



# 9 RAR ROLL CALL!

## JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)



APRIL 2011

ISSUE 1 (2011)

### Highlights

- Book Review
- Anzac Day FUP Details
- Mates Corner
- Vale: Morrie Stanley, MBE

### Inside this issue:

Editor's Notes	2
Vale	3
Anzac Day 2011 Details	4
President's Word	5
Book Review	6
Mates Corner	7
Tales of Terror from Qld From an Army Ranger	8 9
Geoff Boettcher: Winner	10
Lovie's Trip Back	11
Volunteer of the Year / A Coy Photos	12
Vale: Morrie Stanley	13
2012 Reunion Schedule	14
2012 Reunion Details	15



### THE "ULTIMATE COUNCIL WORKER"

Private John "Sheeks" Sheekey demonstrates the hard work usually associated with "A COMPANY". Not too much activity Sheeks, though you were usually Number 2 on the pick.

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## EDITOR'S REPORT

What a start to 2011. First a 9 RAR victory in the "SYDNEY TO HOBART" then the gods descended on Brisbane and south east Queensland, bushfires in West Aussie, Cyclone "Yasi" in North Queensland and the Earth quake in Christchurch which hurt our cousins and fellow comrade in arms across the "Ditch".

Many of our number were effected by these natural disasters but all survived. A few tales of their adventures appear in this issue.

Be sure to follow up on the 2012 Reunion info. Info on Caravan Parks and accommodation.. See report from Reunion Secretary Trevor Murdoch.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ian Lygoe, Bernie Fitzpatrick and Alan Cunningham.

This was Bernie's personal weapon , he said the M60 was for Pussies and he needed more GRUNT. It was a bit of a bugger carrying it through the bamboo and his number 2 complained of the weight of the 400 rounds he had to carry as bandoleers.

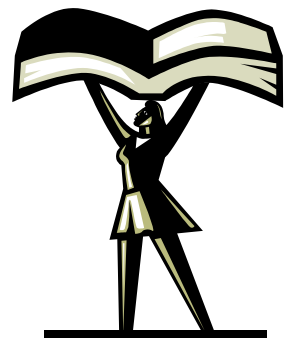
***BARNEY the Editor***

## FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR

It's that time again... Roll Call time seems to come around very quickly! We plan to have this out to you all before Anzac Day. I am planning on attending the Anzac Day March and post-March function in Sydney City again this year and look forward to meeting some of you there. If you have any feedback for me I would love to hear it.

Anzac Day always makes me think of my Grandpa. I will be wearing his medals (copies, the real ones are too valuable to wear out) with pride. He was in the British Territorial Army and survived the battle of Dunkirk, only to be captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore. He worked as a PoW on the Thai-Burma railway for many years, before finally returning home in February 1946. As a kid he told me lots of stories about his War and I thought they were 'cool'. As an adult I know better and I also know how lucky he was to survive. He died at the ripe old age of 80, survived by 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. R.I.P Grandpa, I miss you.

*Emma Bigwood — thebigwoods@bigpond.com*



## VALE

**David James GOURLEY**

**Myron PAWLUK**

**Alan (AJ) MATHESON**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of several of our former comrades in arms. Our hearts go out to their families and friends as we extend our most sincere condolences.

### The Regimental ODE

Rest Ye, Oh Warrior  
 You'll battle no more  
 No longer to live  
 The horrors of war  
 Your duty was done  
 With honour and pride  
 Farewell! Oh Brother  
 Until we march by your side  
*"Lest We Forget"*

## 'DOG' WALKING FOR CHARITY

**JEFF 'DOG' JOHNSON** is about to walk east to west across Australia, all in the name of charity. He aims to raise \$80,000 for the Newborn Emergency Transport Service (NETS). NETS transports sick and injured babies, infants and children in NSW and beyond. To complete this task Dog will have to walk 4971 kilometres, from Australia's eastern point (at Cape Byron) to the most western point (Steep Point). He will average 30 kilometres a day and will be walking from 24th April until 2nd October.

Support Jeff in his incredible fundraising efforts by going to his site and making a donation today.

<http://www.jeffswalk2.com>

<http://www.nets.org.au/>



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# ANZAC DAY: 2011

Please note that this year Anzac Day falls on Easter Monday.

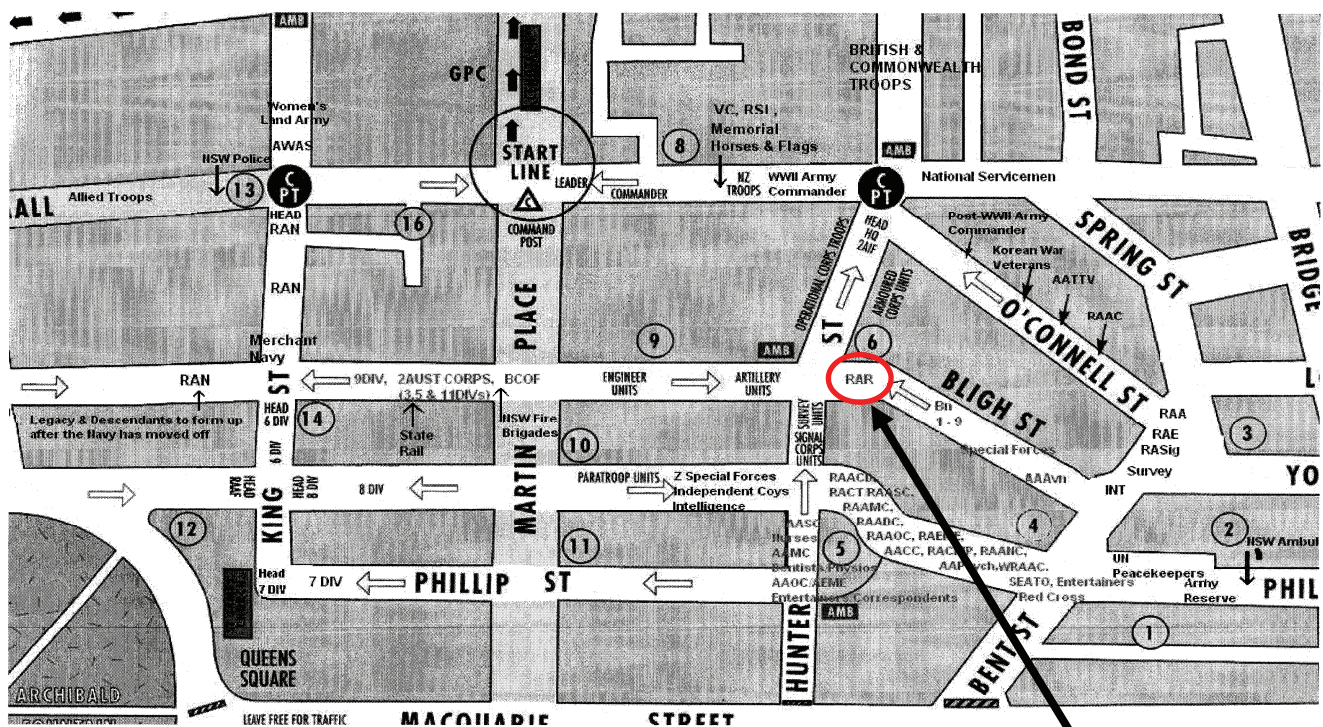
The RAR Service will be held at Regimental Square on George St at 0830hrs. Everyone is welcome.

The Form Up Point (FUP) is now at the corner of Bligh & Hunter streets for 1RAR leading back to D&E platoon. This is different to last year. See map below.

The After March Function is again at the Windsor Hotel, on the corner of Park & Castlereagh Streets (first floor). Usual finger food and coffee available as well as memorabilia.

**2011 FEES CAN BE PAID ON THE DAY or sent to the Treasurer**

**“SHEEKS”, PO Box 197 Willoughby NSW 2068.**



**FORM UP POINT: CORNER OF BLIGH & HUNTER STREETS**

## RAP SICK PARADE

- **WALLY NEESON** D Company is in Mick Moran Rehab Centre, 1420 Anzac Parade Little Bay Sydney. Eric Pope paid him a visit, others welcome.
- **JOHN “SHEEKS” SHEEKEY** is still on the chemo merry go round and is on the improve.
- **BARRY WAKEFIELD** confounded the doctors when they did find he had a heart (just joking Bazz).
- **DAVE SUTTON** was visited by Doug McGrath the last time he was in Victoria and is doing ok.

## Presidential Ponderings and Pontifications

With Anzac Day approaching it is important for those who intend to join us in our march, to take note of the FUP listed elsewhere in this publication as it has changed.

As always, I extend the invitation to all who served in 9RAR or 8/9RAR at any time in our history and those we've adopted over the years, to share with us, this special occasion. We equally encourage the next of kin to march alongside us in honour of a loved one lost so long ago, as an integral part of our family. Furthermore, I offer the next of kin to bring the commemorative flag presented at the Welcome Home Parade so it can take pride of place in our march carried by the family or one our men.

We wish the A Coy members all the best as they abandon us for a reunion of their own in the chilly climes of Tassie. Good luck, boys, we will miss you.

Sadly we have lost too many of our warriors in recent months and the RAP is receiving far too many visitors, some waging a strenuous battle , greater it would seem than those fought in the funny farm. I extend the condolences to the families so grieving and to those not enjoying good health, our best wishes.

What an astonishing few months we have had as the country has reeled under the devastation of floods and cyclone alike. The courage and resilience of the Australian people shone through, as did those of the 9RAR extended family who were affected.

Our Anzac neighbours have suffered their own tragedies with the mine disaster and the Christchurch earthquake wreaking devastation on an unbelievable scale.

The Middle East has exploded in Egypt and Libya with hideous violence and bloodshed but nothing prepared the world for the incomprehensible devastation in Japan, on a scale not seen since WWII and which I fear, is not yet over. It seems history just keeps throwing up events to wreak havoc, cause untold bloodshed and misery, whether it is man against man or man against nature.

Turning to more enjoyable thoughts, I commend you to plan now for the grand reunion – in the best city in the world, Sydney 2012.

The committee are working tirelessly to create an exciting program of events for your enjoyment, negotiate the best possible deals, provide a superb array of memorabilia and introduce some exciting guests who will provide the most memorable moments. It will be something not to be missed. Start planning and saving now.

While on good thoughts, I wish to share with you the wonderful news that Tony Webster (ex B Coy) was married last week in Melbourne, with his RAAF Pilot son Matt as his best man, to his now wife Barbara. They were attended by their various children and grandchildren.

I think it is quite inspirational that, at this stage of their lives, Tony and Barbara have found love and happiness in each other. I 'm sure you'd join me in wishing them well.

As we ponder the events that marked our military service, the challenges, the hardships, the injuries and the loss of those who meant so much to us, spare a thought for our current breed of warriors. They are upholding the proud traditions of our military forefathers written in blood and forged in battle. They are fighting a different war in different surroundings but equally need the love and support of veteran's who understand and the community at large.

Have a great Anzac Day.

**Lest we forget.**

*Doug*



## BOOK REVIEW

### THE MINEFIELD: An Australian Tragedy in Vietnam

**Author: Greg Lockhart**

Greg Lockhart, the author, served in the A.A.T.T.V. He speaks Vietnamese which gives him a greater insight to 'the other side'. He is also the author of several other books.

In this book he explores the ill-fated decision by Brigadier Stuart Graham to lay 11k's of minefield as a barrier fence. He was advised against it from several sources, but was locked into a mindset from WW11. Korean vets were very wary of mines since they had encountered them there. The engineers were less than enthusiastic and Lt. Col Warr from 5RAR was vigorously opposed. Brig. Weir from our time in SVN, who had been a major in Korea in 1RAR, is quoted as saying "I'm sure I would never have laid mines in Vietnam because of my Korean experience."

Yet lay it they did. Later in 1972 he wrote how he intended to find out the links between the population and the NVA/VC. He acknowledged how little he knew about enemy organisations, yet it went ahead before any intelligence could be gleaned. That fateful decision would have a devastating effect not only on our battalion but every one that served there, Vietnamese civilians included. The book is very thorough listing all casualties, even numbers of ARVN. One section I found very interesting was about how the enemy would lift the mines and lay them in our path, using the same mine over and over again if it had not exploded. A chilling account of a determined enemy whose intelligence was a lot better than ours.

Having laid over 20,000 M16 mines plus a large amount of anti-lift devices the poor old engineers were tasked with removing them before 1ATF returned home. Sadly some of those same mines are still causing casualties. Not a happy read near an open fire in winter, but certainly an informative book.



*Barry Wakefield*

**Note from the Assistant Editor:** Thanks to Barry Wakefield for consistently supplying us with book reviews. We appreciate this greatly, keep up the good work!

## MATES CORNER

### ROLLCALL SUBMISSIONS

GIVE US SOME INTERESTING NEWS OR HUMOROUS ANECDOTES ABOUT THE 9RAR FAMILY, SEND IT TO:-

Emma Bigwood [thebigwoods@bigpond.com](mailto:thebigwoods@bigpond.com) ph: 0422-429-745

or Barney (Rick) Bigwood [ricb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ricb@bigpond.net.au) ph: 02 9873-5209



## MATES MORSELS

- News from **BILL PEASEY** in the UK. Bill was hoping to get here for ANZAC DAY but he and Gina are in the process of buying a house. He hopes to be here for the Sydney reunion in November 2012.
- **IAN LLEWELLYN** is recovering well. Apologies for the late notice of this news. Ian Llewellyn suffered a massive heart attack at the end of October last year. The ambulance arrived quickly and after admission 3 stents were inserted into arteries. He is happy to receive visitors and/or a phone call. Unfortunately his trip to NZ, planned for the same time as the Pl Reunion, has had to be put on hold.
- The editor was able to put 2 old 9 RAR mates in contact after 30 years. **WAYNE LOVE** and **RICHARD APPLEBY** recently got back in touch: Wayne's email (to Barney) follows:

"Thanks mate, I have received email and replied. It was great. Dick and I were great mates. Had some really good times together. He pointed out we had a BBQ over 30 years ago together in Brisbane. But as he live at Bribie Island I may see him more as it's not a bad place to be sometimes. Barney, thanks for the opportunity. I have known him and his lovely wife Alison for 43 years, Christ that's a long time isn't it."

- Missing 9 RAR Mortar man shows up. Barney heard a rumour that **ROD HARLOR** was in Wodonga so he sent a copy of "Roll Call" via old Sarge Mick and it found him. His email follows:

Thanks for the copy of Roll Call. This copy was sent care of **Mick Credlin** who promptly sent it on to me. Please register my details as below. I had tried a number of email addresses in an attempt to make contact but received no feedback.

I will be looking forward to the Sydney reunion as I missed the Brisbane one because I found out about it too late.

Cheers

Rod Harlor

18/2-6 Snowdon St.

Wodonga, 3690

0260567239 or 0408564745

[wrodonga47@bigpond.com](mailto:wrodonga47@bigpond.com)

# TALES OF TERROR FROM QUEENSLAND

## NEWS FROM ANDREW "BLUEY" REED (As per a phone conversation between Doug McGrath and Bluey Reed):

I have just got off the phone from Andrew "Bluey" Reed who lives in Tully. He and his house survived the horrors of the cyclone last night. He had cyclone proofed his house when it was built and that decision was justified. The only damage it took was from neighbouring houses whose flimsy construction did not stand up to nature. He sat through until 3.00 am then crashed until 5.00. He has food and water provisions as well as his own generator so has power. Bluey said the noise of the wind was deafening and even in the eye of the storm it was still loud. He is recovering from recent health scares but is quite upbeat and positive. A good man Blue, he'll no doubt be out helping others by now. He is very appreciative of the support from our network.

## NEWS FROM JACK ENGLISH (As per an email from him):

Hi All,

The water went about 2 foot higher than gutters on Jodie & Mart's house. We have spent all day yesterday taking down ceilings with the fibre glass insulation bats full of water, also we have taken a panel off every wall to hose the water and mud out of the frames. As well a few family, other people we didn't know turned up to help. Some come from other towns. One RAAF bloke in uniform said he could not get to work at the Amberley Base so they were just helping anybody. They all worked with hardly a break all day and many would not even take a couple of beers as thanks. One woman (a mother from the grandson's footy team) worked all day and is back again today. Their trucking business went underwater and they are unable to get to it yet, but she was out helping others.

Other useless pricks were just blocking the roads driving around and taking photos. The emergency services could not get around because of the traffic jams caused mainly by these rubber neckers. If I see another one stop their car in front of Jodie & Mart's house and take a photo I'll put a shovel full of mud through their window. Anyone who is helping clean up is covered in mud, so it's easy to spot the clean useless bludgers.

Jack English

## NEWS AND PHOTOS FROM ROD SLATER:

Flooding in 22 Minutes: The following four photos show how quickly the floods happened on a farm at Helidon on Monday 10.01.2011. There has never been water on this cultivation before. Lockyer Creek runs behind the cultivation. The farm is upstream from Grantham which got the full force of this creek, and another creek (Flagstone Creek) which joins into it just before Grantham.

The times of the photos say it all. Left to right: 3.16pm, 3.27pm, 3.34pm, 3.38pm.





## NEWS FROM AN ARMY RANGER

**FROM BARNEY'S PEN:** When my son Andrew was doing his history thesis on "The relationship between Australian and US Forces during the Vietnam War" at university he went to the US and met with Bob Patterson, a three tour "Ranger". Bob has remained a close friend of Andrew and his family. I have been privileged to correspond with Bob and recently sent him an article on a US Marine officer who suffered greatly after 18 months as a notification officer for KIA soldiers from Vietnam. Below is Bob's response. It hit a raw nerve for him. Bob is a true professional soldier and a caring man.

Thanks for sending the item on the Marine officer who had to perform the survivor notification. Clearly a painful ordeal. Something I am not unfamiliar with.

After my second tour-of-duty in Vietnam in 1968, for a period of about six months I was detailed at Fort Bragg, while assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, as an NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge) for burial details to be performed in and around North and South Carolina. During that period I performed some 142 such details, the majority of which were Vietnam KIA with a lesser number of WWII and Korean War vets, who had passed away for other reasons.

As you might expect, the funerals involving the Vietnam KIA were the most emotionally wrenching and with each one both myself and some of the other team members felt more and more guilty as we performed the ceremonies. Finally, in the spring of 1969 I'd had enough and volunteered for my third tour back to Nam, which was granted. However, as luck would have it, I was waylaid at Fort Lewis, Washington at the overseas replacement station where I ended up being an instructor at the Basic Training Center for 19 months. I finally made it back to Nam by the autumn of 1971 for tour number three. By then another 20,000+ GI's had died along with God only knows how many others.

Since then I haven't attended too many other funerals - of any kind. The rendering of Taps and the observance of any military funeral ceremony of any kind can and does evoke as much of a painful memory in me than perhaps just about anything else. I'm always reminded of the fact that I (you and me) am the lucky one. Every funeral detail I performed I questioned - 'why not me?' I guess I still do. But then I guess all of us who came back ask that same question all too often. Such is the way of war.

Welcome Home, Rick. Please say Hello to Andrew and Emma.....

Bob...

On 1 January 1969, under the new U.S. Army Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS), U.S. Army Rangers were re-formed in South Vietnam as the 75th Infantry Regiment (Ranger). Fifteen companies of Rangers, two of which (A-75 & B-75) were based in the USA, were raised from units that had been performing missions in Europe since the late 1950s and in Vietnam since 1966 as Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol and Long Range Patrol companies. These new Rangers were given a unit genealogy traced to Merrill's Marauders.



In Vietnam, the Rangers were organized as independent companies. Each company from the 75th Infantry (Ranger) was assigned to a major US army combat unit including O Company-82nd Airborne Division (3rd Brigade) RVN. Rangers in Vietnam conducted long range reconnaissance into hostile territory. They collected intelligence, planned and directed air strikes, acted as force-multipliers in conventional operations, assessed aerial bombing damage in enemy-controlled areas, executed hunter-killer missions, both day and night, conducted ambushes, and specially-trained and specially-equipped Ranger snipers killed selected enemy personnel.

Ranger information is courtesy of [www.ranger.org](http://www.ranger.org), which is the website for the US Army Ranger Association.

## SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE 2010 : Winner!

Geoff Boettcher has been confirmed handicap winner of the Rolex Sydney Hobart. He was presented with the Tattersalls Cup and a new Rolex watch. This is a wonderful achievement by Geoff and his team. The 51-footer arrived in Hobart with a corrected time of four days, one hour, 29 minutes and 40 seconds, but had to wait through a time challenge from another crew before being awarded the top honour. Boettcher said he knew he had to win the Sydney to Hobart soon because, at age 64: "I'm running out of runway."

However the race was not without incident with the yacht smashed by 50-knot winds and nasty seas. "We experienced 50 knots, choppy seas and big waves - sometimes it was a challenge just getting on deck," he said. The win ends a run of bad luck and mishap to mar Boettcher's sailing career. In 2001 his previous yacht was dismantled and he has failed to finish four other races. Secret Men's Business beat the Sydney yacht Jazz (Chris Bull) and the Melbourne boat Shogun (Rob Hanna).

This prize is considered one of the most prestigious in world racing. Congratulations to Geoff and his team.



Story from the Sun Herald and Daily Telegraph. Photo (R) by Sam Rosewarne. Photo (above) shows Geoff keeping up his expertise in the doldrums of the South China Sea, Vung Tau, 1969.



## CAN YOU HELP US FIND THIS MAN?

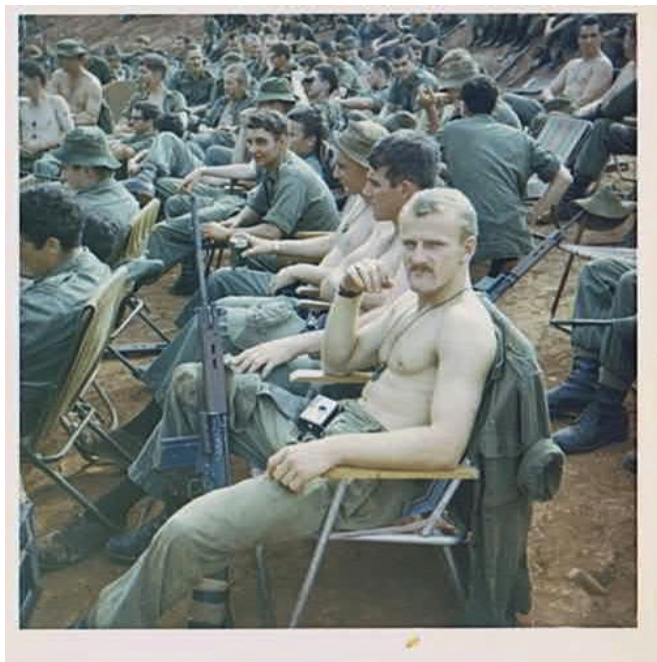


### Private Edward (Eddie) Stankawski

This photo of Eddie (right) was taken by Vince Restuccia during a concert at Nui Dat. Vince is trying to get back in touch with Eddie, who he was friends with at Woodside. Vince thinks Eddie was in a rifle company at the time. Do you know (or know of) Eddie and his whereabouts? If you do please get in touch with Vince via email. [vestucc@gmail.com](mailto:vestucc@gmail.com)

Vince Restuccia

Transport Platoon Driver  
(Admin and Support Company)



## GOING BACK TO 'NAM: Wayne Love's Story

Wayne Love recently returned to Vietnam and caught up with an old foe in Dat Do. Below is his story, in the form of an email to Roll Call Editor 'Barney' Bigwood.

Hi Barney,

I thought these photos may be of interest to you for the Roll Call. I had them taken on a holiday trip to Vietnam and Cambodia in January 2010 . I have been going to write up my story about the special reward that I received from this experience, but too many things were happening to me and as yet never got around to it. You are welcome to use in the news letter. I also have some 2 platoon photos that I'll dig and get a copy to you.

The person with me in the photos is an old warrior from the D445 battalion. On a trip near Nui Dat we were exploring the tunnels at Long Choug ( not sure about the name, will advise when I know for sure) not far from the Dat, it's probable we walked past them many times and never knew they were there . They have a small museum there now and a Buddhist temple dedicated to their fallen soldiers. At the end of seeing the tunnels, in the museum we looked at the topographical table showing the battle lines of the area around The Dat and also the units that North Vietnam had stationed there, the D445 battalion was always prominent on the battlefield layout. I asked my interpreter to ask the curator, the gentleman in the photos with me, what unit was he in during the war. I was emotionally stunned when she relayed to me he was with the D445 battalion. I had never ever seen one alive without a weapon. It was such a feeling of emotion and relief that I had come across someone that could have been shooting at me and I him. And therefore like a football player at the end of a hard fought football match against an equally tenacious opposition, I reached out to shake his hand and in fact gave him an emotional hug, as he too was a player that had fought hard and like myself gave it his best. And now with the game over we could engage in sharing a respect for our opponents ability. We embraced each other and I became quite emotional I didn't understand it or expect it, it just came to me all of a sudden that I had these forgotten, long ago feelings that need an answer were inside of me . I walked away feeling like I was relieved of a big burden that I had been carrying around all these years, that I never knew that I had. I hope he shared this feelings as well. We both survived a time in our lives that so many did not.

I would recommend this healing event to all and sundry. For the diggers that came back confused as I did, not really know what it was all about. This event gave it something, something that only humans can do, respect each other after war as we have done and for this I feel like I am a better man. Now I must try and pass that graciousness on to all my grand children. Teaching them how to get on with life after traumatic events that comes our way whether we deserved them or not. At the end I even shared that with my old enemy, now new friend as he too has grand children as I do. I am sure he'll pass this experience onto his grandchildren and for that they'll be better people for it.

Ta,

Lovie.



Note the diorama behind Wayne and his new D445 mate. This is a map of the local region they fought in.



## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Lyn Fisher

**FROM THE PEN OF WARREN FEATHERBY, PRESIDENT 9RAR (SA):** In what is another first for 9 RAR it was announced at The Repatriation General Hospital on Friday the 21st of January that our Lyn Fisher was presented with the award of the 2011 Australia Day "Hospital Volunteer of the Year". This is a very prestigious award in as much as Lyn was selected from the 450 volunteers that work in and around the hospital. The citation (see below) does not fully do justice to Lyn's commitment to Veterans at the hospital for on so many occasions we would be lost without her support, advice and expertise.

I would like to share with you what Lyn said in her very brief, no fuss, acceptance speech;

**"The more time I spend at The Repat - the less housework I have to do. As for the award - I guess it is just how I was brought up - it is just who I am"**

In closing it is a wonderful award and one worthy of celebrating - great job Lyn we are all very proud of you.

With respect  
Warren Featherby  
President, 9 RAR (SA)



Government  
of South Australia



## A COY: Who are they and where are they now?



## VALE: MORRIE STANLEY, MBE (1931-2010)

Morrie Stanley was one of the heroes of the bloody Battle of Long Tan - the Australian Army's most intense encounter of the Vietnam War. The New Zealand Army captain attached to Delta Company of 6RAR is widely acknowledged as having played a huge role in saving most of the 108 besieged Australian Army soldiers during the three-hour battle on August 18, 1966.

He was the forward artillery officer with Delta Company when they were attacked in a rubber plantation by a force of about 2500 Vietcong and North Vietnamese soldiers who outnumbered them 23 to one.

He stayed by the side of the company commander, Major Harry Smith, calling in artillery fire from New Zealand, Australian and American howitzers at the Australian base at Nui Dat five kilometres away. The enemy force attacked in waves during a torrential downpour, almost overrunning the Australians.

Maintaining his calm amid the mayhem - "I had to overcome my dread that I would make a mistake," he recalled - and with mud and rain at times obscuring his map from which he calculated critical co-ordinates for the gunners, Stanley was in constant radio contact with the gunners at Nui Dat as the Australian soldiers fought against overwhelming odds with limited ammunition.

At times he ordered salvos from the 18 New Zealand and Australian 105-millimetre howitzers and six 155-millimetre US howitzers in the battery to within 30 metres of the Delta Company lines.

He also disregarded requests from Sergeant Bob Buick, who took command of 11 Platoon after his commander was killed, to bring down fire on his position. The platoon had only 10 men left out of 28 and Buick was prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice because he thought he was about to be overrun.

By the time the enemy disengaged and slipped away, they left 245 dead in the plantation. The Australians lost 17, and 23 were wounded - and the Regiment had fired more than 4000 - 105mm rounds from its howitzers.

Maurice David Stanley was born on March 22, 1931, in Christchurch and grew up in Napier. His father was a drill master and Morrie became a prefect and regimental sergeant major in the school cadets. In 1949 he joined a special cadet unit in Wellington to complete his final two years at school, and while there won a place at the Royal Military Academy, Duntroon. He was 19 when he sailed for Sydney for the four-year cadetship.

As a New Zealander, he had more to overcome than the average Australian cadet. It was demanded of him, as part of the tough initiation, that he sing *Waltzing Matilda*. But his Kiwi spirit would kick in and instead he would sing the New Zealand marching song *Maori Battalion*.

"I received some attention for my impudence," he recalled of what must have been stern punishment.

But there was a silver lining to the hazing. He met a young Canberran, Alva, at a church function and they were engaged the day he graduated as a lieutenant in December 1953. They married six months later.

As his army career progressed, he was among 150 soldiers sent to England for ceremonial duties (including guard duties at Buckingham Palace) and training with the British Army.

Back home, in January 1966, he was ordered to prepare for posting to South Vietnam as a replacement battery captain with 16 Field Regiment, which was providing direct artillery support for the Australian's 1RAR. The unit was attached to the US Army's 173rd Brigade. After a relatively quiet start to his posting with 1RAR, at the end of April 1966 the battery moved to Vung Tau and Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy province and he joined 6RAR as its forward artillery officer.

The events at the plantation on Long Tan erupted less than four months later. Stanley's actions that day earned him the military MBE for valour. Many consider he deserved a higher award.

After Vietnam, his postings included a four-year stint as a defence liaison officer in Melbourne. In all, he spent eight years in Australia.

After he retired from the army with the rank of major in 1976 he worked in hospital administration in Auckland.

Morrie Stanley is survived by Alva and sons Peter and Andrew. A third son, Donald, died before him.

Rest in Peace old Warrior.



**Left:** Morrie Stanley before his death

(Photo: Andrew Taylor)

**Right:** Captain Stanley on the day after the battle

(Photo: Reuters)



# 9RAR SYDNEY REUNION 2012

The following program was advised in our last newsletter and we are pleased to provide some additional details to assist you with your planning.

## REUNION PROGRAM

### Friday 09/11/2012

1400hrs-1800hrs    Registration                      Darling Harbour  
                         Finger Food  
                         and Drinks

### Saturday 10/11/2012

9.00am-1500hrs    Bus trip for wives and other interested parties to provide shopping at  
                         the Direct Factory Warehouses outlets.  
10.00am-1200hrs    Presidents Meeting                      Darling Harbour Conference Room  
1830hrs-2400hrs    Formal Dinner                              Darling Harbour Ball Room  
                         and Formalities

We have extended invitations to a number of the Units and Groups that supported the Battalion in SVN to attend.

### Sunday 11/11/2012

1030hrs-1200hrs    Remembrance Day                      Sydney War Memorial Hyde Park  
                         9 RAR Service                              March through Hyde Park to the War Memorial. Pipe Band and Catafalque Party from Victoria Barracks  
1310hrs-1600hrs    Barbeque Lunch                              Victoria Barracks  
                         Tour of Barracks  
                         and Museum

### Monday 12/11/2012

1000hrs-1430hrs    Harbour Cruise                              Departing King Street Wharf  
                         Buffet Lunch

For further information please contact:

**Trevor Murdoch**

PO Box 253, Narrabeen, NSW 2101

[tmurdoch@customfinance.com.au](mailto:tmurdoch@customfinance.com.au)

(02) 9913-2442 or 0414-015204



# 9th NOVEMBER to 12th NOVEMBER 2010

## ACCOMMODATION

### Hotels

We have been fortunate in securing a package with Accor Hotels who own around 90% of the Hotels in the Sydney.

***Please note at this early stage the following are only indicative.***

Details are as follows:-

Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour	from \$299 per night
Ibis Sydney Darling Harbour	from \$249 “
The Menzies Sydney	from \$289 “
Sofitel Sydney Wentworth	from \$350 “
Mercure Sydney	from \$269 “
Ibis King Street Wharf	from \$199 “
Ibis World Square	from \$160 “

Accor will offer a 10% discount on these prices and closer to the date will provide a direct booking facility and a 9 RAR code to enable you to receive the benefits quoted.

### Caravan Park

Lane Cove Tourist Park have kindly agreed to provide an area where 9RAR members will be as close together as possible. Rates quoted are as follows:-

Unpowered site	\$ 35 per night
Powered site	\$ 37 “
Studio Cabins	\$130 “
2 Bedroom Cabins	\$150 “

The Lane Cove Tourist Park is close to the Train Station and Bus Route for ease of transport into the City. If members wish to book for 7 days they will receive one night free. The Park will also offer a 10% discount on production of your Seniors or TPI cards.

All bookings can be made direct to the park closer to the reunion date. We will provide all contact details.

### Serviced Apartments

We are currently negotiating with a number of serviced apartment complexes to provide discounts for our members.

### What you need to do now:-

- Book your Airfares and travel arrangements to take advantage of the cheaper rates.
- Identify what events you wish to attend. Please note that we would expect that all attendees will attend the Formal Dinner.
- All family members and friends are welcome to all activities and we would be particularly interested in inviting anyone that had either a direct or support role with the Battalion during its tour of SVN.

We will be writing to all members in June to provide full details and costings for all events and activities.

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### **The 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:**

The Battalion was formed on 13 November 1967 in South Australia. The Battalion served in South Vietnam from 5 November 1968 to 25 November 1969. The Battalion then remained at Enoggera until the 31 October, 1973 when it merged with 8 RAR to become the 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (8/9 RAR). The Battalion's service in South Vietnam resulted in the award of a Distinguished Service Order, two Military Crosses, seven Military Medals, and eleven members of the Battalion were Mentioned in Dispatches.

See more at: [http://www.9rar.org.au/battn\\_history.html](http://www.9rar.org.au/battn_history.html)



*We're on the web. Find us at:*

*[www.9rar.org.au](http://www.9rar.org.au)*

### **The Salute by Veterans at the Cenotaph or Wreath Laying Ceremony (Remembrance Service)**

It will be noticed at any Remembrance Service or when passing a Cenotaph Veterans will place their Right Hand over their "Left Side" many believing that they are placing their 'Hand over their Heart' in Respect or Remembrance of their Fallen Comrades";- this is not so.

The Veterans Salute to their "Fallen Comrades" originated in London on Armistice Day in 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall at the same time a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the "Unknown Soldier" halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment. Those present included the senior Soldier, sailor and many Victoria Cross winners. The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guard Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including many Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that "No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice".

Lest We Forget

**IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO:**

**9 RAR Association NSW**

**PO BOX 197**

**Willoughby NSW 2068**

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**“ROLL CALL”**

**The Official Newsletter of 9RAR Association (NSW)**

**April 2011**



**BRUNO ADAMCZYK**  
KIA 12th JULY 1969 11Platoon