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

SECRETARY'S REPORT



It was a tough 2020 and the first half of 2021 has not been much better. I trust you have been able to manage your

daily activities without too much stress. I think it is particularly important you maintain contact with friends and family throughout this Covid pandemic.

I have had my first shot of the AstraZeneca vaccine and the second shot should be around early September. I mainly chose to get the shot because I think we are going to be required sometime in the future to have ID cards confirming we have been vaccinated. One can only speculate as to what ramifications could result from not having a ID card.

Anzac Day 2021 has come and gone, the next upcoming events are **Vietnam Veterans' Day** in August, **Remembrance Day** on Thursday 11th November and the **Victorian Association Annual Dinner** usually held mid to late November at the William Angliss Restaurant.

Duty First

Klaus Cimdins

RARA VIC NEWS

ANZAC DAY



RARA, the Victorian Regiment and Victorian Commando Banners



7RAR Banner & members



8RAR Banner & members

I think the ABC have done better Anzac Day presentations, I thought it was a rambling narrative with very little information. The ABC cameraman also darted from the march to the RAAF ariel display and when he returned to the march it was not where he left off – sometimes it was difficult to work out which units I was looking at.

The March commenced with the official party which included the Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau AC, being escorted to the official dignitary box.

The Haileybury College Pipe Bands (both boys and girls) preceded the banner carriers for veterans who served post WW11 (Group 1) in the Navy, Airforce, Afghanistan, RAR, SAS as well as other Army units.

Somehow in amongst the (Group 1), *the French foreign Legion, the Rhodesian ex Services Association and some Aussie WW11 banners and marchers also got a guernsey.*

I was sad to see that the Tunnel Rats were relegated to the second last spot in Group 1, their sacrifice in Vietnam was huge as was their support for the RAR.

The (Group 2) marchers represented all Australian pre WW11 veterans or their descendants, as well as marchers from the USA and South Vietnam involved in the Vietnam conflict. However, there were a number of Vietnam Veterans marching with this group as well.

The day itself was great for the marchers and the spectators, it was sunny and not too cold and those who took part enjoyed themselves.

[Klaus Cimdins](#)

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

This is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 18 August 2021 at the Shrine of Remembrance. Battalions to make their own arrangements regarding attendance and banners. This event will be subject to COVID restrictions which will be published in the press.

ARMY NEWS

Defence to review unit recognition for Somalia service

From [RARA National 26/6/2021](#)

ADF personnel deployed in Somalia from 1993 may be recognised with a meritorious service citation, with Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester referring the matter for fresh consideration.



The independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal is set to reassess unit recognition for the service of Australian

Defence Force personnel, deployed to Somalia in January 1993 in support of the Unified Task Force – Somalia (Unitaf).

Minister for Veterans Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester requested the review after receiving representations from the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Association, which called on officials to reconsider the initial determination made by the Tribunal in 2010.

“In 2009–10 the Tribunal broadly examined the issue of unit recognition for service in Somalia, however, the approach taken at the time focused on Defence’s internal consideration and whether there were any administrative errors in this consideration,” Minister Chester said.

“It did not focus on whether the service of the battalion group actually met the criteria for a unit citation.

“After representations from the ex-service community, I have decided to refer the matter to the Tribunal for fresh consideration to look specifically at the issue of unit recognition, particularly whether any units that served in Somalia should now be recognised with a meritorious unit citation for their service.”



[Australian soldiers prepare to board a United States Marine Corps helicopter in Somalia](#)

ADF personnel from all three services were deployed to Somalia to help restore peace and security following an outbreak in violence, triggered by a humanitarian crisis.

The Tribunal will now consider the service of all ADF units that contributed to security efforts, having regard to the eligibility criteria for the Meritorious Unit Citation.

“It is important to our Somalia veterans to ensure their service is comprehensively and fairly considered, which the Tribunal will do through this new inquiry,” Minister Chester added.

Stakeholders are invited to lodge submissions to inform the inquiry, with representations due by 31 August 2021.

“I encourage anyone with an interest in the issue to ensure their views are heard,” Minister Chester concluded.

OPERATION SOLACE

- Was the Australian Defence Force’s main contribution to the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) which was a United States led, United Nations sanctioned, multinational force which operated in the Republic of Somalia from 9 December 1992 to 4 May 1993. Codenamed Operation Restore Hope, UNITAF was charged with carrying out United Nations Security Council Resolution 794: to create a protected environment for conducting humanitarian operations in the southern half of the Republic of Somalia.



- Centred on the deployment of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) battalion group to Baidoa in south-central Somalia. The 1 RAR battalion group replaced the 3rd Battalion, 9th United

States Marine Regiment in Baidoa on 19 January 1993. The Battalion group was successful in improving the security situation and earned the respect of the non-government aid organisations operating in the region. The 1 RAR battalion group left Somalia on 21 May 1993.

- The main Australian units deployed to Somalia during Operation Solace were:
 - 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment battalion group
 - HMAS *Tobruk*
 - HMAS *Jervis Bay*

25th anniversary of the Black Hawk accident

The Australian Army's 5th Aviation Regiment has commemorated the 25th anniversary of the 1996 Black Hawk accident in Townsville, with a service at The Palmetum in Townsville, including a helicopter formation fly-past.



Army soldiers past and present of those killed and several personnel injured in the 1996 Black Hawk helicopter training accident for a commemorative service in Townsville to mark the accident's 25th anniversary. Photo by Trapper Lisa Sherman.

During training for counter-terrorism operations on the night of June 12, 1996, two Australian Army Black Hawk helicopters collided in the Townsville Field Training Area.

As a result of the accident, there were 18 fatalities in total: 15 from the Special Air Service Regiment and three from the 5th Aviation Regiment.

At the service, Chief of Army Lieutenant General Rick Burr acknowledged those who lost their lives and were injured, their families, and the brave efforts of those who responded to the accident.

"Today we remember our fallen who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country and those who still live with the injuries from that day," Lieutenant General Burr said.

"We recall the sadness and shock we felt when we heard about the accident at Fire Support Base Barbara in the Townsville Field Training Area on June 12, 1996

"We must not forget heroic acts undertaken by personnel at the scene, who despite the confusion, acted bravely and quickly to evacuate the injured."

Lieutenant General Burr said the professionalism of ADF personnel, Townsville General Hospital staff and Queensland Emergency Services prevented any further loss of life.

FEATURE STORIES

150 years strong

John Cox, RAA Regimental History Committee

On August 1, The Royal Australian Artillery will celebrate its 150th anniversary – a century-and-a-half of continuous service of the Australian Artillery.

By the end of 1870, as British forces withdrew, the separate colonies of Australia each became responsible for providing its own defence.



A portrait of A Battery Field Artillery, NSW, 1896 by Tom Roberts

Prior to 1871, all Australian colonies had their own volunteer artillery batteries to augment permanent garrisoned British forces.

The departure of the British batteries meant the loss of artillery technical proficiency. Colonies needed their own permanent artillery forces to sustain the necessary expertise, particularly for the defence of their ports.

The story of today's Australian Artillery originates on August 1, 1871, when the NSW Colonial Government funded and raised its first permanent battery.

Officers, gunners, guns and equipment formerly with the original NSW Artillery Battery helped for subsequent batteries in 1876 and 1877, serving a both garrison coast artillery and mobile field artillery.

Army's longest continuous serving permanent unit is A Battery, currently part of 1 Regt. RAA. A Battery traces its history to that original NSW Battery. Soon after, the other colonies raised permanent batteries to complement their volunteer and militia batteries, as the demands for self-defence grew across Australia.

Eighteen months before Federation, Queen Victoria conferred the title of Regiments of

the Royal Australian Artillery on the permanent artillery units of the Victorian, Queensland and NSW colonies from July 14, 1899. It foreshadowed the cooperation across the colonies to establish a coherent, modern and capable Australian artillery force.

In the years that followed, the regiments combined with all other Australian artillery forces.

The power of the artillery on the battlefield is built on a uniting philosophy of rapidly combining the target effects of many units as one through command and control.

Over 150 years of distinguished service, this united group has evolved to become today's Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

August 1, 1871, unites all regiments and gunners, serving and retired across all states and territories, as the date that captures and symbolises the beginning of the Australian Artillery.

From August 1, this year, the Army will recognise and celebrate the 150 years of distinguished of the Australian Artillery through a series of events under the banner of Ubique 150.



It's because of artillery's widespread and diverse role that the RAA has one single

battle honour royally conferred, which is also its motto: **Ubique** – that is, “everywhere”.

D & E PLATOON, 1 ATF

FROM STAN SUTHERLAND'S BOOK "IN THIS MAN'S ARMY"

CONTNUED FROM LAST ISSUE

5th January. We went back to the illegal village to search it. The houses are spaced out from one another, and each house has a sizable garden in which peanuts, coffee, fruit and tobacco are growing, amongst other things. All the inhabitants are women and kids with only a few older men getting about. We detained one man who had a discrepancy with his ID card. His wife started to bow and scrape, holding the palms of her hand together, as if in prayer. Bowing, crying and wailing, she offered us fruit so we wouldn't take him away.

Late in the afternoon we went some distance from the village to set up an ambush but while we were setting it up, Blue Costello, sitting on sentry duty, spotted some kids who'd no doubt been instructed to follow us and see what we were doing, and where we were harbouring up for the night.



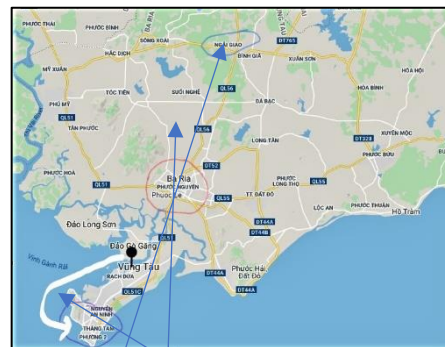
I went straight to Lt. Cosgrove who by now had been informed of the kids by Cpl Des Walker. Lt Cosgrove saw me coming and he shook his head in a manner that

suggested our ambush had been compromised. We talked about it for a minute and Lt Cosgrove said, “Well Stan, it'll be pitch dark in a few minutes. We won't move from here and we'll go ahead with the ambush just in case someone is coming into the village and hasn't heard that we're here. It's a shame though.”

“It is boss, but no doubt they remember the last time we were here and killed eight of them, although we got only six bodies. (The other two died of wounds, according to reports). They won't want the same thing happening again if it simply means having kids keep tabs on us.”

6th January. The next morning, we went back into the village to the place where we dumped the six dead. On a closer look, it seems to be the village square. The villagers had dug graves, six in a single row, side by side. The graves are located at the edge of the square no more than thirty yards from where we dumped them.

Vietnamese regulations provide for villagers to hold only a certain amount of rice. Anything in excess is against the law. We found one woman with barrels of rice. It was duly confiscated. The woman hopped on her bicycle to pedal down to Ngai Giao to plead her case to the District Chief and, no doubt, tell him what a pack of bastards the *uc dai loi* are.



Ngai Giao is a township in the Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province, in Vietnam. Ba Ria city is the provincial capital. Ngai Giao, Bà Rịa and, Vung Tau.

If you have followed the circles and arrows, well done. Both Ngai Giao and Vung Tau are about 25 K from Ba Ria and Nui Dat was about 20 East of Ba Ria.

Vietnamese villages are not conducive to accommodating APCs driving all over the place.



The drivers don't care where they go and invariably bowl over gardens, fruit trees, coffee trees, tobacco plants and anything else that's in their way. This village copped quite a hammering from a whole troop of nine carriers. I was convinced at the outset it's a communist village but, if I'm wrong, they certainly are now. I thought to myself, surveying the damaged gardens as we headed off abroad the tracks for Ngai Giao.

VALE



**AT THE GOING
DOWN OF THE
SUN, WE WILL RE-
MEMBER THEM
"LEST WE FOR-
GET" OUR
FALLEN AND DE-
PARTED COM-
RADES**

1RAR

SGT FREDRICK LYLE MORRISON

SVN 1965/66, 11 PI, D Coy and 2nd Tour 1968/69, also Malaya
Passed away 25 March 2021

SGT BRIAN JOHN DOUGLAS

SVN 1965/66, 4 & 5 PI, B Coy
Passed away 17 March 2021

2RAR

MAJ AMBROSE FRANCIS FARMER (RETD)

SVN 1967/68, also Malaysia & AUS **1RAR, 2RAR, 3RAR, 6RAR & 9RAR**
Passed away 21 March 2021

4RAR

MAJ BRUNO JOSEPH CARBONE (RETD)

SVN 1968/69, also **AATTV** 1972
Passed away 9 May 2021

5RAR

DAVID CHRISTOPHER PIGGOTT, WIA

SVN 1969/70, 5 PI B Coy & BHQ
Passed away 14 July 2021

EDWARD LEONARD KIME

SVN 1969/70, 8 PI, C Coy
Passed away 28 June 2021

ERNEST WILLIAM PALMER

SVN 1969/70, Tracker PI, Spt Coy
Passed away 7 June 2021

RODNEY JOHN ZUNNEBURG

SVN 1969/70, 8 PI, C Coy
Passed away 2 May 2021

ALAN GLORIEUX GEERNAERT

SVN 1969, 8 PI, Coy, also **1RAR** 1968/69
Passed away 24 February 2021

DOUGLAS JAMES PAGE, WIA

SVN 1969, 10 PI, D Coy
Passed away 21 February 2021

6RAR

BILL PERKINS

AUS mid 2000's, C & Spt Coy
Passed away 19 June 2021

LENARD JAMES FULLGRABE

SVN 1966
Passed away 13 June 2021

BURNETT FITZPIERCE JOYCE

SVN 1969
Passed away 18 May 2021

MAXWELL THOMAS HOCKEY

SVN 1966/67
Passed away 17 May 2021

LIONEL GENE BIRMINGHAM

SVN 1966, 4PI, B Coy
Passed away 8 May 2021

IAN JOSEPH RODGERS

SVN 1969/70, Sig, A Coy
Passed away 1 May 2021

RODNEY JOSEPH ARMSTRONG

SVN 1969/70, D Coy
Passed away 25 April 2021

ROBERT HENDERSON WEBB

SVN 1969/70, Engineers, BHQ
Passed away 18 April 2021

ROBERT JAMES WISEMAN

SVN 1969
Passed away 23 March 2021

KENNETH CHARLES CLARK

SVN 1969/70
Passed away 20 March 2021

SGT KEITH ROBERT REYNOLDS

SVN 1967/68 & 1969/70
Passed away 19 March 2021

SGT ALLAN CHARLES McLEAN, MID

SVN 1969/70 Pioneer PI, also **5RAR** 1966/67, Anti-Tank and A Coy Reconnaissance PI.
Passed away 17 March 2021

JAMES CRAWFORD LIDDELL

SVN 1969/70
Passed away 7 March 2021

8RAR

MERVYN JOHN RYAN

SVN 1970, 3 PI, A Coy
Passed away 13 May 2021

WO2 BARRY ROBERT MATTHEWS, MID

SVN 1969/70,
Passed away 16 April 2021

WO1 PETER ROSS CHESTER SMITH

SVN 1969/70, also **8/9RAR** Aus
Passed away 5 April 2021

9RAR

DAVID STANLEY TOWNSEND, BEM

SVN 1968/69, and **AATTV** 1971, also **8RAR** & **8/9RAR** Aus. Served in Korea, 1952, **RAN**, on HMAS Warramunga Passed away June 2021

LEONAS MACPANAS
SVN 1969
Passed away 14 May 2021

ZENON HELINSKI
SVN 1968/69, 3 PI, A Coy
Passed away 16 May 2021

EDITOR'S CORNER

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

This is an opportunity that allows everyone to contribute and influence the outcomes that are used in forming policy and a better framework to support Defence Personal, Veterans and Families

DVA has advised the following –
“Today the Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison MP announced that the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency, General David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), has signed the Letters Patent, officially establishing the Royal Commission. The Letters Patent formally appoint the Commissioners and outline the Terms of Reference for the Royal Commission. These are available for your awareness at the following [link](#).

I believe this Royal Commission is our opportunity to work towards solutions to tackle the devastating issue that impacts our Defence and veteran communities. I look forward to continuing to work with you to support our veterans and their families during what may be a distressing and difficult time for many. I am committed to ensuring we continue to support our veterans and their families as a priority.

As the Royal Commission has now commenced the Government, Defence and DVA remain completely independent of the

process and your inquiries should be forwarded to the Royal Commission directly. The Royal Commission website allows for all interested parties to subscribe to their mailing list [here](#).


Submissions can now be made to the Royal Commission website either through an [online form](#) or a paper version can be downloaded via [this link](#) and mailed to: GPO Box 3273, Sydney NSW 2001. If you have any issues making a submission or you would like the submission form posted to you then you can ring the Royal Commission on 1800 329 095 between 09:00 and 19:00 AEST Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

Regards
Liz Cosson AM CSC
Secretary
Department of Veterans' Affairs

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2021

You are now DUE if you have not paid your \$30.00
Payments can be made either by cheque to our mailing address (see Application for Membership) or as a direct banking (see below) please ensure you identify yourself with direct banking.

DIRECT BANKING DETAILS



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

BATTALIONS

6RAR have a new CO, on 1 April 2021, LTCOL Richard Niessl was formally appointed as CO of the Battalion.

6RAR Mini Reunion Box Hill RSL 15 May 2021



6RAR and others
Front from left: Gregory Eckermann, Ray Kohn, John Brownbill, RARA Vic Chaplain (Korea), Jack Healy, Abdur “Rami” Rahman.
Back from Left: Alan Darcy 3RAR, Paul Gregory, Tony Murray, David Perry 8/9RAR, Kendall Smith 1RAR, Jeffrey Swain, Ian Gibson, Paul Bernaldo, Peter Canny.

If any member wishes to receive a larger photo, please contact me.

Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Retd)

The latest from Doug McGrath – National President 9RAR Association.

Sitting here in yet another lockdown I wanted to let you know that Peter Cosgrove is recovering from a broken elbow.

He was getting out of the lift at his home with arms full when he tripped. (He assures me he was not drunk at the time!)

Pivoting to the ground the right arm shot out to break the fall, but the break was in the elbow instead.

Surgery was necessary and he will now set off the metal detectors at the airport.

The first few days were pretty uncomfortable, but he is steadily improving.

I have just spoken to him for an update, and he is in good spirits though restricted in what he can do.



FOX has announced that they will now air "America's Most Wanted" TWICE a week



FUNNY BITS



Thank God California banned plastic straws

In response to President Biden's complaint that FOX News doesn't show enough Black and Hispanic people on their network.



DISCLAIMER

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VICTORIA

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – 1st January to 31st December 2021

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)

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) \$.....
TOTAL: \$.....

Date:

Signed:

..... Direct Payment to **BSB 633-000, Account No. 154956494 with your name included.**
Please make cheques/Money Order's payable to 'RAR Association Victoria Branch'.
Please do not send 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.**