



# INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA  
*Keeping the Spirit Alive*

August 2015

## ANZAC Centenary Memorial Garden Walk project a long hard trek

Many of you would be aware of ANZAC Centenary Memorial Garden Walk project which, to the best of our knowledge, has been on the wish list drawing board for about nine years.

Not wishing to bore you with the detailed financial arrangements however it is a joint effort by the Federal and State Governments, the Adelaide City Council and Government House. This, as you can imagine, has taken an enormous amount of time and effort to finally pull together where all stakeholders including veterans have been consulted and some basic design elements taking shape.

The walk will start at the National War Memorial on North Terrace and finish at the end where the current footpath approaches the Avenue of Honour and Torrens Parade Ground. The Governor of South Australia, His Excellency the Honorable Hieu Van Le AO, has relinquished 10 metres of the eastern gardens abutting Kintore Avenue for the project. Artist's impression below. This was a major concession and for that we are extremely grateful as we are for the support of the Adelaide Council and State and Federal Government.

It is going to be a walk for all, simple but very powerful in its presentation with an open fence view in part of the Government House, lawns and gardens. Currently Kintore Avenue footpath on the Government House side



*A distinguished 7RAR Association marching on ANZAC Day. For those less observant notice they are all dressed in collar, tie and coats out of respect for their lost mates and the occasion.*

is like a goat track. The old green tin fence containing the Government House grounds looks like the back of a warehouse. The view to the Torrens and the Parade Ground is fragmented. Overall much will be done through this project to improve the aesthetics and feel of the whole of the Kintore Avenue and the eastern boundary of Government House.

It is proposed that only the three services and theatres of war will be incorporated with the lovely old Dardanelles memorial being relocated from its present location to the end of the walk near the Avenue of Honour.

The final plans are not yet approved by Cabinet and Council but as soon as they are they will be published in this magazine. It's been a long hard road for all concerned but we only have one shot at this so we must get it right as reflects our States proud military history.

Michael von Berg MC, OAM



**Ward 17 to  
relocate to  
Glenside -  
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## ANZAC DAY MARCH 2015 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The annual ANZAC Day Commemorative March was conducted in Adelaide on 25 April 2015. This year being the 100th Anniversary of the Landing at Gallipoli we had a larger attendance than in recent years. Pictured below are the President's Party and 1 RAR, 2 RAR, 3 RAR, 4 RAR, 5 RAR, 6 RAR, 7 RAR, 8 RAR (with their new banner), 9 RAR, 2/4 RAR (also with their new banner) and 5/7 RAR as they move through the Pultney Street-North Terrace junction.

**Adrian Craig  
Ceremonial & ANZAC Day Committee Rep.**



# FROM THE COMMAND POST

It's very hard to be apolitical, in particular when it affects ex-members of the ADF and the general economy of South Australia.

The still current shenanigans associated with the building of submarines in SA are almost a poor script out of "Yes Prime Minister" and a political embarrassment.

Many of those employed in the shipbuilding industry are ex-service members, in particular from the Navy, and this is having a demoralising effect on them and all of the families who are employed in the ship building industry.

Pre-election boldly stating that 12 submarines would be built in SA to none is more than a back flip. In this case the term "back flip" is too flippant to describe a breach of electoral trust and that is not what we expect from our politicians. Sadly there has either been some poor advice, economic or strategic ignorance, panic or lazy decision-making or all of the above. The SA shipyards, described by many as a potential graveyard supporting 3500 families, are feeling the pinch in SA due to GMH and other closures. With the unemployment rate at 8% plus, if our ship building capacity and order book are not locked in for the next 20 years, unemployment will reach double figures making Tasmania, compared to SA, look like Monte Carlo, the home of the rich and famous.

Someone really needs to ring the bell in Canberra and wake these decision-makers from their insular slumber. We are an Island Continent for God's sake; the largest in the world. We have a huge coastline of 66,530 km, according to the World Resources Institute.

Whether we understand it or not, we are a maritime trading nation and for a maritime trading nation not to have its own shipbuilding capacity is strategically ignorant and irresponsible.

We have had our problems with the AWD and the Collins submarine build but nobody in the Federal Government or the now defunct DMO (Defence Material Organisation), who have a lot to answer for, has had the fortitude or forthrightness to stand up and brief the taxpayer as to the problems were experienced and, most importantly, who was at fault and certainly not entirely the SA workforce

The SA shipyard is not perfect, nothing in life is, but in this game the only way you can hope to achieve perfection is to have a continuous build program where the learning curve builds into a body of knowledge and

experience where perfection can be achieved and sending our young men and women down some 500 feet plus deserves and demands that level of perfection.

The ambiguity, indecision, confusion and veiled speech (spin) associated with this project has rightfully angered the electorate in SA.

The dumb and insensitive comment that "we could not be trusted to build a canoe" didn't do much for the morale of the shipyard workers and their families and sent the wrong message to SA.

There have been recent statements which are supposed to appease but why would we believe it? Perhaps it appeases Federal MPs in marginal SA seats and Senators seeking re-election but they will need more than appeasement come the Federal Election if our ship building goes off shore.



Photo: The Advertiser, Adelaide Now

The electorate is angry and a protest vote is well and truly on the cards so perhaps the marginal seat holders and Senators should continue ringing the bell in Canberra, otherwise they may be ringing the bell at quarter time, post-election.

As said from the outset, trying to be apolitical when there

are decisions which will affect the future of ship building in SA stirs the social and moral conscience, because we are talking about families, their livelihood and well-being.

Let's get this show on the road, Canberra, and stop the prevaricating and political grandstanding and let us all get on with it. Whether it's Japanese, French, German, Swedish or a shandy of two or three is immaterial as long as it is an SA build, to strategically secure a strong maritime presence and deterrent, underpinned by a confident, competent, productive and happy Australian workforce.

The ultimate decision will not only affect shipbuilding in South Australia but every other shipbuilding facility around the nation and their component suppliers.

It's simply too big a decision in the national interest to be influenced by the "bean counters" in Canberra or some form of diplomacy "group hug".

Oh, and while on diplomacy, does anyone think that China, our biggest trading partner, isn't looking at this process with considerable interest?

Can someone in Canberra please ring that bloody bell?

Michael von Berg MC, OAM

# Medal recognition/decoration for WIA and KIA

Over the past 49 or so years I have often pondered as to why there has never been a move by the Veteran Community and in particular those of us in the Infantry, who have seen combat and its consequences up close and personal, to support the striking of a medal in recognition for those of our comrades who paid the Supreme Sacrifice and those who were Wounded In Action, and who now, not only had to deal with life changing injuries but their lives and health will suffer for the rest of their lives.

As I read through the list of Australia Day awards this year I couldn't help but feel that our country is prepared to hand out a medal or two to a lot of our citizens and service personnel for just doing their job. I contend that those who have served our nation in time of conflict or any overseas deployment which may bring them into harm's way deserve to be recognized. To lay one's life down or take a bullet for your country, in my opinion, goes beyond just doing your job.

Don't get me wrong, I have no problem with any of the recipients mentioned in the Australia Day Awards I just think that we as a nation could do better and indeed should do better to recognise the fallen and the injured.

And yes there is precedence; I personally like the Canadian model. They have two ways to recognise those that have fallen and those that have been wounded.

The Sacrifice Medal: This is a decoration, which like the American Purple Heart is a medal struck to cover both KIA and WIA. It is, in my opinion, quite a striking medal which could be adapted with some simple alterations.



Canadian S M



Canadian M X



Elizabeth Cross

For example the Southern Cross stretching down the right hand side and a sprig of wattle on the reverse. Just a thought.

The Canadians also, like the British, have struck a Cross for the families of those who died in the service of their country.

The Canadian Memorial Cross and the British Elizabeth Cross: They are not decorations but are awarded to the families. In Australia at the moment all the families receive is a Flag in a mahogany box, thanks Government. Just a little something to carry to the ANZAC Day service and march.

In a move in the right direction just recently saw the outgoing Chief of Army, Lt-Gen David Morrison strike the 'Army Remembrance Pin'.

This is to be awarded to the NOK of deceased members of the Army. Although as I said, a move in the right direction, I suspect this was done to circumvent our move to prosecute the case for a Medal.

So over to you for debate, Google and Wikipedia will assist your research; I have attached a couple of links and attachments: this is important, discuss at your Battalion meetings and get back to us. Mike von Berg and I hope

to get your support to move on this issue at this year's RARC Conference,

<http://www.jeanpaulleblanc.com/Canada2.htm>

<http://www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhr-ddhr/chc-tdh/chartableau-eng.asp?ref=SM>

<http://www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhr-ddhr/chc-tdh/chartableau-eng.asp?ref=MC&submit1=Go>

- Rod Graham  
Vice President

## Ward 17 to be relocated to Glenside Health Precinct

The Hon Jack Snellings MP's recent announcement that Ward 17 PTSD Ward is to be relocated to the Glenside Precinct was initially met with some disappointment, purely because of the ward's traditional home being at Daw Park.

But, when looking at the decision overall in particular, if wanting to achieve the best possible health outcome for veterans the move is a positive one based on criteria and the expert advice from the mental health committee set up by the Minister which also had considerable veteran participation and input.

There are very few negatives and, when looking at the positives, it's a very good move.

A new \$15 million Ward 17 will be built on the NE corner of the precinct, which will enable a dedicated entrance from the rear of the property.

There is plenty of green space which will include a veterans' memorial and garden and a brand new 5 star facility with en suites so female clients, who are sadly increasing, will feel at ease and comfortable in the surrounds.

Staff who will be transferred from Daw Park (a short drive) will provide the expertise and the dedicated culture which is the intangible but essential treatment ethos necessary to look after our men and women who have served and suffering with their inner demons. If there is a medical emergency or additional treatment or testing, the new RAH is only 10 minutes away and/or if clients are on a day out there is an excellent shopping

centre in walking distance and a quick bus ride into the city or Burnside Shopping Centre.

There is a beautiful of heritage-listed building which will be a part of the complex to house ESOs so clients can go and have a yarn about anything affecting them which is more personal administration than medical treatment, although we have found peer to peer support has been a very important part in easing anxiety and concerns which is not the normal domain of mental health treatment. Country clients will find it far more suitable where accommodation for NOK will be on site for limited periods which will assist in the overall treatment. Physical activities are very important and a dedicated gymnasium is on the drawing board and, budget permitting, a small pool would be advantageous for general exercise and hydrotherapy.

Although almost in the middle of the city there are mature trees, bird life, greenery and potential workshops for all sorts of other activities.

Sadly Governments are very good in decision making but not too good in selling ideas or decisions. In this case there is so much to sell in making this an excellent outcome; not just the best possible health outcomes for veterans but the best possible use of prime real estate and all that it offers to veterans in location, location and location.

The decision has been made. We now all need to embrace that decision and get on with it.

Michael von Berg

# Your club, your input, you're welcome

## AGM 2015

### Only one change to committee



**J**im Stopford was welcomed to the RARA SA committee as secretary at the 2015 AGM when **Robert Whinnen** decided not to seek re-election. All other positions remained the same, with **Michael von Berg** returned for a seventh term of office; **Rod Graham** as Vice President; and **Mike Bevan** returning as Treasurer.



Appointed committee positions were decided at the committee meeting in August. Details were not available at "the time of going to press".

Jim (pictured) joined the Army in 1966 and chose the Catering Corp as a trade. His first posting was to 8 RAR at Enoggera and he served in Malaysia and Vietnam, while in Malaya he qualified as a Pioneer and was promoted to CPI.

In 1971 he married Bronwyn and was posted to 106 Field Battery at Nee Soon in Singapore.

Then in 1973 he was posted to 3 RAR at



Woodside as a Corporal, later promoted to Sergeant and then WO2 and moved with the Battalion to Sydney.

He says: "In 1982 I was posted to Infantry Centre to gain DSU experience after which the downhill run started and I was posted to 2 MD and subsequently 3MD then 4MD for discharge.

"In civilian life I was an Executive Manager of Support Service, a division of Minda Incorporated, with a total of 420 employees inclusive of people with varying degrees of disabilities.

"On the family side we have two sons and a daughter and three grand sons."

### Outgoing Secretary's final report



**A**t the AGM on Sunday July 12 I relinquished my position as your secretary and Jim Stopford was elected to that position unopposed.

It has been a great privilege and honour to serve as your secretary and no less to have been a small part of the dedicated team that makes the RAR Association (SA) such a professional and high achieving organisation.

What the RAR Association does so well is to represent the interests not only of RAR Veterans but to also current serving Soldiers.

President Mike von Berg and your committee along with the very small band of volunteers who keep your club and facilities going deserve your active support.

As members there is a very easy way to do that - by attending your club at 65 Beatty Street, Linden Park, on Friday evenings as often as you can.

It is social intercourse and participation which maintains the strength and vibrancy of any social group; so let's see you at your club! Health and happiness to you all and your loved ones. Cheerio. - **Bob Whinnen**

**Prizes for the Father's Day raffle of two baskets of goodies with a combined valued of \$800 have been donated by Michelle & Arthur Gelbeig. Tickets \$5 or 3 for \$10 available at the bar.**



It was a matter of few hands on deck when a date was set for a working bee in the garden earlier this year and Di Fairhead was the only member to join hard working Chef Colin Able and Vice President Rod Graham. The garden is always in need of volunteers. Those interested are welcome to talk to Club Manager Greg Dwiar on 0412 644 749 to arrange details.

#### ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

Some of our members have either moved house or changed email address since their last renewal. If you are one of them please inform our Membership officer by email to rar01@internode.on.net or leave a message on 8379 5771. Thank you.

# SUPPORT YOUNG VETERANS WALK

**SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER AT 0930 HOURS  
WALK, RUN OR ROLL AROUND THE RIVER TORRENS**



Funds are needed to continue **Trojan's Trek**, a program to help with the rehabilitation of young veterans returning from combat duties. Four different event options with prize money on offer:

1. 5km walk (families, prams, and pets on leash are welcome). **Two \$50** random spot prizes.
2. 5km FEMALE run. Prize of **\$100** for first place.
3. 5km MALE run. Prize of **\$100** for first place.
4. 5km TEAM OF 3 EVENT. Prize of **\$200** for first complete finishing team.

**WHERE** River Torrens, directly north of the Torrens Parade Ground.

**NOTE** Parking **WILL** be available on the Torrens Parade Ground.

**AFTER** BBQ, coffee and amazing prize draws.

## REGISTRATION FORM • 25th October 2015 starting @ 0930 HRS

*Please note: you can also complete this form and pay online at [www.trojanstrek.com](http://www.trojanstrek.com)*

*Note: We order more T-Shirts than we estimate, however to ensure correct sizing please enter before **8th October***

NAME/S .....

.....

ADDRESS.....

EMAIL .....

PHONES/.....TEAM NAME.....

T SHIRT SIZE/S 5XL 4XL 3XL 2XL XL L M S Sizes are generous & we would like you to wear the shirt on the day.

Shirts may be collected from an AEP Clinic as indicated below (preferred) or at the start point from 0830 hrs.

Please indicate your collection intention and **enter in your diary** accordingly.

- |                                       |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noarlunga    | 70 Dyson Road Noarlunga Centre  | <b>Tuesday 20 October from 1200 to 1400 hrs</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ridgehaven   | 1017 North East Road Ridgehaven | <b>Wednesday 21 October from 1200 to 1400 hrs</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. Mary's   | 1187 South Road St. Mary's      | <b>Wednesday 21 October from 1200 to 1400 hrs</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodville    | 699 Port Road Woodville Park    | <b>Thursday 22 October from 1200 to 1400 hrs</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At the start |                                 | <b>from 0830 please</b>                           |

**COST \$30** per person includes a T shirt

**OPTIONAL DONATION**.....Tax Deductible

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- On line: Visit [www.trojanstrek.com](http://www.trojanstrek.com) to pay via PayPal or credit card.
- Cheque: Post to: Moose Dunlop OAM, 135 Upper Sturt Road, Upper Sturt SA 5156 *Remember to include this completed registration form*

## Treks gearing up in northern and southern Australia

As the effect of winter weather diminishes, preparations move into high gear for the upcoming series of treks in Queensland and SA.

Organisation of the Queensland Chapter has progressed well with great support provided from RSL Care Queensland and the RSL. Both organisations have embraced the concept of veterans assisting veterans.

The Qld trek will be a pilot run as male only and based at Captain's Mountain near Millmerran while the SA based treks will be separate male and female, run in the North Flinders Ranges. The dates and further information can be found on the website at [www.trojanstrek.com](http://www.trojanstrek.com) The target audience are veterans post 1990 who will benefit from five days of assisted self examination of attitudes and relationships. As many of the readers will understand, it is these aspects of life which are adversely affected by war and combat deployments.

### DEPARTMENT SEES THE LIGHT

After years of contact with contemporary veterans a number of underlying issues had become apparent to astute observers and the staff of Trojan's Trek. And although solutions to many of the problems appeared obvious, little changed until very recently when two announcements were made by DVA. The new initiatives will see:

- The award of a tender for the establishment of a Peer to Peer support network which will formalise the principle of veterans assisting veterans in daily life, and
- The department seeking to maintain contact with discharged members with a view to early intervention into problems before they spiral out of control.

These are sensible and one would imagine, cost effective steps to reduce the number of veterans who disappear from the radar following discharge, reappearing only when their situation is dire.

### FOOTNOTE

The RAR Association as a member of the Ex Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) and the Prime Ministers Advisory Council for Military Mental Health (PMAC) has been a strong advocate of the changes required as per above in the mindset of the Department in honouring its Charter.



# Recognised by the Queen for service to the community

**MICHAEL VON BERG MC** was awarded the OAM for service to rugby union, particularly in South Australia, in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list. Michael is pictured at the inaugural Adelaide International Provincial Rugby Sevens tournament



in 1997 the coach of Counties NZ Sevens team, Mac McCallion, (right) presents Michael von Berg, Chairman of the tournament, with the Counties shield. Mac served with the New Zealand Special Air Services Company in Vietnam and Jonah Lomu, pictured, went on to become one of the greats of All Black Rugby.

**Vietnam veteran Paul Coppock** has been awarded the Order of Australia medal for services to veterans and their families. He has an outstanding record of involvement with community groups as a past president of the South Australia Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, and as an executive member and national congress representative at the national level. He has been chair of the Vietnam Veteran Day Council since 2005.



## South Australian Rugby Union:

Chairman, South Australian Rugby Union, 1994 - 2005; Member, Rugby Union World Cup Bid Committee, South Australian Government, 2003; Committee Member, 1990 - 1992; Life Member, 2006. Coach, South Australian Senior State team, Black Falcons, 1994 - 1999.

## Australian Rugby Union:

Director, Australian Rugby Union, 1997 - 1999; South Australian Delegate, 1994 - 2006; Member, Governance and Policy Committee, 2005 - 2006; Member, Marketing Committee, 1994 - 1996; Member, Constitutional Review Committee. Recipient, Australian Sports Medal, 2000.

## Local Rugby Union:

Member, Old Collegians Rugby Football Club, 1988 - 1998; Coach, until 1993. Member, Burnside Rugby Club, 1985 - 2007; Coach, 2006 - 2007. Coaching Director, Brighton Rugby Club Union Club, 1985-1987 and Coach, 1987.

## Other Rugby Union includes:

Member, South Australian Referees Association, 1985 - 2007; Inductee, Hall of Fame, 2007.

## Mr Philip Hugh Haynes

For service to veterans and their families. Philip has conducted an enormous amount of fundraising for the Daw Park Hospice.



## Reverend Robert Andrew Macintosh AFC

For service to the community, particularly through church and veteran's organizations. Bob is also a member of the VAC.



# Protest at Parliament House working against the cause

The vitriol and sadly ill-informed comments in relation to the future of Daw Park is disappointing but I can understand the frustration and concerns being addressed mostly by a very small minority.

If individuals were prepared to talk and be briefed and rationalise what is ostensibly necessary in achieving the best possible health outcomes for veterans into the future, the frustration and concerns can all be addressed logically and unemotionally.

This is not about us, the Vietnam Veterans. It's about the young men and women from Somalia, Rwanda, Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and many peace-keeping tasks around the world and for Vietnam Veterans in particular thinking that they have some form of caveat or franchise on veterans health and Daw Park in particular is a nonsense.

Basically it's self-serving and selfish. It has in many ways become a political football which is disappointing because the agitators are playing with the health and best outcomes for young veterans.

The Opposition sub-committee set up has two Vietnam Veterans who are classified in their documentation in "representing the veterans" which is a total nonsense. These two veterans do not represent me or our members. They represent themselves and perhaps their egos and although individuals in this country are free to demonstrate the current demonstration on the steps of Parliament House is a complete waste of time, because



no matter how many signatures they are able to secure the discussions, consultation, plans and determination will not be affected.

The final outcome after some months of discomfort, cold and miserable conditions will not have made one iota of difference in any final determination.

This is what I find very sad because at the end of the day we are all veterans and we should be united in achieving the best possible outcome no matter what job you did or what unit, base, or ship you served with. To see blokes on the steps in cold and miserable conditions for no purpose whatsoever is very, very sad.

If I felt a difference was being made I would support them if the Government wasn't listening, but they are and the team on the steps would be far better off sitting at home, putting their feet up, watching the footy and having a nice warm cup of coffee.

This demonstration is in fact working against all veterans where it's doing nothing to enhance our position with the Government and is an eye-sore in what should be respected as our Parliament.

I just wish the team on the steps would heed some advice but that's probably not going to happen so the only advice I can offer is your efforts may have been worthwhile and honorable but what's the use if it all comes to nothing. WHAT'S THE POINT.

Food for thought I would have thought.

Michael von Berg MC, OAM

# Warren among volunteers honoured for Repat service

The Repatriation General Hospital held a Staff Recognition Award ceremony with a staff get-together and presentation of long service awards in June. Certificates of service were presented to 194 staff at the event – representing 3030 years of service! That's an incredible record for a hospital that opened its doors 73 years ago.

The winners of the 2015 Repat Staff Member and Volunteer of the year were also announced. The awards recognise those who have demonstrated excellence in their field and have been outstanding achievers. They are role models for many. Due to the very high calibre of nominees two volunteers were joint winners of this year's award.

**Warren Featherby** OAM spends precious time each week with patients as part of the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Veterans Association hospital visits program and is a member of the Ward 17 Consumer and Carer Advisory Group.

Trust and respect are the powerful "calling cards" Warren takes on his rounds of Repat's wards.

He works closely with the hospital to identify TPI members and Vietnam veterans in need of company, conversation and the knowledge that personal or family issues will be addressed by this trusted caller.

His rounds also extend to other ex-servicemen and women who may have particular needs. Warren brings empathy and confidentiality.

Importantly, the people he meets get answers to their questions, and that is greatly appreciated.

In many cases he is dealing with people who have suffered post traumatic stress and depression from their service experience. He listens and works on their behalf with the hospital, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and sometimes their families to resolve the issues that may be worrying them. They may be matters of life or death – sometimes just making sure that end of life issues are addressed with respect and dignity – or they may be little, worrying things like checking on the well-being of loved ones.

Being a veteran himself, the people he visits in the hospital greet him as a mate and they greatly appreciate the fact that he is there to help.

It is not just about talk. It is about genuine follow-up that at times help patients get back on their feet and have a meaningful life with real hope and optimism.

Warren is described as a person who truly exemplifies the ethos of volunteering by giving his time, talents and enthusiasm so generously.

He is reliable, loyal, conscientious and someone who will gladly report for duty at short notice if required, and put personal commitments aside to meet the needs of the Repat and its patients. He has a cheery disposition and has great ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

Warren's contribution goes way beyond that which one might expect and has had a significant impact on services for veterans and their families in South Australia.

**Fred Purcell** is a volunteer who truly embodies the ethos of volunteering, by giving his time and talents so selflessly and with great pride and vigour.

This spritely 94-year-old has Repat at the core of his being. As a returned serviceman from WW2, he has a

strong connection with the hospital having spent time over the years as an inpatient and outpatient. He also has strong family ties here, having volunteered with his wife before her sad passing, his daughter volunteers in Repat Radiology and his

grand-daughter works as a nurse on Ward 6. A true family tradition!

Fred is an inspiration to us all, and his volunteer peers hold him in high esteem as he



*Warren Featherby (right) with Fred Purcell at the awards presentation*

has a warm and loving nature; his enthusiasm, dedication and reliability are admired and his bright and spirited personality is appreciated every day.

He has volunteered in a myriad of roles over his 25 years of service at the Repat and has performed a cross-section of duties.

He has an outstanding sense of pride in all that he does for the

Repat and has always been the first choice as a coach and mentor for new volunteers.

Fred demonstrates a genuine desire to make a difference to the lives of Repat patients by exuding his happy nature as he does his ward rounds. He has an endearing style, a beaming smile and a commitment that is second to none.

The Repat's 2015 Staff Member of the Year is **Anna Poulson**, a member of the hospital's Food Services Department, who for many years has shown leadership in her field and is highly regarded by her colleagues at Repat for the insight and professionalism she brings to the Department.

Anna started working at Repat in 1981 as a kitchen hand in the Food Services Department. Through hard work and outstanding work ethic, now holds the position of Food Services Staffing Coordinator.

Those who nominated her have described her as someone who takes great pride in all she does and always puts Repat and the kitchen staff before her own needs.

Her drive to ensure that Repat and the Food Services Department is respected goes beyond expectation.

Anna's hands on approach from start to finish at all major catering functions ensure no stone is left unturned and they run as smoothly as possible.

Over the 34 years of service Anna has come to be a member of the Repat family and will tirelessly continue to ensure the hospital is seen as a respected entity.

Congratulations are extended to all the staff who received an award.

Darren Renshaw  
Veteran Liaison Officer  
Repatriation General Hospital



# Images of the 2015 ANZAC Centenary March by Leon Pavich



## CEREMONIAL REPORT

### The Past Year

In the past year the Association has:

1. Conducted commemorative services for the battle of Long Tan (18 Aug 2014) and Hat Dich (19 Feb 2015). Both were combined regiments in nature with the RAR Association being joined by the RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association SA.



2. Conducted the book launch for Fred Fairhead's brilliant book "A Duty Done".
3. Assisted Veterans SA in the Dardanelles commemorative service on 7 September 2014.
4. Assisted in the conduct of the major funerals for Noel Smith OAM (14 January 2015) and Fred Pfitzner AM (17 March 2015).
5. Procured a piper's uniform for the Association.



6. Procured a banner for 2/4 RAR Association SA.



7. Moved the wooden cross outside the Clubrooms to a central position on the eastern wall and built a tribute wall in front of it.

### Battalion Associations in the Past Year

In the past year battalion associations have conducted the following commemorative services:

#### 3 RAR.

Major commemorative services for the battles of Kapyong and Maryang San and for two members of D Company 3 RAR Killed in Action during the Battalion's second tour of South Vietnam.

Individual commemorative services for a number of war dead from both of the Battalion's tours of South Vietnam.

#### 5 RAR

Members assisted in the conduct of the Dressing of the Graves ceremonies at Wallaroo in May 2015.

#### 7 RAR.

The major commemorative service for the battle of Suoi Chau Pha and individual commemorative services for most of the Battalion's SA war dead from its second tour of South Vietnam.

#### 8 RAR

The major commemorative service for the battle of the Long Hais.

### Thank You for the Past Year

Thank you to all those who have assisted in our ceremonial and commemorative activities in the past year. This includes from the low profile roles of catering, dixie bashing and serving food to the high profile roles of Master of Ceremonies, chaplaincy, choral, piper, bugler, catafalque party and flag orderly support.

### The Future

In the next year we will:

1. Conduct the annual Long Tan and Hat Dich combined regiments commemorative services in August and February respectively.
2. Conduct a combined regiments commemorative service for the battle of Bien Hoa (24 Jan - 1 Mar 1968) on 1 March 2016. This will include representatives 2 RAR, 3 RAR and 7 RAR and 3 Cavalry Regiment plus 131 Divisional Locating Battery and 1 Squadron RAE.
3. Continue to assist Veterans SA with the Dardanelles commemorative service in September (6 Sep 2015).
4. Investigate the affixing of a permanent cross to the front of the Clubrooms and also Battle and Theatre honours of the RAR.
5. Modify the battalion association banners held by the RAR Association so that they have for example 1st Battalion instead of First Battalion as part of their titles.
6. Arrange wiring for use of the existing speaker system in the Clubrooms and portable flag poles for indoor services.

**Adrian Craig, Ceremonial**

### Founding Battalions Anniversary

The "Founding Battalions" 70th Anniversary Parade is now confirmed for Monday November 23 in Townsville.

This will include the blessing of new colours for 2 RAR and 3 RAR and the presentation of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit citation to 1RAR. The Governor General will be the reviewing officer with HOC Infantry as the Parade Commander and the Corps RSM as the parade RSM.

There will be an RAR dinner in the evening hosted by 1 RAR. 3 RAR is the coordinating Battalion for the Parade.

From "Ringo",  
the 2 RAR Association newsletter.

# The Boer War: Are you a descendant?

*This is the first in a series of articles about the dedicated group determined to see a memorial established in Canberra to commemorate the Boer War - written by Trevor Jones.*

There are Boer War Memorial Associations in each state, with descendants the base of their membership, all dedicated to achieving the memorial in Canberra and promoting an interest in the war in this period of time when the colonies became the nation state of Australia.

In recent years there has been a realisation that there is no memorial to the Boer War on ANZAC Parade, Canberra, which leads to the Australian War Museum, where there are many memorials commemorating various aspects of Australia's military history.

A group of descendants and those who have an interest in the war or support the Boer War Memorial project has worked tirelessly to get the memorial project off the ground.

The site for the National Boer War Memorial in Canberra was dedicated on 31 May 2008.

The design was unveiled by the National Patron General **David Hurley AC, DSC**, Chief of Defence Force in Canberra, on 1 March 2012.

The four horses and riders in the memorial are in battle or patrol positions. The first one has been completed by sculptor **Louis Laumen** working in his Melbourne studio.

From 10 October 1899 to the end of May 1902 a bitter conflict raged across the South African veldt between Britain and her Empire and the two largely self governing Boer Republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

The six Australian colonies were quick to make troops available to Britain when a Boer ultimatum to the British expired. Boer commandos streamed across the borders into the British colonies of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal.

Some 23,000 Australian men and women and 43,000 horses served in the war. About 1000 soldiers died from various causes during the conflict.

## RGH to restrict public parking to three hours from September 1

A three-hour parking limit will be introduced in public car park zones at Repatriation General Hospital from Tuesday 1 September to provide more car parking for patients, veterans and visitors at the hospital, who will still be able to park for free at the Repat site. Permits will be available for those who need to park for longer than three hours. The three hour limit has been introduced following an audit which showed staff and students were parking in patient and visitor zones and not in the allocated staff areas. Any staff or students who do not

**STOP PRESS**  
**Amount to be further raised \$2.2 million**



*The site and design for the proposed Boer War Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra.*



Are you a Boer War descendant or know of someone who is? Or do you want to know more about Australia's involvement in this fascinating time in Australia's history?

Visit the website where you can also check out the Ancestor registrations link. National Boer War Memorial Association site is [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au)

More than \$1.8m has already been raised for the project with only minor Federal Government assistance.

A further \$2.7m is needed to complete the memorial by ANZAC Day 2017.

Your support and generosity would be appreciated and is needed.

Donations are tax deductible.

Direct bank transfer:  
The Defence Bank  
National Boer War Memorial  
Account BSB 803-205 Account  
2035 8376.

Please include your last name and initials on bank transfers and make cheques payable to National Boer War Memorial Association Inc.

Mail donations to:  
The Treasurer

National Boer War Memorial Fund  
Building 96, Victoria Barracks  
Paddington, NSW 2021

Include your address so a receipt to be mailed to you.

Telephone (02) 8335 5209 Facsimile (02) 8335 5357

Email: [secretary@bwm.org.au](mailto:secretary@bwm.org.au)

Website: [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au)

currently have a permit to park on the Repat site should contact RGH Car Parking Officer Paul Blood on 8275 1015 or email [Paul.Blood@sa.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Blood@sa.gov.au) Before September 1, Paul will be visiting areas to inform staff about the permit process for patients, veterans and visitors. Staff are welcome to contact Paul to make an appointment to visit their area.

Professor Belinda Moyes  
Chief Executive Officer  
Southern Adelaide Local Health Network

**Jack Josiah Wilson**, a past veteran of WW2 and Korea, passed away in Adelaide on 2 July 2015 aged 92. Jack was presented with life membership of the 3 RAR SA Association on Kapyong Day 2011, for which he was very proud.



He was called up on 18 December 1941 and served in Darwin. He then enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 22 January 1943 and during 22 years of service was allocated to four regimental numbers (4410538, 4161, S47095 and SP 27160) and SX 28198.



He was a member of the 2/2 MG Battalion and was involved in the Battle of Tarakan in May 1945. After WW2 he volunteered for the Occupation Force to Japan. He was in the Interim Army from 1 July 1947 until 8 January 1948 and in the ARA from 9 January 1948 until 18 September 1953.

He became a member of 67 Australian Infantry Battalion in 1945-46 which subsequently was re-designated 3 Australian Regiment (3AR) and finally 3 RAR when Royal assent was granted on 10 March 1949. Jack was a member of the regimental band and played the

trombone. The battalion Brass Band was mainly engaged in ceremonial duties until the Korean War broke out in June 1950. Then members swapped their instruments to become stretcher bearers.



Jack sailed to Korea with the rest of the battalion on 28 September 1950 and served continuously as a SB and even becoming a casualty himself during the Battle for Pakchon in November 1950. He was wounded by a mortar fragment to his head and neck and spent 10 days in the US Army Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH).

He was a stretcher bearer under the then RMO, Captain Don Beard, during the Battle of Kapyong and left the unit on 23 June 1951. After service in Australia he returned to Korea but to 2 RAR, this time from 17 March 1953 until the cease fire on 27 June 1953. He then enlisted in the Canadian Army in Japan and served a further period in Korea with the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He went on to serve a total of 10 years (1953 to 1963) in the Canadian Army which included a period of service in Germany.

Returning to Australia he served in the Australian Regular Army Supplement during which he became the inaugural bandmaster of the 1 RAR Band in Townsville. He retired as a Warrant Officer Class 2 on 17 March 1975. He was awarded the following medals and citations: 1939/45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939/45, Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with clasp Korea, Korea Medal, United Nations Service Medal (Korea), Australian Service Medal 1945/75 with clasps Japan, Korea and SW Pacific, Defence Force Service Medal, Long Service and Good

Conduct Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, United States Presidential Distinguished Citation, Infantry Combat Badge and Returned from Active Service Badge. Jack had married Corrie in Holland in 1953 and they had two boys, Robert and Wayne.

Jack's life revolved around music and in later years was a member of the Glenelg City Band for 32 years. RIP Jack. There were about six veterans of the Korean War present at his funeral but only two had served in 3 RAR. They were Colonel Don Beard, AM, ED, RFD and me .

**Prepared by Peter Scott DSO**

*Top left: Jack in his younger days and most of his medals.*

*Left centre: Jack's family with Corrie flanked by Robert (left) and Wayne.*

*Right: Speakers Dr Donald Beard (left) and Glenelg City Band Band Master.*



*Below: Robert Wilson, youngest son of Jack and Corrie, places a poppy.*

*Above: Bugler Musician Ryan Braund of the Australian Army Band Adelaide, and John Jarrett, President of the Korean and South East Asian Forces, delivering the Ode.*



*Left: John Jarrett and Peter Scott pay their last respects*

## The RSL Virtual War Memorial

The RSL in South Australia has developed a unique way of recording the history of all who have served on active service in ALL wars which will be recorded and held on the RSL Virtual Memorial website in perpetuity.

This is a wonderful legacy for the contributors' future generations.

I am honored to have been appointed "Ambassador – RSL Virtual War Memorial" and it is in this role that

I am approaching you to firstly make you aware of the site, but most importantly to encourage you all to avail yourself of this opportunity to record your history on this site.

The Royal Australian Regiment, although a very young Regiment by world standards, has a record of achievement in many and varied theatres of war and peacekeeping which is recognised globally and considering we have all done some of the "heavy lifting" this is an excellent opportunity to enshrine those individual, sub unit, unit and Battalion achievements forever.

The website is at [www.rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au](http://www.rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au) and easy to navigate and find your way around.

You can record your service record, word pictures of events and mates, photographs and anything you think is relevant and which you want recorded in your memory for future generations.

We all know so many who did an amazing job without any real recognition so this is an excellent way to recognise some ordinary blokes who did extraordinary things and there would be thousands of them from 1948.

Although this article is to encourage members of the Regiment from 1948 on to get involved, there is absolutely nothing to stop you from recording the service history of your parents, grandparents or uncles and aunts who may have served in any conflict since the Boer War.

I must warn you though the site is a "no bullshit" site and all entries will be closely monitored.

Bob "Dogs" Kearney ex 5RAR and 3RAR Vietnam, is one of the moderators of the site and he can be contacted on [virtualmemorial@rslsa.org.au](mailto:virtualmemorial@rslsa.org.au) Sharyn Roberts, the manager of the program, can be contacted on [sharynr@rslsa.org.au](mailto:sharynr@rslsa.org.au) Have a look, get involved in preserving your proud military history and that of The Royal Australian Regiment.



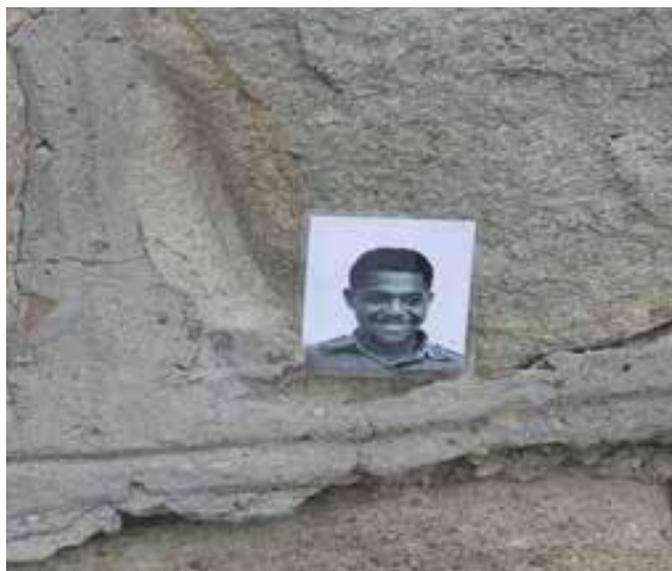
The appearance of the RSL Virtual War Memorial on the website

Michael von Berg MC, OAM  
Ambassador  
RSL – Virtual War Memorial

## The 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 the experience of our Treasurer Mike Bevan and his small tour group that he quoted to me upon his return that rates a special mention which is quoted below.

On June 9, two of our party started our walking tour of the ANZAC area at Gallipoli. While 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, one of my section commanders who I sadly lost in Vietnam on 17 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. Some of the readers may remember that Jock Letford and I 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 Ann'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? Their mission now is to try and determine who left the photograph.

MVB

## COMMEMORATIONS

### Combined Regiments Battle of Long Tan Commemorative Service at Linden Park August 18

On Tuesday 18 August 2015 the RAR Association SA and the RAAC

Vietnam Veterans Association SA will conduct a combined commemorative service for the Battle of Long Tan at the RAR Club, Linden Park, at 1100 hours.



Both the Royal Australian Regiment and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment were awarded the battle honour Long Tan for their actions on 18 August 1966. The RAR Association will coordinate the service with key players from the 6 RAR Association and the RAAC Association.

The service will be held inside the clubrooms of the history of wet weather in August. A light lunch will follow. As a mark of respect to our war dead current and ex-service members are requested to wear decorations and medals.

Questions about the service and lunch should be addressed to the Ceremonial Officer RAR Assoc. SA Adrian Craig 8263 4784 or [as.craig9rar@bigpond.com](mailto:as.craig9rar@bigpond.com)

### 3 RAR Association SA Battle of Maryang San Commemorative Service Linden Park 1100 hours Tuesday October 6

On Tuesday 6 October 2015 the 3 RAR Association (SA) will conduct its annual commemorative service for the Battle of Maryang Sang at the RAR Club, Linden Park, commencing at 1100 hours.

The Royal Australian Regiment was awarded the battle honour Maryang San 3 RAR's actions 2-8 October 1951 as part of Operation Commando.

The service will be held outside the clubrooms - weather permitting. A light lunch will follow and it is hoped to have some musical entertainment during that lunch.

As a mark of respect to our war dead current and ex-service members are requested to wear decorations and medals.

Questions about the service and lunch should be addressed to the Ceremonial Officer 3 RAR Association on 8263 4784 or [as.craig9rar@bigpond.com](mailto:as.craig9rar@bigpond.com)

## Museum's military-civilian team working together for worthwhile goal

From Museum  
Manager Major  
Christopher Roe

After a very busy first half 2015 we at the Army Museum of South Australia can now take a breather and

reassess and realign our policies, aims and aspirations. Such was the tempo of Museum operations leading in to Anzac Day 100 not out that there was not really time for any planning that projected very much into the future, as we dealt with a constant flow of requests to visit and for research support that stretched both the uniform and volunteer manning components to their limit.

This is a good problem to have I think – certainly better than the opposite – and we coped very well with it, indeed there seemed barely a day that passed without a tour or school group being in the vicinity of the Museum. It was always a pleasure to see our volunteers and uniform staff busily supporting these activities, which ranged from quite formal and large functions of well over 100 people through to casual visits of a family group on Sunday afternoons.

There is no doubt the range of support options we have, not just within the Museum precinct but also outside the barracks, is now quite broad and we have certainly seen a significant expansion in 2015 of both our public speaking and mobile display programmes.

I thank all those uniformed staff and volunteer members who work to keep the Museum going.

I can never manage to individually thank every person who so willingly completes some little, least ostentatious task which contributes to a fine, collective whole but I do,



I assure you, notice when these things are being done. We have lost a long standing and distinguished former member of our military staff, infantryman Jim Love, but retained him as a volunteer and we have both farewelled experienced volunteers and welcomed some new faces. I am always grateful for the tireless support of several key people around the unit that provide great support but, importantly, can be trusted to crack on in their own time with delegated tasks in search of a quality solution.

The Museum Board, a sensible and cohesive group, are very supportive of everything the Army does here and AMOSA represents, I think, perhaps the best example within the Army Museum Network of a military-civilian team working together in the best interests of a worthwhile common goal.

Finally, I thank all of those people who have worked so hard since the flood in the Special Exhibitions Gallery in late May. While it was bad luck this happened at all, there was an element of good fortune in that it was a Wednesday when the unit was busy.

That said, it was wonderful to see volunteers grabbing buckets and mops and having almost to be restrained, for safety reasons, from going inside to deal with the issue. As ever, though, many people have contributed to bringing this gallery back on line and we look forward, soon, to seeing the new display.



Club Manager Greg Dwiar and Bar Manager Neil Nichols dispense the drinks.



Front: Nell Anock and Carol Van Der Peet with (back from left) Jeff Barrett, Reg "Rocky" Anock and Ken Duthie.



It was Mess Dress for Ken Duthie (left) and Colin Abel seen with President Michael von Berg.

## Regimental dinner has important role in Army tradition

A near full house of 48 members and friends attended our second Regimental Dinner.

It is one of the traditions we should seek in "keeping the spirit alive" of the Regiment because the way the Army is going at the moment there will not be the traditional Officers and Sergeants Messes and a part of our tradition and history may disappear, which is a tragedy.

Thankfully the Army has no jurisdiction in our club and rank is almost non-existent so we will do as we think fit.

This year was particularly emotional "where the absent friend setting hit home" that two of our stalwarts and attendees at the last dinner are no longer with us.



The Fox and Mad Dog and all others who have since passed on are remembered and of course our mates who were killed in action in serving with the Regiment, SASR or AATTV and elsewhere.



Our guest speaker **Rob Manton**, (pictured with Mike von Berg) who was an attaché at the United Nations during our pitch for a seat at the UN Security Council, was extremely well received. He gave some very interesting insights as to how the UN operates and works.

As Rob declared several times, the UN is not perfect but it's the best we have and that is probably, in this very troubled world, better than nothing.

**Lynn Graham** has written a separate piece (below) thanking everyone who assisted so no need to repeat that but it's very appropriate to thank Lynn for her determination and enthusiasm in putting the dinner together.

**Penelope** and **Bruce Forster** have taken some wonderful photographs which highlight the good time that was had by all.  
- Anon.

### Thanks a million

Thanks **Mike Bevan** for remembering to keep the draft tickets from the last dinner; **Rod Graham** for putting together and printing the menu; **Mick von Berg**, who received a few emails from me only out of frustration; **Greg (Spike) Dwiar** for his assistance and skills in printing the placemats; and for both of them for basically all the hard work they do at this Club, as without these two blokes this place would not exist in its present great form.

Thanks also to **Neil Nichols** and Spike for working the bar on the night; to **Arthur Gelbeig** for donating the wine; **Di Fairhead** for helping me with the setting of the tables with **Fred Fairhead** in the supervisory role, and also to Di for her artistic flair in the table décor. She and I also supplied the pot plants. Thanks to **Ken Duthie**, **Laurie Lewis**, **Rod** and **Fred** for the toasts. Fred's Toast to the Fallen was very moving; tears flowed for some of us.



Lynn and Rod Graham (centre back) Michael von Berg, Denise Rowe and Di and Fred Fairhead.

Thanks to **Penelope** and **Bruce Forster** for their photography work. How splendid **Colin Abel** and Ken looked in their rig.

Thanks to Mick von Berg for inviting the guest speaker, **Rob Manton**. What an amazing life he has led. A great talk and well accepted by everyone present.

We catered for 57 but with a few cancellations at the last minute 48 present. I will leave it up to the temporary treasurer to let us know whether a profit or loss was made. Either way I think it doesn't really matter as the idea of a Regimental

Dinner is good for the club and, in a small way, for the members who have no experience in the way these things work.



Cheryl's Kitchen Cuisine staff (right) did a great job. How they do it I am not sure, but obviously very experienced. I know a couple of the women work with catering at Keswick, so understand a little of the Military, so we were in good hands and all went well. I would like to suggest for future Regimental Dinners we probably need to bring in the younger Veterans to do the work, to attend Committee meetings, etc. We are all getting on and I feel this Committee needs to work towards a succession plan now, not later, and to include the Battalions in this. If I have missed thanking anyone, thank you. It's called "brain overload".

Lynn Graham

## FROM THE BATTALIONS

### 2 RAR

There was a reasonable turnout of blokes for this year's ANZAC Day march where we were led by Keith "Dobbo" Dobson aided by John Mathwin with his side drum.

Afterwards we retired with the rest of the RAR SA Association back to the Lion Hotel, North Adelaide, for lunch and drinks.

Samichon Day (27th. July) came and went this year and we are looking to observe this in future at the 2RAR Memorial on the Pathway of Honour by the Torrens Parade Ground.

The Battalion has a new RSM, WO1 Trent Morris who first enlisted in 1991 and has served in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

### 3 RAR

So far 2015 has been a busy year for the Association with Kapyong and ANZAC Days in April and two commemorative services in May.



Recently the Battalion assisted HMAS *Canberra* in the conduct of her ship "work up period", although this was limited, due to ship "technical issues".

Out of interest the new Chief of Staff Lt General Angus Campbell was CO of 2RAR 2001 - 2002 and Lt General David Morrison AO, who he took over from, was CO 2RAR 1997 - 1998.

Furthermore the last serving Vietnam Veteran, Major Lester Mengel has now retired after 47 years of service however is now serving as a reservist.

Lester joined the Army in 1968, was posted to 2RAR and at the age of 19 serving as a private in the Battalion's 2nd. Tour from May 1970 to June 1971.

Information courtesy of "Ringo"  
Mal Allen



Pictured are most of our surviving Battle of Kapyong veterans.

From left: Ray Aubert of C Coy, Reg 'Rocky' Anock of A Coy, Don and Margaret Beard RMO, Keith Thomas of D Coy and Allan Bennett of the Mortar Platoon. At the far end is Mick Woodley of the Middlesex Regiment.

We also had a successful quiz night at the RAR Club in May and continue to conduct fund raising sausage sizzles on about a monthly basis at Bunnings Kent Town and Windsor Gardens.

We continue to have a lunch together every two months at the Lord Melbourne Hotel.

In October we will conduct our annual Battle of Maryang San commemorative service on Tuesday October 6 and another Quiz Night on Saturday October 31; both at the RAR Club.

Our major event for the year will be the Back2Woodside Reunion from November 20-23.

- Adrian Craig  
3 RAR Rep.

## A Digger On Ambush - Neil Nichols 3 RAR 12 P. D. Coy 1968 4718428

It was the end of April 1968 that 12 Platoon D Coy set out from Nui Dat base camp to set up an ambush on a track the Vietnamese were using to get supplies to their camp in the hills.

The Platoon harbored up so that a small patrol could go out to find a good place to set up an ambush.

They returned within half an hour to recommend an appropriate location, on a track with a left hand bend and bamboo covering the corner.

We set the M60 facing straight back down the track. I was on the M60. We lay<sup>1</sup> there for the next two hours until just on dusk when we could see movement coming up the track.

The Platoon Commander told us to hold our fire until he gave the command. Just as the leader of the Vietnamese was opposite, our last man on the corner, the Platoon Commander yelled "Fire". We continued firing for more than 10 minutes and when the command came to stop firing, all we could see was a little bit of the track and a few bodies moving it was now really dark.

We were told that every second man could have a two-



4718428 Pte. Neil P. Nichols

hour sleep, although I don't think anyone did, because just after that they started dropping mortars all around us.

We were told we had to lie there until sun up, when another platoon would sweep through to make the area safe for us to withdraw. At sun up 10 Platoon came up the track, and for the first time in more than eight hours we got to our feet and had a good stretch.

Then came the gruesome find of all the bodies, one was horrific, and we were sure he was the one moaning most of the night and evidence suggested he must have only just died. We then searched all the dead and took photos of all of them and their belongings.

We then harbored up to have our breakfast and were told we would not be going back to camp, that we were heading for another location which turned out to be the Battle of Coral.

But that is another story. No one from 12 Platoon was injured in the ambush. God bless all those who were injured or killed in the Battle of Coral and Balmoral.

**We will remember them.**

# World War 1 family and community tribute at Strathalbyn

His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO Governor of South Australia and Mrs Lan Le were honoured guests on Sunday May 31 at the Strathalbyn Uniting Church of St Andrew's. Greeted by the Reverend Dean Brine and chair of Church Council Ms Lyndel Santibanez His Excellency and Mrs Le walked past Strathalbyn and Milang Red Cross members in vintage uniform and handed out sprigs of rosemary as they entered the church.

In the porch, floral artist Claire MacDonald's amazing rising sun creation caught everybody's eye.

Poppy wreaths were displayed in memory of the men and women of Strathalbyn and district who enlisted in WW1 and were born in the area. Others who enlisted from Strathalbyn and, importantly those who made the supreme sacrifice, named on local monuments and honour rolls, also had a poppy with their name attached. Inspired by the 5000 Poppies project begun in Melbourne, these poppies were artistically created by the Strathalbyn Stitchers, Strathalbyn Uniting Church and friends.

Compere Dr David Bunton introduced the program which included music by the Strathalbyn and District Concert Band and the Strathalbyn RSL President Cate Goodall "in conversation" with Jenny Way and Jacqui Way, who recently returned from Gallipoli. As first and second generation descendants of a Gallipoli veteran, they were part of the special group taking part in the commemorations. Their account of the perishing cold as they waited for the service to commence, the long walk to Lone Pine and the time spent near where Jenny's father had landed 100 years ago on that very day was indeed moving.

Strathalbyn Players Youth Theatre's play based on David Stacey's uncle, the late Private Eardley Austin Clark, was a wonderful depiction written by the young players themselves. Melissa Maidment, Tabitha Lewis and Sally Primiero are to be congratulated for their tutoring of this group. Merrin Cameron assisted with costumes.

In July 1918, David's uncle Private Eardley Austin Clark, 37, 10th Battalion AIF, went missing in action near Merris, France when - under fire - attempting to retrieve a haversack. Australian War Memorial records show Eardley Clark, killed in action, commemorated (150 km away) on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, where David has placed poppies in his memory. Eardley Clark, miner, enlisted from Port Elliot in 1916, and on his death left his widow Hilda (nee Hopgood) with five children under 10 years of age.

Born in 1881 near Blanchetown where his parents were employed at Portee Station, Eardley spent much of his childhood in the Wattle Flat-Sandergrove area. Eardley was the eldest of seven children, his brother Pte Percy Joseph Clark died of illness in UK during WW1, and his son Norman was killed in WW2 in New Guinea. His parents, David and Margaret Clark, retired to Strathalbyn after farming and Bletchley.

Meg Chabrel's grandfather and five great-uncles served in WW1 and her beautiful poem written about her mother receiving white feathers was heart-wrenching.

Compere David reminded us that the congregational hymn 'O Valiant Hearts' was sung at the 'unveiling service of honour roll and dedication of memorial stone at Langhorne's Creek Soldiers' Memorial Hall' on 3 August 1947.

Alexandrina Singers delighted us with a bracket of songs before Rev. Brine and Dr Bunton read the names of the WW1 war dead from Strathalbyn, Belvidere, Onaunga (Woodchester), Langhorne Creek, Lake Plains, Milang, Finniss and Ashbourne monuments and honour rolls, followed by a short meditation.

Adjourning to the War Memorial, Strathalbyn RSL President Cate Goodall led a short ceremony. Wreaths were placed on the monument by Mr and Mrs Hieu Van Le, Isobel Redmond MP and Mr Norm Goodall DFC for Strathalbyn RSL. Strathalbyn Uniting Church invited Vietnam Veterans Mr Neville Phillips and Mr David Stacey, President of 9 RAR SA Inc., to place the beautiful wreath made by Sarah Greig, and Mayor Keith Parkes placed the poppy wreath with the names of the district war dead.

Afternoon tea, catered by the Strathalbyn Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, gave the Vice Regal couple the opportunity to view art work by students of the Eastern Fleurieu School and to mingle with the local community.

The event was registered as part of the About Time History Festival and gold coin donations towards Trojan's Trek exceeded \$250. The event was partially funded through the electorate of Mayo ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program and anonymous donations. Photography was by Jo Pickhaver.

I, as event co-ordinator, and committee members Helen Stacey-Bunton, Sue Noack, Rev. Dean Brine and Dr David Bunton from St Andrew's Uniting Church are most grateful for the willing and generous assistance provided by the congregation and community in presenting this memorable event.

*Jan Stacey*



## FROM THE BATTALIONS

### TOWNSVILLE REUNION 2017

#### Cyclone season changes date

##### 4 RAR

Due to the cold winter there has not been much activity in the association. However on June 28 association members gathered for a midday meal at the Joiner's Arms Hotel. It was our mid-year get-together and as usual some members decided to go north to get away from the cold leaving numbers a little thin on the ground.

**4 RAR Reunion Townsville 2017.** A committee has been formed to prepare and run a reunion in Townsville from 17 September 17 to 21 in 2017. The previous reunions have been conducted around our Battalion Birthday - February 1- however because to the cyclone season in Townsville the committee members, in their wisdom, have changed the date to September when the climate will be much more bearable for those attending.

Planning is already underway with some dates locked in:

<b>Registration</b>	17 September 2017
<b>Meet and greet</b>	18 September 2017
<b>Platoon &amp; Coy functions</b>	19 September 2017
	20 September 2017

##### Memorial Ceremony

**Photo, Nui Le Dinner** 21 September 2017

Details of how to register can be gained by contacting the secretary Mary McGlone on (07) 4725 7322 or by mail PO Box 4170 Kirwan, Queensland 4817 or email 4rar2017@gmail.com It is advisable to register as soon as possible so the follow up paperwork can be sent to keep members informed.

Planning for the Nui Le Dinner on Friday September 18 is well underway. We ask all 4 RAR members to keep this date free as the night will be a very important event in this year's calendar. The dinner is to be held at the RAR SA Headquarters at 13 Beatty Street, Linden Park.

Duty First

Rod Harris

President 4 RAR Association SA Inc

#### The Bearded Sergeant:

*The history of the bearded sergeant in the Royal Australian Regiment embraces 4RAR, 2/4RAR and now 2RAR.*

On the 11 April 1965, the Governor General, the Right Honourable Lord de L'isle VC, KG, GCMG, GCVO, PC, presented the Queen's and Regimental Colours to 4RAR.

During the inspection of the Battalion, Viscount De L'ise was introduced to the Aslt Pnr Sgt.

The Governor General queried the CO Lt Col David Thomson MC, as to why the Aslt Pnr Sgt was not wearing a beard.

When the CO replied, "it is not the custom in our army, sir", the Governor General said, "It is an old tradition in my Regiment, the Grenadiers, and to mark the presentation of your first colours and as your Commander in Chief, I believe it would be appropriate for the Pioneer Sergeant of 4RAR to wear a beard from now on. I trust that you will see to this, Colonel."

Subsequently the 4RAR Aslt Pnr Sgt became the only soldier in the Australian Army to wear a full beard (no chinstrap was worn when wearing the slouch hat.) On

##### 9 RAR

The Association has had a quiet period.

##### Social

In May some of our members travelled to Mt Gambier for our Escape to the Country.

##### Commemorative Services

In July 1969 D Company 9 RAR lost three men KIA in the black week 6 Jul to 12 July.

This year we again conducted our annual commemorative services for LCPL Richard Abraham of 10 Platoon at Whyalla on 6 July followed by the service for CPL Bruno Adamczyk of 11 Platoon at Centennial Park on 12 July 2015.

Pictured below are men of D Company with Richard Abraham's younger brother Peter. L to R: Adrian Craig (Platoon Commander 10 Platoon), Peter Abraham, Daniel Grimes (10 Platoon and Coy HQ) and Peter 'Noddy' Cliff (12 Platoon).

##### National Reunions

Our National Reunion will be Melbourne 13-15 November 2015 and we are in the early stages of planning our 50th Anniversary Reunion in SA in 2017.

- Adrian Craig, 9 RAR Rep.



ceremonial occasions, the Aslt Pnr Sgt wore a white leather apron and carried an axe over his right shoulder instead of a rifle. Refer to the photograph of Sgt Charles Boag, Aslt Pnr Sgt in this year's ANZAC Day March. With the internal Battalion linking and delinking, conversion of 4RAR to 4RAR (Cdo), 2 RAR has taken on the mantle of the bearded sergeant since 2007.

Courtesy of "Ringo", newsletter of the 2RAR Association

**Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2014-2015**

Patron Laurie Lewis AM

**Elected Positions**

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**RAR (SA) RSL Sub-Branch**

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**Secretary** Lynn Graham 8431 3491  
**Treasurer** Steven Roberts 0408 108 643

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CLUB ACTIVITIES			AUGUST-- DECEMBER 2015	Bar Roster
<b>AUGUST</b>				
Monday	6th	7RAR	SOUI CHAU PHA	
Friday	7th		Light meal	Spike
Friday	14th	Ladies Night	3 Course Dinner	Bob W
Tuesday	18th	LONG TAN Day		6RAR
Friday	21st		Light meal	Ken Mc
Friday	28th	Chef's Choice	2 course meal	Kara
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
Friday	4th		Light meal	Adrian C
Friday	11th	Ladies Night	3 Course Dinner	Neil N
Friday	18th	4RAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER		Spike
Friday	25th	Chef's Choice	2 course meal	Linda W
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
Friday	2nd		Light meal	Bob W
Tuesday	6th	3RAR MARYANG SAN		3RAR
Friday	9th	Ladies Night	3 Course Dinner	Ken Mc
Friday	16th		Light meal	Kara
Friday	23rd		Light meal	Adrian C
Friday	30th	Chef's Choice	2 course meal	Neil N
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
Friday	6th		Light meal	Spike
Friday	13th	Ladies Night	3 Course Dinner	Bob W
Friday	20th		Light meal	Adrian C
Sunday	22nd	3RAR BIRTHDAY & XMAS PARTY		3RAR
Friday	27th	RAR Xmas drinks Chefs Choice		Spike/Neil
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
Friday	4th		Light meal	Kara
Friday	11th	RAR Xmas Dinner		Spike/Neil
Friday	18th		Light meal	Linda W

**Articles and photos welcome for Infantryman publications**

Contributions to Infantryman are most welcome. They can be as a Letter to the Editor or comment on an article, items of interest to fellow ex-service personnel, or experiences such as the one from Neil Nichols "A Digger on Ambush" and Jan Stacey's Strathalbyn tribute in this edition, etc.

Articles and photos should be emailed to President Michael Von Berg for consideration. He and editorial committee members will select them for publication and submit them to Editor Penelope Forster for preparing the layouts.

All emails, both articles and photos, must show in the subject line with the word "Infantryman" and then another word or two.

Just numbers on emailed photos make it very difficult to sort out which articles go with which articles.

Articles are to be submitted in Word in 10pt Arial and all photos as jpgs separately - **not included within the text.**

Phone numbers: Mobiles 1234 567 890 and landlines 1234 5678. Please note where the space should be placed. Thanks.