





ISSUE 3 (2012)

December 2012

HIGHLIGHTS:

Reunion 2012 News and Photos RAR VC: Corporal D. Keighran

Book Review: Who Dares Wins

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ANZAC MEMORIAL—REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Pipes & Drums of Knox College with the banners of the 9th Battalion and our comrades in arms, the Tunnel Rats.



Photo credit: Tony Mulavey

9 RAR ASSOCIAION (NSW)

MEMBERSHIP & CORRESPONDENCE: C/- Eric Pope 19 Ingram Ave Milperra NSW 2214

Phone: 0(2) 9774-5113 or email: ericpope@bigpond.com

TREASURER : C/. Stephen Nugent 33 Bertana Crescent Mona Vale 2103

Phone:(02) 9997-1552 or email: cheryl.nugent@hotmail.com

ROLL CALL: C/. Barney 73 Barclay Rd North Rocks 2151

Phone: (02) 9873-5209 Mobile: 0488-727-475 or email: barney@barneybigwood.com

EDITOR'S REPORT

Well the highlight of 3 years planning by the NSW Committee with the bulk of the organising falling on the shoulders of Trevor and Doug (and Sharon and Leslie) came to a GRAND CLIMAX (no sexual connotation intended) in November. Trevor introduced a new member to the NSW committee Greg Barr-Jones a couple of years ago. Trev knew Gregg through the 2/1st Infantry Battalion Association as both their fathers were members of that unit. That contact was to reap huge benefits for the Reunion coffers. Greg's wife Kelly and her friend Nicole Beet were experienced fund raisers and worked tirelessly adding many thousands of dollars to help pay for the reunion and thus lowering charges to the members. Greg's company also kicked the can with providing all Identity cards and lanyards.

The people who kindly donated items for the Raffle are also to be commended, the prizes were exceptional and greatly appreciated by the winners. Barry Wakefield still cannot get the smile off his face and loves showing off his GOLD 9 RAR ring. A big thank you to 11 Platoon stalwart Bernie Fitz who supplied and copied all the DVDs that you received in your bags.

Personally, I enjoyed spending this great occasion with my mates and my family. What a wonderful time we had.

Happy New Year,

BARNEY



Above Left: My wife Helen and I, enjoying the evening. Abo9ve right: My children Jenine and Andrew who joined us for the Formal Dinner on Saturday evening.

FROMTHEASSISTANT EDITOR

I really enjoyed attending some of the events at the recent 9RAR Reunion. At the Formal Dinner it was great to put faces to names and also to have the privilege of seeing some great Australians such as General Peter Cosgrove and Col Joye. The Service on Remembrance Day was powerful and very moving. The highlights for us were being able to hold a military bugle with a very great history (more on that later in Roll Call) and throwing gold stars into the Shrine afterwards. Thank you to all of those who were so kind to me during this time. I particularly enjoyed my chat with Tom Goode after the Service, whilst we were waiting for the bus to go to the Barracks. He said some very motivational things to me which I have taken to heart.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and safe and prosperous New Year.

Emma Bigwood

Ph: 0422-429-745 or email thebigwoods@bigpond.com



SYDNEY REUNION 2012

Friday evening of the 10th of November was a balmy beautiful night, setting the scene for what was to become a wonderful meeting of like minds. The registration went smoothly with a wonderful display of new merchandise and a plentiful supply of finger food in the bar.

Saturday morning saw about 60 travellers venture off on a factory shopping trip. Also a formal meeting of all state branches was held where Doug McGrath was re elected as National President. More from Doug in the next edition of Roll Call.

Saturday evening was the scene of the formal Dinner, starting with drinks overlooking Cockle Bay. It was a relaxed affair with a minimum of formalities. It was immensely satisfying to see Margret Morrison attending and getting in the swing of things under the watchful eye of Peter Cosgrove.

Doug performed admirably as MC, except for the raffle drawing where he performed like Speedy Gonzales, going so fast we do not know who won what!

It was a delight to have Col Joye present representing the entertainers that travelled to Vietnam. Col graced us with his presence on stage telling a few yarns and belting out "Bye Bye Baby". God, you should have seen Sharon Murdoch twisting away to that.

The thrill of the evening was the marching in of the "Alby Morrison Memorial" banner, Margret refusing to use the walking stick whilst getting up and accepting the banner. She was quite feisty in telling Doug that she didn't need a microphone.

A new "Geoffrey Locke" banner was also unveiled which displays the names of the all of 9th Battalion's soldiers that were Killed In Action.



VALE

Peter G Owens

Cresswell "Cress" Fackender

Robert Rutherford

Dennis "Snow" Dans

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.





Left: A young "Cress" at Woodside in 1968

9 RAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

President	Doug McGrath	panache26@optusnet.com.au	02 9981-2675	
Vice President	t Trevor Murdoch tmurdoch@customfinance.com.au		02 99132442	
Secretary	Eric Pope ericpope@bigpond.com		02 9774-5113	
Membership	Eric Pope	asabove	as above	
Treasurer	Steve Nugent	Cheryl.nugent@hotmail.com	02 99971552	
Newsletter Editor	Rick "Barney" Bigwood	ricb@bigpond.net.au	02 9873-5209	
Assistant Editor	Emma Bigwood	thebigwoods@bigpond.com	02 9837-5546	
Welfare Officer	Trevor Murdoch	asabove	as above	
Members	Peter Nummy	panddnummy@bigpond.com.	02 4997-9759	
	Colin Schofield	schoey58@gmail.com	02 9789-3349	
	Ross Coughran	r.coughran@telstra.com	02 9892767	
	Warren Stickens	w_stickens@hotmail.com	02 9863-4383	
	Wayne Love	wayne.love@absoluteattics.com.au		
	Andrew Bigwood	thebigwoods@bigpond.com	02 9837-5546	
	Barry Wakefield	barry.wakefield@hotmail.com	02 4733-1052	
	Greg Barr-Jones	gbjbuild@bigpond.net.au	0414945024	
	Charlie Carter	charlescarter@optusnet.com.au	0418221436	

ANNUAL FEES REMINDER

Please remember that you can mail your annual fees to:

Eric Pope, 19 Ingram Ave, Milperra NSW 2214.

\$20 for 1 year, \$50 for 3 years or \$200 for life membership.

THE SUNDAY: REMEMBRANCE DAY

As the sun rose over Sydney on Sunday morning the old diggers started to assemble near the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park. It was a perfect day although a touch too hot for some. We were joined by the "Tunnel Rats Association" who ably supported our battalion during Operations.

The Knox College Pipes and Drums Band provided the music and Catafalque Party and were resplendent in their presentation.

Our Bugler Ms Jeannie Hope was given the opportunity to play an historic bugle from the 19th Battalion 1st AIF. This bugle had gone ashore at Gallipolli with Private Darby. Unfortunately 90 odd years had taken its toll on the bugle and Jeannie was unable to get it to reach the high notes required for the Last Post. She did play it for the family of Bugler Darby after the ceremony, bringing tears to their eyes.

The new battalion banners got their first airing and (as the cover photograph shows) they looked superb.

The service was conducted on behalf of the RSL and after that concluded Brian Vickery did a terrific job speaking on the meaning of the day and how it related to our Battalion.

Wreaths were laid by Warren Featherby, and Brian Vickery on behalf of our fallen. The next of kin of our KIA then laid tributes as well. The Tunnel Rats laid to beautiful floral tributes to their brave KIA .



Photo credit: Tony Mulavey

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DECEMBER 2012



Top: The Tunnel Rats marching with 9RAR. Bottom left: A member of the Knox Grammar Catafalque Party. Bottom right: Brian Vickery giving his speech.





Left: Knox Grammar Band Leader. Above: 6th generation B i g w o o d s p a y i n g t h e i r respects. Beth's sign reads: "I love soldiers. Thank you". Right: Jeannie Hope playing The Last Post.









Middle Left: The Knox Grammar Pipes and Drums Band in all their glory. They were magnificent on the day, as were the Knox Grammar Catafalque Party. Australia's future is in safe hands when you look at the quality and dedication of these young Cadets. Middle Right and Bottom: 9RAR ready to march to the Anzac Memorial.

SUNDAY: VICTORIA BARRACKS

At the conclusion of the Anzac Memorial Service a massive logistics operation started in getting 700 plus members up to Victoria Barracks Paddington. Colin Schofield had all this under control. "Schoie" had organised buses to shuttle people to the barracks and return. He had planned this years in advance and it worked like a dream.

Meanwhile up at the Barracks the catering was organised and the merchandise laid out for prospective buyers. Most importantly the cold drinks were on ice to quench the thirst of all as they arrived.

A MASSIVE thanks has to go to the son of our first CO David Morrison who locked in the venue for us years previously whilst Army Land Commander stationed at the Barracks.

The food was good and the company excellent.



Top Left: The merchandise team. Top Right: The 9RAR birthday cake. Bottom Left: The beautiful and historic Officers Mess. Bottom Right:: 11 Platoon at play







N.

11





BREAKING NEW GROUND

Kicking and screaming all the way, all you old farts born before television was in Australia are being dragged into the 21st century. Instead of relying on your suspect memories of whether you paid your fees or not on the last ANZAC Day why not check with Eric Pope (contact details on page 5). To make life easier we are now offering you the opportunity to transfer your fees directly into the 9 RAR NSW Association account to save any confusion on the day.

The reunion account transfer method has worked well with only a few "PHANTOMS" not putting their surname as the reference on the transfer.

Membership fees are:

\$20 (1 year), \$50 (3years), \$200 (for life membership) **REMEMBER FEES FALL DUE EACH ANZAC DAY!!!!!**

These fees provide for the publishing of "Roll Call" 3 times a year. They also help with covering of costs for ANZAC Day celebrations and go toward the costs of the reunions. The reunion recently held in Sydney was assisted by the forwarding of funds from the previous State's reunion. We will be assisting Victoria for the next Reunion in 2015.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

9th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association (NSW) Branch.

	Family name:	Title:		
	First name:	Middle	name:	
	Known As [if different from a	above]:		
	Partner's name:			
	Postal Address:			
		State:	Postcode:	
	Pone numbers: [h]	[mob]		
	e-mail:			
	Army No	9RAR Coy	Platoon	
	Other Unit Details [if not 9RA	AR]		
		0 one year 0 three years 00 for life		
	Please send a cheque or Money Order in favour of : "9RAR Association NSW" with this application to			
	9RAR Association NSW 19 Ingram Ave, Milperra NSV	W 2214		
	Enquiries: Eric Pope (Honour Ph [02] 9774 5113	rable Secretary)		
OPT]	ATIVELY, YOU CA ON AS OUTLINEI BERING TO USE Y	O ON PAGE 10	OF THE MAGAZ	ZINE,

TO BE AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR AUSTRALIA CORPORAL DANIEL ALAN KEIGHRAN

For the most conspicuous acts of gallantry and extreme devotion to duty in action in circumstances of great peril at Derapet, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan as part of Mentoring Task Force One on Operation SLIPPER.

Corporal Daniel Alan Keighran deployed to Afghanistan in February 2010 with the 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. On 24 August 2010 he was a member of a partnered fighting patrol with soldiers of the Afghan National Army's 1st Kandak, 4th Brigade, 205th (Hero) Corps which was engaged by a numerically superior and coordinated enemy attack from multiple firing points in three separate locations. The attack was initiated by a high volume of sustained and accurate machine-gun and small-arms fire which pinned down the combined Australian and Afghan patrol and caused a loss of momentum. In the early stages of the attack, and upon realising that the forward elements of the patrol needed effective fire support, Corporal Keighran and another patrol member moved under sustained and accurate enemy fire to an exposed ridgeline to identify enemy locations and direct the return fire of both Australian and Afghan machine guns. On reaching this position and with complete disregard for his own wellbeing, Corporal Keighran deliberately drew enemy fire by leaving the limited cover he had and moved over the ridgeline in order to positively identify targets for the machine gunners of the combined patrol. After identifying some of the enemy firing positions, Corporal Keighran, under persistent enemy fire continued to lead and mentor his team and move around the ridge to both direct the fire of the Afghan and Australian machine gunners and to move them to more effective firing positions. As the intensity of enemy fire grew, Corporal Keighran returned to the crest of the ridgeline to identify targets and adjust the fire of Australian Light Armoured vehicles. His actions resulted in the effective suppression of enemy firing points, which assisted in turning the fight in the favour of the combined patrol. Moving to a new position, Corporal Keighran deliberately and repeatedly again exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to assist in target identification and the marking of the forward line of troops for fire support elements whilst simultaneously engaging the enemy. Realising that the new position provided a better location for the patrol's joint fire controller, Corporal Keighran moved over 100 metres across exposed parts of the ridgeline, attracting a high volume of accurate enemy fire, to locate and move the fire controller to the new position. He then rose from cover again to expose his position on four successive occasions, each movement drawing more intense fire than the last in order to assist in the identification of a further three enemy firing points that were subsequently engaged by fire support elements. During one of these occasions, when his patrol sustained an Australian casualty, Corporal Keighran with complete disregard for his own safety, left his position of cover on the ridgeline to deliberately draw fire away from the team treating the casualty. Corporal Keighran remained exposed and under heavy fire while traversing the ridgeline, in order to direct suppressing fire and then assist in the clearance of the landing zone to enable evacuation of the casualty. Corporal Keighran's acts of the most conspicuous gallantry to repeatedly expose himself to accurate and intense enemy fire, thereby placing himself in grave danger, ultimately enabled the identification and suppression of enemy firing positions by both Australian and Afghan fire support elements. These deliberate acts of exceptional courage in circumstances of great peril were instrumental in permitting the withdrawal of the combined Australian and Afghan patrol with no further casualties. His valour is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Daniel Alan Keighran was born in Nambour, Queensland on 18 June 1983 and spent his formative years in regional Queensland. He enlisted in the Australian Army on 5 December 2000 and completed his Initial Employment Training at the School of Infantry in Singleton, New South Wales. In 2001, Corporal Keighran was posted to the 6th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR), where he served as a Rifleman in Delta Company. He deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth Malaysia in 2001, on Operation CITADEL - East Timor in 2003/2004 and again to Rifle Company Butterworth Malaysia in 2004. Corporal Keighran was promoted to Lance Corporal in 2005 and then served within Mortar Platoon, Support Company, 6 RAR. In 2006, he deployed on Operation CATALYST Iraq where he served as a Bushmaster driver, a role he also filled on deployment to Afghanistan with Operation SLIPPER in 2007, where he served in support of the Special Operations Task Group Rotation 4/5. In 2009, he was promoted to Corporal and posted back to Delta Company, 6 RAR. In 2010, Corporal Keighran deployed to Afghanistan on Operation SLIPPER with Mentoring Task Force 1 (MTF-1), becoming a mentor midway through his tour. For his actions carried at Derapat, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, he was invested with the Victoria Cross for Australia by Her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia at Government House, Canberra on 1 November 2012. Corporal Keighran transferred to the Active Reserve in 2011, at the same time commencing a civilian career in the mining industry. He is currently posted to the 11th/28th Battalion, the Royal Western Australia Regiment (11/28 RWAR), a Reserve infantry battalion of the Australian Army. He is married to Kathryn.



Above: Corporal Daniel Keighran

Corporal Keighran's medals and awards include:

- Victoria Cross for Australia
- Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp Iraq and Clasp ICAT
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Australian Service Medal with Clasp East Timor
- Australian Defence Medal
- United Nations Mission in Support of East Timor Medal
- NATO Non Article 5 Medal with Clasp ISAF
- Meritorious Unit Citation for 1-MTF
- Infantry Combat Badge



THE FIRST VC AWARDED TO A SOLDIER WHILST SERVING IN THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT.

Information from Department of Defence Media Release: http://www.defence.gov.au/special_events/keighran/

BOOK REVIEW: WHO DARESWINS

WHO DARES WINS by Chris Ryan (fiction) published by Century.

For those who haven't come across the books of Chris Ryan here's a bit of background on the man. Chris Ryan joined the British S.A.S. in 1984 and served in plenty of hot zones around the world including Northern Ireland, Africa and the Middle East to name just a few.

He was part of the ill-fated patrol in Iraq during the first Iraqi war. The mission was compromised resulting in the deaths of three fellow soldiers and the capture of four. In fact Chris was the only member to escape. He had to deal with sub-zero temperatures and snow, one member sadly died from hypothermia, another being killed in an Iraqi ambush. He was followed constantly by the enemy as he walked to the Syrian border.

As he walked the 300 kilometres to Syria he was constantly pursued over the distance but they failed to capture him. For this amazing feat he was awarded the Military Medal for the longest escape and evasion by an SAS trooper in history.

The complete story of the escapade was written by a fellow member and prolific author Andy McNab in Bravo Two Zero, also well worth the read if you haven't caught up with it.

Later Chris commanded a sniper team within the anti-terrorist squad. He has written many books both fiction and non-fiction, some of which (like Strike Back) were made into films.

This book 'Who Dares Wins' which, if you have been living on another planet is the motto of the SAS, starts as a hostage rescue in Iraq. Things pretty well go downhill from the outset with the lives of the two heroes Sam and Jacob Redman's lives taking very different routes.

The story is cleverly conceived, interwoven with good old M.I.5 agents and holds the interest to the very last page. Throw in some Russian special forces, sleeper cells, treachery and a few things that seem one thing but turn out to be another. Add plenty of action and what you have is a damn fine book that is hard to put down. Oh and did I mention the treachery? All in all it gives the storyline a very real feel.

If you haven't read any of Chris Ryan's books this is as good as any as an introduction. Once you read one it will have you searching for more and there are plenty to choose from.

By Resident In House Reviewer Extraordinaire Barry Wakefield

Assistant Editor's Note: As always, thank you to my friend Barry for this book review. I know I can always rely on you to provide me with one for each issue of RollCall!



MATES CORNER

ROLLCALL SUBMISSIONS

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

Emma Bigwood thebigwoods@bigpond.com ph: 0422-429-745

or Barney (Rick) Bigwood <u>ricb@bigpond.net.au</u> ph: 02 9873-5209



Email from "Dad" Roach passing, on regards from Rod Slater to all and sundry.

Rick Bigwood

From: Sent: To: Subject: Allan & Kay [ayjay_1946@skymesh.com.au] Friday, 23 November 2012 7:53 AM undisclosed-recipients Fw: 64th BIRTHDAY GREETINGS - Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) 23 -11-1948 to 23-11-2012

Good morning all...just received this from Rod Slater, and I thank him for the reminder...also, just to show him that I'm fully awake...nice touch Rod...the Red of the 1st paragraph and the Beech Brown printing of the 2nd paragraph...

Regimental Birthday - Friday 23 November 2012 - 64 years young and the troops are still doing us proud!

DUTY FIRST!

PLEASE FORWARD WIDELY AS YOU SEE FIT ... Especially to those of the other Arms & Services (incl RAN & RAAF), who without the Regiment (Infantry), would never have a job eh!

P.S. For Stu...nothing personal mate...we did enjoy the trip on "The Ferry"



Above: 11 Platoon get together at Trev's Place

IT'S ALL ABOUT MATESHIP



This is what it is all about: looking after your mates. Eric Pope (above left) goes out of his way frequently with Bernie Fitz to look after Wally Neeson (above right). They take him out, make sure he has a good time and get him home again. They both have been in a 'good paddock' by the look of them!

FROM THE EDITOR

For myself it was great to catch up with "Chip" Dale, having not seen him since 1969. It was also lovely to catch up with my partner in crime through 3 battalions Des Blazely and his wife Anne. She used to put up with Des bringing home a lot of single blokes to feed and look after. Our ladies Anne, Robyn and Helen all hit it off as well making for a couple of very enjoyable days.

OLD MATES:

Des Blazely (left), Barney Bigwood (centre) and Trevor "Chip" Dale (right) catching up for the first time in years.



A BLAST FROMTHE PAST

Another blast from the past as the Reunion was the presence of "Young" Billy Hillman. He was a REO to 2 Section 10 Platoon in July 1969, along with Mick "Ugly" Coble. I remember that they arrived in the bush with shaven heads due to experimentation with Mohawk hair styles. The CSM of 1 ARU wasn't too impressed!

Below (from left): "Young" Billy Hillman, Billy Reeds, Mick Coble, Rick "Barney" Bigwood, "Noddy" and "Irish" O'Keefe.



HE WAS ONLY 19: John Raymond Swain DARBY

John Darby was a groom living with his grandmother in Enmore, Sydney when he enlisted in the 1st AIF. Young John like most of those of his generation would have enlisted for the adventure of a lifetime. He was posted to the 19th Battalion where he became their Bugler, and embarked on the HMAS CERAMIC on the 26th of June 1915.

By the October of that year the battalion was manning Pope's corner on the Gallipoli peninsular, enduring horrific shelling by Turkish guns commanded by German Officers and frontal charges of ferocious Turks. John left Gallipoli in December as part of the most successful withdrawal of an Army in history to that point.

1916 would see the 19th Battalion on the western front in France. On the 26th July John was WIA and hospitalised. After his recovery John was considered unfit for the frontline (a decision that probably saved his life) and he was posted to Number 4 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps as a cook.

My son Andrew (shown right), a proud 5th Generation Aussie with a military heritage stretching from Gallipoli to Vietnam, was awestruck at the opportunity to hold this piece of history in his hands. The bugle has been carried in John's bag ever since, a bag labelled with his name and battalion.



By Editor Barney Bigwood

BLUE MOUNTAINS VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

A cool crisp morning greeted the veterans and their families on Sunday 19th of August, 2012.

Those present included Bob Pearson (Trackers), Eric Pope (Pogo, just kidding Popey), Bob Tracey, Bernie Fitz (D machine gunner extraordinaire), Ron Patrick, Mick Delahunty (12 Platoon), Ken Thomas, Tony Mulavey and Les Baynham. We also welcomed diggers from 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions and a driver from transport company.

Highlight of the day, making a couple of old tracker platoon blokes very happy, was the attendance of current war dogs some wearing their campaign medals. Hero of the canines was "Sarbi", the dog that disappeared for over a year from the contact where Donaldson earned his VC. Sarbi led the dogs in the parade and the author of the book on her exploits was present and gave the address at the service.



Above (left and right): The war dogs, including Sarbi.

Right: A member of the Catafalque Party was Ryan Tracey, son of our own Bob Tracey



F111 DISPLAYNEWS

From our 12 Platoon Historical Plane enthusiast Michael Delahunty.

Mick is a member of the HARS, the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society.

From the HARS website: We were honoured last week with a formal announcement by the Hon Jason Clare, MP that HARS was one of the museums successful in obtaining a loaned F111 aircraft for display. The aircraft tail number is A8-109 which has significant history including service in Vietnam with the US Air Force. We anticipate having the aircraft delivered in the early part of 2013 in time for static display at Wings Over Illawarra on 5 May, 2012.



F111 donated to HARS. Photo credit: RAAF official image by Sgt G. McCarthy



Photo credit: Tony Mulavey

After a very enjoyable reunion, the 9RAR Association would like to take this opportunity to wish you all...

a very merry Christmas

and

a happy and healthy New Year

We hope the festive season is full of laughter, prosperity and love for you all.

See you in 2013!

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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: <u>http://www.9rar.org.au/battn_history.html</u>



We're on the web. Find us at: <u>www.9rar.org.au</u>



The Pool of Reflection, at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney.

Many thanks to **TONY MULAVEY** who provided many of the photos in this edition of Roll Call, including this shot. Not all of his pictures have been credited due to space restrictions. Sorry Tony!

IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO: 9 RAR Association NSW PO BOX 253 Narrabeen NSW 2101

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POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

"ROLL CALL"

The Official Newsletter of 9RAR Association (NSW) DECEMBER 2012

Jeffrey Duroux originally from Grafton NSW was a corporal in 11Platoon D company 6 RAR during the battle of LONG TAN in August 1966. He was promoted to Sgt and posted to 9 RAR to give some real battle experience to the fledging battalion.

He was KIA during Operation "GOODWOOD" in January 1969. RIP



17.07.40-05.01.69 B Company