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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Over the last 4 years Australia has visited its military history pursuant to the First World War in a big way.

The educational awareness of the younger generations in our society has increased dramatically. Given that this history was made at horrendous cost to all villages, towns, suburbs and cities across the length and breadth of the Commonwealth it is important that we can carry the knowledge of this period well into the future. This task is made that much easier while there are still people in our communities that had close associations with the

men and women who made this history.

In my case, I was twenty years old when my Grandfather, a Gallipoli and Western Front veteran passed away. This living link with the First World War will be carried by me until I also am history. There will be a time however, when the First World War will carry the same weight in history as the Battle of Waterloo fought in 1815. This battle also changed the future in so far that it included 30,000 Prussian soldiers fighting against Napoleon's armies which led to the rise in German nationalism and we all know where that went from then on.

From our vantage point today we can see no end to battles and wars. Some will be wars fought by our service men and women as is the case at the moment but, hopefully, we won't see one of total war for the nation involving the whole population. Our current and recent service personnel who fight in our nation's interest on our behalf deserve all the support our people can give them. It is not sufficient to pay our taxes and think that our responsibility ends there. To do so is a cop out of the highest magnitude as only a small percentage of people are prepared to go into harms way on our behalf as they do.

We had a great day on 18th November at the Shrine where we held our commemorative Service then afterwards at Rosco's where we enjoyed a lovely lunch and refreshments amidst good company. We need more people to make an effort and come along to this event.

On behalf of the Committee I wish you and your families a merry Xmas and a prosperous new

year and beyond, occasioned by good health and happiness.

We will next catch up on Anzac Day 2019 and I look forward to it.
Stan Sutherland.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANZAC DAY 2019

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 0830hrs
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.

We are not sure how this will affect our Annual General Meeting and lunch arrangements at Rosco's, we will need to talk to the management before Anzac Day to sort it out.

With the above in mind, we will you keep well informed via our newsletter and emails, however, tell your mates of these new changes in Victoria's infrastructure projects, especially if they are travelling from interstate.

CANBERRA

27th – 29th November 2019

**Email from Bob Plumber
 10/11/2018**

The venue we have a booked for the **Meet and Greet (27/11)** will be at the **Thoroughbred Park racecourse**, we will be in an area known as "Cherry Tree Lane".

The function runs from 11.30 a.m. until stumps. The cost per

person is \$40 per for a self-serve buffet style lunch. Those not wishing to eat will still need to pay a \$6 Chair Hire entry fee.

All drinks are at members expense.

RTA Lunch (28/11), to be held at the **Hotel Realm**, located at 18 National Circuit, Barton.

The function starts at 12 noon until 3 p.m. The cost is \$70 per person for a two-course menu (alternative drop for a main and desert).

All drinks are at members expense.

Commemorative Service (29/11), to be held at the Protestant chapel at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

The service commences at 11.00 a.m. and will be preceded by a march.

ARMY NEWS

1st BRIGADE HIT WITH UNARMED COMBAT REVIVAL

Brian Hartigan – Contact

Breaking new ground for the 1st Brigade in 2018, 7th 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 un-

derstanding 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 1st 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, 1st Armoured Regiment, 1st 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 MacSkill 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 Eabling.

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

ACP has reinvigorated what Commander 1st 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 1st 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.”

Editor: This training is fantastic, it would have been very useful in Vung Tau, South Vietnam when trying to recover your wallet from Mamma San because you didn't pay the going price for tea and services rendered by those pretty young ladies.

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 Queenslanders 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.

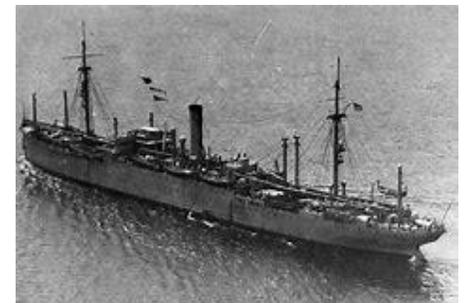
FEATURE ARTICLES

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 5th 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 A03042

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 11th 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'S

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 7th 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 2nd Company was sent to Timor and after the initial fighting and surrender of Allied forces, spent the year engaged in a highly successful guerilla war behind the lines. The 3rd 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 4th 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 1st Australian Commando Platoon in March 1942 in the Middle East. Later known as the 9th 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 7th Division Cavalry Regiment was re-designated as a Commando unit and took command of what were then termed the 2/2nd, 2/4th and 2/6th Independent Companies. Change continued. On 21st September 1943 all independent companies up to and including the last formed, the 2/12th, became Cavalry Commando Squadrons with the former commando Private soldiers reclassified as Troopers.

When hostilities were concluded on 15th 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 1st 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.

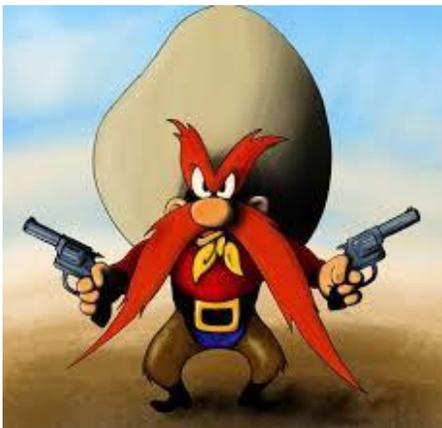
"He thought he'd wounded him as blood trails were found in the area, but we could find no trace of the two men."

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!'"

9RAR DIGGER HAS STREET NAMED AFTER HIM



A former Rockley man who was killed while on active service in

the Vietnam War will be one of three people to have roads named in their new Kelso subdivision.

David John Brennan was a corporal serving in the 9th Battalion. Royal Australian Regiment when he became the first Bathurst district soldier killed in action during a mortar attack at Fire Support Base Thrus in Vietnam on June 6, 1969. He was aged just 22 at the time of the tragedy. To honour his sacrifice, developers Hynash Group have proposed the name Brennan Drive for one of three new streets to be built as part of a 176-lot residential subdivision off the eastern end of Graham Drive and Mendal Drive in Kelso.

Attendance List: 15th October 2018

Padre

Brennan Family (20)

Bathurst RSL/VVA members (10)

Lyle Orreal

Gary O'Reilly

Greg Salmon

Rick Bigwood

Tony Mullavey

Bernie Fitzpatrick

David Sheekey

Grahame Cook

Don Berkery

Kevin Moffatt

Dave and Jill Greenhalgh

Darryl and Nicole Menzies

Steve and Cheryl Nugent

Lyndon Warby

Doug and Lesley McGrath

AND

Two men who served with David coming from Qld with their wives:

John and Maureen Craufurd who are journeying in from Brisbane.

Plus

Dave and Pam Meiers who are driving from the Sunshine Coast

That is 54, which is wonderful.

Apologies from Peter Cosgrove, Trevor Murdoch, Colin Schofield, Brian Vickery, Guy Bagot, Mick Coble and Ted Davies who are unable to attend

McDowall State School – National Memorial Walk - Remembrance Day 2018

Thank you to the Royal Australian Regiment Association for hosting our visit to the National Memorial Walk 9th November 2018.

From the 2018 Year 6 students of McDowall State School.



On behalf of Year 6 at McDowall State School I would like to thank the RSL and the RAR Association for their support in allowing us to attend the National Memorial Walk on November the 9th. I would like to thank Mr Ted Chitham for his deep and thoughtful speech about the day.

Noah

Thank you for hosting and organising this special educational visit. This trip informed me about the horrible battle our soldiers have fought to make this country great as it is today. I highly appreciate the chance to visit the memorial plaques for those who sacrificed their lives for our country. Thank you again for the opportunity to visit the special living memorial.

Lily

Thank you for the opportunity to visit the memorial walk. I especially enjoyed when we went to the ceremony. I know that the whole year level enjoyed learning about the Walk of Remembrance. We greatly appreciate your sacrifice and service to our country.

Thank you to the RSL for providing our transport.

Isaac

During the memorial service, I was imagining the unfortunate war, the deafening noises and then...the sudden silence. It was as if the air also felt the tension and was included in the service. Whilst walking through the gardens the bottles and pictures placed near the plaques was heart-warming.

Neola

To all the people who lost their lives or experienced war I am really grateful. The memorial ceremony was very moving especially when we stood for a minute silence and thought about the people who had lost their lives.

When we went on the walk and saw the soldiers' favourite things it made me think about how they are like us.

Thank you for the experience.

Janisha

Editor These thank you letters were forwarded to Ted Chitham by David Pedwell, Deputy Principal of McDowell State School, Brisbane, QLD.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND UP-DATES

The Foundation provides tertiary scholarships of \$3000 each year to eligible children of soldiers who are currently serving or have served in the Regiment. An update on our ongoing recipients are detailed below:

EXISTING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Jonathon Cooper started work at the Royal Brisbane Hospital as a Doctor in January 2018 after passing his final exams for medicine and graduated on 11th De-

ember 2017. This is wonderful news and the Foundation is pleased that we were able to help him to become a wonderful success.

Stephanie Bragg completed her 3rd year of studying Bachelor of Business Management, International Hotel and Tourism at University of Queensland.

Gail Madden completed her 3rd year of studying Bachelor of Fine Arts at Queensland University of Technology.

Felicity Ward completed her 3rd year of studying Bachelor of Writing at the University of Canberra with two Distinctions and two Credits. She wrote to the Foundation saying 'thank you for your continuous support throughout my final semester, and my degree, it meant a great deal to me that I has less to worry about financially'.

Jake Melville is in his 1st year of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at James Cook University. He transferred from a Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences at the start of 2017 and his first semester results were good with a distinction, a credit and two passes.

Courtney Dole is in her final year of a Bachelor of Arts at Deakin University. She has achieved excellent results, three distinction and high distinction - 93% for Professional Practice in Design. Courtney is very excited to be finishing this year and has already begun work on her two graduate shows which will be presented in semester two, one of which she is directing.

Jake Crimston-Smith is currently in his fourth year of a Bachelor of Pharmacy at James Cook University. Jake decided to add a second degree to his study, a Bachelor of Sports Exercise Science, which means he can continue studying in semester two. This will add a further year to his study but it will also

give him additional expertise and knowledge in his chosen field of physiotherapy.

Holly Carroll has completed her 1st year of a Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) at the University of Canberra. She said that she would like to express her thanks and appreciation to the Foundation for its provision of generous support during her study. 'The financial assistance you provided was of great help in funding my educational expenses and allowing me to concentrate more time towards my study, in 2017 I was also able to secure a 2018 graduate position with a global consulting firm and will be commencing work in the near future. My educational and personal pursuits would not have been possible without the support of your organisation. Thank you for affording me these opportunities'.

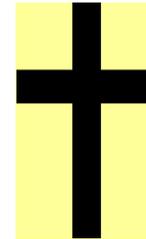
Bryn McAlister would like to again express his appreciation for the continued support provided to him for the first semester of 2018. Bryn's grade point average is a high 6. Bryn is a busy student who is enjoying living and studying in a capital city. He reports attending university social functions, including balls and this semester was a volunteer at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Bryn hopes to work in Qantas management after graduating this year. Thank you for your continued support.

Sebastian Moore is in his second year of a double degree of Bachelor of Science & Bachelor of Arts at the Australian National University in Canberra. After a challenging first semester due to illness Sebastian is looking forward to semester 2. He passed German and was allowed to defer 3 subjects. He said that he would like to thank the Foundation for its support whilst he was in hospital and during his studies

last semester, 'it really does mean the world to me'.

We all thank the Foundation for their wonderful contribution to the youth of this nation.

VALE



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

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 HARCOMBE

SVN 1969, also **1 ATF** 1969/70

Passed away October 2018

STANLEY WILLIAM RONALDS

SVN 1968/69

Passed away 27 July 2018

EDITORS COLUMN

MEMBERSHIP 2018

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

Payment either by cheque or money order to **9 RAR Association, PO Box 6213 Frankston Vic 3199 or Direct Banking**

DIRECT BANKING DETAILS

 **Bendigo Bank**
 9 RAR ASSOCIATION (Victoria)
 Branch Inc.
 BSB 633-000
 A/C No. 154877450

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

BACK IN TIME - 9 RAR**Saying goodbye to it . . .**

The 750-strong 9RAR was welcomed home from SVN in a lunch-hour march through Adelaide on December 9.

The main body arrived that day in HMAS Sydney.

About 450 marched led by CO Lt.-Col. Alan Morrison.

Sixty-one men disembarked at Fremantle – the first Australian port-of-call.

About 130 flew home earlier and went on leave.

Another 140, reinforcements into 9RAR during the year, stayed behind in the zone and were transferred to other units.

9RAR was raised and based in Woodside before leaving for SVN a year ago.

Among the original soldiers were 164 South Australians, and still has 102.

After the march the soldiers went on leave for up to 60 days.

The Battalion will break its ties with C. Comd. Next year and will be reformed at Enoggera, Queensland.

From SVN, Capt. Bob Cornish reports that enemy felt the impact of 9RAR during its year there. The Battalion killed just on 200.

One hundred and sixty-nine were confirmed killed and another 22 were almost certainly killed – a conservative estimate.

In addition, 75 of the enemy were wounded, nine taken pris-

oner and 52 detained for questioning.

The Battalion lost 32 of its own men killed in battle – a ratio of one Australian for six of the enemy killed.

So far, one soldier has been awarded the MC, five the MM and three MID.

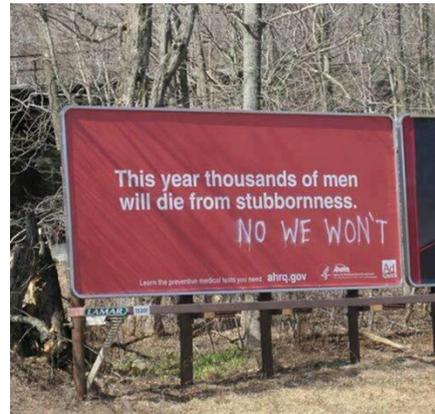
FUNNY BITS

Paddy says to Mick, "I'm getting circumcised tomorrow."

Mick says, "I had that done when I was a few days old."

Paddy asks, "Does it hurt?"

Mick says, "Well I couldn't walk for about a year."

**DISCLAIMER**

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

Santa Klaus  Ho Ho Ho