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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



When it came time to write this report I was in a little quandary as to what to write. After some thought I

decided to stay away from anything to do with the First World War and the Armistice, these subjects have been very well chronicled over the last four years or so. What then?

I'm perhaps going out on a limb to some degree here, but I hope my following comments will provoke a little thought if not interest. Throughout history most severe calamities besetting human beings have been man made. No doubt, the biggest calamities we've had to suffer have been wars where the cost is measured in tens of millions of lives, for example the first and second world wars. The American civil war cost that country 600,000 lives and as you go back in history the

theme is repeated quite regularly. Natural disasters such as floods, droughts, earthquakes etc. run a very poor second. Economic disasters like depressions and recessions, booms and busts, I would say, run third. In saying this, people born at a time of flux and on rising to adulthood can find themselves living for lengthy periods in a hostile and challenging environment. Nevertheless, they must rise to the occasion and deal with the world they find themselves in. It does not help to whinge and whine, albeit, a lot of people may do so. History dictates that the world changes dramatically over any 50-year period and people must accommodate the changes whether they like it or not. Vietnam Veterans live in a world distinctly different 50 years up the track from the Vietnam War of our youth but that is how it is. In talking to one another about the army we found ourselves in 50 years ago we invariably comment at length that it reflects little resemblance to the modern Australian Army and virtually all facets of it. We have a right to cast comment because we earned the right to do so.

A lot of veterans are not happy with the social engineering going on. Not happy with the hard-physical graft taken out of recruit training. Not happy with recruits at the rifle range firing their rifles prone on rubber mats under cover, protected from the rain and the sun. Not happy with recruits getting bussed to the range rather than having to march with their rifles the one and a half kilometres or so (Kapooka). Not happy about modern soldiers getting dismissed from the army for expressing a view on females

being in the infantry and on and on it goes.

Now in saying all that, we don't have to be happy because all that is not our problem. It only can be a problem for us if the country goes to war and the fighting capabilities of the army are compromised and therefore we in dad's army have to step in to save the day.

Let's hope we don't go to war.

I've had my say and I'm happy having done so.

Please make a grand effort to get to our Service at the Melbourne Shrine and lunch afterwards on Sunday 18/11/2018.

I look forward to seeing you then and please enjoy each day and take good care of yourselves.

**Stan Sutherland**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT – 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION NOVEMBER 2018

The Royal Australian Regiment will be a focus of activities in Canberra 22-23 Nov 2018 to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Regiment.



Past and serving members of the regiment, together with supporters of the regiment are invited to a number of events:

### Thursday 22 Nov 2018.

Regimental style dinner at the Canberra Institute of Technology restaurant.

Guided tours of the AWM with a Regimental focus.

Battalion or State/Territory Associations may wish to hold functions in Canberra – AGM's, lunches etc

### Friday 23 Nov 2018

Primary activity is a parade on the Australian War Memorial (AWM) Parade Ground from 1530hr, involving all the colours of the battalions of the regiment, a guard found from 8/9 RAR and a 'massed band' of regimental pipes and drums of 8/9 RAR and the RMC band. Of interest, it is anticipated that all the battalion colours will have 'new' battle honours emblazoned on them.

This will be followed by the Last Post ceremony, where a soldier of the regiment will be remembered.

A reception in Anzac Hall will be held from 1830-2030hr. A separate invitation list will be advised shortly.

It will be a great opportunity for former and current serving members of the Regiment, together with family and friends, to celebrate this important milestone and remember the sacrifice of those who have gone before them.

Ted Chitham



### 100 Year Armistice Anniversary

**On 11 November 2018**, we mark not only the annual Remembrance Day commemorations but also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice, the cessation of hostilities in World War One, bringing to an end a terrible and destructive war.

It is a time to remember not only all those who lost their lives, their health and their well-being during World War One and later conflicts, but to use the commemoration to recommit to the concept of peace.

11 November 2018 will also bring the Anzac Centenary to a close.

There will be services held at every RSL in Australia, if you cannot make the service put down your tools at 11 a.m. and remember your mates who did not come home.

### BATTALION BIRTHDAY SERVICE AND LUNCH

**When:** Sunday 18 November 2018 at 1200 hrs.

**Where:** Shrine of Remembrance and then and lunch at Rosco's Italian Restaurant, 519 St Kilda Road Melbourne.

**Contact:** Klaus Cimdins  
0407 525 147 or  
kcimdins@bigpond.com

### VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2018

### Vietnam Veterans Service @ Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital 17 August 2018



The Service this morning was very well attended and focused mainly on the Commemoration of the Battle for "FSB Coral & Balmoral".

Several Veterans from this Battle were present and were presented to the gathering. Also, two beautiful plaques were dedicated and affixed to the wall at the entrance to "Ward 17", one of the plaques was to honour the partners of veterans.

Our Wreath was laid at the "Regimental Memorial", in the Garden of Remembrance.

The "Lamingtons" were not available today, but the scones were absolutely wonderful.

Allan Tonkin

### Shrine of Remembrance 18 August 2018



3 RAR leading the March



Cadets carrying Australian Flag



9 RAR Banner at the Shrine



**John Eren, Minister Vet Affairs,  
Daniel Andrews, Premier Victoria  
and Bob Elworthy President VVAA  
- Vic**

## ARMY NEWS

### NEW CHIEF OF ARMY

**LTGEN RICK BURR AO DSC  
MVO**



Lieutenant General Burr assumed command of the Australian Army on 2 July 2018.

He joined the Army in 1982, graduating from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1985 to the Infantry Corps. He has seen service in the 8th/9th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment and the Special Air Service Regiment, which he commanded in 2003-04.

His senior leadership roles have been diverse. He was previously the Deputy Chief of Army, and prior to that had unique service as Deputy Commanding General US Army-Pacific – the first foreign officer to hold such a position. In 2011-12 he was commander of the 1st Division and Deployable Joint Force Headquarters.

His operational commands include the theatre-level multinational command of all Special Forces assigned to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan in 2008, and command of the Australian Special Forces Task Group in Afghanistan 2002 and Iraq 2003.

In addition to his command roles, he gained broad experience across Army, Defence and Government in a range of staff, training and representational appointments.

Committed to the development of our future leaders, he has been an instructor at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and Chief Instructor of the Australian Defence Force Warfare Centre, responsible for the education and training of ADF officers in planning joint operations.

In key staff roles he was the senior operations and plans officer in Special Operations Headquarters in 2001-02, and Military Assistant to the Chief of the Army in 2005. As a Colonel he served as Director of Force Structure and then Director General Preparedness and Plans in Army Headquarters. In 2007 he was seconded as a senior adviser to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and was Director General Military Strategic Commitments in 2009-10. In a key representational appointment, he was the Equerry to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for the Royal Visit to Australia in 2000.

Lieutenant General Burr is a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College and graduate of the USMC School of Advanced Warfighting. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New South Wales, a Master of Military Studies from the Marine Corps University and has completed the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program. His personal awards include Officer of the Order of Australia, Distinguished Service Cross, Member of the Royal Victorian Order and a number of foreign awards for distinguished service. He is Patron of Defence Australian Rules Football.

He and his wife Bronwyn are originally from the Riverland in South Australia.

### ADF FLIES INVICTUS GAMES FLAG



**Nearly 1000 officer cadets and midshipmen from the Australian Defence Force Academy show their support to Invictus Games 2018 at University of New South Wales, Canberra. Photo by John Carroll.**

Australian Defence Force establishments across the country will 'fly the flag' today for wounded serving and former serving military members in a show of support and to raise awareness of the upcoming Invictus Games Sydney 2018.

Invictus Games, the international adaptive sporting event for wounded, injured and ill serving

and former serving military personnel will be held in Sydney from 20 to 27 October 2018.

Director-General Invictus Games Brigadier Phil Winter said the 'signature' flag-flying activity would also occur on the Sydney Harbour Bridge today, and ADF establishments in every State and territory would also take part in the activity to show support for the games.

"From Campbell Barracks in Western Australia across to Lavarack Barracks in north Queensland and as far south as the historic Anglesea Barracks in Hobart, Tasmania, Defence personnel are behind each and every Invictus Games competitor," Brigadier Winter said.



At the Invictus Games, competitors will compete in team and individual sports including, archery, athletics, indoor rowing, powerlifting, road cycling, sailing, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis.

With 500 competitors and 1000 families and friends from 18 nations expected to attend, Invictus Games Sydney 2018 will be a memorable event for participants and spectators alike.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### Australia and the Boer War 1899-1902

LtCol Neil Smith AM Historian

South Africa's Boer War 1899-1902 represents a number of Australian 'firsts': The first time

Australians fought under a Commonwealth banner; were awarded the Victoria Cross and wore the Rising Sun badge overseas.

It was also the genesis of the Light Horse or more correctly, the Mounted Infantry and it heralded the role of Australian women in war. Yet over a century later this conflict continues to fascinate and frustrate those seeking to find more on Australia's involvement in the conflict.

The Boer War had its origins in the **First Boer War** of 1880-81 between the British and the Afrikaners or Boers. The Transvaal War or the Transvaal Rebellion, was a war fought from 16 December 1880 until 23 March 1881



The outcome only brought an uneasy peace. Matters came to a head with the 1896 Jameson Raid (with more than a few Australians involved) and other unrest.

The **Second Boer War**, 11 October 1899 – 31 May 1902 was between Great Britain and the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

The war lasted until 31<sup>st</sup> May 1902 with more than 70,000 lives lost. It was the largest African campaign ever fought by the British and in terms of cost and numbers involved, surpassed all other pre-World War One conflicts including the Crimean War. Apart from the two World Wars it claimed the most Australian lives.

The war falls into three distinct phases. Firstly, the Boer offensive against the Cape Colony

and Natal and laying siege to some major town centres. There was savage text book fighting at this time with mainly British infantry regiments and others like the New South Wales Lancers and Australian Horse.

The British lost heavily in some set piece battles such as Talana where the troops were decimated by Boer tactics and wisely directed fire.

Secondly there were British counter strikes and the capture of the Boer capitals of Bloemfontein and Pretoria. Many Australian State raised Bushmen contingents became involved in the associated advance into the Orange Free State and Transvaal with the lifting of sieges at Kimberley, Mafeking and Ladysmith. The Australian contingents including the Queensland Mounted Infantry, New South Wales Bushmen and Doyle's Scouts were all mounted with the exception of some artillery and medical corps elements. They excelled in mobile warfare however, significant losses were inflicted on the Australians at places like Eland's River.



Breaker Morant

Unable to win by conventional means, the Boers then developed a unique type of guerilla warfare. The Boer Commandos

delivered hit and run strikes wherever they chose while the British conducted great sweeps trying to eliminate the wily Boer farmers. More tedious for the British was mounting guard on long supply routes, clearing Boer farms and herding civilians into concentration camps.



In this third phase the Australian troops came into their own. They were at home living off the land like their foe and could match his initiative and ingenuity thus avoiding set piece battles and the associated carnage. Even so there were major actions such as the debacle at Wilmanrust when half the 5<sup>th</sup> Victorian Mounted Rifles Contingent was overrun and captured on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1901.

With growing strength and Kitchener's cruel scorched earth policy the British gained the edge on the Boers.



By the time the first Australian Commonwealth Horse Contin-

gents arrived in 1902 there was little capacity to fight left among the ragged ranks of the Boers. Peace was finally signed at Pretoria on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1902.

Whilst it seems there is much material available to study Australia's role in the Boer War the task can be surprisingly frustrating. For example, officially only 16,500 Australians served, but to that figure should be added another 7,000 Australians who fought in Irregular units like the Scottish Horse or Bethune's Mounted Infantry. Thankfully the task of recording more fully the Boer War continues among a dedicated group of researchers and historians. So, if you can't find your Boer War story or man, don't despair because the publicly available information is growing and is far more extensive than many realize. Dig deeper, and you will be pleasantly surprised just how much material is available on Australia's part in the Boer War.

### **Japan and Korea 1945-1950**

**LtCol Neil Smith AM Historian**

A little-known chapter in Australia's military history is the **Occupation of Japan** immediately after World War Two



**BCOF marching to parade ground for Anzac Day celebrations in Kure, 1946**

In February 1946 Australia entered an important phase of na-

tional maturity when the first members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) arrived in Japan to disarm the former foe and to establish order in the region. There followed six years of endeavour in a potentially hostile and certainly dangerous environment. During this period the Australian Imperial Force was disbanded and the Australian Regular Army (ARA) was formed. Political considerations meant that Australia was about to withdraw most forces in 1950 when the Korean War erupted.

On **25<sup>th</sup> June 1950 North Korea crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel and invaded South Korea**. The South Koreans and their American allies were driven back to a defensive perimeter around Pusan. The United Nations intervened, and Australia was committed with 77 RAAF Squadron still based in Japan going into combat within days. In all sixteen nations agreed to send combat troops to fight under the United Nations flag with General Douglas MacArthur appointed Commander in Chief. The withdrawal of Australian troops from BCOF ceased. In Australia volunteers joined K or Korea Force. Mostly World War Two veterans these men were quickly trained and shipped to Japan. By late September 1950 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment was in action as part of the 27<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Brigade.



The Diggers rapidly helped push the North Koreans back to the Yalu River overlooking Com-

munist China. Numerous RAN ships were deployed during the conflict including the aircraft carrier HMAS *Sydney* from which hundreds of successful sorties were dispatched.



Other Australian warships were rotated and blockaded local waters and shelled Communist positions ashore while the RAAF also expanded and continued in close combat support roles.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1950 the Chinese Communists entered the war, recaptured Seoul and reversed earlier gains. The battle lines moved back and forth. Faced by a massive Chinese offensive a famous defensive battle was fought by the Australians at Kapyong leading up to ANZAC Day 1951. A and B Companies for instance were attacked more than nine times during one night and held their positions by employing fierce counter attacks. For this action, 'Old Faithful' as was known the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, was awarded the US Presidential Unit Citation. The Diggers had stopped the offensive at a cost of over 80 casualties.



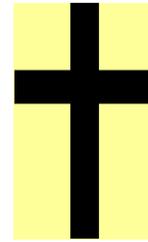
The massive Chinese Fifth Phase Offensive was launched on 22 April 1951 to drive the United Na-

tions forces into the southern part of the Korean peninsula.

A stalemate was soon reached and for the next three years a trench warfare like scenario was played out around the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel. Truce talks began at Kaesory in July 1951 and continued at Panmunjom. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions RAR also rotated through Japan and Korea whilst the men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion were changed over with reinforcements from Australia. In September 1951 the Australians, now part of the British 28<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Brigade advanced from the Imjin River to the Jamestown Line. A series of well-planned company attacks resulted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion capturing Hill 317 with over a hundred casualties. The opposing sides next settled down in strong static defences reminiscent of the Western Front while the Truce Talks dragged on. It became a war of shelling, raids and patrolling but was no less the dangerous for that. Casualties were especially high with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions in mid-1953 while the final fighting was in defence of a feature called The Hook. In wave after wave of ground attacks the Chinese suffered heavy casualties in the few days before the armistice was signed.

After protracted peace negotiations an uneasy peace was declared on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1953 although Australian troops remained on the peninsular until late November 1956 when the last men from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion returned home. In all 340 Australians lost their lives in the conflict however the new, totally volunteer Australian Regular Army had passed its first battle test with flying colours while the Navy and Air Force continued their high level of professionalism.

## VALE



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

### ROBERT BRAGG

SVN 1969, B Coy

Passed away 11 June 2018

### GARY MOLLISON

SVN 1968/69, Mortar PI

Passed away 30 May 2018

### ROBERT WATTS

SVN 1968/69, Aslt Pnr PI

Passed away 11 April 2018

## EDITORS COLUMN

### MEMBERSHIP 2018

**Membership dues of \$30.00 were payable on 1/4/2018, there several you have still not paid. If you are unsure, please email me to see if you are financial – I am not a debt collector.**

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

### DIRECT BANKING DETAILS



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BSB 633-000

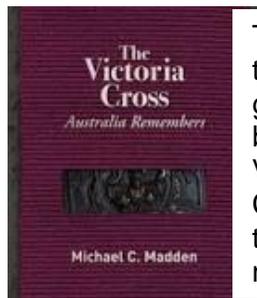
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**BOOK REVIEW**

**The Victoria Cross Australia Remembers**

Michael C. Madden



The work that has gone into the book "The Victoria Cross Australia Remembers"

is mind-boggling. It took nearly four years to write and go to print, contains over 150,000 words and almost 1000 images. In total, more than 15,000 photographs were taken during the creation of the book, a project which cover 17 countries. 60 families of Victoria Cross recipients were interviewed, two of those in London.

In a world first, all 100 Victoria Cross medals were tracked down and photographed for the book. Several of those Crosses are in private hands and had never been seen by the public. Images of all 96 Victoria Cross recipient's graves were obtained, most by our team, and all are in the book.

The author, Michael Madden, and photographer, Gordon Traill, were invited to Windsor Castle to view the prototype Victoria Cross which was made for approval by Queen Victoria herself in 1856. They were also invited to the Shropshire Department of Defence facility to view the metal that is used to produce the Victoria Cross medals. Michael and Gordon were the first Australians to hold the prototype VC and to get into the vault where the Victoria Cross metal is kept under immense security. Only nuclear weapons have a higher security clearance level.

**POEM**

**For all the old blokes and Sheila's & the few left who may understand**

When the shearing sheds are silent, and the stock camps fallen quiet

When the gidgee coals no longer glow across the outback night  
And the bush is forced to hang a sign, "gone broke and won't be back."

And spirits fear to find a way beyond the beaten track

When harvesters stand derelict upon the windswept plains  
And brave hearts pin their hopes no more on chance of loving rains

When a hundred outback settlements are ghost towns overnight  
When we've lost the drive and heart we had to once more see us right

When 'Pioneer' means a stereo and 'Digger' some backhoe  
And the 'Outback' is behind the house. there's nowhere else to go

And "Anzac" is a biscuit brand and probably foreign owned  
And education really means brainwashed and neatly cloned

When you have to bake a loaf of bread to make a decent crust  
And our heritage once enshrined in gold is crumbling to dust  
And old folk pay their camping fees on land for which they fought

And fishing is a great escape; this is until you're caught

When you see our kids with Yankee caps and resentment in their eyes  
And the soaring crime and hopeless hearts is no longer a surprise

When the name of RM Williams is a yuppie clothing brand

Not a product of our heritage that grew off the land

When offering a hand makes people think you'll amputate  
And two dogs meeting in the street is what you call a "Mate."  
When "Political Correctness" has replaced all common sense  
When you're forced to see it their way, there's no sitting on the fence

Yes, one day you might find yourself an outcast in this land  
Perhaps your heart will tell you then, 'I should have made a stand'

Just go and ask the farmers that should remove all doubt  
Then join the swelling ranks who say, "don't sell Australia out."



Author Unknown

**BACK IN TIME - 9 RAR**

**MIDNIGHT EDITION  
SUNDAY MAIL**

Adelaide, November 9, 1968  
Vol. 58-2,2930 Price S.A., 8c

**The 9<sup>th</sup> goes off to Vietnam**

Relatives, friends, wives and sweethearts, many crying, waved farewell to soldiers of the 9<sup>th</sup> Btn, Royal Australian Regiment, who sailed from Outer Harbor for Vietnam in HMAS Sydney this afternoon.

The 800-strong 9<sup>th</sup> Btn will relieve 3<sup>rd</sup> Btn. at the Australian task force base in Phuoc Tuy Province.

Like 3 Btn., which was also South Australian-based, 9<sup>th</sup> Btn, will spend a year in Vietnam.

Nearly half the 500 who left today are National Servicemen. They have had a year's training.

Their commanding officer, Lieut-Col A. L. Morrison, 41 formerly of New South Wales, said despite the short training some of the men had received, they carried out a rigid program and were well-equipped for Vietnam.

He said the soldiers, of whom about 100 were from South Australia, had trained at centres throughout Australia but had been based at Woodside.

A number had already served in Vietnam and other parts of South East Asia.

While on board the Sydney, the troops will continue weapon training and attend corporal and sergeant promotion courses.

They will also study the Vietnamese language and be given Vietnamese indoctrination.

Many travelled from interstate to farewell friends and relatives today.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bell said they had 460 miles to see Mrs. Bell's brother National Serviceman Pte. T. R. Wickham of Victoria.

Pte. Wickham, 21 said it did not matter much to him what he was going into.

"It is a matter" he said, "of what I am leaving behind."

He said his fiancée Rosa Lassing, a part time model of Maitland, NSW had been unable to come to Adelaide.

"As soon as I return I will marry her," he said.

An Adelaide man Cpl. H. R. Musicka, 23 of Albermarie street Hindmarch, said he was sorry to be leaving his wife Kay and their 14-week-old daughter, but he had always wanted to Vietnam.

He said he had spent a year in Malaya and had been in the Regular Army for three years.

Pte Musicka was killed in action on 19 January 1969. Editor

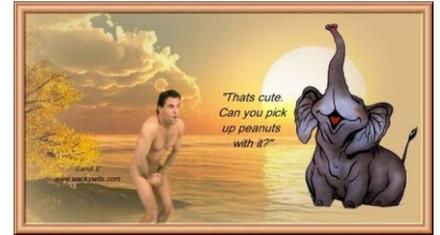
### FUNNY BITS

This morning, around 7am, I went for my morning stroll around the Marina. I noticed a man shouting, "Allah be praised!" and "Death to all Infidels!", when suddenly he tripped and fell backwards into the water.

He was struggling to stay afloat because of all the explosives he was carrying. If he didn't get help he would surely drown! Being a responsible citizen and abiding by the law of the land that requires you help those in distress, I contacted the Police, the Ambulance, and the Fire Brigade!

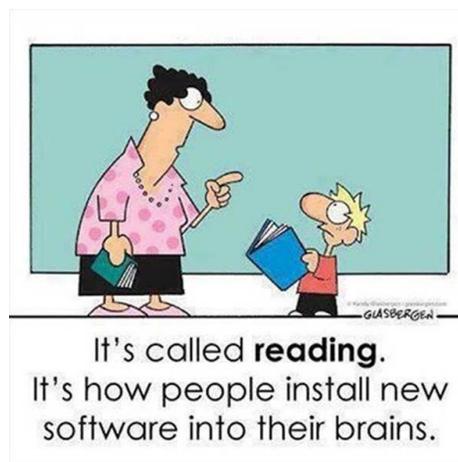
It is now 11:00 AM, the terrorist has drowned, and none of the authorities have responded.

I'm starting to think I just wasted three postage stamps.



### DISCLAIMER

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