



Nine

August 2013

News

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What an honour it was to lead the Battalion on **Anzac Day** and have willing volunteers to carry the NOK flags. I estimate that more than 50 marched with the 9 RAR group under the watchful eye of Bob Plummer. The Jerningham Room at the Old Lion Hotel was completely filled by members and their families. As usual, Michael Mummery managed to add to the fundraising cash-flow. Special thanks to those who travelled some distance to be there from country SA and Denis Way from Hong Kong. Thanks to Tony Hudson for taking on Jim's duties as keeper of the flags for the day.

The Vietnamese Veterans' Association and the Friends of Vietnamese Invalid Veterans Association, SA, service of commemoration held at the **Vietnam War Memorial**, Adelaide on 28/4/2013 was a memorable tribute to the 58 men who enlisted in South Australia and who made the supreme sacrifice. A commemorative plaque, medallion and flowers were presented to the NOK. 9 RAR NOK present were families of Pte Reg Philips, L/Cpl Rick Abraham, Pte Bruce Plane and Cpl Bruno Adamczyk. Thanks to Warren Featherby for delivering the presentation to those 9 RAR NOK not able to attend.

The **Riverland trip to Berri** in May was well attended by 19 veterans, partners and one very special mother, Betty Plummer. Thanks to Marg Colby for hosting pre-dinner drinks on both evenings, also Roger Nettle, Trevor Richardson and Dennis Coats for hosting our visits to the Vietnam memorial, Gates of Honour and Honour Rolls at the Berri oval, also the Nui Dat Room in the Berri RSL. Our

visit to the Berri Farmers' Market and dinner at the Berri Golf Club and Community Hotel were times of good friendship.

The **annual services for our war dead** continued this year - see report in newsletter on the July commemorations. I thank those who have been so loyal to this idea and regularly travel considerable distances to take part. A reminder that next year will be the 45th anniversary of the loss of our young men.

Vietnam Veterans' Day activities will be held at the Vietnam War Memorial and Torrens Parade Ground on Sunday 18th August. I urge all to attend as we support D Company 6 Battalion.

The 9 RAR family is a unique support and encouragement to our own families, and is very much admired. If you have the opportunity to share this bond with others, make the time to chat with returning veterans and their families. In the footsteps of their forebears, as the troops withdraw from Afghanistan and they face the NOK as well as their own traumas, many ask whether they succeeded or failed in their mission. Was the loss of life by military and civilians worth it, and will democracy prevail?

A number of our members supported the Welcome Home Parade for **7 RAR** and I thank them for standing alongside of the young men and women of the Defence Forces and their families.

David Stacey



ANZAC DAY MARCH 2013



Michelle, Helen & Jackie



Peter Varrichio



Leon Eddy, "Tex" Bruce & "Blue" Dixon



Johannes van der Heide & Feathers



Paul Berk & Jeff Howe



John England, Eric Schmidt, & Warwick Archer

Bugger –
forgot my
hat

That's right turn away
after what you said about
my car.



"Blue" & Jo Dixon



Geoff Boettcher
& David Stacey



Mick Franklin & family



Charlie & Frances Seychelles



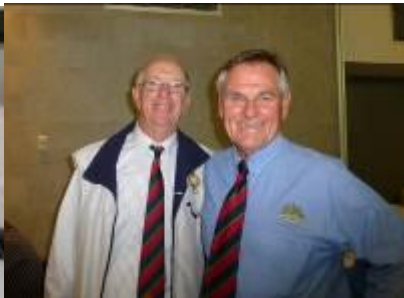
Simon Kelly &
Mick Mummery



Denis Way & Gene Costa



Jeanette & Barry Whitehead,
with Ted Flanagan



David Stacey &
Warwick Archer



Barb greeting Senate Candidate
James Stacey, Son of David & Jan



Deborah Mummery



Terry McElligott



Judy & Keith Wright



Peter Abraham (NOK)
Peter Cliff aka "Noddy"
Ian Herron aka "Fish"
Lyll Clayton (7 RAR)

What's missing in this picture?
No not Fish's tie, Noddy's glass.

CUMMINS MEMORIAL AND GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE - Wendy & Geoff Holman

Cummins Yeelanna RSL had their new war Memorial and Garden of Remembrance 90% completed at this year's ANZAC day. After 7 years of planning, the vision came to reality, and 650 people (200 more than 2012) attended our Dawn Service.

Extensive paved areas, new garden beds, two new trees and seats with shelter replaced pine trees planted in memory of fallen soldiers from WWI and WWII. Six trees, which were unsightly and causing damage to the road nearby, were removed to develop the new area.

The white marble statue of a life size WW II New Guinea digger in battle gear, that will top the two metre high black granite plinth, was still waiting completion. The statue is expected to be in place later this year, and a

dedication will be held ANZAC Day 2014.

The \$130,000 project was funded by donations of \$55,000 (Cummins & District Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank), \$25,000 (District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula), and \$10,000 (Cummins Community Hotel). Generous public support funded the rest (apart from \$4,000 from State government and \$4,000 from Federal government).

Our RSL of 8 regular members has been humbled by the wonderful support and help from our district, and the positive appreciation of the new War Memorial in Cummins.

Geoff Holman: President, Cummins Yeelanna RSL since 1992 (and probably the duration!)

Local members of Cummins Yeelanna RSL with visiting ex servicemen in front of the new War Memorial in Cummins following the ANZAC Day service in 2013.



Memorial area with James Holman officiating at the flag

CAN YOU HELP?

Geoff Holman would like to make contact with 44673 Pte William Williams, born 23/11/1943, Dundee, Scotland. Bill was in close proximity to Geoff when he - Bill - was WIA (mine explosion) on 10/5/1969, during Operation Reynella.

Responses to Ed. please.

ORATION IN REMEMBRANCE OF FALLEN SOLDIERS

Translators: Tran My-Van and Phan Van Hung
(Vietnamese Veterans Association Service of commemoration, 28/4/2013)

ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND ALLIED FORCES

YOU... are the soldier of the Republic of Vietnam
The cherished son of our nation
The quintessence of our land, it's you.
Your spirit blazing in our history books
Is the very spirit of our valiant ancestors,
You have fallen when answering our nation's call
And you have offered yourself
On the altar of immortality.

YOU... are the soldier of the Allied Forces
You have responded to the call of our friendship

To cement the bond that ties our nations.
You have shared our joy and sorrow
Moments in life and moments in death
And now on this sacred Memorial
You're still walking by our side as always.

WE ALL... are gathered here
To remember your supreme sacrifice
If YOU happen to be here in spirit
Please accept this as our vow
Of profound respect and eternal gratitude.

Mark & Helen Galpin



Janice Colliver (Plane family)



Laurie Lewis



Tributes



The Oration



Peter Abraham



Adamczyk family

ANZAC DAY ON THE GHAN

Lyn & Jim Fisher

ANZAC Day this year saw us on the Ghan ANZAC Special from Darwin to Adelaide. We had decided to try-out the trip as a chance to have a different ANZAC experience.

We arrived in Darwin on 23rd April, and were met by 9RAR's Gordon and Marilyn Harvey. It was great to see their smiling faces again. That evening we had dinner with the Harveys, and John and Jeanette Anictomatis, so it was a relaxed evening with good friends. They all send regards to their 9RAR friends.

Our train left Darwin on ANZAC eve at about 10am, and we arrived at Adelaide River a little after 11am. We were helped off the train by a group of Nitmiluk aboriginal folk. There is no platform at Adelaide River, and the de-training was an interesting experience. Coaches took us the short distance to the cemetery.

We had time to wander around the beautifully kept cemetery, which was being prepared for the service the next day. The civilian cemetery was adjacent, and I found the graves of the three telephonists who were killed in the first bombing raid. Their names were very familiar to me, because there was a brass plaque with these names in the telephonists' quarters in the old Main Trunk Exchange, Adelaide. There were always fresh flowers placed in the vase underneath, even during my time there through the sixties.

Back on the train, and lunch on the way to Katherine.

We were bussed to the Gorge for cultural experiences or a cruise, and then taken back to the train. That evening, buses again to the Gorge for a 3-course dinner, prepared and served by the Nitmiluk people. What fabulous and friendly folk. The train stayed overnight in Katherine.

Early ANZAC morning we were taken to the Dawn Service and returned for a marquee breakfast at the railway station, and later again went into town for the March. Lots and lots of blue uniforms - and young families. The March was led by the fit young RAAF members - a quick march - too quick for some of our veterans. But we did get 3 jets low overhead down the main street!

Back to the train and southward to Alice Springs. More tours around the town, and up to ANZAC Hill.

When we reached Pt Augusta, we were taken on an old steam train along the original troop train route to Quorn. Noisy, rattly but fun. We were met at Quorn by some coaches to take us back to Pt Augusta for the last leg home.

We had an historian from the Darwin War Memorial who was available to talk to us. There were a couple of entertainers who could have been left at home, (no, we were not lucky enough to have John Schumann - he was on last year's train) but we made our own fun, chatted with our fellow passengers and generally had a relaxing time. Les Walker and Ian and Di Grandison, ex-9RAR, were also on board. We also spoke with an old veteran, ex-navy, over 90 and travelling on his own, who was in Darwin during the bombings. He had some amazing stories to tell.

The train travel was wonderful. Meals were top-notch, alcohol was included (!) and the staff ever-helpful and obliging.



Adelaide River with Les and Ian

Serious topics on the ANZAC Special train, with Bob, Les and Jim



50TH INFANTRY BATTALION AIF MEMORIAL DEDICATION SERVICE 13 AUGUST 2013



The 50th Infantry Battalion AIF was raised in Egypt on 26 February 1916 as part of the “doubling” of the AIF. Approximately half of its numbers were veterans from the 10th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 10th, the 50th was predominantly composed of men from South Australia. The Battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division and was dubbed “Hurcombe’s Hungry Half Hundred”, after its first CO, Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Hurcombe.

After arriving in France on 11 June 1916, the 50th fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm between 13 and 15 August and suffered heavily. For his actions at Noreuil on 2 April 1917 Private Joergen Jensen was awarded the Victoria Cross. On ANZAC Day 1918 the 50th participated in the now-legendary attack to dislodge the enemy from Villers-Bretonneux.

During World War 1 the 50th suffered the casualties of 720 killed and 1,557 wounded.

On Tuesday 13 August 2013 a memorial will be dedicated to the 50th Infantry Battalion AIF on the Pathway of Honour, Adelaide. The dedication service will be organized by 3 RAR SA Assoc. Inc. in conjunction the 10th Battalion AIF Assoc.

The service will commence at 11.00 am and the Lieutenant Governor, His Excellency Mr Hieu Van Le AO acting as The Governor’s Deputy of South Australia will unveil the memorial. A light lunch in the Torrens Training Depot drill hall will follow the service.

Car parking will be available on the Parade Ground and The Pathway of Honour can be accessed via walking paths from both the western (King William Road) and eastern (Kintore Avenue) ends. Ex-service men and women are requested to wear decorations and medals and relatives of members of the 50th are requested to wear their loved one’s decorations and medals on the right breast.

The contact for the service is Adrian Craig; tel 8263 4784 and as.craig9rar@bigpond.com

COMMENT ON MILITARY HISTORY

As high profile preparations are made for the Gallipoli Centenary commemorations and 1914-1918 events, some wise words to bear in mind:

A quote from author Paul Ham referring to William Nagle's book *The Odd Angry Shot* - "let this book again be a warning to all those newly minted warmongers, Anzac Day zealots, hero-hunting journalists and populist storytellers posing as historians, who seem to have forgotten what war is and does. The fallen deserve to be commemorated - but we must first *remember* them and what actually happens in a war. Lest we forget."

Weekend Australian Review, 16/3/2013



AIF Memorial, Mouquet Farm

LAST POST CEREMONY AT THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA

At the end of each day, commencing at 4.55 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post ceremony. The ceremony begins with the singing of the Australian National Anthem, followed by the poignant strains of a Lament, played by a piper. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. The Roll of Honour in the Cloisters lists the names of more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in war and other operations over more than a century. At each ceremony the story behind one of these names will be told. The Ode is then recited, and the ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

On the first and third Wednesday of each month the Last Post ceremony includes the presence of Australia's Federation Guard. At 4.00 pm a catafalque party mounts a vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier in the Hall of Memory. There is a change of guard at 4.30 pm, and the entire catafalque party then participates in the Last Post ceremony.

How can I find out whose stories are being told?

Name

Captain Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage

Conflict

First World War

Last Post ceremony date

9/7/2013



B Coy
1992 Reunion,
Canberra

The best of the best?

The Last Post ceremony calendar lists the names of those whose stories will be presented each day. (see below)

How can I commemorate a particular person?

Whilst the memorial understands that personal requests to commemorate particular individuals carry great significance, it may not be possible at this time to meet such requests. However, the Memorial encourages visitors to participate in the ceremony by laying a wreath, regardless of the story being presented on that day. Commemorative cards on wreaths and floral tributes will be catalogued and archived by the Memorial, and kept in perpetuity. Should you wish to lay a wreath or floral tribute on your next visit, please approach Memorial staff before 4.45 AEST pm.

Who can I contact for more information?

Requests for further information relating to the Last Post ceremony can be directed to lastpostceremony@awm.gov.au

An example:

MEMORIAL FOR IRISH-BORN WHO DIED DURING VIETNAM WAR PLANNED FOR IRELAND

Ennis memorial seeks to remember and honor 29 Irish-born who fought and died

By MICHELLE K SMITH, Irish Central Staff Writer 4/6/2013

Vietnam vets Matthew Carroll and Brian McDonnell are leading a project to build a Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ennis. It has been their dream to see a memorial erected so that 29 Irish veterans who died will be remembered. (Names at end of article)

The Ennis Town Council agreed to the project in December of 2012 and said, "The proposed memorial is dedicated to those Irish who served and lost their lives during military service in Southeast Asia and is not a war memorial. It is not a judgment on the rights and wrongs of war but is a focus on creating a space for reflection for families of Irish men and women who served in allied military service in Southeast Asia."

The Vietnam Veteran Memorial aims to remember and honor veterans. More than 2,500 Irish-born served in Southeast Asia. Some of them joined to fight against Communism and protect freedoms. Others were drafted after they had obtained a green card for employment purposes. Many of them served with Americans and some with Australians. Twenty-nine died during their service. Ireland was neutral during the war and in Ireland, the Vietnam War was unpopular. There were protests in the Dail and pickets at the U.S. Embassy.

The Ennis Town Council has set aside some area in a wood grove by the town concert hall to serve as a space for the project. Carroll hopes that Irish craftsmen will use native materials for the memorial. They expect the memorial to be completed by November 2014 and they are determined to overcome any obstacles. McDonnell said, "For them to be remembered, that's a proper thing."

To learn more about the memorial visit www.theirishvietnamveteransmemorialproject.org.

MEET THE 29

These young Irish men and women served in the United States and the Australian as well as with Air America and the Canadian Military assigned to UN peace keeping operations and United States Agency for International Development. Twenty-one were US servicemen, one was a US servicewoman, four were Australian servicemen, one was with USAID, one was with Air America, and one was a Canadian serviceman. We see memorials for these individuals in America, Australia, but to honor these individuals in their home of Ireland, the Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project strives to remember these individuals by working towards a memorial.

Of the 29, 4 died in Vietnam while serving with Australian forces, namely

219663 Tpr David G. Doyle,
3 Cavalry Regiment, accidentally killed
31/7/1970. Buried Belmont Cemetery, NSW

39565 Pte George Nagle,
9 RAR, KIA 6/1/1969. Buried
Clonmel Cemetery, Tipperary, Ireland

38129 Sgt Robert Fleming,
1 Aust. Rft Unit, died of illness.
Rookwood Crematorium, NSW

18161 Sgt Thomas Birnie,
2 RAR, DOW 25/3/1971.
Woongara Crematorium, Queensland.

PETER CHANT, FIGHTING FOOTBALLER –
DIARY of a RESURRECTION
by Denis Way

44 years is half a lifetime. When the league football club you played for remains unaware you're dead for that long, it's the cusp of eternity. The number 44 to the southern Chinese, based on Cantonese phonetics, means 'double death.' A wise head once reflected that we all die twice: once when we draw our last breath, a second and final time when those who survive us cease to mention our name. That's what happened to one of our 9RAR mates, one of the WTRW three who fell in Vietnam – Peter Chant.

Peter won selection for just under a dozen games with the Port Adelaide Magpies SANFL seniors across two seasons: 1961 (when they were minor premiers but lost their two finals) and 1962, the year they won another premiership. To get among that company and pull on those unique, emotive black and white prison bars, even for half a game, Peter needed to be damn good. And he was. A little bloke, he played as second rover resting in the forward pocket. That's where he was doing his stuff when I first saw him, watching from right over the pickets at Alberton, or at the Parade, or wherever the Maggies were playing. I was being otherwise educated in those days at Norwood High School, bastion of the enemy.

Peter played with some undisputed kings of football: Geoff Motley and Trevor Obst (both

Magarey Medal winners), John Abley (three times All-Australian), John Cahill (legend and legendary coach at both SANFL and AFL level), Graham Cooper, Ron Elleway, Ian Hannaford, Neville Hayes, Rex Johns, Brian Luke, Peter Obst, Jeff Potter, Steve Traynor, Ted Whelan, every one of them top class and worthy of pulling on a South Australian guernsey against the Big V for some of the greatest state games ever seen on the Adelaide Oval or the MCG.

Kipling wrote about walking with kings and taking care not to lose the common touch. Peter Chant played his football with royalty – was coached in 1962 by an absolute monarch called Fos Williams – and held on to his touch, both common and with a footy in hand. He was a little champ, a champion club man. How, then, could his mentors at Port Adelaide, his very team-mates and his entire *club* not have been informed, by somebody, *anybody*, that he'd died serving his country... for forty-four years?

I guess I decided that was long enough. It was time to do something about it. I was just as guilty, after all, as every other silent 'somebody.' Now, looking back, I can't believe that what I did – meek, mild and mucking about in Hong Kong as I've been ever since R&R May 1969 – achieved such a wonderful, such a just, result.

For the full story go to www.cpbsa.com.au/9RAR.htm



Magpie marks
Peter Chant soared with legends, such as Brian Luke, pictured chesting a mark at altitude, along with fellow team-mate, Peter Obst, clasping a classic overhead. As we know, Peter then chose the "Call of Country" and distinguished himself with honour on the supreme field of battle.



Left to right:

Back row
Brian Luke, Bob Philp,
Don Hannaford.

2nd back row:
John McBain, Steve
Traynor, Ted Whelan,
Graham Eime.

Middle row:
Graham Cooper,
John Abley, Peter Obst,
Kev Salmon, John Cahill.

2nd front row:
Bob Fabian, Trevor 'Bubbles'
Obst, Neville 'Chicken' Hayes,
Bill Huddleston, Ken Tierney,
Don Thompson.

Front row:
C.A. Darwent (PAFC Chairman),
Rex Johns, Geoff Motley,
F.B. Harvey (PAFC President),
Ian Hannaford, Jeff Potter, Big
Bob McLean (PAFC Secretary)



Port Magpies 1961

Pride of place:
Peter Chant

Recruit training

Peter Chant, (centre)
circa 1967 with
unidentified mates.
Judging by the
webbing and gaiters
over the boots, a
good guess it's recruit
training rather than
Corp training.



Operation Goodwood

Possibly the last photo of Peter Chant, taken in the Charlie Company lines in February, 1969, about to redeploy on Operation Goodwood (after a brief two-day company rotation R & C in Vung Tau) where he would lose his life on an assault on an enemy bunker system on St Valentine's Day, February 14. For 9 RAR, Operation Goodwood lasted 48 days, from January 1 to February 17, 1969, and 14 of the battalion's finest paid the supreme sacrifice during those terrible days.



Peter Chant's Flag

A special and prophetic moment in time captured on ANZAC Day in Adelaide 2013 as Denis Way proudly carries Peter Chant's flag beside the nine others representing the 10 of 9 RAR's 35 fallen interred in SA. Prophetic in the sense that, subtly, in the background is the street sign, "War Memorial Drive", Creswell (Gardens) and, through the trees, the finishing work on Adelaide Oval, which will be the new home base of the Port Adelaide Football Club and a ground where Peter Chant played many a game during his career at the elite SANFL level.



'Cher', the 1947 Buick – Mateship & Remembering

ANZAC Day Adelaide 2013, The Old Lion Hotel, North Adelaide, where, for well past a decade, we have joined together with our immediate families and friends, the young and the old, and under the one embracing umbrella of the 9 RAR Family have commemorated and remembered, not only ours but all those who went before.

The day, however, is not without levity, such is the irreverent Aussie humour inherited from the spirit of our ANZACs.

In a previous issue of "Nine News" you would have seen that Warwick Archer has "donated" his magnificently restored 1947 straight-eight Buick as the official 9 RAR Staff Car for formal occasions (**dedication of which is pictured outside the *Lion* on ANZAC Day – no names, no "pack drill", but is that Colonel Sanders looking over the shoulder of the "Boss" displaying the 9 RAR "ensign"?)**)

Pictured from left, rounding to the right are some of the WTFRW tribe on the day – Warwick Archer, Mick Franklin, Gene Costa, Denis Way, Les Maynard, Kev Stojko, Mick "The Bushman" Markham, Wayne "Yabbie" Manser, Dick Pomeroy, John England, **Eric Schmidt**, Terry McElligott, Mick Mummery and the "Chief", Laurie Lewis. Another poignant football connection to the Peter Chant story is that of Eric Schmidt and his elder brother Bob. Eric was wounded in the same contact that claimed Peter and Eric was flown out on the same "dustoff" with Peter. When Peter was playing for the Port Magpies in 1961-62, Bob Schmidt was turning out on the half-back flank for South Adelaide (the Panthers). Bob Schmidt played under Neil Kerley in 1964, the year the Panthers in the SANFL Grand Final downed virtually the same Magpies outfit that Peter played for. Soon after, the younger Eric Schmidt, was playing for the Panthers in the SANFL seniors, on a half-back flank, the same as his brother.

Footnote: Rumour has it that the son of our much beloved patriarch and matriarch of our battalion, our current Chief of Army, Lt Gen David Morrison, has indicated his wish to attend the 45th anniversary of our Hat Dich commemoration next year, circumstances permitting. How good would it be if we could get the son of Alby to roll up in "Cher", with Alby's Tac No. "63". Lots of time to work on protocol.

For the origin of the nickname 'Cher' you will have to read Denis' complete diary at www.cpbsa.com.au/9RAR.htm

NORTH WEST TO THE COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE FOR L/CPL RJ ABRAHAM, WHYALLA

In the early morning David thought he heard the unforgettable words bellowed by NCO's "hands off *****, on with jocks". Where was he? Life seemed to be rushing by and he was no longer 20 years old. He was too comfortable to respond to the alarm. Then through his slumbers, Jim's voice, "it's 5 o'clock we'll be leaving for Whyalla soon". He remembered.....he was staying at Lyn & Jim's to save 1 hour's driving, and the boys would soon be on their way to 9 RAR SA's annual commemorative service for L/Cpl Rick Abraham at Whyalla, almost 400 km away.

4719565 Lance Corporal Richard John Abraham, born in Whyalla on 1st November, 1946, a National Serviceman, was KIA in South Vietnam on 6th July, 1969. He was a member of 10 Platoon D Company 9 RAR and was killed by the enemy during withdrawal from a night ambush position during Operation Matthew.

Most of the small group had an early morning start as they headed out of Adelaide and their much anticipated first coffee stop at Port Wakefield. David & Jim drove on to the Tin Man servo, Port Pirie, thinking they should have the problems of the world sorted by the time they arrived in Whyalla. They wondered what on earth attracted people such as Jan's ancestors to the inhospitable area around Port Gawler where her great-grandmother was born in 1852.

The Hyundai i30 kept a good tempo and the familiar sound of the diesel engine had David reminiscing about the various tractors he had on the farm - especially the one that his parents endowed him with when he was discharged from the army. (Tom and Jessie were then 66 and 67 respectively and had battled on dairy farming with indifferent health and energy while David completed his compulsory National Service.)

Adelaide was soon a distant memory and passing near Port Germein David spoke about his cousin Tony who had semi-retired there. Tony's twin brother Bruce, a

businessman in the Solomon Islands for many years, recently took a government funded trip overseas and was privileged to have a brief audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which concluded with a tap on the shoulder by a sword and the parting words "arise Sir Bruce" (or similar!).

After about 3 hours on the road they followed the sign to Stirling North Cemetery where another of the 9 RAR War Dead, Cpl A.W. 'Midge' Graham, is buried. Jim and David spoke about Warren and Mick who initiated these most successful annual graveside services some years ago, and how much everybody appreciates Haydn Madigan paying his respects at Midge's grave while a larger group gather at the Garden of Remembrance in Adelaide - without fail on one of South Australia's hottest summer days, usually 40+ degrees.

With GPS set for the Whyalla Cemetery, they joined the group at the graveside. Representatives from the Abraham family, Plane NOK family, 9 RAR SA, and 10 PI D Coy paid a fitting and moving tribute to the late L/Cpl Abraham. Comradeship and memories were shared over lunch and dinner at the Sundowner Hotel.

The strength and support given by and to the NOK is a tribute to the leadership and guidance of the late "Alby" Morrison. This was reinforced the day after Ric Abraham's service by the words of Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO, Chief of Australian Army, in conversation with Ellen Fanning on SBS's "The Observer Effect" on 7th July - Courage, Initiative, Respect and Teamwork.

Never ones to go over the same route unless there's no other way, Jim and David left the retail therapists and late risers to it and headed home via Horrocks Pass, Wirrabara (where they paused at the grave of Jim's old schoolmate L/Cpl Richard Woolford 2 Bn, KIA Vietnam 1/8/1967), Jim's family home at Stone Hut (some stories from this community sounded straight out of a Tim Winton novel!),

Laura and Clare. The non-verbal GPS guided them on all the back roads to Mintaro where they stopped at the grave of L/Cpl Roger Fisher, 3 Bn, KIA Vietnam 26/4/1968. The grave was still adorned with flowers from the commemorative service held in April.

Safely back at home, David kept up with the scores from Wimbledon and watched the strength and courage of riders in The Tour de France while reflecting on the tweet from Cadel Evan's wife:

If you want to arrive first, walk by yourself.

If you want to go far, walk together.

Chiara Passerini, #chiarathelifecoach 5/6/2013



Peter Abraham (centre) with family and 9 RAR supporters



Where is this RSL
Playground?

Probably built by Charlie
Coy but they forgot
where.

REST IN PEACE - BUT NOT FOREVER!

Submitted by Jan Stacey

If you have relatives buried or cremated in Centennial Park, you may have noticed blue expiry stickers on some of the graves. Be prepared to pay a substantial licence renewal fee if you wish to maintain the grave.

Recently I was contacted by a lady who discovered that the licence on the grave of her ex-serviceman father had expired, and to maintain the grave she would need to pay a fee of \$2,795.00.

Subsequent to this request I looked into the licence on the grave in the General Section of my grandmother's cousin and found that it had expired and *"the family may purchase a new licence on this site to maintain the existing interments and monumentation for \$3,350.00 up until the point at which the site is reclaimed"* (www.centennialpark.org).

This particular distant relative just happens to be an ex-serviceman with quite a story. L/Cpl

Charles Leslie Curnow served with 48th Bn AIF, suffered a gun-shot wound to the leg at Passchendaele (Ypres sector) and spent two days in no man's land, captured as a German POW and leg amputated (by the Germans), on release from POW hospitalised in London and married his nurse. Returned to Australia. He worked as a "limbless soldier", from memory a lift operator. He died in SA and was interred at Centennial Park on 20/12/1961. His only child was Deputy Principal Adelaide Girls High School and Principal Kidman Park High School. She lived out her retirement in UK and died there approximately 6 years ago.



It is significant that changes under legislation (The Burial and Cremation Bill 2012) recently announced by SA Attorney-General John Rau, will remove a 99 year limit on interment rights in public cemeteries, allowing perpetual interment rights.

Staff at Centennial Park have advised that if a new licence is not purchased the remains will be buried deeper in the same plot, headstones removed and the site re-used.

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR MILITARY HISTORY

www.1914.org (First World War Centenary 1914-1918)

www.ffaif.org.au (Friends of the 1st AIF)

www.thecasualtylist.com/casualtylist.html (source of information not stated but seems very helpful for research)

www.facebook.com/rsl.australia (RSL South Australia on facebook)

www.naa.gov.au (National Archives of Australia, service records)

www.twgpp.org (The War Graves Photographic Project)

www.cwgc.org (Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

www.vietnamroll.gov.au (nominal roll of those who served in Vietnam)

www.awm.gov.au (Australian War Memorial)

WAR GRAVES PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT RECEIVES ROYAL RECOGNITION

Submitted by Jan Stacey

An announcement from www.cwgc.org,
20/5/2013

"A volunteer group that has sourced and archived over 1.7 million photographs of war graves from around the world will be honoured by His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent at St. James' Palace on 23/5/2013.

The Duke, who is President of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, will present Steve Rogers, Co-ordinator of The War Graves Photographic Project, with a President's Commendation in recognition of the outstanding contribution to the work and aims of The Commission.

The Commission's Director General, Alan Pateman-Jones, said: "The Project provides a valuable service to families, scholars and researchers seeking to obtain a copy of the photograph of a grave or memorial - virtually anywhere in the world.

"This service has only been made possible through the efforts of a dedicated group of 900 volunteers, from all walks of life, who recognise the importance for families to see where their loved ones are laid to rest or commemorated. In recognition of this outstanding contribution to the work and aims of the Commission the Project is awarded the President's Commendation."

Steve Rogers from The War Graves Photographic Project said that it was an honour to accept this award on behalf of all the volunteers around the world who have contributed to the Project over the years. "What initially started out as a hobby has turned into an immense archive of over 1.76 million images which has only been achieved by the effort of many people who felt the need to become involved," he added."

See The War Graves Photographic Project newsletter, July, 2013 for Steve's report and copy of the award. twgpp.org

Jim Fisher, David and I are volunteers for TWGPP photographing graves of Vietnam War dead in Australia. We are proud to be part of this group and even more proud of this award to Steve and his team. Ed.

Steve & Sandra Rogers of
TWGPP with HRH The
Duke of Kent at St James
Palace, London



DESTINATIONS, NEAR AND FAR

We look forward to hearing travellers' tales from those who have had the opportunity to spend time away in Australia and overseas this year and hope that you have added many happy experiences and photos to your memory bank.

Thanks to Sue and Max Grund, and Pauline and Gene Costa, for locating two graves of Vietnam War dead in Queensland and WA.

Check with the "coat hanger climbers" Barb and Jenny about their Indian Pacific train trip to Broken Hill with Warren and Jeff, also Vicki and Bob Plummer, Marg and Paul Berk, and the Sigstons, about their long-haul flights to Europe.

We wish Warren, Barb and friends a safe and fulfilling trip to Vietnam.

"Turtle"
taken by Sue Grund



Bears a strong resemblance to someone – just can't put a name to the face.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL SEARCH FOR RELATIVES HOW TWITTER AND TECHNOLOGY HELPED TO FIND ONE RELATIVE

A tweet from @AW Memorial (Aust. War Memorial) at 4.31 p.m. 17/5/2013
We need your help to find descendants or

relatives of some First World War servicemen: <http://bit.ly/15RUV2v>.

"ANZAC Connections: Centenary digitisation project, Friday 17/5/2013 by Nick Crofts.

The Australian War Memorial is currently undertaking a project to create a comprehensive digital archive of the ANZACs and their deeds, and of the wider Australian experience of war. The collections selected for this project will reflect the experiences of Australian servicemen, nurses and civilians during the First World War, not just well-known personalities. This project will digitally preserve the Memorial's collections as well as provide full copies for research on the Memorial's website.

As part of this project the Memorial is seeking contact with relatives of the people listed below. If you have any information about these people, or their descendants, the Memorial would love to talk to you. Please

contact Nick Crofts via PubandDig@awm.gov.au.

One of the many names listed was that of
Captain Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage
Collection relating to the First World War service of Captain Harold Edwin Salisbury Armitage, 50 Battalion. This collection includes of three books containing copies of letters written by Armitage throughout the war, until his death in 1917. These books involve detailed accounts of his time training in Egypt, the Gallipoli landing, his thoughts on the conscription plebiscite in Australia and include a number of condolence messages sent to his family. The associated Roll of Honour Circular lists his next of kin as Mr H. J. Armitage of 'School House', Lyndoch, South Australia. Photo: Collection number: 1DRL/0053."

"How I found Captain Armitage's living relative." Ed.

Amongst other names, Captain H.E.S. Armitage was the only South Australian listed so late afternoon on Friday, 17th May I set about searching for any relative. Within three days I had a positive result and tweeted the AWM advising that I had located Captain Armitage's niece!

What a trail the research took me on. I found helpful information on web sites such as Genealogy SA (births, deaths and marriages), Alexandrina Council (statewide cemetery records), UniSA (teacher records), National Archives of Australia (service records), Trove (newspapers), TWGPP, CWGC, and RSL (SA memorials).

Unexpectedly, the path led me away from the Barossa Valley where Captain Armitage's NOK was living nearly 100 years ago, to Langhorne Creek Cemetery only 15 km. from our home. Here we found the grave of Captain Armitage's brother, John Henry Armitage and his wife Rhoda May. The headstone inscription gave no clue to children, only "in loving memory of our parents". Back to the computer and research showed Rhoda to be from a well-known local family with relatives still living in the district. After drawing up an Armitage family tree from my weekend's researching, a number of phone calls later I was checking whitepages.com.au and soon speaking to Captain Armitage's only living niece, in Port Augusta. The AWM has since been in touch with her.

Along the way I spoke to a Langhorne Creek CWA member who expressed concern about the condition of the local war memorial - some of the names are now difficult to read - so I suggested the CWA contact Veterans SA to apply for a grant to upgrade the monument. This same lady also mentioned in passing that her father served in the Boer War!

Most surprisingly, when we photographed the war memorial at Norwood where Captain Armitage is named (he is also on the Millicent and Houghton memorials), I also found my great-uncle's name inscribed there (which is in addition to the Norton Summit monument).

As a fitting conclusion, while writing this article on 6th July I found that Captain Armitage's name is being read out at the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, on 9th July! (see article elsewhere).

PILLBOXES (not the Bex variety)

Being totally unfamiliar with pillboxes, in 2007 on the 9 RAR trip to Gallipoli and the Western Front, Warren made sure that I walked around and on many and took photographs too numerous to mention.

Therefore, when recently watching an SBS programme "Canal Walks with Julia Bradbury" I was most interested to learn that

in UK members of the Home Guard built pillboxes along the canals, and in fact in 1940 they totalled 18,000. Canals were the last line of defence and 6,000 remain today.

Some canals and pillboxes have been restored including the spectacular Caen Hill Locks which are a flight of locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal, Wiltshire.

Warren explaining pillbox construction and use near Hill 60, Ypres Salient, Belgium.



BELGIAN SCHOOLTEACHER AWARDED MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Early tomorrow morning a Belgian schoolteacher will be awarded one of Australia's highest honours. For almost two decades Johan Durnez has, free of charge, helped Australians track down the history of First World War diggers in Flanders. He says it's been his honour to see how Australia's young people in particular pay tribute to their forebears.

In recognition of his services, Australia's Governor-General Quentin Bryce will present Mr Durnez with the Medal of the Order of Australia. The ceremony will happen at Ypres, the town that commemorates fallen

Commonwealth soldiers every night of the year with the playing of the Last Post



This is an extract from Mary Gearin's report on 4/6/2013, heard on A.M. programme on 891.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE FOR CORPORAL B.A.J. ADAMCZYK, KIA 12/7/1969.

Heartfelt thanks to the good number of stalwart veterans and friends who made the effort to be there for Bruno's family at the annual graveside service on Friday, 12th July at Centennial Park. As the extended 'family' of Jackie, Michelle and their own families, 9 RAR SA consists of a fine group of people who regularly support the NOK. Following the short service that was conducted by Adrian, assisted by Bob, Jim, Keith and

David, many adjourned for lunch at the very busy Morphett Arms Hotel.

During the meal we decided that secretary Bob Plummer could certainly croon "what a difference a day makes"! Betty told us that Bob was born three minutes after midnight on 12/7/1947. As that birthdate was drawn in the ballot (see below), Bob was called up for National Service and "the rest is history".

Birthdates drawn in the sixth National Service ballot: 8/9/1967

Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1/7/1947 to 31/12/1947.

July 2, 12, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 29

August 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 19, 26, 27

September 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 23

October 13, 14, 16, 21, 25, 26, 31

November 6, 17, 18

December 4, 10, 15, 22, 24, 25

http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/viet_app/



Flag Marshall Jim Fisher, MC Adrian Craig



Tony Hudson & Bob Plummer



Betty Plummer, Jenny & Jeff Howe

COLDSTREAM GUARD LAID TO REST AFTER 200 YEARS

On Saturday, the nation will watch the Coldstream Guards take part in Trooping the Colour, in honour of the Queen's official birthday. But this week, the regiment also laid to rest a mystery which it has spent several months trying to resolve as it finally re-buried one of its soldiers whose remains were discovered in the Netherlands in 2011.

At the Guards Chapel, the chaplain to the Household Division, was joined by veterans of the Coldstream Guards as they took part in a solemn but unusual ceremony. In the garden of remembrance, they laid to rest the ashes of a soldier whose body had lain buried for more than 200 years beneath the sand dunes of a Dutch beach, before they were disturbed and revealed.

A team of Dutch archaeologists identified the remains as those of a British soldier. They pinned down his regiment by his musket and pewter buttons, whose star and cross were unmistakably those of the Coldstream Guards. Several thousand British soldiers landed in the Netherlands in August 1799 as

part of a force trying to restore the House of Orange to the Dutch throne and counter French influence in Europe.

Dutch archaeologist Esther Poulus narrowed the soldier's identity down to one of six Coldstream Guards known to have died on the first day of the campaign and got in touch with the regiment to alert them to his existence.

In a ceremony in the Netherlands, Capt Oliver Morley of the Coldstream Guards was entrusted with the remains in a child-sized coffin by the Dutch authorities and transported them back to the UK where they were cremated. The burial service was organised by the regimental secretary, Col Simon Vandeleur.

Although the soldier's exact identity may remain a mystery, his ashes were finally buried in the consecrated earth of home to the sounds of the Last Post in the presence of his regimental comrades - more than 200 years after his death.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk> by Caroline Wyatt, BBC news UK. 14/6/2013

WEEKEND GETAWAY

The **Riverland trip to Berri** in May was well attended by 19 veterans, partners and one very special mother, Betty Plummer. Thanks to Marg Colby for hosting pre-dinner drinks on both evenings, also Roger Nettle, Trevor Richardson and Dennis Coats for hosting our

visits to the Vietnam memorial, Gates of Honour and Honour Rolls at the Berri oval, also the Nui Dat Room in the Berri RSL. Our visit to the Berri Farmers' Market and dinner at the Berri Golf Club and Community Hotel were times of good friendship.

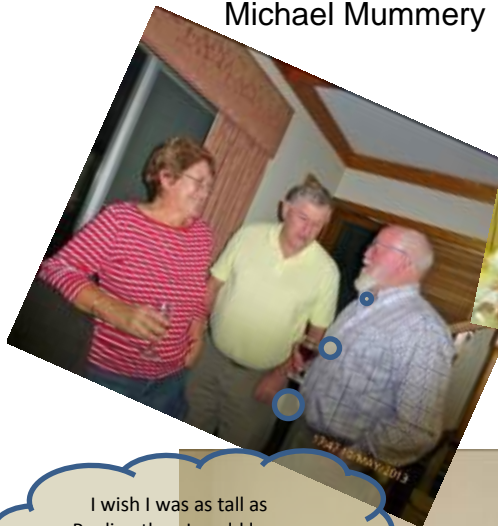
WW1 memorial gates, Berri oval



Vietnam and post WWII memorial, Berri



Pauline Costa, Les Maynard
Michael Mummery



Lyn Fisher &
Terry McElligott



Jim Fisher
Checking War Graves
on Ipad



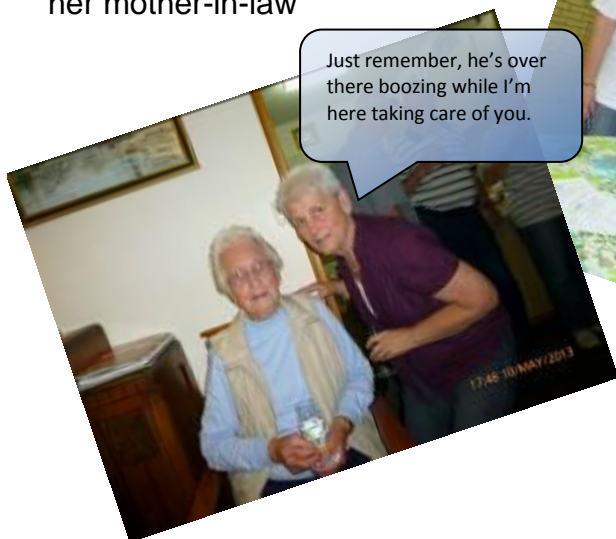
Is that how it
works?

I wish I was as tall as
Pauline then I could lean
on the Piano.

Nui Dat Room Berri RSL



Vicki Plummer looking after
her mother-in-law

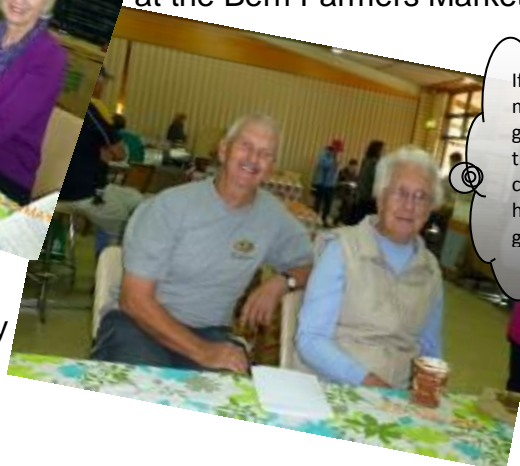


Just remember, he's over
there boozing while I'm
here taking care of you.

Lyn Fisher, Pam McElligott
& Marg Maynard
at the Berri Farmers Market



Warren Featherby
& Betty Plummer



If he
makes a
grab for
the coffee
he's
gone.

ANZAC DAY HYMNS

How often have we been asked to sing Abide with Me at Anzac services? This usually becomes a dirge and could be considered more suited to 18th Century than the 21st Century!

The words were written by Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847. According to Wikipedia Lyte took Anglican holy orders at 22 years, married well, and was a conservative

evangelical who believed that man's nature was totally corrupt. The words, written shortly before his death, "when other helpers fail and comforts flee" apparently refer to the many who defected from his choir and church.

This hymn (tune by William Monk 1823-1889) has been played at British Royal weddings and funerals.

PHOTO - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Sue Grund
Tiff Firth Photography (Cummins)
Marg Berk (Anzac Day)
David & Jan Stacey

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY, SUNDAY 18/8/2013

8 00 am Gunfire Breakfast at Torrens Parade Ground
10.40 am march from State War Memorial to TPG
11.00 am Service at Vietnam War Memorial by RAR Assoc
11.45 am Concert begins
Guest acts: Normie Rowe, RAN Band, Linda McCarthy, Evan Jones and others.
Food, refreshments, stalls, displays.
Free. Everyone welcome.
Organized by VVA. RSL will have a sales display.

50th Reunion 2017

(extract from a recent email to all members with an email address)

At the Sydney Reunion the SA Association put up its hand to organise the 50th reunion, given that the Battalion was raised in Adelaide.

At the last Committee/General meeting, earlier in June, it was decided to form a small working party of 6 to begin putting the framework of the reunion together. As this framework is developed additional bodies will be "conscripted" to assist in particular areas where their individual talents will help in organising this event.

Being realistic members who live a long distance from Adelaide may not wish to

become, or by the tyranny of distance be precluded from becoming involved as the working party will have to meet on a regular basis and have contacts and knowledge of the Adelaide environs.

If you believe that you have the energy to undertake this task and can commit to the time and effort that will be required over the next four and a bit years, please email the Secretary indicating your willingness to volunteer. As only six will be selected your response will not guarantee you a place on the initial working party, however your interest would be noted for future sub-committees.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST			NOVEMBER		
1	1300	General Meeting, RAR Clubrooms	9	1800	9 RAR AGM & Dinner RAR Clubrooms
13	1100	50 TH Bn Memorial Dedication	11	1100	Remembrance Day
18	0800	Vietnam Veterans' Day			
SEPTEMBER			DECEMBER		
			5	1300	General Meeting RAR Clubrooms
OCTOBER			JANUARY		
3	1300	General Meeting RAR Clubrooms	Services as per Honour Roll		
NOVEMBER 2017 50 th ANNIVERSARY REUNION IN ADELAIDE					

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

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C: Michael Mummery
D: Jeff Howe
SUPPORT: Leo Macpanas
ADMIN: Jim Fisher

LIAISON OFFICERS

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REPAT: Warren Featherby
RSL: Michael Mummery
TPI: Leon Eddy

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