Bruce Schmidtchen enlisted in the Australian Army in 1964 at the age of 18. He completed his recruit training at the 1 Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka NSW after which he was posted to Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment as a Rifleman.

After a short period of time with 2RAR Bruce was posted to the 5th Battalion, the Tiger Battalion and served in C Coy on the battalion's first tour of duty in Viet Nam in 1966-1967. He was wounded in action during Operation Beaumauris at Xa An Nhut on the 14th February 1967 but remained with the battalion and its subsequent return to Australia.

Bruce returned to Viet Nam with the battalion during its second tour in 1969-1970 where he served in the Mortar Platoon with the rank of corporal. He was attached to C Coy as the Mobile Fire Controller (MFC). He later moved to Battalion Headquarters where he joined the Fire Support Co-ordination Centre in the Battalion Command Post. He was later Medivaced home to Australia, but remained a member with the battalion on its return to Australia.

He was then posted to 3RTB at Singleton as a Platoon Sergeant and later served with 3RAR and 6RAR before being promoted to the rank of WO1, RSM. Bruce was commissioned in the rank of Captain in 1990 where he took up a position in the Information Technology section of the Army. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of Major and after a distinguished career spanning 35 years, Bruce retired from the Army in 1999.

He joined the 5RAR Association while still serving and quickly volunteered to join the National Committee of the Association. He also accepted the position of 5RAR State Representative, Queensland in 2005. Bruce attended almost all of the National Committee meetings held in Sydney and funded these trips at his own expense.

In 2007 Bruce was appointed Chairman of the committee to plan the 5RAR 45th Anniversary Reunion held on the Gold Coast in 2010. He continued as a member of both the National Committee and as State Representative for Queensland during this time. Bruce also became a key member of the working group, that re-wrote the 5RAR Association Constitution that led the way to the Association becoming an Incorporated Association in October 2014.

Because of the resounding success of the 2010, 5RAR Reunion, Bruce was invited to be the Chairman of the planning committee for the 50th Anniversary Reunion of the Battalion to be held on the Gold Coast in 2015. His leadership of his team and co-ordination of all activities was outstanding which was central to this being the most successful re-union conducted by the Association.

He is also a contributing member on the Editorial Team for the 5RAR newsletter TIGER TALES, a position which he has held for the past 8 years and continues to do so.

Bruce has served 5RAR and the 5RAR Association with outstanding loyalty and dedication for more than 20 years giving his time freely.

He is an excellent candidate for the appointment as a Life Member to the 5RAR Association Inc.



At the AGM held on the Gold Coast in February this year, Alan McNulty, DCM, and Bruce Schmidtchen were granted Life Membership of 5 RAR Association (Inc). The Citations that accompanied these well deserved awards are shown above and are also available on the Association Website.

Our sincere congratulations to both Alan and Bruce on their efforts on behalf of the 5 RAR Association (Inc).





## 5 RAR DARWIN REPORTS

### **BRAVO COMPANY**

#### **EXERCISE SOUTHERN TIGER**

From the end of May, through to the start of June, B Company was host to a platoon of international counterparts from Malaysia's 7th Mechanised Ranger Battalion as a part of 1st Brigade's Regional Engagement. The exercise was made up of an integration period at Robertson Barracks prior to the platoon deploying with B Company for Exercise Predator's Walk to the Mount Bunday Training Area.



Malaysian Soldiers debus from a Bushmaster at Mt Bundy UOTF.

The integration package saw B Company's Non-Commissioned Officers give Malaysian soldiers a basic understanding of Australian field and urban tactics, techniques and procedures. On deployment to Mount Bunday Lance Corporal Ian Yarsley and Private Scott Kinnear were embedded with the platoon to provide signals support and

doctrinal guidance. Under their guidance the Malaysian platoon took part in numerous activities; ranging from basic field craft and navigation through to executing urban assaults and snap vehicle check points. The Malaysians displayed a high proficiency in field signals and an eagerness to gain experience in a different climate and environment than their normal jungle training areas.

The exercise culminated in a deliberate urban clearance through the Mount Bunday Urban Operations Training Facility (UOTF) alongside United State Marine Corps and 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment counterparts. Feedback from the soldiers about Exercise Southern Tiger was that they appreciated the opportunity to travel, and subsequently train with regional partners, with a keen emphasis on our urban training facilities.

#### **EX FORCES ARMEES DE LA NOUVELLE CALEDONIE**

Ex Forces Armees de la Nouvelle Calédonie 15 (EX FANC) is the first iteration of a planned annual-international engagement activity at platoon level. It is an important component of the Armees de la Nouvelle Calédonie (FANC) Australian bilateral military relationship in which 20 members from Bravo Company, 5 RAR participated with Le régiment d'infanterie de marine du Pacifique – Nouvelle Calédonie (RIMaP-NC).

The 20 member Platoon participated in integration training with the French Paratrooper Marines, providing the necessary skills to being integrated into a French task force.

The Platoon then completed a week-long Marine Commando Course, training in French Commando techniques, watermanship and amphibious tactics. They completed the course alongside a French Paratrooper and Mountaineer platoon, thoroughly enjoying the inter-

nationality competition.

The Platoon conducted a number of full mission profiles whilst conducting the commando course, most notably a VIP rescue mission from a ferry by night, and a boat sabotage. The training provide an insight into Special Forces type missions and was a great opportunity for the team to experience non-conventional training opportunities.

The Australian contingent then worked in a French Combat team in the mountains of Nandai conducting air-mobile operations. Working closely with a non-English speaking ally proved challenging and the team performed well. The SA-330 Puma helicopters were a great inclusion to a successful tactical-phase to the exercise deployment.

The Exercise primarily took place in Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia, and coincidentally a scenic tourist destination, fortunately for some maintenance to French service air delayed the return of the Platoon, who got an opportunity to experience what Noumea had to offer.



The B Company men in Noumea

EX FANC 15 was a beneficial and worthwhile training exercise with Forces Armees de la Nouvelle Calédonie, it provided members of B Coy with cultural and technical knowledge of FANC and insight into foreign Platoon level methodologies. The team enjoyed themselves immensely and represented themselves and the Australian Army to a truly high standard.



### **CHARLIE COMPANY**

Between the 23rd of May and 4th of June 2015 the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR) deployed to the Mount Bundy Training Area (MBTA), as part of Exercise Predators Walk. This exercise was set up to allow the 1st Brigade and 5 RAR Headquarters' to shake-out and build on Standard Operating Procedures with some new pieces of equipment.

This exercise saw Bravo and Charlie Company, 5 RAR, conduct a mixture of blank and live firing serials, in different terrain and with a multitude of different supporting elements.

This exercise was also utilised to expand the Australian Army's interoperability with the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and Royal Malaysian Armed Forces (RMAF). Bravo Company 5 RAR was given the great opportunity of being supplemented with a Platoon from the RMAF, allowing all members of the Company to get a first

## 5 RAR DARWIN REPORTS - Cont.

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hand look at how our partners to the North operate in the field. The USMC units of the Marine Regional Force – Darwin (MRF-D) were fully integrated into the Exercise; conducting training serials, sharing assets and were even valiant enough to act as enemy role players for the 5 RAR blank fire serials.

The exercise was split into two main phases, being blank and live fire. The first phase of blank fire saw 5 RAR set up its HQ elements and allow each platoon to conduct multiple foundation warfighting serials. These serials ranged from green field deliberate attacks and ambushes, to urban assaults and clearances. The culmination of this phase was a Company level deliberate attack. Charlie Company was lucky enough to be tasked with a deliberate urban clearance and High Value Target (HVT) capture. From the outset of this mission the members of Charlie Company were extremely excited and pumped to get this mission underway for two reasons. Firstly, the Company had three CH-53 Super Stallions from the USMC MRF-D attached as the Company's insertion asset into the urban setting. Secondly being able to put their recently refreshed Urban skills and drills to the test, as discussed in March 2015 Edition of Tiger Tails.

With the Battalions new Commanding Officer LTCOL Paul Shields looking on, Charlie Company rapidly broke in and secured the HVT, continuing to rapidly clear the whole urban facility. The controlled speed of the clearance took the enemy Marines off guard to the point they began throwing their Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) at the boldly aggressive Charlie Company soldiers in an attempt to slow them down and cause confusion. No luck, the Marines were completely overrun and the urban facility belonged to Charlie Company, allowing the Company a chance to regroup, regather and consume their 'spoils of battle'.

The second phase of the exercise was the live fire phase. 5 RAR units were given the opportunity to conduct multiple live fire field firing exercises. These included; Section attacks, by day and night; Platoon combined arms attacks, with M113AS4 Personnel Carriers and M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank in support; and, Motorised Platoon counter ambush drills, with the use of Protected Mobility Vehicles (PMVs). All of these activities gave the opportunity to widen 5 RAR's soldiers' knowledge and familiarity with different supporting units from the Army, USMC and RMAF.



Mortars and 84mm rockets are fired in support of a Live Fire Counter Ambush Drill.



Dust kicks up around a 5 RAR Gunner as he suppresses targets during a Live Fire Section attack.

Overall the Exercise was aimed at providing the Battalion and Brigade with an opportunity to shakeout and test all of its functions, however along the way the Companies and Platoons were given great training opportunities to develop their foundation warfighting skills.

LT Joshua Rousseau



### DELTA COMPANY

For the first six months of 2015, Delta Coy has had the dubious honour of fulfilling most of the Battalion's external support requirements. The largest of these tasks has been providing Opposing Force (OPFOR) for Royal Military College (RMC).

In late April, Delta Company (accompanied by a Troop from 1st Armoured Regiment) deployed to Puckapunyal for four weeks to provide OPFOR for RMC II Class as they conducted an extended Defensive Operations training package. Split into two platoons, The Reapers were broken down into small teams (the 2-3 man groups that have plagued RMC sections since 1911) and deployed against the Staff Cadets to physically, mentally and tactically them over three weeks. For the first two weeks of the defensive exercise, scenarios varied from small arms contacts to Key Leadership Engagements (KLE) and first aid casualty evacuation.

During the lower tempo periods of the exercise, The Reapers took the opportunity to work on their own internal SOPs and Platoon level rehearsals. The Defensive Operations activity culminated with the Reapers conducting two Coy attacks on the RMC position followed by a 24-hour pursuit of the withdrawing enemy. This required the two platoons to conduct a platoon attack every two hours to keep the pressure on the Cadets and set the conditions for the next activity.

The end of the Cadets' fighting withdrawal marked the beginning of EX SHAGGY RIDGE, a six-day food and sleep deprivation exercise that pushes the Staff Cadets to the point of exhaustion. The Reapers were distributed at 18 stands across the 150km track and they didn't make it easy for the suffering Cadets. Some of these stands in-

*(Continued on page 16)*



## 5 RAR DARWIN REPORTS - Cont.

(Continued from page 15)

cluded a stores carry, first aid, counter ambush, crowd control and quick decision exercises.

At the completion of the RMC support task on Puckapunyal, Delta Company returned to Robertson Barracks to refurbish and immediately redeploy to Mount Bunday for Ex PREDATORS WALK. During the EX, the Coy consolidated to form one 'super-platoon' and participated in live fire section attacks, a platoon counter ambush and combined arms inoculation training with M1A1s and M113s. The extra effort in Puckapunyal certainly paid off as Delta Company dominated the live fire section and platoon activities. Additionally, the Coy also had the opportunity to conduct live fire cross-training with the USMC run a platoon from the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces through some shooting on the F88 at Class Range.

After a short break, The Reapers again deployed to the field for to conduct a combined HE Week and close combat shooting activity. Along with firing the HE natures of 84mm, 66mm, 40mm and F1 grenades to build our weapons proficiency, Delta Company also designed and conducted a live fire close combat shooting range that included shooting on the move, firing from other positions and engaging targets in an urban environment. The Coy probably fired more rounds in three days than they will for the rest of the year!

Sport this year has given a number of Delta Coy soldiers the opportunity to represent the Brigade in Rugby and Netball. PTE Baker and PTE Ravetali represented the Brigade Rugby team which made the grand final in the Army Competition held in Brisbane. PTE Ravetali then went on to represent Army in the ASRU competition. Coy Clerk PTE Amy Lorenzo continued her good form representing the Brigade and Army in Netball.

Delta Company has had a very positive and successful year so far and looks forward to deploying to Indonesia in early September on EX WIRRA JAYA.

CPL Thomas Durrant

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### **SUPPORT COMPANY**

#### **DIRECT FIRE SUPPORT WEAPONS**

This year has seen Direct Fire Support Weapons (DFSW) continue to strive to be the premier Platoon of the Battalion. After a year that was marred by a number of unfortunate incidents, and saw the Platoon do a lot of training outside of their specialist role in 2014, the Heavy Hitters have embraced the 'Outlaw' status they were branded with and pushed forward into 2015 with renewed vigour. With a boost in numbers at the beginning of the year taking the Platoon from a section plus to almost a full Platoon, there have been more opportunities to train in the roles of Extended Range Machine Gun (ERMG), Anti Armour, Hunter Killer teams and transitioning from dismounted to a mounted capability.

In May the Heavy Hitters deployed to Mount Bundy for Exercise PREDATORS WALK. With all of the DFSW vehicles being used amongst the rest of the battalion, the

Platoon picked up and carried on with the weight weapons and stores on foot. Fortunately, the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D) Combined Arms Team (CAT) were deploying on the Exercise and the two heavy weapons platoons were able to come together for a time to conduct joint training. This opportunity for bi-lateral training saw DFSW members working out of CAT teams 'up armoured' Humvees and working side by side with the Marines to provide different but similar capabilities, in order to defeat an armoured threat. The Exercise was also an opportunity for both Platoons to exchange skills with DFSW members picking up the much needed MK19 Automatic Grenade Launcher (AGL) qualification, and the marines getting an insight into the workings of ERMG. In one demonstration, PTE Jackson was given the opportunity to fire the javelin (a rare opportunity for any soldier) anti armour missile at a High Value Target (HVT), which was identified as an old ration tin. PTE Jackson fired from further than a kilometre away and successfully neutralised the HVT with a direct hit through the top of its 'armour'.

In a force on force training Exercise that saw DFSW/CAT take on the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Cavalry Regiment (ACR) and their Light Amphibious Vehicles (LAV), DFSW provided a dismounted anti armour team with two man, hunter killer detachments, dismounting from Humvees short of the target area and patrolling to identify and engage armoured threats. The LAV's were only prepared for a mounted assault. With the combination of DFSW hunter killer teams equipped with the Javelin, and CAT's 'up armoured' Humvees with an arsenal that included MK19's, .50 cal's, and TOW missiles, the enemy were completely and utterly annihilated.

The time spent integrating with CAT team saw a lot of skills shared and hard work accomplished, but it also seems from looking at the MRF-D's FaceBook page that it was an opportunity for PTE's Jeffries and Cunningham to pose for numerous photos; or maybe the Marines just thought they were a couple of good looking Heavy Hitters. In either case they are now the face of DFSW to the Marines.

The platoon looks forward to continuing its hard work this year and maintaining its high level of fitness, competency on their weapon platforms and all of its specialist capabilities. DFSW will continue to perform to a high standard in the field when the Platoon deploys again in August, and numerous other times toward the end of the year. DFSW will look to demonstrate to the Rifle Company's the level of fitness and commitment required to make it through a Basic DFSW Course, and do the best job in the RAR as a member of the Heavy Hitters.

#### **ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON**

So far 2015 has been a fairly demanding year for Pioneers. Kicking off with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Basic Course, 5 RAR hosted trainees from 5 and 7 RAR as potential candidates for the Assault Pioneer qualification. In a new twist to the course, the trainees started with the Field Engineering Phase. They gained skills in knots, field geometry, physics, maths, and of course construction. This



## 5 RAR DARWIN REPORTS - Cont.

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phase culminated in the construction of two span non equipment timber bridge located in the Marine Rotational Force - Darwin (MRF-D) car park. The lads worked day and night for a week to get the job done, and this resulted in a fine bridge that continues to be a topic of conversation in the Brigade.

As the course progressed, trainees gained qualifications in Light Urban Explosive Breaching, Shotgun Method of Entry, LZ Development using chainsaws, Mine Warfare, Booby Trapping and Watermanship. During the Mine Warfare and Booby Trapping phase, trainees were exposed to the world of improvised explosive device (IED) development and identification. Trainees were tasked with route clearance and were made aware of how hard this task is due to the creative measures used to create undetectable IED's. The course also learned how valuable Engineer support and subject matter expertise is to enable this capability.

Pioneers have completed many support tasks for the Battalion this year including mounting of historical weapons returned from operations in Headquarter buildings, working in conjunction with the crafties from Tech Support Platoon. PTE Gobbert displayed some excellent welding skills in securing the weapons to boards in preparation for mounting. The lads also created a fitting tribute to the 50 for ANZAC day, helping to set the scene for a very memorable day.

Tiger 62 continues to support the Battalion through providing training to riflemen conducting defensive ops and urban clearance, with plans in place to integrate with Recon, Surveillance and Sniper (RSS) Platoon to rehearse water insertion and extraction missions.

MRF-D also gained some experience working with Call Sign 62 during EX KOOLENDONG. CPL Koper led a small Pioneer capability brick with the MRF-D Engineers to explosively clear a minefield, setting the conditions for an assault. No doubt the meticulous Kopes impressed his US brothers with his ability and love for all things high explosive (HE).

The year to date has been busy, and with luck will continue to be for Pioneers.

CPL Steve Mirco

### LIFE OF A MORTARMAN

After a well earned break, 5 RAR's mortar platoon returned to work a few kilos heavier and with a few unfamiliar faces. We hit the ground running with the preparation to conduct a 5 RAR basic mortar course down in Adelaide. This meant that the majority of mortar platoon chain of command was absent from the platoon for two months, leaving the diggers in a "Lord of the Flies" scenario.

To the delight of the members with dependents, we left Darwin and flew down to Adelaide on Valentine's Day. We were housed in 1950s accommodations; days walk from any essential amenities. The mortar/selection course was demanding at times, but the end result was worth it when we were able to produce a higher quality of mortar-men for the mid year internal posting cycle. Special men-

tion goes to PTE Bull who was more than willing to carry out 18 hours of sentry duty everyday for the majority of 2 weeks. PTE M Savage managed to bluff his way to be awarded student of merit on the Basic Mortar Course and we've also bolstered our platoon and battalion with an additional 6 NCOs who are now Officer/NCO mortar qualified.

By the start of May the platoon finally had the chance to work together as a complete platoon; we went through a standard high explosive (HE) training week and prepared for our first hit out for Ex PRED WALK. A lot of the junior members were particularly excited about the prospect of working alongside the Marines' 81mm mortar platoon. Together we conducted a very impressive urban assault (which amazed a lot of people in BHQ), and a never ending ambush. But the most exciting part was receiving boxes of American meals ready to eat (MRE) when the Marine Rotational Force - Darwin (MRF-D) decided that we were better at mortaring then them, so they took their bat and ball (tubes) and went home early. As a platoon, we achieved more than our intended training requirement by achieving up to level E4 shoots. This was difficult at times with CPL Henderson being overly aggressive over the comms while trying to call in bombs.

All in all it has been an interesting first half of the year. Everyone is enjoying their little mid-year break and are bracing for the hectic schedule of the next few months.

CPL Chandler

### RECON AND SNIPERS PLATOON

The start of 2015 for Recon and Snipers Platoon began with the general physical training (PT) and acclimatisation to the humid Darwin weather after a long deserved break during the Battalion Christmas Leave Period. The Platoon got to work straight away dusting off the cobwebs from the previous year and beginning the New Year fresh and ready to go. February sent CPL Mack down to Singleton on the Sniper Supervisor Course and upon his return to Darwin; was welcomed to the position as the new acting Sniper Supervisor. Immediately afterwards, the Platoon began to rebuild the manning for recon, surveillance and snipers (RSS) by recruiting from the rifle companies and conducting the pre-course for Recon and the MOD 1 for Snipers. As always, the courses were tough in their own respective ways and produced a fine selection of potential future members. With promising candidates for each course selected and sent South to either Adelaide or Singleton to conduct their respective basic courses, the remaining platoon members assisted in either instructing on their basic courses or providing opposing force (OPFOR) for the Royal Military College - Duntroon (RMC-D) down in Cultana. CPLs Nunes, Bettess, McCawley and Joyce began to take the next step within their specialist trades and travelled down to Singleton to conduct their Advanced Reconnaissance Course.

At the closing of April, the Platoon began to reform with new members welcomed into RSS. Recon had gained the privilege of inducting PTEs Jurkovic, Larsen, Tansley,

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## 5 RAR DARWIN REPORTS - Cont.

*(Continued from page 17)*

Brooke, Bartlett and O'Connor into their fold. Snipers had also gained two new members into their Cell with PTEs MacPherson and Penny successfully completing their course. During the May to mid June period CPL Dovey and LCPL Hann took the next step within their trade specific job, completing the Advanced Sniper Team Leaders Course. Concurrently, the remaining members of the platoon deployed to Mount Bundy on exercise for Ex PREDATORS WALK during late May. Throughout this period RSS were given the opportunity to integrate with our Marine counterparts and conducted a 4 day Full Mission Profile (FMP). The combined Australian and US Recon/Sniper Patrols were able to successfully complete a number of trade specific tasks including supporting the Rifle Company clearances of the urban operation training facility (UOTF) and conducting series of Point Target Reconnaissance and Observation Posts on a number of designated target areas around the Mount Bundy Training Area. At the conclusion of the FMP RSS Platoon progressed into the live fire component of Ex PREDATORS WALK. Snipers were detached to conduct stalks and live fire engagements from both the UOTF and a rural environment. Recon was exposed to a combat shooting package and completed a number of break contacts under the direction of SGT Loftus. At the completion of Ex PREDATORS WALK RSS Platoon had a well deserved 96-hour break for the outstanding efforts and achievements Support Company had demonstrated as a whole.

As RSS looks ahead into the Readying year, we begin to shift our focus into refitting and refurbishing ourselves for the next challenge that lays ahead- Exercise Predators Run. Within the next few weeks, both Recon and Snipers will commence their second Basic Courses for the year in order to continue bolstering the ranks within the Platoon. We look forward to a busy remainder of 2015.

LCPL B. Scott

### SIGNALS PLATOON

After another flat out and demanding year, Signals Platoon proved once again it is the critical enabler for the Battalion by supporting all exercises and courses throughout the year.

Right off the bat SIG PL started to conduct Basic-Combat Radio Systems (B-CRS) courses (5 in total) over the period of 09 Feb-31 Mar in order to (IOT) start the digital conversion within the Battalion. The back to back courses were headed up by the Regimental Signals Sergeant (RSS), CPL Collins and LCPL Rackham and overall were very successful providing 100 new B-CRS operators. Concurrently to that CPL Smith and PTE Heinemann road moved down to Cultana as the EXCON Detachment (Det) Comd and Driver IOT support the Bn. Courses camp where 10 SIG PL members where on SPT courses, as trainees. CPL Shell and PTEs Robertson and Yoelu deployed as a Sig Det to RAAF Base Tindel IOT support Ex HAVOC STRIKE (16-20 Feb). CPLs Henderson and Gluck with Apr).

With those two those SIG PL members remaining supported the first digital trial for the year using the Battle

Management System (BMS) during Ex SILICON PREDATOR (02-08 Mar) and CPL Gluck was then sent to the sunny School of Infantry to support holding platoon over the period of 09 Mar – 10 Apr. CPL Shell with PTEs Robertson and Sheehan deployed as a Sig Det to support B Coy during Ex VIGILANT SCIMITAR (16-27 Mar). The Regimental Signals Officer (RSO) was sent away to terrible Townsville to conduct his BMS-Mounted and Dis-mounted courses (23 Mar – 01 crazy busy months behind us the PI were looking forward to a 'short halt' which was granted in the form of the Easter Stand-down Period. Then it was straight back into it and the start of the PI getting BMS qualifications/courses now being held in Darwin. The RSS exploited this and belt fed nominations up to the Training WO (TRGWO) on a daily basis which saw 5 RAR take the lead in the most members BMS qualified throughout the Bde. The RSS however was unlucky being sent away to NITAT in beautiful Brisbane to conduct BMS Network Manager course (13-21 Apr). Concurrently all Rifle Coy Sig Dets (20- CPL Shell and PTE Sheehan, 30- CPL Henderson and PTEs Potts and Mountford and 40- PTEs Heinemann and Key.) were out supporting the MTR week (13-17 Apr). Due to a lack in qualified rover drivers within the PI, the C2 course (13-30 Apr) was welcomed with CPL Collins, LCPL Wyley and PTEs Devlin, Eglinton, Minchow and Quin successfully passing the course. Again with Sig PI members all over the place, this left the PI just enough time to get their polyesters ready for AN-ZAC Day and the PI Sgt's polyesters inspection! RSO's turn to be sent away again but this time to beautiful Brisbane to conduct his Specialist-CRS and Programmer-CRS courses (23 Apr – 21 May) he was joined by LCPL Mills on the S-CRS and then CPL Collins on the P-CRS and then the RSS on his Advance BMS and BMS-Mounted courses (07-15 May). This saw the RSS, RSO and CPL Collins in Brisbane leaving CPL Earl to run the platoon post his return from Sig Det support to C Coy during Ex JACKEL PACK (04-08 May) with PTEs Pyne and Yoelu. From here is was a rapid re-fit to get essential battle prep done for our first major exercise of the year as a platoon with digital communications including BMS for Ex PREDATORS WALK (20 May – 04 Jun). Seven Dets where deployed being OA, OB, 95, 20, 30, 40 and 97 with all minus 97 running BMS. This was a massive achievement for SIG PL as C3 was able to be maintained throughout the Ex.

Post Ex it was back to business with 30 Det (CPL Smith, PTEs Haynes and Yoelu) and 40 Det (LCPL Wyley, PTEs Dunn and Prestage) deployed to KFTA to support HE week (15-19 Jun) then the 30 Det (CPL Smith, PTEs Haynes and Yoelu) and 95 Det (CPL Shell, PTEs Heinemann and Robertson) deployed to Bradshaw IOT support Ex KOOLENDONG (21 Jun- 19 Jul). Two more crazy busy months down and just in time for another 'short halt' in the form on the Darwin Show and Picnic Day back to back 96ers. Again post break we were straight back into it with PI members on either ACCC, SIO-S, BMS courses or deployed to the tropical savannah known as Mt Bundy as Sig Dets to support Ex TIGERS TROT (17-24 Aug) then PTEs Dunn and Prestage will provide Sig Spt to D Coy

## 5 RAR DARWIN REPORTS - Cont.

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for Ex WIRRA JAYA in Indonesia (31 Aug – 18 Sep).

Overall a very busy but rewarding year for SIG PL. The RSS has lost more hair than he can afford to, trying to juggle the PI and the non-stop tasks, whilst maintaining a pers tracker that looks like a christmas tree due to all the colours but that's life in the crazy world of Sig PI. The PI has successfully transitioned from legacy to digital communications, built a solid BMS foundation and is now postured for future taskings in 2016. Well Done Team!

SGT K Pene



### LOGISTICS COMPANY

During the exercise Predators Walk Logistic Company, 5 RAR showed it's grit by conquering every obstacle that stood in the way.

The small Transport Platoon that was sent out consisted of only 9 personnel, 4 vehicles and 3 trailers. This small platoon completed every task that was assigned to them which included:

- Personnel/Pax movements throughout the AO.
- Resupply runs / Distribution points
- Convoys / Tactical movements

Equipment relocation, with many other tasks.

Sgt K. Jefferies took the reigns and led the small platoon during this exercise which involved uplifting the entire logistic company position 3 times and moving location via 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class roads.

During the limited off time the transport members were given, important training was conducted by the NCO's of Log Coy which included:

- Navigation
- TCP's
- Ratel

This is just some of the training that was conducted during this exercise.

During this exercise 95% of the members of transport platoon were new march ins that were involved in their very first real field ex, and as such they proved the motto of Royal Australian Corps of Transport (RACT) which is PAR ONERI which is Latin for Equal to the task.

And to this note I believe that transport has proven to the entire battalion, that they are an integral working part for the battalion. The exercise itself was a good reminder that this is what it means to be a soldier. With long hours low pay and stuff all sleep.

CPL G. Lever

### TECH SUPPORT PLATOON

Without having to fix a bird's nest of jobs in various stages, or prepare for heavy audits, Tech Support Platoon (TSP) was able to move into 2015 with ease. As per the usual trend in Army, the New Year brings new faces, although with most of the key positions filled, the integra-

tion of the new personnel proved quite easy. A busy year was ahead with many exercises and courses looming, however the workshop took it in their stride, as was to be expected.

The first major task was conducted in the magical faraway place that is Cultana, with CFNs Riley, Hart, Christie and Whiting providing support to the courses camp. This proved to be a memorable trip for some, with CFN Timothy 'About as Aussie as you can get' Whiting performing his last hurrah as a regular, transferring to the reserves on his return to Darwin. This was a significant loss to the workshop and the unit, with tradesmen of his calibre being hard to find.

On the return road trip from Cultana, CFN Ben 'Working with class' Hart and co-driver CFN Jarrod 'Square eyes' Riley were targeted by local wildlife, with an eagle destroying the windscreen of their G Wagon. Strong mateship was displayed, with CFN Riley contacting his friend at 2 CAV to ensure their mascot had not escaped....



The unfortunate wildlife.

The next 'on point' achievement was CPL Jesse 'Adonis' Sutherland attending subject one for SGT and taking out the coveted student of merit, a credit to his performance, well done Jesse. Other highlights early in the year included CFN Johnson and CFN Redgate being promoted to LCPL.

The next major support task was for Ex Pred Walk, with the majority of the platoon deploying to Mt Bundy. LCPL Niall 'Coke for blood' Woolley was the biggest highlight, being evacuated for appendicitis. With the loss of the vehicle section head, a replacement was required and subsequently found in CPL 'Woolsen', a coke can resembling the volleyball from Castaway, who reportedly led the section to great victories.

Recently, the platoon has and continues to support exercises in Bradshaw, this has provided a unique opportunity to integrate with the USMC and gain an insight into the equipment and systems utilised by the Marines. It also provided opportunities for fishing, although these were not as greatly received by the hierarchy.

With a respite ahead in the form of two back to back long weekends, TSP is looking forward to a well earned break. It will provide a chance to reset and ensure the platoon is focussed on the support tasks set later in the year.

*My thanks go to the members of the Battalion who have taken the time to contribute these articles to Tiger Tales.*

*As you can see by the articles they have been heavily involved in training exercises and courses.*

*The Editor*



## 5 RAR MINI MOKE

Mike Betton lives on the Queensland Sunshine Coast. He and his son share an interest in restoring Mini Mokes. In the 1970's some of the unique vehicles were purchased and used by the Australian Army. Mike managed to get hold of one of these ex-military vehicles and decided to build it into a replica military vehicle, albeit an altered one.

The Moke has been cut down the centre, from front to back, and widened by 200mm. This alteration required quite a bit of modification to the mechanical parts as well. The mudguards have also been extended.

Mike was an acquaintance of Evan 'Bill' Evans who served on both of 5 RAR's tours of Vietnam, with C Coy and Recce Platoon 1966-67 and with C Company 1969-70. Bill asked what unit the restored vehicle was going to represent, and when Mike replied that he did not know, Bill suggested 5 RAR. Bill got the badges and Tac Plates from the 5 RAR Association Memorabilia and the Moke and trailer were completed.

The trailer cover can be removed and converts to a passenger trailer which has been used in conjunction with the Moke to transport incapacitated veterans, including Bill, on ANZAC Day on the Sunshine Coast.

Mike has told me the 5 RAR Moke causes quite a stir when it is driven around the local area.



The 5 RAR Moke

*Editor's Note: The **Mini Moke** is a vehicle based on the Mini designed for the British Motor Corporation (BMC) by Sir Alec Issigonis.*

*The name comes from "Mini"—the car with which the Moke shares many parts—and "Moke", which is an archaic dialect term for donkey. The Moke has been marketed under various names including Austin Mini Moke, Morris Mini Moke and Leyland Moke.*

*The initial design was a prototype for a light military vehicle in the style of the American Jeep, but its small wheels and low ground clearance made it impractical as an off-road vehicle. It was subsequently offered in a civilian version as a low-cost, easily maintained utility vehicle. The Moke finally achieved success as a beach buggy - becoming a popular 'cult' vehicle in the Algarve, Seychelles, Australia, the United States and many tropical resorts in the Caribbean. The original Moke used identical engine, transmission and suspension parts from the Mini Van.*

*The first Mokes were only built at BMC's Longbridge, Birmingham plant. 14,518 Mokes were produced in the UK between 1964 and 1968, 26,000 in Australia between 1966 and 1981, and 10,000 in Portugal between 1980 and 1993 when production of the Moke ended.*

*Initially Australian Mokes had the same 10 inch wheels as British Mokes and Mini saloons, however these were soon replaced by 13 inch wheels with longer rear trailing arms, which made them more practical for gentle off-road or beach use than the British version. The solid metal seats of the British Mokes were replaced with tubular*



Mike Betton and his 5 RAR Moke.

*-framed "deck-chair" seats. This variant started with a 998 cc engine which was switched in mid-production to 1,098 cc. In 1976, with the advent of new anti-pollution requirements (Australian Design Rule 27A), the locally manufactured 1,098 cc motor was replaced by an imported version of the 998 cc motor with an air pump and exhaust gas recirculation, which had been developed to meet UK anti-pollution requirements.*

## STILL TROOPING ON

Wayne Binns, Mortar Platoon 1969, and his wife Terese contribute their time to participate in various memorial parades and re-enactments. They live in Longford, just south of Launceston in Tasmania.

At times they venture to the mainland, and further afield such as Papua New Guinea, Israel, Egypt and Turkey, to take part in ceremonies that have their origins in the history of our service men and women who took part in conflicts around the world.

The photo was taken on ANZAC Day of this year, in Hobart, where they were part of the Tasmanian 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Regiment. Wayne is wearing a Light Horse uniform and Terese a Nurses Uniform of the WWI era.

