



Nine News

April 2017

The Newsletter of the 9 RAR Association SA Family
published April, August and December annually

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

As an infantry signaller I was trained to keep my transmissions short.

On the 9 RAR SA website one cannot help but notice the digital clock counting down to our 50 year reunion in November.

The registrations have passed all expectations and it must be a reflection on the South Australian 9 RAR membership that the 9 RAR family expect the reunion to be very rewarding and a "must attend" event.

Many of us have reached 70 years, the Biblical

3 score years and 10. Time is ticking down as Bob's digital clock reminds us. With this mind I have coined the phrase "seize the day, march on ANZAC Day" in remembrance of our fallen comrades and those who have died subsequent to their service.

Many thanks to the team who manage the graveside services. The time of reflection and meditation brings home the reality of the sacrifice made by our soldiers in times of war.

David Stacey

ANZAC DAY ASSEMBLY

GROUP 9
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
& SPECIAL AIR SERVICE VETERANS

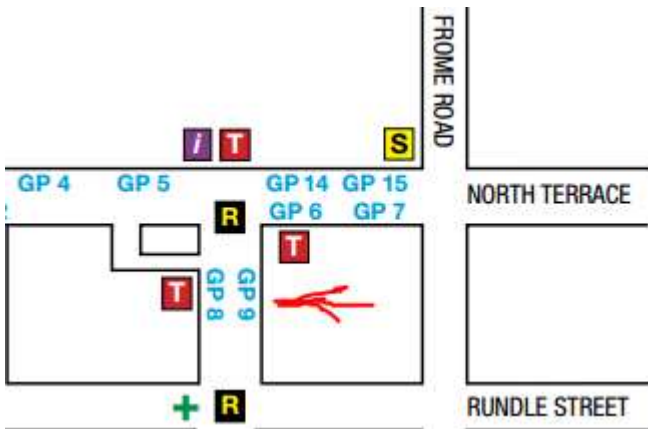
Assemble in eastern side of Pulteney Street (south from North Terrace to Rundle Street).

Special Air Service Regiment
RAR Association State President & party
1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
South Australia Police Pipes & Drums
3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
All Group 9 Transport Vehicles
5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

Unley Concert Band

9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
2nd/4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
5th/7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

All Group 9 units and bands are to proceed along Sir Edwin Smith Avenue, to Pennington Terrace, **before** halting and dispersing.



ANZAC DAY LUNCH

Veterans and families are welcome to meet at the

Jerningham Room, The Lion Hotel,

161 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide.



Michael Mummery reports that there is a slight increase in cost and the BBQ meal deal plus 1 glass of beer/wine or soft drink will be \$16.90.

The hospitality provided by the staff of The Lion Hotel is very much appreciated



NATIONAL 9 RAR 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION, ADELAIDE

Details for the reunion can be found on the web at www.9rarsa.com.au. The programme commences with Company gatherings at various venues in and around Adelaide and are an optional PAYG (pay as you go) activity. The “formal” reunion dinner, held on the date of the formation of the Battalion 13th November, commences with pre-dinner drinks (aka Meet & Greet) from 6:00 pm in the Hilton Hotel Adelaide. The next day sees a Service of Remembrance to our war dead held at Keswick Barracks, the birth place of the Battalion. The reunion concludes with a picnic (because it's more than a BBQ) at Lake Breeze Winery, Langhorne Creek.

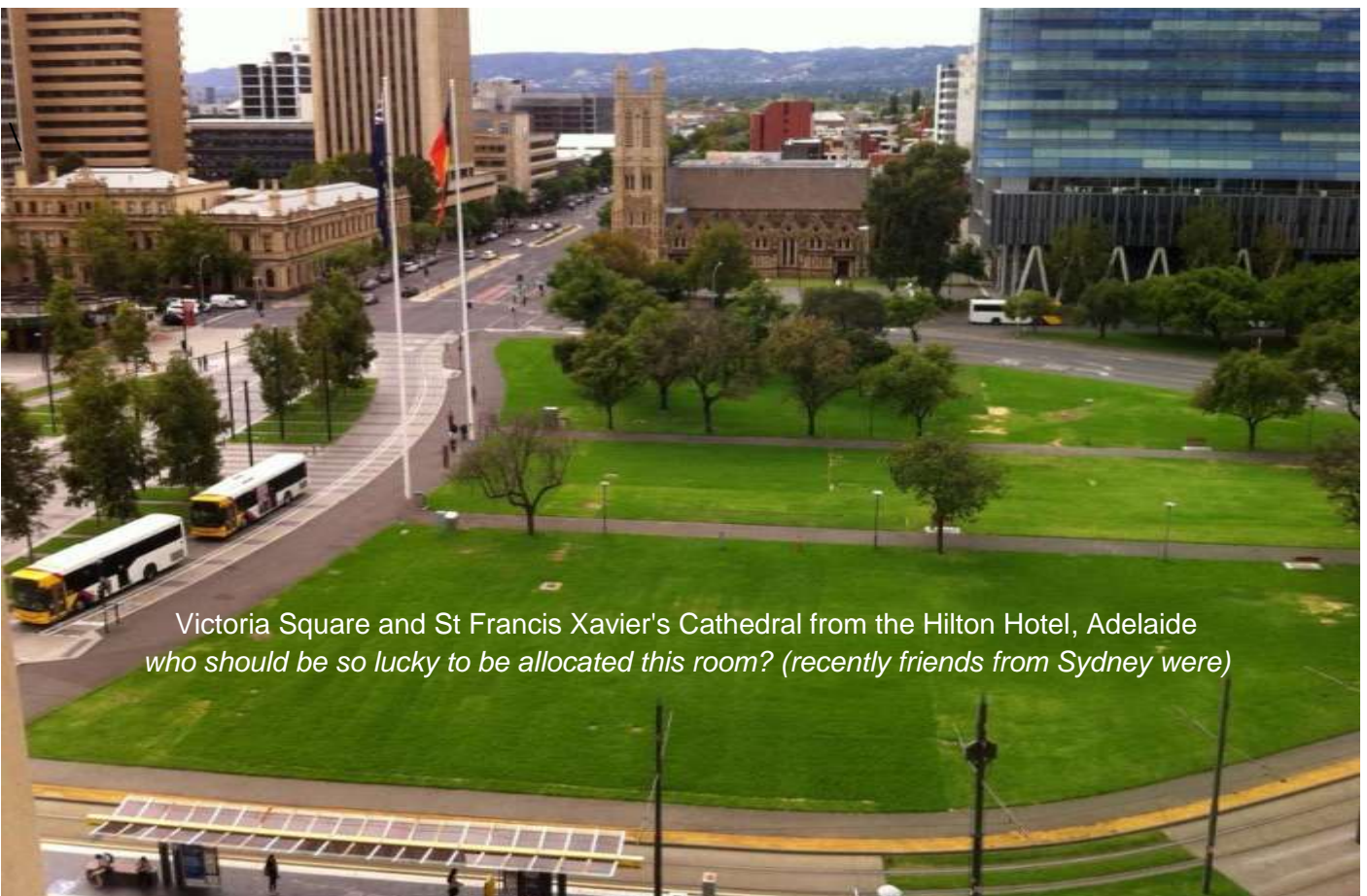
The aim of the organising committee is to keep the cost to attend the reunion at a minimum to encourage as many members of the battalion to attend as is possible given our age and health. Fund raising, grant applications and sponsorship will help. At this stage members

attending the dinner are being asked to pay a deposit of \$50. If our fund-raising is successful this will be the final cost. Like the Company gatherings, the picnic is a PAYG activity so how much one pays for their food and drinks is up to the individual.

Already 467 people have paid to attend the dinner with a further 101 having said they are coming and 51 who have said they may be coming, the total number potentially attending the dinner is 619.

Expecting 350 and allowing for 500 maximum these numbers far exceed expectations and will cause some logistic problems we have to deal with. Members are encourage to book and pay early to be assured of one of the 550 seats in the main ballroom and not be in the balcony room.

John Schumann has confirmed his availability to play on the night as well as to join us for dinner (as a paying inducted member).



Victoria Square and St Francis Xavier's Cathedral from the Hilton Hotel, Adelaide
who should be so lucky to be allocated this room? (recently friends from Sydney were)

GRAVESIDE GATHERINGS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA
REMEMBERING THOSE FROM 9 RAR WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN SOUTH VIETNAM, 1969

Veterans and partners supported the next of kin and families at these gatherings, arranged with much sensitivity by Adrian Craig.

- 5 January - Sgt JM Duroux, Derrick Gardens, Centennial Park
- 7 January - Cpl AW Graham, Stirling North ("Midge" is also commemorated at the Office of Australian War Graves Garden of Remembrance, Centennial Park)
- 18 January - Pte RA Phillips, at Murray Bridge (see Commemorative Address, 48th Hat Dich service)
- 19 January - Cpl HR Musicka, at RSL Wall, Centennial Park
- 19 January - Sgt JR Cock at Derrick Gardens, Centennial Park
- 20 January - Pte BJ Plane, at Ardrossan
- 14 February - LCpl PA Chant at RSL Wall, Centennial Park
- 5 March - Pte GJ Scales, at Derrick Gardens, Centennial Park

The final graveside gatherings for 2017 will be held

- 6 July - LCpl RJ Abraham, Whyalla
- 12 July - Cpl BAJ Adamczyk, Catholic Section, Centennial Park (Bruno is also commemorated at the Office of Australian War Graves Garden of Remembrance, Centennial Park)



Graveside gathering of veterans and family of Pte RA Phillips at Murray Bridge

48th HAT DICH COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

reprinted with permission: The Infantryman and Penelope Forster

48th Hat Dich Commemorative Service



Hat Dich Veterans (from left) Craig Haydock, Ed Cowley, David Stacey and John Genovese.



Mrs Ceremonial Sandra Craig and Ceremonial Officer Adrian Craig with David and Jan Stacey.



Brig Mike Burgess, AM



Catafalque party members were Cpl Justin Evans, Pte Jordan Carbis, Pte Jake Loosley, Pte Michael Mumah-Steadman, Pte Jordan Odd and flag orderlies Pte Nicholas Buckle and Pte Daniel Jack..



Left: Member from Bragg Vicki Chapman watches as her granddaughter Ellie-Elizabeth places a poppy.

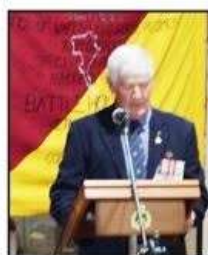


Left: Member for Bragg Vicki Chapman, her granddaughter Adelaide, 9, and Member for florey Francis Bedford place tributes.

Right: Dean Pye, ASASR Assoc. SA Secretary, Ed Cowley and David Stacey after placing poppies..



Catherine Lambert and the Terrace singers.



Speakers (from left) Michael von Berg who gave the welcome address (MC Russell Campbell in background); Chaplain David Prior 7RAR; Rodney Harris, the commemorative address; and David Stacey, Roll of Honour.

Around 60 people from a wide cross-section of community members from battalion and association members to politicians and the catafalque party members, young men from 7 RAR, attended the combined regiments 48th Anniversary Hat Dich Commemorative Service at the Royal Australian Regiment Association RSL Hall at Linden Park on February 19.

Master of Ceremonies Russell Campbell OAM outlined the service before the catafalque party members took their places around the cross.

The welcome address was given by RARA SA President Michael von Berg MC, OAM; the Call to Worship and prayers were given by Chaplain David Prior, 7RAR; the Commemorative Address by Rodney Harris, 4 RAR Association President; the Roll of Honour was read by David Stacey, 9 RAR Association President; the scripture reading from Ecclesiasticus 44 was presented by Deane Pye, Australian SAS Association SA Branch Secretary; The Ode recited by John Genovese, RFD 1 RAR SA; and the Last Post and The Rouse played by Bugler Michael Bampton, 10/27 RSAR.

Ed Cowley W Company 4 RAR /NZ (ANZAC) lead the Hat Dich veterans laying of tributes and Hat Dich veteran Craig Haydock, President RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association SA also laid a tribute.

Adding more emotion to the occasion, Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers sang the "Royal Australian Regiment Prayer of Consecration" and "Amazing Grace". They have been staunch supporters of RARA SA Association commemorations for many years. Catherine arranged for the prayer to be set to music.

During the laying of tributes Pipe Major Des Ross played a lament and later the farewell march as Waltzing Matilda.

Lunch was served after the service with many attendees taking the opportunity to catch up with friends they had not seen for some time.

Thanks must go to the Minister of Veterans Affairs SA for his grant and 4 RAR SA and 9 RAR SA for their donations which combined almost covered the costs of the service and lunch.

Special thanks go to Ceremonial Officer Adrian Craig for the magnificent work he continues to do to make the occasions run smoothly and appropriately with the help of those setting up - chef Colin Abel, Chris Shannon, Sandra Craig and Russell Campbell, photographer Bruce Forster and Infantryman Editor Penelope Forster.



Comemorative address by Rodney Harris, President 4 RAR Association SA 4719545 Pte Reginald Arthur Phillips

In the 1940s Murray Bridge was a vibrant town which serviced the surrounding farming community with great dedication.

It was only two years after the end of WW2 that Reginald Arthur Phillips was born on 17th April 1947 to Sydney and Lorna Phillips. Within a few years Reg was joined by two younger sisters, Janet and Helen.



Reg was educated at Murray Bridge Infant School, Murray Bridge Primary School and Murray Bridge High School, and later attended the Murray Bridge Technical College where he learned and excelled at welding.

He gained employment with Nicolai and Fisk Machinery Ltd in Murray Bridge which specialised in Massey Ferguson Tractors and other farm machinery, which suited Reg right down to the ground.

Reg became very popular with the surrounding farming community because of his ability to repair their machinery. He built his own dune buggy and that, with Glenda, his fiancée, and his keenness for fishing, were the three loves of his life.

His life changed when he was called up for National Service in 1967.

Reg did his Recruit Training at Puckapunyal in Victoria, Corps Training at Singleton in New South Wales, and was finally posted to 9 Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment in April of 1968. On 20th November of that year Reg arrived in South Vietnam with 9 RAR.

He remained with his Section during their operational training, and then deployed on Operation KING HIT from mid December to Christmas Eve 1968.

On New Year's Day 1969 9 RAR deployed to the Hat Dich region in the southern part of the Bien Hoa Province to counter the enemy build-up for the Tet Offensive.

During the afternoon of January 18 1969 "Reg's platoon" came into contact with a group of enemy and in the following fire fight Reg was severely wounded. Despite the supreme efforts of the Army surgeon, Reg died later that evening in the 1st Australian Field Hospital at Vung Tau.

Reg's Section 2IC Pte Geoff "Tubby" Shaw was wounded in the same contact while evacuating Reg, and another section member, Pte John Brewer, was also wounded.

I have spoken to Reg's loving family and, understandably, they still grieve for the boy who never came home.

Reg will never be forgotten by the community of Murray Bridge, as the RSL Function Room is now named after Reg and another Murray Bridge soldier who died in Vietnam, Pte Jeffry Rivett.

The room is proudly named the Phillips – Rivett Hall

Lest We Forget

Infantryman - April 2017 - 15

FISHY TALES

Contributed by Michael Mummery

On a recent charter, on the 16 December, with "Big Red Charters" out of Balgowan, Mick, his son-in-law Richard and John Schumann managed to get lucky. The total catch for the day was 9 large snapper (plus one that had to be returned as we had our bag limit) 56 rugger snapper and 27 King George whiting. A great day had by all and many thanks to Michael, the skipper and Paul the deckie who were a great help in finding and landing our catch.

From John's facebook page: "My first snapper ever - caught on a Big Red Fishing Charter about 35 kms off the coast of Balgowan on Yorke Peninsula - I'd been invited along by my mate, Mick Mummery, from the 9RAR family. Caught my second snapper ever a few minutes after this. Thanks to Mick and Paul from Big Red who put us over the right spot - and Paul who talked me through boating the first one once I'd hooked it. One of the great days."



Mick it looks like you've only got a little one!



9 RAR SA INDUCTEE

Some time ago Warren Featherby nominated Darren Renshaw, Veteran Liaison Officer at RGH to be inducted into 9 RAR SA and be the recipient of the traditional sweat rag.

Warren reports that "the BBQ breakfast at The Repat for the staff awards day went well. I think we fed in excess of 250 staff.

The workers were Mick Mummery, Lyn and Jim Fisher, John England, Keith Wright, Gene Costa, John Schumann, Barb and Warren Featherby.

We performed the induction in the SPF Hall, which was packed with staff members, Darren is a very worthy recipient."

And a p.s. from Lyn,

"I should also tell you that I had a 'complaint' from Gene Costa, who said that his apron strings were 'much shorter' than Warren's, because Warren could tie his apron in the front. Mick, Jim and JE all seemed to have the same problem!"

Darren is standing between Gene and Warren.



Don't quite know what Gene is doing (Lyn)



John and Lyn

ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY - CLARE

Contributed by Barb Featherby

A few days in Clare was enjoyed by some 9 RAR members from the 14 March. Those who attended were Pam and Terry McElligott, Lyn and Jim Fisher, Jenny and Mick Mummery, Elaine and Wayne Saunders, Helen and Rick Pomeroy and Warren and Barb Featherby.

Three couples stayed in their caravans and three couples hired cabins.

The weather was perfect and each evening we all gathered for drinks and nibbles and to have a chat.

As a group we all had an evening meal at The Sevenhills Hotel and lunch the next day at Paulett Winery. Both meals were very enjoyable.

Some of us went to visit Martindale Hall where 19 years ago Terry had hired the venue for his 50th Birthday. A very interesting visit with lots of history.

Some also went to the Monastery at Sevenhills and the Featherbys went to Bungaree Station on the way home and learnt about the history from the great-great-granddaughter of the original owner. On the property is a lovely small church where they still have weddings and christenings. The cemetery next to the church told a lot about the family.

Believe it or not some of the ladies managed to do some shopping in the main street.

A most enjoyable time was had by all.



Clare trip Jim, Lyn and Warren ready for return home

THE WAR GRAVES PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT (TWGPP) AND THE VIETNAM WAR DEAD

Jim Fisher and David and Jan Stacey have added to the collection by photographing more graves and referencing GPS points to assist with locating the sites.

Recent recordings are for some of those repatriated in 2016 from Terendak War Cemetery, Malaysia, and re-buried in ACT and

Victoria.

Canberra Cemetery, Woden, ACT

- Pte C Clark
- WO II TD Phillips

Ouyen Cemetery, Victoria

- Cpl FJ Smith

Photographed by Jim Fisher



Photographed by David Stacey

Corporal Smith is also commemorated on the War Memorial in Oke Street, Ouyen - just a short walk from the Mallee Bakery, once home of the famous vanilla slice!

To view the latest (spring) edition of TWGPP newsletter follow the link through twgpp.org. Project co-ordinator Steve Rogers advises that the current newsletter will always be available, along with previous editions, under the 'news' tab and via the Facebook page.

(Cpl Smith's headstone was in this condition when located.)

www.trove.nla.gov.au

Soldier dies in accident

A national serviceman was killed accidentally during operations against enemy forces in the Bien Hoa province of South Vietnam on Wednesday.

He was Private Grantley James Scales, 22, single, of Glandore, South Australia, a member of the 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

In six separate contacts with a local Vietcong unit in Phuoc Tuy province on Tuesday night, the 5th Battalion killed 12 enemy soldiers in an area four miles from the Australian Task Force Base at Nui Dat.

Canberra Times
Friday 7 March 1969, page 3

2 die in ambush in Phuoc Tuy

Two Australian soldiers were killed and another was wounded in action against the enemy in a bunker system in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam, on Saturday.

Those killed were:

Corporal Bruno Adam Josef Adamczyk, 22, married, of Smithfield Plains, South Australia.

Private Beresford Paul Edwards, 23, married, of St Marys, NSW.

Sergeant Desmond Stanley Cochrane, national serviceman, 24, single, of Virginia, Brisbane, received fragmentation wounds and was evacuated to the 1st Australian Field Hospital at Vung Tau, where he is reported to be in a very satisfactory condition.

All the men were from the 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

NUI DAT, South Vietnam, Sunday (AAP Special). — Two Australians were killed and one was wounded in a Vietcong ambush 15 miles north-west of here yesterday.

The Vietcong, estimated to be about 10 strong, fired on a platoon from the 9th Battalion, RAR, with rocket-propelled grenades and rifles. The Australians called in artillery and helicopter gunships but the Vietcong withdrew, apparently without loss.

NUI DAT, Sunday (AAP). — Vietcong in tunnels under a cornfield in the village of Dat Do, tossed a grenade today at a group of Australians searching the field and caused light casualties.

The Australians had just ripped away the covered entrance of a tunnel when about five Vietcong burst out of several other tunnels hidden in the corn. One of them lobbed a grenade at the Australians.

A Vietnamese Government soldier with the Australians was wounded and one Vietcong was killed. Two rifles were found in the tunnels along with a quantity of documents.

Soldier wounded. Page 3.

Canberra Times Monday 14 July 1969, page 1

ARMY DOCTOR IS FROM VICTOR HARBOUR



Victor Harbour Times,
Friday 7 February 1969

The regimental medical officer of the 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, Captain Bruce Perks, of Victor Harbour, checks soldiers' medical documents at fire support base "Diggers Rest", the forward operational base for the battalion. The battalion is engaged in Operation "Goodwood", a reconnaissance in force about 20 miles north-west of the 1st Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat in South Vietnam's Phuoc Tuy Province.

Capt. Perks is the son of Mrs. C. E. Perks, of Victor Harbour, and the late Mr. L. C. Perks.

In the jungle



Private "Tex" Bruce, of South Australia, holds the shaving mirror for Private Laurie Smillie, of Queensland. Private Ken Thomas, of NSW, left, keeps watch while the others take the opportunity to scrub up during a 9th Battalion operation in Vietnam.

Canberra Times
Wednesday

12 November 1969,
page 29

THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

- THE FLANDERS MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Flanders Memorial Garden, was opened to the public on Tuesday 4 April.

This garden contains sacred soil taken from the battlefields of Flanders, Belgium, in which lie the remains of more than 13,000 Australians. Half have no known grave. It rests here with soil collected by the RSL from significant military heritage sites in each Australian state and territory. The site also served as a centre for military recruitment.

The garden features plantings of seasonal blooms of poppies, cornflower and daffodils,

being traditional floral symbols of commemoration in Europe. A centenary gift from the people of Flanders, this memorial garden commemorates all of those Australians who lost their lives fighting in Flanders in the First World War.

source: awm.gov.au

See Australia War Memorial videos on YouTube (www.youtube.com/user/AustralianWarMemorial).

also Australian War Memorial flickr.com site.



The Flanders Memorial Garden (AWM Flickr)

Watching this ceremony live from the Australian War Memorial brought back memories of the 9 RAR SA 2007 trip to the Western Front under the watchful eye of Warren Featherby. Places such as Tyne Cot, Polygon Wood, Ypres, Menin Gate, Fromelles and Villers-Bretonneux will hold significant memories in our hearts forever. Ed.

- LAST POST CEREMONY AND CALENDAR

(AWM/What's on/Last Post Ceremony/The calendar)

The Last Post Ceremony commences at 1655 AEST and is broadcast live daily via webcam on

the Memorial's website, also on the AWM Facebook page. The calendar is worth checking if planning a visit to the AWM.

- ROLL OF HONOUR NAME PROJECTION

During the Centenary period, the name of each of the 62,000 Australians who gave their lives during the First World War will be projected onto the façade of the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial. The names will be displayed from sunset to sunrise every night, and can be seen from the Memorial's grounds. Each name will be visible for 30 seconds.

This special commemoration runs from 4 August 2014 until 11 November 2018. During

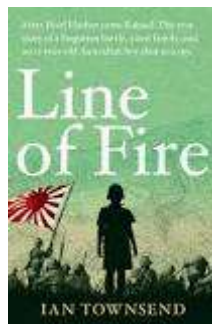
this period, the entire set of 62,000 names will be displayed about 30 times.

[Search the Roll of Honour to](#) help you find out when a particular person's name will be projected. This site provides the estimated date and time at which the name will be displayed. The information will be updated during the Centenary period.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF:

Line of fire by Ian Townsend.

The little known and intriguing WWII story of an eleven-year-old Australian schoolboy who was shot by the Japanese in Rabaul in 1942 as a suspected spy - a compelling story of spies, volcanoes, history and war.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January Commemorative Services 5 th , 7 th , 18 th , 19 th , 20 th As per Honour Roll	February Meeting First Thursday Commemorative Service 14 th (L Cpl P A Chant) Hat Dich Service 19 th	March Commemorative Service 5 th (Pte G J Scales) Country Retreat (R&R)
April Meeting First Thursday ANZAC Day 25 th	May	June Meeting First Thursday
July Commemorative Services 6 th & 12 th	August Meeting First Thursday Vietnam Veteran's Day 18 th Long Tan Day 18 th	September
October Meeting First Thursday	November Adelaide Reunion 12 th - 15 th	December AGM & Lunch TBA

HONOUR ROLL

L Cpl R J Abraham	6 Jul Whyalla	Cpl A W Graham	7 Jan Stirling North
Cpl B A J Adamczyk	12 Jul Centennial Park	Cpl H R Musicka	19 Jan Centennial Park
L Cpl P A Chant	14 Feb Centennial Park	Pte R A Phillips	18 Jan Murray Bridge
Sgt J R Cock	19 Jan Centennial Park	Pte B J Plane	20 Jan Ardrossan
Sgt J M Duroux	5 Jan Centennial Park	Pte G J Scales	5 Mar Centennial Park

CONTACT DETAILS

PATRON



Brig. Laurie Lewis AM (Retd.)
8332 4288
ljdel@internode.on.net

PRESIDENT



David Stacey
8536 4656 0447 373 130
stacey35@bigpond.net.au

VICE PRESIDENT & FUND RAISING OFFICER



Michael Mummery OAM
0428 387 670
Michael_mummery1945@dodo.com.au

VICE PRESIDENT



Gene Costa
0425 151 135
gene.costa1@gmail.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER & MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Bob Plummer
8555 2526 0403 996 093
9rarsa@gmail.com

CEREMONIAL OFFICER



Adrian Craig
8263 4784
as.craig9rar@bigpond.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER



Warren Featherby OAM
8443 3434 0412 462 143
featherby41@bigpond.com

WELFARE OFFICER



Lyn Fisher
8371 3090 0438 713 090
fishernine@gmail.com

NINE NEWS EDITOR



Jan Stacey
8536 4656 0447 373 130
stacey35@bigpond.net.au

CUSTODIAN OF THE BANNER & NOK FLAGS



Jim Fisher
8371 3090 0438 713 032
fishernine@gmail.com

COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES

A: Brendan Crowley
B: David Stacey
C: Michael Mummery
D: Michelle Matthews
SUPPORT: Leo Macpanas
ADMIN: Jim Fisher

LIAISON OFFICERS

RAR: Adrian Craig
REPAT: Warren Featherby
RSL: Michael Mummery
TPI: Leon Ed