



# Nine News

December 2015

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

## 9 RAR SA - PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015

In 2015 we have continued to be an active group with bi-monthly meetings held at the RARSA clubrooms.

Annual graveside ceremonies for each of the war dead of 9 RAR SA have once again taken place, but following consultation with the families, there will be some changes in 2016.

Many of our members were involved in Anzac Day, Vietnam Veterans' Day, Long Tan Day and other commemorations.

The country trip to Mt Gambier was most successful and participation by local 9 RAR veterans was much appreciated.

Around the State, Centenary of Anzac community events were organized by 9 RAR members in Brighton, Pt Pirie, Penola, Goolwa, Strathalbyn and other localities.

We liaised with Brigadier Chris Appleton, Director of the Office of Australian War Graves and others, re

- the new bronze war grave plaque to be installed on George Nagle's grave in Clonmel, Tipperary, Ireland, and
- obtaining family consent for the repatriation of Gary Archer's remains from Terendak Garrison War Cemetery, Malacca, Malaysia, to Australia.

Details are yet to be advised.

9 RAR and other veterans have been well supported in the areas of mental health facilities, welfare, and emergency financial assistance by stalwarts of our association.

In November, South Australia was represented at the 9 RAR national reunion in Melbourne by at least 46 veterans, partners and NOK.

Friendships were renewed at the various events held at the National Gallery of Victoria, MCG, Shrine of Remembrance & Botanic Gardens as well as the post reunion tours to Seymour and Phillip Island.

Bob Plummer, 2017 Adelaide Reunion Chair, presented the outline of the 9 RAR 50 year reunion at the Dinner at the MCG. The plan was enthusiastically received, with a number of offers of assistance. [Further details follow. Ed]

On behalf of the 9 RAR SA family, I wish to commend and thank the members of the Executive and Committee for attending meetings and for enthusiastic support of "the family" in many and varied ways.

I wish you all "season's greetings" for a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

*David Stacey  
President*

### **9 RAR SA (Inc.) AGM and lunch 3 December 2015**

Thanks to those who attended or apologised for the AGM last week. David presented his report and Bob spoke on arrangements so far for the Reunion in 2017. There being no further nominations, the committee was thanked and returned for another year.

### **Season's greetings to the president, committee and members**

from Patron Laurie Lewis and his wife Di "9 RAR continues to make a significant contribution to veterans' welfare. Keep up the good work".

### **Vietnam Veterans' Day Services 18 August 2015**

#### **At the RSL Hall, Linden Park**

The combined regiments Long Tan Commemorative service conducted by the Royal Australian Regiment Association (SA) and RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association (SA), was well attended by invited guests, visitors and year 7 students from Walkerville Primary School. Fred Fairhead RAR SA and 6 RAR 1969-1970 gave the commemorative address. All who attended, particularly the students, enjoyed the buffet lunch!

### **2015 Remembrance Business Breakfast - 6 November 2015**

Lieutenant General David Morrison AO was the keynote speaker at this event and kindly joined 9 RAR "family" for a group photo. Thanks to Michael Mummery for organising our group. The Road Home - The Repat Foundation. [www.theroadhome.com.au](http://www.theroadhome.com.au)



L-R front: Jim Fisher, David Everitt, John England OAM, Michelle Matthews, David Morrison AO, Michael Mummery OAM, John Schumann OAM.

Back: Rick Pomeroy, Simon Kelly, Gene Costa, Warwick Archer, David Stacey.

Absent: Dr Bruce Perks

Catafalque party, B Company 7 RAR



### At The Repat

Once again we are grateful to The Repat for conducting this service on behalf of all Vietnam Veterans. On this occasion Warwick Archer, 9 RAR, was our Keynote Speaker, Darryl Vayro, PO Naval Veteran, recited The Ode and Judith Fuller, PTSD Unit Head read Echoes of Remembrance, a Poem by "Dogs Kearney".

It is true that we do not know at this time what the future holds for The

Repat, nor our services in The Chapel. What we do know is that this service was very well attended and well received. We would like to thank Darren Renshaw PSM for his dedication to organizing these services on our behalf over a very long period of time. We would also like to thank Ian Lutze, resident Padre, and Hayley Reid for her vocal support and the Navy Bugler for the Last Post ceremony.

*Warren Featherby*



Outside the Repat Chapel.

L-R: Frances Bedford MP, Dr Duncan McFetridge MP, Stephen Wade MP, Mrs Lan Le, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, Warwick Archer 9 RAR, Warren Featherby OAM 9 RAR, Darryl Vayro, ex Naval PO, David Ridgeway MLC and Belinda Moyes CEO of Southern Adelaide Local Health Network.



9 RAR members who attended the Vietnam Veterans' Day service at The Repat. Jim Fisher, Warwick Archer, Dr Bruce Perks, Al McCulloch and Warren Featherby OAM



**Vietnam War anthem "I Was Only 19"  
added to Sounds of Australia registry for 2015.**

Congratulations to 9 RAR SA inductee John Schumann, and Redgum, on recent national recognition of this powerful song.

**YOUTUBE:** Redgum - I Was Only 19

"The classic Australian song, I was Only 19, about the plight of returned Vietnam soldiers, has been added to the Sounds of Australia registry.

The song by Australian band Redgum was one of 10 sounds officially added to the National Film and Sound Archives for 2015.

John Schumann continues to play music with Redgum band member and friend Hugh McDonald under the group name John Schumann and the Vagabond Crew. (see the full article at [www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-18](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-18))



Redgum band members  
Hugh McDonald, John Schumann, Verity Truman, Michael Atkinson in 1985

### 3 Platoon News

Whilst in Melbourne for the national reunion, a number of 3 Platoon members conducted a short commemorative service at the Fawcner Crematorium and Cemetery for one of their war dead on the Saturday morning.

Private Brian Rennie came to 3 Platoon in June 1969 after service in 1 RAR during Operation Goodwood, 4 RAR/NZ and the 2nd D&E Platoon of 1 ATF. He

was fatally wounded north of Xuyen Moc on the morning of 7 September 1969 almost immediately after being appointed the Section 2IC of 8 Section.

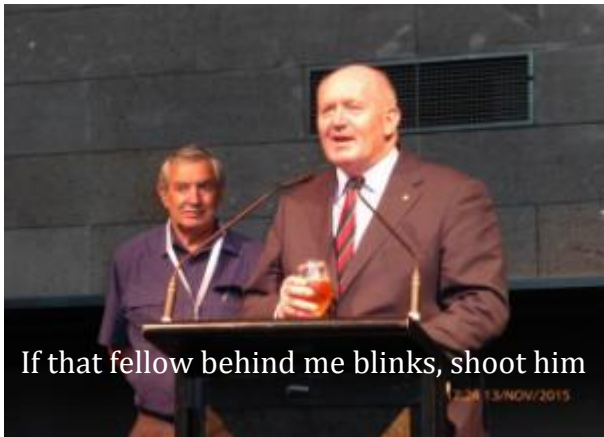
L-R: Geoff Boettcher (who replaced Brian as the Section 2IC), Brian's youngest brother Gerry and his wife Trish, Geoff White (one of Brian's mates) and Adrian Craig (original platoon commander 3 Platoon).



It was a very moving service with Gerry standing in exactly the same place at the side of the gravestone as he did as a 7 year old 46 years ago.

**9 RAR National Reunion, Melbourne 13-16 November, 2015**  
"Thank you" and "well done" to the Melbourne Reunion Committee  
for hosting this significant event.

For official reunion photos go to [9rar.bypolo.net](http://9rar.bypolo.net)



If that fellow behind me blinks, shoot him



Stairway to heaven



I had dark hair until  
I organised this



It wasn't that funny, was it?



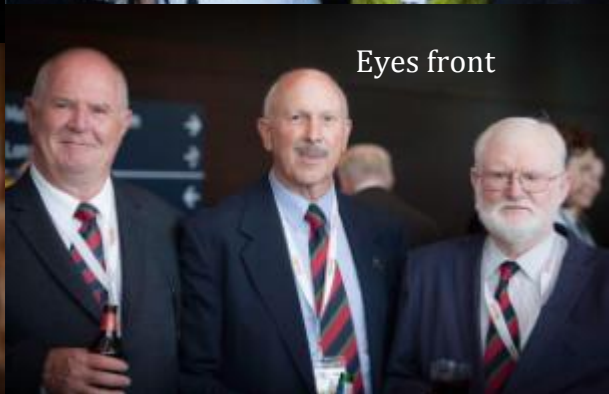
You know I should  
have stopped some  
of them coming home



Look at me, look at me!

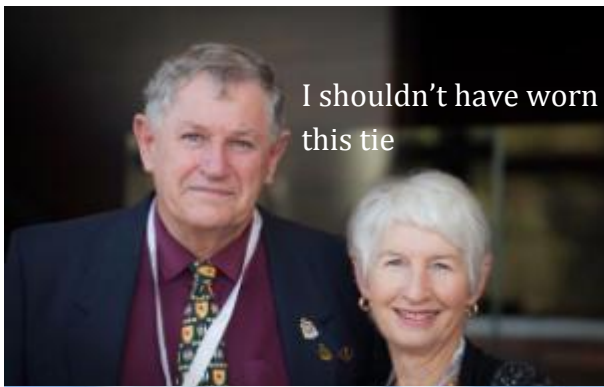


Whatever it was it was worth listening to



Eyes front





I shouldn't have worn  
this tie



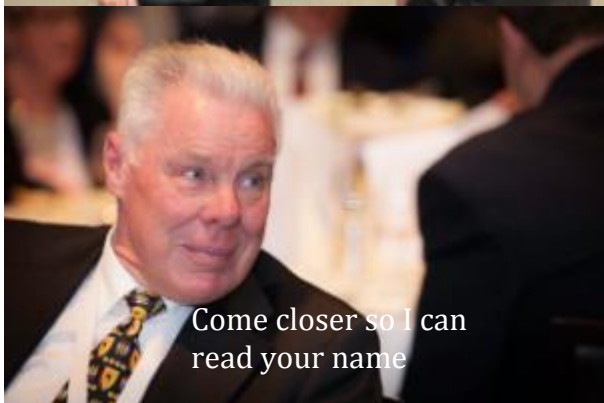
The moon is behind you!



I said face me



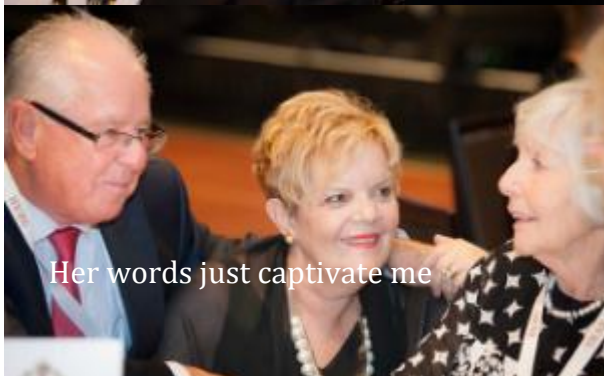
Lost my glasses, hearing aids now my teeth



Come closer so I can  
read your name



Do you know this women?



Her words just captivate me



I think there's a cricket ground out there



Any idea where I  
put my glasses?



Where did I leave my hat?





What lovely hands you have



Do it again and I'll send  
Normie over to  
punch you



Can't be Melbourne, there's blue sky



Two hands,  
two glasses



Is this where you catch the train?



Come on Dad



This looks like a shady lot





### ADELAIDE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION *"THE FINAL LEG IN THE JOURNEY HOME"*

The Golden Jubilee reunion, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Battalion on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1967, will be held in Adelaide in November 2017. The reunion events will be held from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>. A number of optional excursions will be offered around these dates.

*Further details and updates will be available at [www.9rarsa.com.au](http://www.9rarsa.com.au)*

#### Reunion Events:

Day	Time	Activity	Where	Transport
Mon	1800 hours	Pre-dinner drinks	Adelaide Hilton Balcony Gallery	Own means
	1900 hours	Reunion Dinner	Adelaide Hilton Ball Room	
Tue	1100 hours	Battalion Service	Woodside Barracks	by Coach
Wed	1130 hours	Picnic and Concert	Lake Breeze Winery	by Coach

#### Optional Excursions:

Visit to Port Pirie RSL Museum by Coach with lunch at the RSL Clubrooms  
 Twilight cruise aboard the historic Paddle Steamer Oscar W with Pizza & Wine  
 Dolphin River Cruise on the Port River 2 1/2 hours with meal & drinks  
 McLaren Vale and /or Barossa Valley Winery tours by Coach  
 Tour of the Keswick Army Museum with Lunch  
 Escorted Adelaide Oval Tour including the Bradman Museum

The Mission Statement of the Adelaide Reunion Committee is:

- To organise an event befitting the significance of this major Anniversary.
- To contain the cost to individual members so that as many, as wish to, can attend.
- To take heed of how previous reunions ran and overcome any matters of concern.
- To give all attending, fond memories of what may be the final reunion in Adelaide.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>January</b> Graveside Gathering 7 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>February</b> Meeting First Thursday Graveside Gathering 14 <sup>th</sup> Hat Dich Service 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>March</b> Graveside Gathering 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>April</b> Meeting First Thursday ANZAC Day 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>May</b> Country Retreat (R&R) TBA	<b>June</b> Meeting First Thursday
<b>July</b> Graveside Gathering 6 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>August</b> Meeting First Thursday Vietnam Veterans' Day 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>September</b>
<b>October</b> Meeting First Thursday	<b>November</b> AGM & Dinner 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>December</b> Meeting First Thursday

## 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](mailto:ljdel@internode.on.net)

### PRESIDENT



David Stacey  
8536 4656 0447 373 130  
[stacey35@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stacey35@bigpond.net.au)

### VICE PRESIDENT & FUND RAISING OFFICER



Michael Mummery OAM  
8387 6707 0428 387 670  
[mmummery@chariot.net.au](mailto:mmummery@chariot.net.au)

### VICE PRESIDENT & PUBLIC OFFICER



Gene Costa  
8325 0289  
[gene.costa1@gmail.com](mailto:gene.costa1@gmail.com)

### SECRETARY/TREASURER & MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Bob Plummer  
8555 2526 0403 996 093  
[bob@cbsa.com.au](mailto:bob@cbsa.com.au)

### CEREMONIAL OFFICER



Adrian Craig  
8263 4784  
[as.craig9rar@bigpond.com](mailto:as.craig9rar@bigpond.com)

### SPECIAL PROJECTS OFFICER



Warren Featherby OAM  
8443 3434 0412 462 143  
[featherby41@bigpond.com](mailto:featherby41@bigpond.com)

### WELFARE OFFICER



Lyn Fisher  
8371 3090 0438 713 090  
[fishernine@gmail.com](mailto:fishernine@gmail.com)

### NINE NEWS EDITOR



Jan Stacey  
8536 4656 0447 373 130  
[stacey35@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stacey35@bigpond.net.au)

### VIDEO/AUDIO COORDINATOR



Jeff Howe  
8250 4584 0412 838 466  
Email: [ennyhow@bigpond.com](mailto:ennyhow@bigpond.com)

### CUSTODIAN OF THE BANNER & NOK FLAGS



Jim Fisher  
8371 3090 0438 713 090  
[fishernine@gmail.com](mailto:fishernine@gmail.com)

### COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES

<b>A:</b>	Brendan Crowley
<b>B:</b>	David Stacey
<b>C:</b>	Michael Mummery
<b>D:</b>	Jeff Howe
<b>SUPPORT:</b>	Leo Macpanas
<b>ADMIN:</b>	Jim Fisher

### LIAISON OFFICERS

<b>RAR:</b>	Adrian Craig
<b>REPAT:</b>	Warren Featherby
<b>RSL:</b>	Michael Mummery
<b>TPI:</b>	Leon Eddy