



## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018  
SUMMER EDITION

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



2018 is fast coming to an end and 2019 is nearly upon us.

The last 12 months has seen too many of our RAR mates,

friends, colleagues and acquaintances taken from us. It reminds me of the reality that the Vietnam era soldiers are steadily increasing in age and, in too many cases, finding life a little more challenging. This has seen our largest cohort of numbers decrease as death and a lack of mobility take their toll.

The future now very much belongs to all those who have served in The Regiment post-Vietnam. I would encourage these men to step forward and take a more active role within the Association.

Our 2018 Annual Dinner was, again, held at the William Angliss Restaurant with 54 attending. Thanks to the hours of work put in by Peter Fraser and Klaus Cimdins, it was, again, a great success. This year's guest speaker was Brigadier Pat McIntosh (former CO 2/4 RAR) who commanded the Australian Medical Contingent sent to Rwanda in 1994. The contingent included a strong RAR component and was led by Pat when he was CO 2/4 RAR. His address was outstanding and gave us a warts and all insight of both the contingent mounting difficulties and the operation itself. It was extremely enlightening and as well as educating us, we all felt varying degrees of emotion when some of the truths the contingent faced were graphically described to us. If you missed it, you missed something special.

Anzac Day 2019 will be different from all previous years for two reasons:

1. The Anzac Day March is starting 30 minutes earlier

than previous years at 0830.

2. The RAR assembly area will more than likely change to accommodate the digging associated with the new city rail subway tracks. Details will be published when known.

With the above in mind, make sure you keep well informed via our newsletter, Mufti and the RARA Vic Facebook page. And tell your mates of these changes.

We will also be meeting at a new post-march venue. It is the Coopers Inn Hotel at the corner of Exhibition and Little Lonsdale St. The entire first floor will be ours and a two-up school will be running on the second floor for those interested. Carlton Draught will be \$5 a pot for those wearing their own medals.

Finally, I would like to thank your Association committee – especially those hard-working members who go well beyond the norm and put in so much hard effort on your behalf. These men are a great example of our motto in action putting Duty First. My heartfelt thanks to you all.

I wish you all a Happy, Safe and Enjoyable Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Duty First,

John James

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### RARA -VICTORIA

### AGM

1030 hrs 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019

To be held at the Combined Tramways & East Melbourne RSL Sub Branch, 391 Gore St, Fitzroy, unless advised otherwise. All RAR personnel are invited, members or non-members. It would be helpful if this is your first appearance to contact our Secretary

## CORRESPONDENCE

All mail to be forwarded to  
The Secretary  
RAR Assn (Vic) Branch  
PO Box 6213  
Frankston Vic 3199

Klaus Cimdins and he will ensure you will have a seat.

**ANZAC DAY 2019**



**Venue** - Coopers Inn (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)  
**Location** - 282 Exhibition St (cnr Little Lonsdale St) Melbourne.  
**Drinks** - \$5 Carlton Draught pots if wearing medals.  
**Food** - Special snacks and general food menu.  
Plenty of seating and standing room.  
**Two-Up** on the (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

*More to follow in our pre Anzac Day 2019 Newsletter*

**ARMY NEWS**

**1st BRIGADE HIT WITH UNARMED COMBAT REVIVAL**

**Brian Hartigan – Contact**

Breaking new ground for the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade in 2018, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR) has introduced the Army Combatives Program (ACP) as a routine part of battalion life.



*You owe me a drink*

The battalion’s push to incorporate ACP into daily training has been enabled through internally delivered ACP training and access to the ADF Martial Arts Association-sponsored Integrated Combat

Club (ICC) – Edinburgh, which offers martial arts training as sport to enhance people’s understanding and abilities in a close environment and provide additional ‘tools’ when conducting combatives.

ACP has evolved from Infantry Integrated Combat (IIC) established in 2014 and consist of levels based on a range of common principles and techniques.

The first two levels incorporate an all-corps mandatory training that equips individuals to survive a physical encounter and retain their weapon followed by discretionary training for any corps, equipping select individuals or trades to apply lethal and non-lethal techniques in an all-corps environment.

The next two levels see participants undertake mandatory training for all infantry to apply lethal and non-lethal techniques as part of an infantry section as well as required training for all special forces to apply lethal and non-lethal techniques as part of a special-forces team.

The final component is an instructor qualification enabling the training and qualification of personal up to and including certified level of ACP.



*Under the watchful eye of an instructor, soldiers from the 1st Armoured Regiment, 1st Combat Service Support Team and 16 Air Land Regiment practise subduing an enemy soldier during an Army Combatives Program training session at RAAF Edinburgh. 7RAR photo.*

Commanding Officer 7RAR Lieutenant Colonel Paul Graham said that while high levels of muscular strength, stamina and endurance were essential, physical

preparation needed to be paired with mental resilience and confidence.

“This is particularly important during extreme close engagements that may result in hand-to-hand encounters,” Lieutenant Colonel Graham said.

“By encouraging martial-arts training within the battalion, coupled with a new focus on ACP, our soldiers are physically and mentally prepared to win in the close fight.”

Recently the School of Infantry’s ACP train-the-trainer team and 7RAR ACP instructors joined forces to deliver ACP training at RAAF Base Edinburgh, providing a substantial boost to the development of this capability across Adelaide units.

Conducted from 18 to 29 June, the course saw personnel from across 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade (South) undertake a week of ACP training, which generated a pool of level 1 and 2 instructors who have now joined a growing group of ACP trainers Army wide.

Under the careful supervision of course manager Sergeant Nathan Searle from the School of Infantry and Sergeant Dale MacAskill from 7RAR, soldiers from 7RAR, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Service Support Team and 16 Air Land Regiment received detailed instruction in ACP through theoretical and intensive practical training.

Sergeant MacAskill said that, by design, ACP training culminated in reality-based training sessions to ensure training and instructional techniques were met, providing a valuable skills set for all soldiers.

“The program gives them the required knowledge and ability to subdue the enemy with or without the use of weapons – arming them with the tools to eliminate the threat,” Sergeant MacAskill said

Student and now qualified ACP instructor Corporal Tom Leechman from 7RAR has already

incorporated combatives into his training program.

“ACP provides an exciting capability and training opportunity for all units”, Corporal Leechman said.

This view is also held by one of his soldiers, Private Mark Eagling.

“ACP is an excellent skill set to have in the event of a close-combat, hand-to-hand scenario in any environment,” Private Eagling said.

ACP has reinvigorated what Commander 1<sup>st</sup>Brigade Brigadier Matt Pearse described as being something of a forgotten skill in recent years.

“While being able to subdue the enemy through armed means is always a preference, this is not always possible or appropriate in a dynamic environment,” Brigadier Pearse said.

“ACP provides a valuable skill for soldiers, giving them the knowledge and the ability to subdue the enemy without the use of weapons if and when required.”

Brigadier Pearse said that the most valuable aspect of this recent training was the generation of an organic ACP instructional capability within the 1<sup>st</sup>Brigade.

“The ACP train-the-trainer scheme ensures we have a depth of skilled instructors to ensure our soldiers are able to access and qualify in this essential proficiency now and in the future.

“This also gives commanders at all levels the ability to incorporate activities that will use ACP techniques in their training programs confirming ACP as a base skill for all soldiers and part of business as usual.”

**REMEMBERING A HIGHLY DECORATED SOLDIER**

This Remembrance Day had special significance for Sgt Melissa Wright as she commemorated the centenary of the First World War Armistice at the

Australian National Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux.



*Editor: I tried to download a picture of Sgt Melissa Wright from the Army Newspaper but alas without success.*

Sgt Wright’s great-grandfather, Ernest “Ernie” Henry William Meyers spent almost four years fighting abroad. Many feats of bravery would lead to the young man becoming one of Queensland’s most decorated soldiers.



“He was involved in almost every major battle with his unit, the 9th Australian Infantry Battalion, including Gallipoli and on the Western Front,” Sgt Wright said. “After swapping the soft sand for hard cobblestone and enduring rain, the 9 Bn had to learn to face a different enemy on a different landscape with different tactics and weaponry.” The 9 Bn adapted to the changing conditions as best they could and a young Ernie proved to be an exemplary soldier in battle. He went on to earn the Military Cross three times, rising from the rank of private to company

commander. It was at Polygon Wood in Belgium where the actions of Ernie would result in his first Military Cross.

“Receiving the Military Cross and two bars is remarkable in itself and what’s even more impressive is that evidence suggests he was nominated for a fourth,” Sgt Wright said. This would make Ernie the only Queenslander and one of only four Australians to receive such awards. Every evening since 1927, the city of Ypres has paid tribute to the sacrifice of those who fell in defence of their town by sounding the Last Post at Menin Gate Memorial to “The Missing”. The memorial bears the names of more than 6000 Australians who died on the battlefields but have no known graves. Sgt Wright commanded the bearer party marching caskets along the cobblestoned streets to be laid in state under the Menin Gate and there turned her thoughts to Ernie. “Perhaps they were his mates, there are just so many names on the wall, they could have been anyone’s husband or comrade,” Sgt Wright said. “Whoever they are, it’s important we honour them for what they did – everyone deserves to be laid to rest in the way they fought: with honour and pride.”

**COLOURS PARADED AT AWM TO MARK RAR 70th**

23/11/2018 Brian Hartigan - Contact

The 70th anniversary of the raising of the Australian Army’s Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) was marked with a ceremonial parade at the Australian War Memorial today.



*Queen's and Regimental Colours of the Royal Australian Regiment displayed at the Pool of Remembrance following the RAR's 70th-anniversary parade at the Australian War Memorial.*

*Photo by Sergeant Ray Vance.*

Queen's and recently updated Regimental Colours – featuring the 17 theatre and battle honours bestowed on the Royal Australian Regiment – were on display with their respective battalion colour parties.

Colonel Commandant of the RAR Major General Mark Kelly said the regiment's birthday was a time to reflect on its rich history and achievements.

"The battalions of our regiment have provided the full-time infantry combat capability for the Australian Defence Force for the past 70 years," Major General Kelly said.

"This parade, and the display of the Colours, helps us to reflect on the sacrifice and valour of those who came before us, including the 684 members of the regiment who died on operations.

"We remain committed to duty, ready to serve the Australian public as a key component of our modern and professional land force.

"We will continue to uphold the high standards set by infantry soldiers before us and look forward to continuing to serve our nation under the regimental motto of 'Duty First'."

The RAR, originally consisting of three 'regular' infantry battalions – the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions – was raised in 1948 for service in Japan after World War Two.

There are now seven RAR battalions, based in Adelaide, Brisbane, Townsville and Darwin.

Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, Chief of Defence Force General Angus Campbell and Chief of Army Lieutenant General Rick Burr were all officers of the regiment.

Seven Victoria Cross recipients, including the four most recently

serving in Afghanistan, were at one time RAR soldiers.

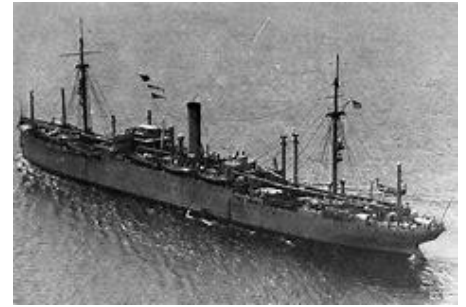
Members of the RAR have deployed on many operations including the Korean War, Malayan Emergency, Vietnam War, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### THE WAR TO END WAR

The War to End War. So wrote author H G Wells as the storm clouds of conflict billowed across Western Europe. It became a catch phrase between 1914 and 1918 and helped motivate the hordes of Australians who answered the call to enlist. Regardless, the First World War became the single most costly conflict to which Australians have been committed. More than any other period or conflict it continues to fascinate Australians. Even though the personal records for those who served in The Great War are readily available, there remains an unquenchable thirst for more information on the service of individual Australians in this conflict. A major source for further study is the growing host of regimental histories on Australian units and battalions.

This is not the place for a history lesson. Suffice to say that World War One was the eruption of a series of long running sores in central Europe associated with militarism, alliances, imperialism and nationalism. The major players were Russia, France, Britain and later the USA, facing Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. War came quickly to Melbourne when on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914, only after hours after Britain had declared war on Germany, Australian gunners fired shots across the bow of the German vessel 'Pfalz' as she attempted to escape Port Phillip Bay.



Australia was committed and soon began to raise an Australian Imperial Force to fight in Europe. At the same time, another force was also raised. This was the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force to fight in German New Guinea. In September 1914 these men and women were the first to see action with Captain Brian Pockley the very first Australian soldier to be killed in the Great War.



With the Royal Australian Navy patrolling the seas and the Australian Flying Corps in the air, it was the AIF which first came to prominence with the landings at Gallipoli. The resultant effort to bring the war to the Turkish homeland failed and after eight months the weary survivors were evacuated back to Egypt. Most of those with the Light Horse stayed on in the Middle East to carry the fight to Beersheba and on to Damascus. But the real killing fields were in France and Flanders.

For over two years the bulk of the AIF waged a bloody war fighting the Germans along a

series of trenches on the Western Front. The bitterly cold and muddy conditions were beyond description. Yet the Diggers clung to their ground and pitted themselves against the opposing guns and bayonets time and time again. The first major battle was at Fromelles in July 1916. In 27 hours Australians losses doubled the entire Gallipoli campaign.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL AD3042

*Men of the 53rd Battalion waiting to don their equipment for the attack at Fromelles. Only three of the men shown here came out of the action alive, and those three were wounded.*

*Australian and British soldiers assaulted over open ground in broad daylight and under direct observation and heavy fire from the German lines. Over 5,500 Australians became casualties. Almost 2,000 of them were killed in action or died of wounds and some 400 were captured. This is believed to be the greatest loss by a single division in 24 hours during the entire First World War. Some consider Fromelles the most tragic event in Australia's history.*

The carnage continued at Pozieres, Bullecourt, Passchendaele and hundreds of other battle fields. Even towards the end the Germans were able to mount massive attacks and only in the closing stages were the Australians able to take the initiative and move forward to the Hindenburg Line. On 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 the guns finally fell silent. During the conflict Australia had committed almost half a million men and women. Over 61,000 failed to return. As

the French still teach their youth: *N'oublions jamais – let us never forget.*

## STRIKE SWIFTLY – AUSTRALIA'S COMMANDO

Mention of the word Commando conjures up images of tough, bearded men, faces blackened, armed to the teeth and capable of great deeds of daring and combat skill in war time. The image is not wrong, but the present day commando, or Special Forces soldier has a long history. Originally a commando was a largely independent Boer mounted infantry unit which fought the British in the two Boer Wars. The term changed and by 1943 had become well known in British parlance much as it is now. In the interim though Independent Companies had been formed in autumn 1940 as a result of the bitter British experiences in Norway and France. The elite volunteers in these companies were highly trained for more specialized work than that required of the infantry. They had to be proficient in amphibious, land and airborne operations and have the highest levels of physical and mental fitness.

In November 1940 Australia embraced the idea of establishing a number of Independent Companies. Accordingly a British Mission embarked and a special, highly classified training camp was built at Wilson's Promontory in Victoria under the innocent guise of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Training Centre - later called the Guerilla Warfare School. The first group of trainees commenced their arduous course in February 1941. Training addressed all types of automatic and other weapons, signals equipment, unarmed combat, explosives and field craft. Later most men gained further qualifications like parachuting, abseiling, demolitions and the use of small water craft. After the course the graduates were used to train volunteers

from elsewhere in the Australian Imperial Force and together formed a number of Independent Companies, each of about 273 all ranks under a Major.

Throughout 1941 several Independent Companies were equipped and completed their training just in time to face the Japanese threat. Number 1 Company was dispatched to New Ireland and Bougainville where they later grappled with the Japanese onslaught and as a unit, were all killed or captured. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Company was sent to Timor and after the initial fighting and surrender of Allied forces, spent the year engaged in a highly successful guerrilla war behind the lines. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Company sailed for New Caledonia to form part of the garrison before moving on to operations in New Guinea the next year. Training for the 4<sup>th</sup> Company was discontinued in October 1941, as likely missions could not be identified at the time. Once the Japanese had entered the war however the training recommenced at break neck pace and a further five companies were formed. An unusual aside concern the formation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Commando Platoon in March 1942 in the Middle East. Later known as the 9<sup>th</sup> Division Commando Platoon this small unit's operational exploits were limited.

All the Independent Companies fought the Japanese at one stage or another – mainly in New Guinea.



In April 1943 the 7<sup>th</sup> Division Cavalry Regiment was re-designated as a Commando unit and took

command of what were then termed the 2/2<sup>nd</sup>, 2/4<sup>th</sup> and 2/6<sup>th</sup> Independent Companies. Change continued. On 21<sup>st</sup> September 1943 all independent companies up to and including the last formed, the 2/12<sup>th</sup>, became Cavalry Commando Squadrons with the former commando Private soldiers reclassified as Troopers.

When hostilities were concluded on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945 the Commandos had suffered almost 500 fatalities. This number excludes the sacrifice made by Commando like forces such as Z and M Special Units, Tulip Force which operated in China and Rose Force which fought a rear guard action against the Japanese in Malaya. Many other groups were organised albeit temporarily or for special tasks as commando units. But the only real Commandos were the men of the 12 Company or Squadron units plus the Middle East raised platoon.

After the war the Commando Squadrons were disbanded however less than 10 years later the Citizen Military Forces were authorized to raise two companies. In the 80s the 1<sup>st</sup> Commando Regiment was formed wearing the distinctive Sherwood green beret and more recently a Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment has been converted to Commando status. Many of these modern day commandos under the umbrella organisation Special Operations Command have served with distinction in recent campaigns like East Timor, the Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan.



The commando motto of Strike Swiftly and badge featuring a fighting knife retain the focus on Australian commando objectives first identified at Wilson's Promontory in 1941.

The feature articles were written by Lt Col Neil C Smith (Retd) AM Author and military historian

## VIETNAM 1969

THE COURIER-MAIL  
FRIDAY OCTOBER 17 1969

### The mystery of the blond Viet Cong

NUI DAT (AAP-Reuter). – An Australian platoon commander could only say: "He's blonde, he's blond" when he saw a tall fair-haired man in the company of Viet Cong last month, one of his men said yesterday.

"He must have repeated this eight times," said Pte. John Hunter, 21 a National Serviceman from Hawthorn (Victoria), who returned here yesterday at the end of the month-long Operation Kingston, by the 5 Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

The man and another Viet Cong soldier were only about 10ft away from the platoon commander, he said.

#### LIEUTENANT FROZE

I was eight feet further back, but couldn't see him, but Lieut. Lambert, the platoon commander, had a clear view," Pte, Hunter said.

"We heard voices ahead coming from the camp we had just sighted and went forward.

"Then Lieut. Lambert froze. He raised his rifle to his shoulder and fired at the light skinned man.

"He thought he'd wounded him as blood trails were found in the area, but we could find no trace of the two men."

Pte, Hunter said he was told the light-skinned man wore a plastic rain cape and carried an M-16 rifle.

The M-16 Armalite is issued to the allied forces in Vietnam.

This was the third sighting of the light-skinned man in Phuoc Tuy Province.

A sentry who saw him during an operation by 9 Battalion south of Nui Dat said the man wore Australian greens, an American type military cap and had two pearl handled revolvers strapped to his side.



A patrol made the second sighting.

## CAUCASIANS IN THE VIET CONG

By Vasily Chuikov 22 November 2017  
- Stream

One of the most intriguing and mythical stories from the Vietnam War, at least for me, is the Caucasian with the VC story. Along with the black VC story. Usually referred to as "White Cong", there were numerous sightings of Caucasians, usually blonde, moving with, or even fighting alongside the VC in the war. These stories spanned from the DMZ down to the Mekong Delta.

The common explanations are that the White Cong were American POWs being moved, or American GIs that had gone AWOL and defected or been captured and then defected. Another explanation is that these White Cong were actually Soviet advisors, but since there's no hard evidence that the Soviets sent combat advisors into South Vietnam, especially as far South as Saigon and the Mekong Delta, the more believable explanation for most veterans is that these Caucasians were American.

Yet another explanation is that these were old French colonials or Legionnaires who had joined the

PAVN or the NLF. Some GIs believed they were simply Albino Vietnamese.

Each Corps had their own "White Cong", "Super Charlie" or "Yankee VC" stories.

These stories were more common in I Corps, near North Vietnam and Laos and in III Corps near the Cambodian border. In I Corps, particularly in late '67 through to '68 there were stories circulating among many marine units of a "Phantom Blooper". A US Marine who deserted and now fights with the VC using his old M79, harassing marine perimeters at night. These stories were common in the Arizona Territory near An Hoa and at Khe Sanh as well.

Also from I Corps was a story about two defectors, a black and a white GI operating with the NVA. Nicknamed Salt and Pepper, the reports of these two were very consistent and caused US intelligence to begin investigating. Here's a quote from a soldier serving in the 25th Infantry Division in III Corps: "I was ready to fire," said Staff Sergeant Joseph Burnett of Tryon, N.C., who was near the front of the Wolfhound element.

"But I saw this blonde guy in the middle.

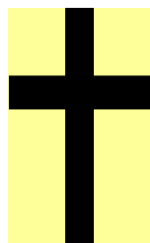
"They were in line and heading away from us, about to go into the woods," Burnett continued.

"I figured the guy must be a prisoner, and I didn't want to shoot him. So I engaged those behind him. He didn't seem to try to escape but ran with the rest of the NVA into the woodline where we lost them."

Here's a quote from Terry O'Farrel, an Australian SAS Soldier, also in III Corps: "Boots, Shorty and myself were copping a pasting as twigs, leaves and dirt were sprayed all over us. All the while Harry was shouting that there was a white man directing the enemy efforts and although he was the only man to see the guy, he stuck to his guns during the subsequent

debrief." "Besides a hot patrol a number of unusual events had taken place, not the least of which was the sighting of the white man. The enemy had also come up on the frequency we were using to communicate with the helos, telling us in quite good English, 'Don't worry Aussie, we are going to get you!'."

**VALE**



**AT THE GOING  
DOWN OF THE SUN,  
WE WILL REMEM-  
BER THEM  
"LEST WE FORGET"  
OUR FALLEN AND  
DEPARTED COM-  
RADES**

**1 RAR**

**ROBERT EDWARD RILEY**  
SVN 1968/69  
Passed away 3 November 2018

**2 RAR**

**BRIG ANTHONY "TAN" RODGERS ROBERTS (RETD)**  
SVN 1970/71, (Major)  
Passed away 26 November 2018

**WALLIS JOHN MUSGRAVE**  
SVN 1967  
Passed away 21 October 2018

**LT COL ROBERT ADRIAN DEHASS (RETD)**  
SVN 1971, C Coy  
Passed away 15 August 2018

**GRAHAM JOHN BLYTHMAN**  
SVN 1970/71 B Coy  
Passed away August 2018

**STEVEN LAWRENCE SIMMONS**  
Malaya 1955/57 also **3 RAR & 4 RAR**, Korea 1954/55 **1 RAR**, WW2 1945/47  
Passed away 27 June 2018

**FREDRICK JAMES KENT**  
SVN 1967/68, B COY  
Passed away 30 June 2018

**WO1 JAMES GEEDRICK**  
Malaya 1955/57, also Japan, Korea 1951/52 **3 RAR** SVN 1968/69 **AATTV** (WIA)  
Passed away 22 June 2018

**STUART MURRAY BURNET**  
SVN 1967/68  
Passed away 8 July 2018

**GEOFFREY STEVEN PRICE**  
Age 34  
Passed away 7 July 2018  
**3 RAR**

**LT COL DAVID NORMAN CANDOW (RETD)**  
SVN 1967/68, Maj Ops Office, Malaysia and also Korea "The Hook" 1953/54, **2 RAR**  
Passed away 22 October 2018

**SGT ROBERT NEIL JOHNSTON**  
SVN 1971 also Malaysia/Sarawak 1966/67 **4 RAR** also Malaya 1951/61 **1 RAR**

**4 RAR**

**RAYMOND OLIVER WALKER**  
SVN 1971  
Passed away 20 September 2018

**LT COL DANIEL NOLAN McDANIEL (RETD)**  
SVN 1971, also Pacific Islands **1 RAR**  
Passed away 28 August 2018

**5 RAR**

**BERNARD JEFFREY McSHANE**  
SVN 1966/67, 7 PI B Coy  
Passed away 22 October 2018

**LEONARD WILLIAM ALLEN MID**  
SVN 1969/70, 5 PI B Coy  
Passed away 5 October 2018

**JOHN EDWARD "BLAH" WILLIAMS**

SVN 1966/67, Mortar, Spt Coy  
Passed away 20 August 2018

**CLIVE MARSHALL DICK**  
SVN 1969/70, 4 PI B Coy  
Passed away 1 August 2018

**KEVIN LESLIE "KL" SMITH WIA**  
SVN 1969, 10 PI D Coy  
Passed away 3 July 2018

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**6 RAR**

**TERENCE GRAHAM HARRISON**  
SVN 1966/67  
Passed away 23 November 2018

**7 RAR**

**MAXWELL JAMES KELTY**  
SVN 1967/68, BHQ/Admin Coy  
Passed away 1 November 2018

**SGT HAROLD BUTTERWORTH**  
SVN 1977/68  
Passed away 25 September 2018

**CSM RONALD "LOFTY" FARLEY**  
SVN 1970/71, D Coy  
Passed away 10 September 2018

**DOUGLAS GEORGE COWEN**  
SVN 1967/68, CHQ  
Passed away 4 September 2018

**GRAHAM "PADDY" CARLINTON MOON**  
SVN 1970/71, also Malaysia/Sarawak 1965/67 **4 RAR**  
Passed away 30 August 2018

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**8 RAR**

**THOMAS JOSEPH WELDON**  
SVN 1969/70  
Passed away 15 October 2018

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**9 RAR**

**BILL REEDS**  
SVN 1968/69, D Coy  
Passed away 17 November 2018

**RODNEY CHRIS McLENNAN**  
SVN 1968/69  
Passed away 24 October 2018

**WAYNE JEFFREY PEARCE**  
SVN 1968/69 also **1 RAR**  
1965/66  
Passed away 19 October 2018

**LINDSAY NORMAN HARCUMBE**  
SVN 1969, also **1 ATF** 1969/70  
Passed away October 2018

**STANLEY WILLIAM RONALDS**  
SVN 1968/69  
Passed away 27 July 2018

**8/9 RAR**

**WO1 GARY JOHN SUTHERLAND OAM**  
RSM 8/9 1975/76, also SVN 1970/71 **AATTV** (WIA)  
Passed away 26 November 2018

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**EDITORS CORNER**

**ONE OF OUR FINEST IS BEING "SUED"**

National President **Mike von Berg MC OAM** is being sued for standing up to false claims of valour on your behalf, protecting the honour of The Regiment.



We have all seen and heard the wannabes who, not satisfied with their actual service, exaggerate their war stories. After receiving calls and emails from the people who were on the operation in question, including being decorated for their actions, the National President advised in writing the truth of the matter. Defending the truth costs money and so far the

cost has been about \$50,000 and the well is nearly empty. **We need your help NOW to prevent an injustice due to lack of funds.**

If you can spare \$50 or even \$20, click on this [web link](http://chuffed.org/project/protecting-the-rar) or go to <http://chuffed.org/project/protecting-the-rar>, and make a donation, left over funds will be invested for delivering Veteran Welfare so not a cent will be wasted!

Please pass this onto any members of the RAR both current and past who you may know and are unlikely to receive this email – this is National initiative by the RARA Corporation, please support it.

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**RARA MEMBERSHIP 2019**

Membership dues for 2019 of \$30.00 will be payable on 1/1/2019, however we will accept contributions as from now.

We need your support to keep the Association running in Victoria.

I am not a debt collector; therefore I will only remind you that yours dues are outstanding I will not hassle you

Payment can either be by direct banking (see below) or by cheque/money order (see correspondence address page 1)

**DIRECT BANKING DETAILS**

**The Royal Australian Regiment Assoc – Victoria Branch Inc.**  
**BSB 633-000**  
**A/C No. 154956494**

Make sure you identify your payment with either your name or telephone number.

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**DUTY FIRST MAGAZINE**

In future this magazine will only be forwarded to current financial members, so if you wish to receive Duty First then you will need to pay



the Association subscription of \$30.00

**FUNNY BITS**

What do we learn from cow, buffaloes & elephants?



It's impossible to reduce weight by eating green grass and salads and walking

**Do you ever wake up, kiss the person sleeping beside you, and feel glad that you are alive? I just did and apparently will not be allowed on this airline again....**



Yesterday I had my annual Medicare wellness check. The nurse said that at my age I should have a bar in the shower. So I took her advice.



**DISCLAIMER**

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**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SAFE NEW YEAR FOR EVERYONE YOU LOVE**

Santa Klaus  Ho Ho Ho

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 2019**

I, ..... (Given Names) ..... (Surname)  
wish to apply for membership of the Victoria Branch of the Royal Australian Regiment Association.  
If accepted, I agree to abide by Association Constitution and the Rules and By-Laws of the Branch.

Date of Birth ..... On first name terms, I prefer to be called.....

Details of my service with the Regiment are:

Regimental Number ..... Rank ..... Units and dates served .....

.....(If insufficient room use back of form)

Honours, Awards and/or Post Nominals .....

Full Residential or Postal Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone (Private) ..... (Bus/Fax) .....

(Mobile) ..... (Email) .....

Present Occupation ..... or Retired Yes No (Circle)

Next of Kin ..... Relationship .....

Address of NOK (if not As Above) .....

..... Postcode .....

Enclosed is my subscription for one year's membership

**REMITTANCE:**

Annual Subscription @ \$30.00	\$.....
Donation (Optional)	\$ .....
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ .....</b>

**Date:** .....

**Signed:** .....

..... Direct Payment **BSB 633-000 Account No. 154956494**

Please make cheques/Money Orders payable to 'RAR Association Victoria Branch'.

**No cash in mail.**

Send to Secretary, PO Box 6213, FRANKSTON VIC 3199.

**For a receipt by return mail, please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope.**