



# 9 RAR ROLL CALL!



March 2016

JOURNAL OF 9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ISSUE 1 (2016)

## Highlight:

Peter Badcoe V.C.

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REAR: Des Thompson (left) and Bluey Dixon. FRONT: Rick Ashton (left) and Paul Kiely B Coy transporting wounded enemy to dust off during Operation Goodwood.

## 9 RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)

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## EDITOR'S REPORT

Time is flying by as we go to press and once again it is my melancholy task to report on more of our “Brothers from different Mothers”, our comrades from that traumatic war, who have “marched on”. Three more since the last edition. See “VALE” for details.

Coupled with this is the sad news that two serving Diggers from our battalions took their own lives this week, adding to a constantly growing list of 193 since 2001. (See more below). We must look after each other, ring your mates and make sure they are not suffering. Lend your ear to their worries; believe me it does help. We also need to be mindful of our younger men and women veterans who have been in harms way and experienced the same horrors of war that we did. These wonderful young people have often done multiple tours of several war zones and are having difficulties in adjusting to the hum drum civilian life.

### *Barney*



LEFT: Jay Waring-Smith, Delta Coy 5 RAR

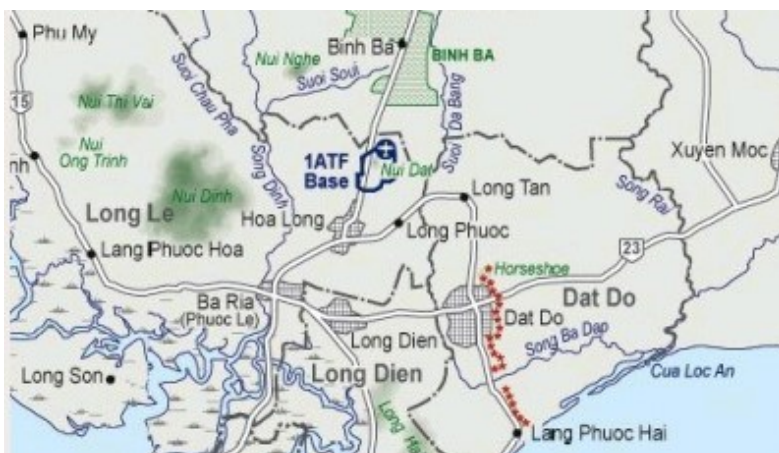
Tragically succumbed to his demons of depression, taking his own life in January 2016.

RIGHT: Shaun Jenkins, 1 RAR

He had sought and been provided professional advice and treatment in 2015 for his mental health but lost his battle this year.

Maintain the rage guys. Get the word out there that in our brotherhood, you never need to be alone, no matter what demons you are fighting.

Duty First



# VALE

**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.**

John Griffiths passed away in August 2015.

John provided 8 Platoon with much mirth on the 7th March 1969 when after he was wounded in the thigh during a heavy contact in a bunker system The medic cut away his trousers to get to the wound and when he was lifted out by jungle penetrator to the chopper his bare and bloody bum was exposed to all on the ground.

## RIP Corporal

**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"*



*4Sect 8Pl celebrating Boxing Day, 1968 – John Griffiths, Dennis Sigston, "Fuzz" Hall, Ron Jones, Steve Cole, with Tom Eaton in front.*

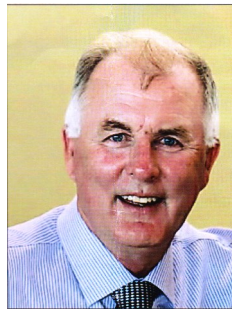


*We Remember*  
**COLIN ROY McLEOD**  
 14th May 1948 ~ 23rd January 2016

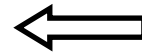


"Cossie" and Sandy at Jacko's funeral.

Sandy really appreciated the Governor General making time out of his busy schedule to show his respect for a fellow Bravo company digger.



Dave "Jacko" Jackman B Coy succumbed to aggressive cancer on Xmas Day 2015.



Part of the 9th Battalion guard at as "Jacko's" remains were taken from chapel.

# UPDATE ON GARY ARCHER'S REPATRIATION

## REPATRIATION FROM TERANDAK WAR CEMETERY

It has been a few months since the Office of Australian War Graves advised that Gary's remains will be returned to Australia along with others buried at Terandak, Malaysia. The last advice was that Gary's family had agreed that he should be re-interred at Rookwood Cemetery in the western Sydney suburb of Lidcombe and that it would take place sometime in June.



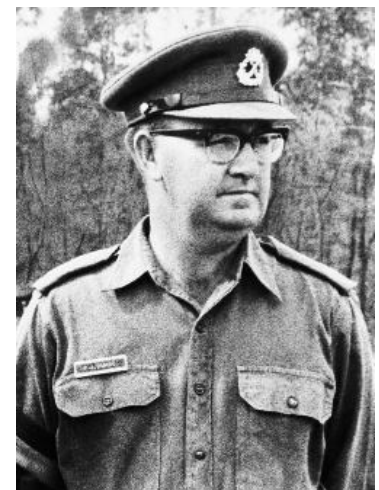
It was hoped that, with the family's agreement, ex-9RAR diggers would be able to participate in the Ramp Ceremony as a Guard of Honour and in the re-burial service. The family agreed with this and advised Barry Hampson of the OAWG of our wishes. Mr Hampson has now verbally advised Lyn (Gary's sister) that the flight into Australia will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June and that the Burial Ceremony will occur the next day. He also advised that diggers from the current 8/9 Battalion will be performing the necessary functions as is required by a proper military service and prescribed by normal protocol. He also advised that it has not yet been decided whether the plane carrying the bodies will land at Amberley (Queensland) or Richmond (NSW).

Lyn is expecting written confirmation as to what the final details are and what part we can play in either of the ceremonies. We will be holding "welcome home drinks" at a location convenient to Rookwood Cemetery so that we can all celebrate Gary's homecoming on the day.

At time of going to print representations to the OAWG (Office of Australian War Graves) were being made by our President Doug McGrath to put a case for bring Gary's remains directly to Richmond airbase where former comrades from his own section and platoon would be able to participate in honouring him.

Gary is due home in Australia this coming June. As more information comes to hand Eric Pope our Secretary will share with us all by the email network.

Coming home with Gary will be a fellow Infantryman , Major Peter Badcoe VC (pictured below right) who has lain with Gary in Terandek, Malaysia since 1969.



## PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

As Anzac Day approaches for another year our thoughts turn to those before us who sacrificed so much to preserve the freedoms we still enjoy today and those we served with, many of whom we'll see on this spiritual day. Those we have lost will be with us in spirit as we march in their honour.

Last year, the 100 year Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, was massively promoted and the public responded accordingly. We were certainly caught off guard after the Sydney march, with such a large contingent attending our post March gathering at the New Windsor Hotel. I imagine this year will not be quite as big.

With George Street closed for the construction of the Light Rail, the march will take an alternative route down Elizabeth Street, for the first time in decades. The map showing the new route for the march is included elsewhere in this publication. It is important that all families be advised of these changes so they find alternative places from which to view the march.

Our Association has for some time offered our support to the Veteran's Centre Sydney Northern Beaches. As such, I recently attended a Veteran's forum held at the Dee Why RSL where the centre is housed. I was amazed at how many different ESO's and other groups there are in existence and was so impressed by the passionate commitment of so many people to assist the veteran community in any way that is required. It appeared that veterans and families of WW2 and post WW2 conflicts are well catered for. The big challenge is to reach the modern day veterans who, it seems, do not readily access the support programs that are available for them. It is a growing problem which is being addressed to the highest level. This was evidenced by the NSW Governor, His Excellency The Honourable David Hurley generously hosting the forum delegates at a Reception at their home, Government House which was a richly rewarding experience for all involved.

As some would know, our association has had a mentoring relationship with 31 Platoon D coy 1RTB, Kapooka for many years. I recently had the pleasure of joining Colin Schofield, who co-ordinates this for 9RAR in visiting 31 Platoon for their March out Parade which they shared with 32 Platoon. We addressed the all male platoon of recruits the evening before and covered a lot of the things we experienced in our service in Vietnam, particularly things still relevant to the modern infantry soldier. Schoey showed a DVD of slides from our time which they found of great interest, promoting many questions. We were impressed with the type and depth of these questions and what they wanted to do once they moved to their corps.

The March Out Parade was a spectacular event in front of a large crowd of family, friends, ex service organizations, past and serving members. His Excellency, The Honourable David Hurley was the reviewing Officer and was loud in his praise for the quality of the drill and the presentation of the recruits. Three members of each Platoon were awarded prizes by the Governor for outstanding levels of efficiency across different disciplines. We came away very impressed with the modern army from the facilities, the recruits, NCO's and Officers we met or witnessed in their barracks environment. I am keen for us to maintain this relationship.

In recent times, sadly, we have lost more of our mates, notably John Griffiths, Colin McLeod and David Jackman who we lost cruelly on Christmas Day. I attended his funeral in January along with a large contingent of 9RAR members at which Brian Hamilton delivered a superb eulogy which included a stirring piece from Ted Chitham as David had been his batman in B Coy. The military support extended beyond 9RAR and NSW with people coming from far afield. The large military contingent present was headlined by our patron and former B Coy Platoon Commander, Sir Peter Cosgrove. His presence gave the event great dignity and was welcomed by Dave's partner Sandy and his family. If you can say it was a great funeral, it was a great funeral. Our thoughts are with Sandy and David's family along with the families of our other members recently departed.

We have a number of our men fighting a variety of medical battles and we offer them our support and best wishes also. Enjoy Anzac Day, wherever you attend and I look forward to seeing as many as possible at the Windsor after the March.

Cheers,  
*Doug, your pensive President*

## THE SYDNEY INFANTRYMAN LUNCH

**Purpose:** To eat good food, drink good wine, talk old soldiers' talk and walk away feeling pleased.

**Required:** Infantrymen, ANY nationality, ANY army with service as infantry whilst on the nominal roll of an infantry battalion; war service is NOT essential.

**When:** 1st Thursday of every month.

**Where:** The Royal Automobile Club of Australia; 89 Macquarie St Sydney.

**Time:** 1200 for 1230.

**Dress:** At least, a collared shirt & shoes.



For a little over a year now Mick Shave and Dave Jeffrey have been hosting a luncheon at the Royal Automobile Club, Australia at 89 Macquarie St, Sydney (next to Circular Quay railway and Ferry wharves).

The food is top class, beer is reasonably priced, and if you are a wine fancier, they have a wide selection of top-class reds available at "special" prices. Mick will guide you in the right direction but I suggest you check the price before you accept Mick's offer to go halves. If you remember Mick from the old days you will be surprised how much he has "matured" in the last, almost, half century; just like a good bottle of wine?

The original luncheon was attended by ex Charlie Coy diggers and I guess they talked Charlie Coy stuff but now it has spread to include other Coy diggers as well as other Battalion members thus increasing the topics of conversation.

Bill MacDonald (ex A and D Coy commander) was one welcome new voice. We talked about his after-military service exploits (you couldn't call running a Country Club work?) and his role in setting up the Men's Shed near Woodside S A.

On one occasion we were joined by James (ex 5/7 RAR-Mechanised) who gave us a good insight into the current equipment, arms, tactics and food. James is the current president of 5/7 RAR Association and keeps in contact with the current battalion. He did push his luck a bit when he insisted that we (us) were given ten days R&R while we were in Vietnam.

Another regular attendee is Ian from 8RAR; it has been very enlightening to discuss the differences in tactics between 9RAR and 8RAR. We were also able find out how blokes, who went to 8RAR after 9RAR went home, fared.

So, if you feel that you would like to contribute to (or just sit and listen to) topics to discuss please come along and join in.

## LINKS TO SOME VIETNAM RELATED WEBSITES

<http://vietnamvetradio.com/> For all the hits of the sixties

<https://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au/> A fantastic site showing every contact in Australia's area of involvement Vietnam . You can add your personal notes of your involvement and add to the history of the war for future generations.

"A Duty Done" a history of the Regiments involvement in Vietnam . Available through the RARA SA on <http://rarasa.org.au> Down load order form and payment instructions.

## BOOK REVIEW

# The Great War: A Combat History of the First World

While doing this review I hesitated because of the enormity of the task. I sit in awe at Peter Hart who had researched the subject so exactly that if you read no other book about the First World War you would be very well informed. Firstly about the author, who is Oral Historian of the Imperial War Museum in London, He has also written several books about WW1.

A quote at the beginning of the book says it all. The quote by German Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck “Anyone who has ever looked into the glazed eyes of a soldier dying on the battlefield will think hard before starting a war.” Unfortunately the Kaiser was thinking only of expansion and was deeply jealous of Great Britain and her Empire.

This war would draw in so many countries, change national boundaries, empires would collapse and millions of people would be killed, not all combatants. During WW1 advancements in every area would take place. It is hard for us to realize that air forces would be established, tanks invented, better ships, terrible gases and a rapid advancement in capability of Artillery.

Prussia who was the driving force in the German Federation had plans on how to invade France well in advance. France and Germany had been fighting over the years with Germany now sure it could overrun France. To do this it had to break Belgium’s neutral status, which they did without care. What followed was desperate times for millions.

The book also has maps and photos of how the world was, such quaint names like Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) and Persia (now Iran) all very interesting and informative.

They called it the “WAR TO END ALL WARS” if only that were true, sadly a lot of the decisions taken at the conclusion of that war fed resentment in Germany thereby fuelling WW2.

This book has actual accounts from the combatants themselves from both sides, you get the feel of what it was like and what they were going through. You often hear quoted the saying “Lions led by Donkeys” yet once I read this account I changed my mind. They were playing catch up, each trying to invent the next thing that would mean an outright win.

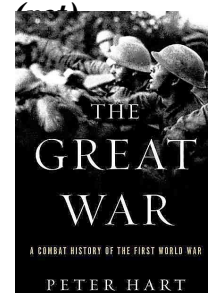
The German Army was a professional army well trained and very large. They thought by quick strike they would win quickly. They did not count on some dogged fighting by much smaller armies. It would take some years of the French doing the majority of the work before the British would be up to strength. The war was shortened by the American forces coming in and tipping the balance of power.

At the end when the fighting was over a Canadian captain reflected “Every man had a grin from ear to ear on his face”. Nobody yelled or showed uncontained enthusiasm, everybody just grinned and I think it was because the men couldn’t find words to express themselves.

In the aftermath the German Army had 14 days to withdraw to its borders, surrender 5,000 guns, 30,000 machine guns, 3,000 trench mortars and 2,000 aircraft. It didn’t stop there 150,000 railway coaches, 5,000 lorries, at sea they had to give up 6 Dreadnoughts, 160 U-Boats and 8 light Cruisers. The wartime leaders Foch, Haig, Petain and Pershing had worked out this plan with the aim of stopping Germany rearming itself in the near future. As it turned out 20 years later the world was again involved in a world war.

*Review by Cpl Barry Wakefield*

L to R: 9 Battalion Private John Leak VC.  
The landing point of 9th Battalion at Anzac Cove of the 9th Battalion 1st AIF. The book cover.



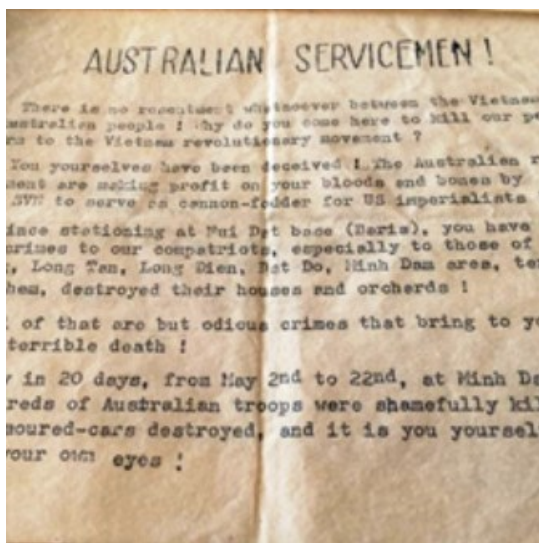
## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT SYDNEY ANZAC DAY 2016 RAR Regimental Square Service

Due to the construction of the Metro Light Rail along George Street and the total refurbishment of Regimental Square there will be **NO RAR SERVICE ON ANZAC DAY 2016.**

For the same reason the 2016 Anzac Day March will proceed along Elizabeth Street.



Please note that there are **NO CHANGES TO THE “FUP” OF THE RAR BATTALIONS**, which remains the corner of Hunter and Bligh Streets.



**Top left:** leaflet dropped by VC to get Aussies not to fight.

**Top Right:** the night time Protection for all Infantry men both offensive in ambush and defensive when in harbour.

**Left:** Who is this A Coy digger contemplating a dip in the Nui Dat Pool?



## SOME OF OUR BRAVE MM (MILITARY MEDAL) RECIPIENTS

### Brave soldiers who risked all for others

**MM** Cpl. P. Snell, medical assistant with 9RAR.  
 "During an enemy contact in April this year, an Australian soldier was very seriously wounded. Cpl. Snell, although in an extremely exposed position, quickly moved forward and gave medical treatment. Cpl. Snell was continually subjected to hostile fire. At one stage his back was grazed by a bullet, but he calmly continued to give treatment."

**MM** Cpl. T. R. Whitton, section commander with 9RAR.  
 "During an enemy contact in January this year he directed the fire of his section against the enemy until he was ordered to withdraw. His command and control of the section, despite sustained enemy fire, was competent and effective. His bravery in covering the withdrawal of a wounded man, while continually exposed to hostile fire, reflected great credit on himself and the Australian Army."  
**D BOY. 12 PL. 9R.A.R.**

and the Australian Army  
**D BOY. 12 PL. 9R.A.R.**  
**MM** Cpl. A. P. P. Rae, medical assistant with 9RAR in SVN.  
 "During January this year he twice risked his own life to tend the wounds of Australian soldiers. He did this in spite of intense enemy fire. On these and other occasions Cpl. Rae consistently showed outstanding devotion to duty in his care and treatment of wounded comrades, often at considerable risk to his own life."

# 9RAR MEMBERSHIP FEES (2016) REMINDER

## MEMBERSHIP FEE STATUS

On the front of the plastic envelope containing this issue of ROLL CALL you will find a sticker showing your name, your six digit membership number and the year that your current membership expires.

Our years start on Anzac Day so if the year shown on your sticker is 2017 you should pay your membership fee by, or on, Anzac Day 2017.

When paying your fees by bank transfer please be sure to use your six digit membership number as a reference/auxiliary service number. This will enable the Treasurer to correctly identify your payment (which has been a problem in the past).

If you disagree with the date shown on your sticker please contact me:

Home: 02 9774-5113. Mobile: 0422 522 110. Email: ericpope@bigpond.com

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Middle name \_\_\_\_\_ Partners Name \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No \_\_\_\_\_ mob \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Army No \_\_\_\_\_ 9RAR Coy \_\_\_\_\_ Platoon \_\_\_\_\_

Other Unit Details \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fees are \$25 one year, \$65 three years.

Please send a cheque or Money Order in favour of:

9RAR ASSOCIATION (NSW)

19 INGRAM AVE

MILPERRA NSW 2214

Or you can make a direct deposit into our bank account

Bank: WESTPAC Branch: NORTHBRIDGE

BSB: 032-199 Account No: 184308

Again, please be sure to use your six digit membership number as the reference/auxiliary serial number.



# 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 [barneybig@outlook.com](mailto:barneybig@outlook.com) ph.: 02 9873-5209



From: David & Janet Stacey <[stacey35@bigpond.net.au](mailto:stacey35@bigpond.net.au)>

Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2016 at 2:28 PM

Subject: re David

To:

Dear Family, friends and members of the 9 RAR "family",

*"greatcoats on" and greatcoats off"!!!*

Thanks to all for enquiries, messages and supporting our family in many ways

David saw the oncologist today at Flinders Private. More tests over the next 2 weeks prior to treatment proceeding Back to square 1 now i.e., 31 December, 2015. Ask us about the medical delays some time!!

*David's very proud of the "Flash dance" petunias he's been nursing along with rainwater all summer*

warm regards,

David and Jan Stacey

David 0447 373130

Jan 0438 809372



**Rod Harlor in Thailand at War Cemetery & Death Railway Museum.**



## GEORGE NAGLE KIA 6-1-1969 : Operation Goodwood

George is buried in his home country Ireland and never had an official plaque from Australian war graves. Michael Von Bergh OAM MC and others made this a project and it reached its fruition this year with a plaque presented to George's family in Ireland.

From: Willie Nagle  
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 10:25 AM  
To: williams-binstead@bigpond.com  
Cc: george\_nagle@eircom.net  
Subject: Presentation of Plaque

Hello Bill

Sorry for delay in replying to your very detailed account of events in Australia in 2016 Will remember at noon on Sunday next.

The plaque for George was presented at a ceremony at the home of the Australian Ambassador in Dublin by Brigadier Bill Sowry from London. We had a very relaxed and pleasant lunch with the Ambassador and her husband.

In photo from left, Helen, sons Andrew and George, Brigadier Sowry and the Ambassador.

Col. Burke from Irish defence forces also attended We are making arrangements to have plaque installed on the grave and will send photo when completed.

We much appreciate your help and assistance on this project.



## COLIN McLEOD'S FUNERAL

**From:** Allan Tonkin [mailto:allantonkin150@gmail.com]

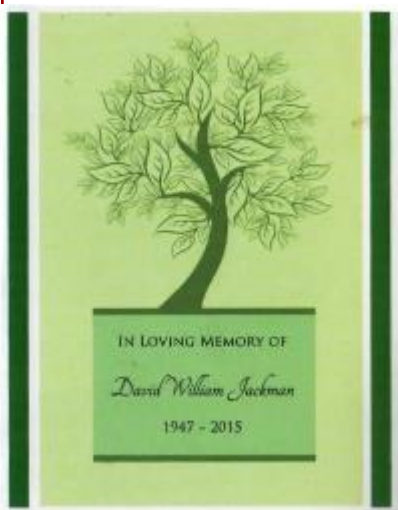
**Sent:** Monday, 1 February 2016 3:09 PM

**Subject:** Funeral Service: Colin McLeod,

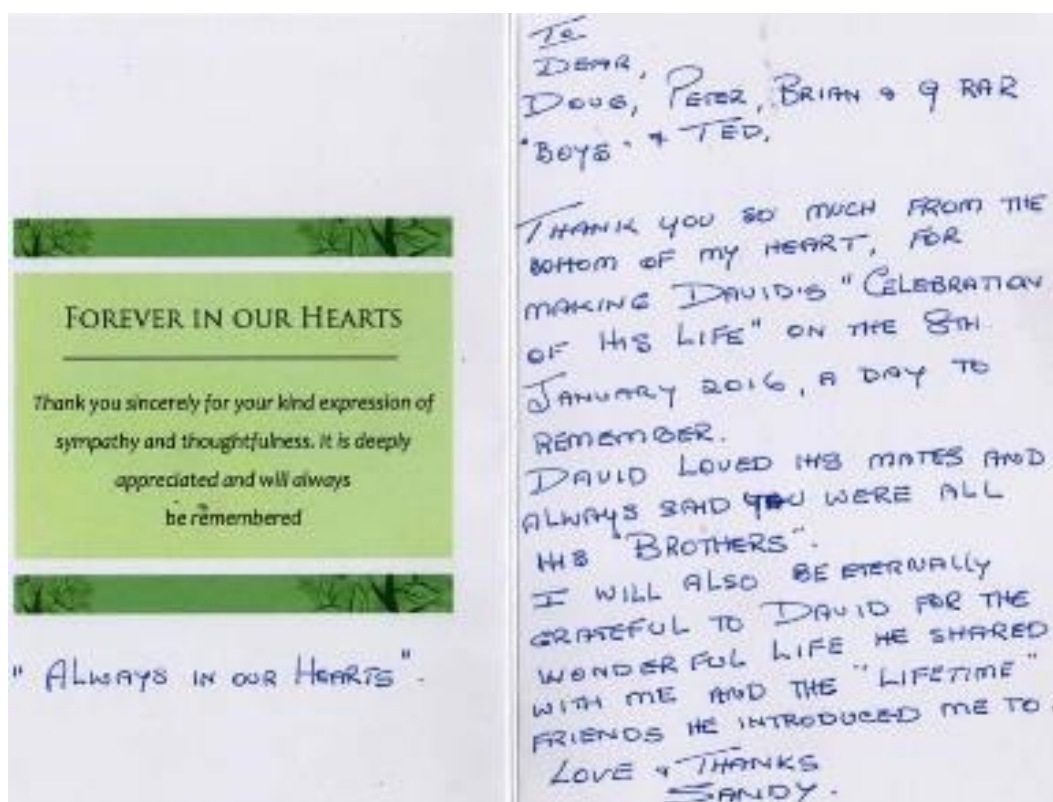
Hello all,

Today we farewelled Colin "Twiggy" McLeod at Bacchus Marsh ,Colin had other nicknames ,incl "Tige" from his Mother,& "Macka" The Service was attended by approx. 150-160 ,including about 30 Ex Service members from the local RSL & also from Epping RSL. Noel Aldis, Ray & Coral Evans, Neville "Blue" Dixon & His wife, Harry & Nancy Birrel, Klaus & Sue Cimdins Gale Sutton(Dave's widow),Freddy Harris & Myself representing 9RAR,, The Battalion Sash was draped on the Coffin with his Medals,, 4 members of Colin's local Motor Cycle Club attended Noel spoke about their life long mateship, Freddy spoke about their time in the Army & later life, I spoke briefly on behalf of the Battalion Association on his Service in the Army, The local RSL Rep then led the RSL Segment of the service,, Following the Service, we all ad-journed with the family to the Bowls club for a "Lovely spread "put on by the ladies' Auxiliary,, The Family asked that I pass on their appreciation for all Ex "B-Coy" members for attending & also for the presentation of the Sash, Adam McLeod has marched with "Twiggy "on ANZAC Day in Melbourne for a number of years, He will continue to join us at our Services,,

Take care, Allan



Sandy sent this card to all of 9 RAR members especially those who provided a guard of honour for David.



**From Wendy Stewart, with regards to Colin McLeod's send off**

B Coy mate, he was with 2LT Geoffrey R. Locke. It was a great send off Barney and his 12 year old furry best mate came home with me. I had the honour of meeting Bluey and Noel , men I felt like I already knew because Tige talked about them often. I plan to catch up with them and [Adam McLeod](#) on ANZAC Day in Melb. this year. 9RAR formed up near the Tunnel Rats 2yrs ago, so hopefully they will be close by again.

## “Bing” Forster

Mike (Pineapple) and Nola Burnside visited the Nanango Cemetery last week end and found "Bing". Can't believe it is over 25 years since the funeral...

“Bing” Forster served in 11 and 12 Platoons during his tour. A well liked reliable digger. Passed away before his prime fondly remembered. Thanks to “Pineapple” for visiting him .



“Bing” up to mischief above right. We do not know who the victim is or “Bing’s” accomplice. If you recognise them let Barney know.

### MOVING TO KINGAROY QLD:

[mailto:darrayner@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, 21 January 2016 2:26 AM

**To:** panache26@optusnet.com.au

**Cc:** Trevor Murdoch

**Subject:** Moving to qld

Good afternoon gentleman

Unfortunately me and my family will be moving to kingaroy ( I dont want to but what can you do) therefor no sydney anzac day at the moment I hope to get to the brisbane march have you got an address / contact person to contact when I get there

My new address is 68 haly street kingaroy qld will see you in adelaide its been fun dennis.

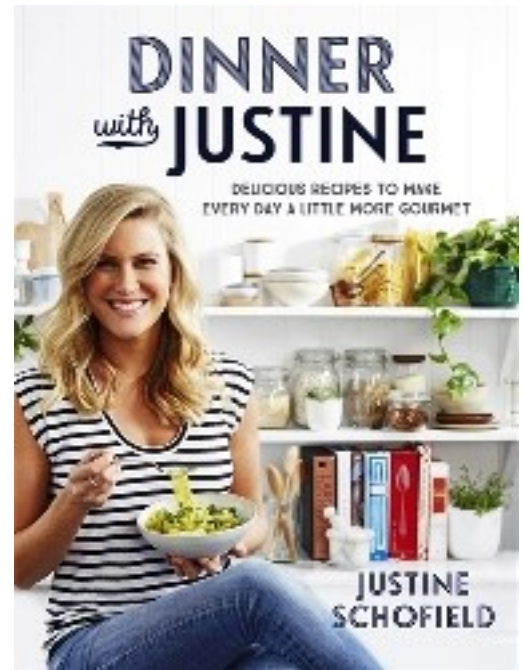
# From the Progeny of a B Coy Digger, an award winning Chef Justine Schofield

Our daughter Justine has eventually produced an excellent Cook Book to complement her TV Show Everyday Gourmet.

It is being released on 1st April to be in time for Mothers Day, so there is your Grand Children's Mother's Day present catered for, if not yours.

It will be available at all good book stores and Online - the link will come later.

The other way to obtain a copy is to turn up at the New Windsor for ANZAC day where some copy's will be raffled.



## Military Language Conversion Chart

NAVY	ARMY	AIR FORCE
Heads	Shitter	Powder Room
Rack	Bunk / Farter	Queen bed electric blanket & doona
Cafe / SCRAN Hall	Mess / Mess Tent	Dining Facility
Pussers Cook	Cook / Fitter & Turner	Contract Chef
Brew	Brew	Vanilla Skim Latte* with a bickie
Limers / Goffa	Goffa/ jebwby juice (can of coke/cordial)	Shirley Temple
W9's/Coveralls	Cams /DPCUs	Casual Attire
Seaman	Private	Bobby / Jimmy
Chief	WO2	Timothy / Justin
Captain	Colonel	Rupert / James
The Table(chooks)	Article 15	Time Out
Mess/Onboard	Barracks	Self contained Apartment
Durps/Trolleys	Underwear	Knickers
Cells	Piss Can	Grounded
Cero's	Pollys	Armani Suit
Lid / Cap	Beret/Head Gear/ Slouch	Optional
AFT Stores	Q Store	Westfield Shopping Mall
Hammered	Pissed	Oops. little tipsy..
Deployment/ Detachment	Deploy / Ops / Bush / Scrub / Field	Huh?
Runners	Runners	Moccasin's
Die for your Country	Die for your Mate	Die for Air Conditioning
Shipmate/Oppo/Besty	Mate/digger	Honey/Babe/Pookie
Terminate / Contact	Take Out	Back on Base for Nuck Night
Boiler Boots	GP's / Terras	Ugg Boots
Pussers Sandals	JC Sandals	Patent Leather Stiletto's
SEAL	SASR	Librarian

## ROD HARLOW: NOW RESIDENT IN VIETNAM

One of our brothers from a different mother Rod Harlor from mortar Platoon has returned to Vietnam and is now resident there in Vung Tau. When Jimmy Sillence ex 12 Platoon told me he was considering going back to visit Vietnam I put him in touch with Rod as he knows all the where for alls of the place now. Below is their email exchange.

G'day Jim,

You are probably aware that Barney Bigwood sent me your details. My history runs pretty close to you two. Reo, i think next intake after you guys, 4RAR/NZ, then 9RAR. I was with mortars with both. Coincidentally Barney worked with my son for years at Woolworths.

Barney says you are planning on coming over in August, so any assistance you need give me a yell. Not sure what you know about our plans for August, but i am Chairman of a committee that is putting together a Friendship dinner at the 5Star Pullman Hotel here in Vung Tau!

f you like a drink, i can point you to the right places including Tommys 3 which is the RAR bar in Vung Tau. If you have not been back you will certainly be stunned by the changes

For info on the Dinner etc. see Long Tan Cross on facebook or our website is [longtancross.com](http://longtancross.com)

Cheers Jim,

look forward to meeting up with you!

My OFFICIAL new number is +8401212941560.

Rod is working with and assisting with an orphanage in Vung Tau. Here is an excerpt from a recent visit: Playground equipment was donated but now the children cannot use them because they get too hot!! Anyone who knows someone in the shadecloth industry or the like might just be able to help us there.

To see on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rp2v08lVbg4>





# PICS FROM MELBOURNE REUNION NOVEMBER 2015



Right: Brian Vickery Stan Sutherland, Normie Rowe and Bruno Adameczyk's daughter Michelle "Micki" Mathews the adopted niece of her D Coy "UNCLES".



Left: Alan Chandler and friends. Jealous of old blokes with hair !!



Left: B Coy stalwarts and some wives

Below: Normie Rowe and band



Below: Delta 11 Platoon soldiers with their Wives.

Ian Lygoe & Bev on the left and Carol & Alan Cunningham.



Below:

Colin & Francoise Schofield enjoying the Dinner evening



# MERCHANDISE: Plenty of stock



## MERCHANDISE

### Sales support next year's Victorian Reunion

<u>LADIES SCARVES</u>	<u>\$25</u>
<u>POLO SHIRTS</u>	<u>\$35</u>
<u>T-SHIRTS (ALL DESIGNS)</u>	<u>\$28</u>
<u>CAPS</u>	<u>\$25</u>
<u>HATS (INC. PUGGAREE &amp; BADGES)</u>	<u>\$90</u>
<u>KEY RINGS &amp; BADGES (PER SET)</u>	<u>\$5</u>
<u>P&amp;H FOR KEYRINGS/BADGES</u>	<u>\$3</u>

## ORDERS

Mr Warren Stickens  
 w\_stickens@hotmail.com  
 0409-151-614

<p>Annual membership \$25          3 Year membership \$65</p>
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## PAYMENT

Please send a cheque or Money Order in favour of 9 RAR Association NSW. Send to: Mr Eric Pope, 9 Ingram Ave, Milperra NSW 2214. Alternatively you can make a Direct Deposit into the Association's Bank Account:

Bank: Westpac  
 Branch: Northbridge  
 BSB: 032199  
 A/c number: 184308

**NOTE: Prices do NOT include postage and handling.**

## PETER BADCOE VC: CITATION

On the 23rd February, 1967 - Major Peter Badcoe, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally of Adelaide, South Australia, leads an attack against Viet Cong troops - it was the first of three acts of bravery between February and April 1967 for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Major Peter Badcoe was one of Australia's greatest war heroes - a highly-decorated soldier whose acts of bravery and courage saw him awarded the medal for three separate acts during the Vietnam conflict. Major Badcoe died on a battlefield in Vietnam on 7 April 1967 - his last action on that day seeing him single-handedly try to stop a Vietcong machine gunner from firing on allied South Vietnamese troops.

Born in Adelaide on 11 January 1934, Major Badcoe grew up and was educated in his home city before joining the South Australian public service as a clerk.

In 1952 he served for seven weeks in the 16th National Service Battalion and on 12 July of that year entered the Officer Cadet School in Portsea, Victoria, from which he graduated Second Lieutenant on 13 December 1952.

In August 1966, Lieutenant Badcoe was posted to the Australian Army Training Team as sub-sector adviser to the Nam Hoa district of Thu Thien province. As an adviser he was concerned with military operations and training carried out by the Ruff Puffs in his district.

In December 1966 he was re-allotted to the second headquarters of Thua Thien as operations adviser. It was as province operations adviser that he carried out the actions for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

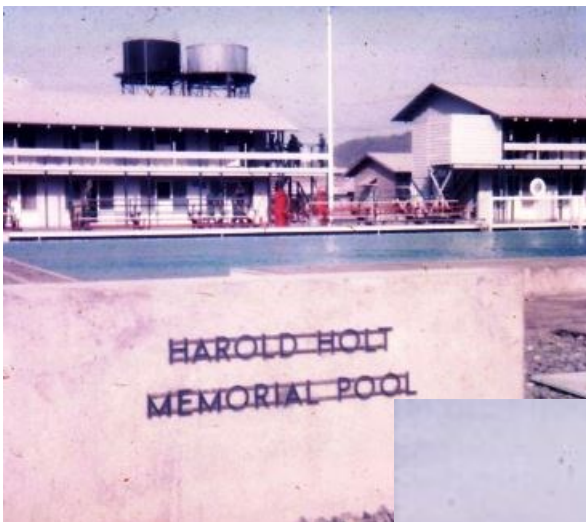
On 23 February 1967 he was acting as adviser to a regional force company in support of a second operation in Phu Tho district when he monitored a radio transmission which reported the death of an American subsector adviser and the wounding of an American medical adviser. With complete disregard for his own safety Major Badcoe moved alone across 600 metres of fire-swept ground, attended to the wounded medical adviser and ensured his safety. He then organised a force of platoon strength and led them in a successful assault against the enemy machine-gun post near the body of the American adviser. He killed the machine-gunners in front of him, picked up the body of the dead American and ran back, over open ground still covered by hostile fire, to the regional force command post.

Two weeks later, early 7 March 1967, the Sector Reaction Company was deployed to Quang Dien subsector to counter Viet Cong attack on the headquarters. Badcoe, who had left the command group when their vehicle broke down, joined the company headquarters and personally led the company in an attack over open terrain to capture a heavily defended enemy position. His action prevented the enemy from capturing the district headquarters and averted certain heavy losses.

Exactly one month later, on 7 April, Badcoe was on an operation with the 1st Army of the Republic of Vietnam Division Reaction Company, supported by armoured personnel carriers, in the Huong Tra district. As the 1st Army moved forward to its objective the company came under heavy arms fire and had to withdraw to a nearby cemetery for cover. Badcoe and his radio operator were left fifty metres in front of the others, under heavy mortar fire. Badcoe ran back and rallied his men and got them moving but they were again stopped by heavy fire. He rose to throw grenades but was pulled down by his radio operator. When he got up to throw another grenade he was killed by a burst of machine-gun fire. Soon after friendly artillery was called in on the enemy position and it was assaulted and captured.

Major Badcoe was buried at the Terendak cemetery, Malaysia, his epitaph being 'He lived and died a soldier'. In November 1967 an Australian and New Zealand soldiers' club in Vietnam was officially opened as the Peter Badcoe Club.

For his services in Vietnam, in addition to the Victoria Cross, Badcoe was also awarded the American Silver Star. South Vietnam awarded him the National Order of the Republic of Vietnam (Knight), three Crosses of Gallantry (with Palm, Gold Star and Silver Star) and the Armed Forces Honour Medal, 1st Class.



LEFT: The Pool at the "PETER BADCOE CLUB" Vung Tau.

BELOW: Can anyone identify this 9 RAR digger in front of the Badcoe Club sign? Must be D Coy as photograph is from Bully Reeds collection. Let Barney know if you recognise him.



## FROM STAN SUTHERLAND & VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION

To all Reunion Attendees,

The 2015 National Reunion is now behind us and the Victorian Committee and members are extremely appreciative of our members, family and friends coming to Melbourne and sharing in the camaraderie over the few days of the reunion. Our goal at the outset was to host a memorable occasion for the whole 9RAR Association family. From all reports, and feedback received, it seems we've been successful in doing this. However, without the support of our members it doesn't matter how well we laid our plans, we wouldn't have been able to claim that we had a great reunion and to this end we thank you wholeheartedly.

Our photographer, Polo Jiminez, captured the essence of the Reunion Dinner and took some great photos. You can download his fabulous photos free of charge at [www.9rar.bypolo.net](http://www.9rar.bypolo.net)

Thank you so much again for attending the Melbourne Reunion. We can all now look forward to Adelaide in two years' time.

Kind regards

Stan Sutherland

President

9RAR Association [Vic] Inc.

## 9 RAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	Doug McGrath	<a href="mailto:panache26@optusnet.com.au">panache26@optusnet.com.au</a>	029981-2675
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The 9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment:

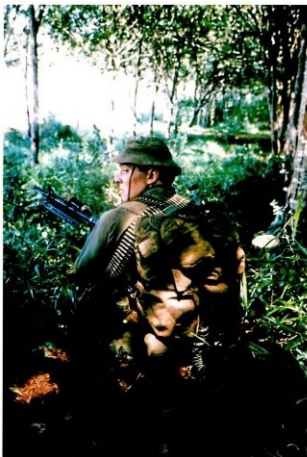
The Battalion was formed on 13 November 1967 in South Australia. The Battalion served in South Vietnam from 5 November 1968 to 25 November 1969. The Battalion then remained at Enoggera until the 31 October, 1973 when it merged with 8 RAR to become the 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (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.

With the end of Vietnam War lists the OC A Coy Major W. McDonald had his MID (mentioned in Dispatches) upgraded to a Medal of Gallantry and 2nd Lt Geoffrey Locke was awarded an Commendation for Distinguished Service

See more at:

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

Below: Pte Eric Gould 10 Plt REO stayed behind with 8 RAR and became their first KIA. Shown here with 10 Plt in the Binh Ba rubber Plantation.



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

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