

The Official Newsletter of the 9th Battalion,  
The Royal Australian Regiment Association (Qld)



National Patron:  
His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Rtd)

# ***NINER NEWS***

Issue 73

April 2016

**9<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment  
48th Anniversary Reunion and Commemoration**



**November 2015**

**See photos  
on pages 4 - 6**

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**ANZAC Day 2016 - Brisbane - see page 2 for details**





# 9 RAR ASSOCIATION (QLD)

## Bulletin Board



### **ANZAC Day Brisbane 25 April 2016**



**4.55am Dawn Service** at the Contemplation Building, The RAR National Memorial Walk, Lavarack Parade, Enoggera. All gates will be open between 3.00am and 5.00am; bring driver's licence or photo ID.

Coffee is available at the Walk from 4.15am.

Breakfast for a gold coin donation will be available at 8/9 RAR Ram's Retreat, in the Uruzgan Lines. To be confirmed on day.

**9.30am ANZAC Day Parade** Brisbane. The FUP is corner George and Mary Streets. 8 RAR Assoc. (celebrating 50 years) will be leading the Association segment of the march. Our Battalion number in the order of Parade is 99 and we will probably be down Mary Street - remember this may change slightly. The main website of the Brisbane ANZAC Day Combined Parade Committee to check details is <http://www.anzacmarchbrisbane.com.au/anzac-day-parade-program/> It is expected that 7 Brigade and 8/9 RAR will be marching.

**### Post March Gatherings: ####**

This year we have negotiated to join in with the 9th Battalions Association in an area set aside for us within the Mick O'Malleys Irish Pub, 171-209 Queen Street Mall, Brisbane - under the Winter Garden. We are able to get in early immediately after the march. To gain entrance go up to the door and say you are with the 9th Battalions Association. Family and friends are welcome.

Some members have indicated interest in going back to 8/9 RAR Ram's Retreat after the march. No buses have been organised. You will also need to get your name on a list with 8/9 RAR.

To all members. Wherever you are on ANZAC Day, have a great day as we pause to remember our Fallen and those that have passed away in recent years.

### **Vale Leslie Smith**

On Wednesday 23 March, I attended the funeral service of another member of the Niner family, Les Smith. Les served with 10 Platoon as a rifleman and was a very valued member. Doug Cromb recalls him as "a good solid Digger with a good sense of humour" - this is, as we all know, high praise from an NCO.

Ken Hurling, Steve Nugent and myself paid our respects on behalf of the 9 RAR family with Steve doing the honours with the presentation of the Unit sash to family members. Throughout the eulogies I reflected on a life well lived, a family man who had a penchant for Muscle cars, a wicked sense of humour, he will be sorely missed to those close to him and as a member of our Niner family. Rest In Peace Digger, your duty done.

Kevin Lynch,

## A Word from Kevin



This is our first newsletter since the 48th Anniversary Reunion and our first communication since our BGM. For a personal perspective, I can only say what a magnificent weekend and a huge congratulations to the Victorian President and the hard working committee who put on a show to remember. Venues were exceptional, the dinner in the Members room of the MCG was a once in a lifetime experience for many of us and a treasured memory. I have sent a congratulatory note to Stan Sutherland and all concerned for a magnificent experience. Onward to Adelaide in November 2017, please be on the lookout for information as it comes to hand, put in your diaries now please.

The BGM was reasonably well attended and office bearers duly elected and a special welcome to old and new who have chosen to assist in the direction of your Association over the next 2 years. A very special welcome to Dawn Stalder who agreed to join our committee, a welcome addition who will add a much needed new perspective.

I attended the funeral of Les Smith in March; see Vale on page 2. Les, to my knowledge, was the 8th member of our family to pass away in recent times and on the drive home it caused me to have a hard think that these occasions are going to become more frequent as we age and, although limited, our time with our Battalion brothers should be treasured. Don't wait to connect with an old mate, a quick call or some other more modern form of communication now doesn't take long and well worth the effort.

If you are looking for someone, give me a call, I may not know where they are but will use our network to find them if at all possible.

Anzac Day is upon us and we will be gathering in Brisbane, details later in this newsletter, please, if you are close, come join us and march behind your banner with pride. Wherever you are gathering this special day on our calendar, march, if you can, with pride in service done, don't peak too early, it's a long day but most of all, take a moment to recall those who made the supreme sacrifice.

On our "not so well list" is David Stacey, the President of our South Australian chapter and my thoughts and prayers are with him for a successful recovery.

These thoughts go out to anyone from our family who is not in the best of health. If you know of anyone on this list please let me know so we may contact and possibly arrange a visit if at all possible.

Kevin Lynch



During the ANZAC Centenary, we pause to honour the courage and sacrifice of those who have served Australia during periods of war and peace.

This year marks the centenary of the involvement of the Australians in the trench warfare on the "Western Front".

The Somme Offensive, also known as the Battle of the Somme, covers the battles

fought between 01 July 1916 and 18 November 1916 within the Somme Valley in France.

Throughout 1915, the two armies faced each other, dug into parallel lines of trenches running from the Swiss border to the North Sea - called the Western Front. In 1916, the Allied Commanders planned an attack in the area just north of the River Somme to break through. The Germans, pre-empting this, on the 21 February 1916, launched a massive attack on the French fortress of Verdun and caused enormous casualties to the French Forces. In response, the Somme Offensive was brought forward so as to divert some of the German forces from Verdun.

The offensive commenced on the 01 July 1916 following a heavy bombardment. However, the military generals failed to appreciate the strength of the German defences and the British artillery was relatively ineffective against them. On the first day of the battle, the British army suffered nearly 60,000 casualties with approx. 20,000 killed.

The Battle of the Somme was abandoned in November 1916 partly because of a very wet autumn. The Allied forces had only managed to advance 12 kilometres. The total cost was 420,000 British and Dominion casualties, 200,000 French casualties and there were approx. 500,000 German casualties..

The main contribution of the Australian forces during the Somme offensive was at the Battle of Pozieres including the Battle of Mouquet Farm with another ill-conceived attack at Flers in November 1916.

**LEST WE FORGET!**

# 9 RAR National 48th Anniversary Reunion and Commemoration Melbourne, Victoria. 13 - 15 November, 2015.



## Meet and Greet at the National Gallery of Victoria, Great Hall



Jim Kelly, John Prince, Bill Forrest



Doug McGrath, Kev Lynch



Lesleigh Sutherland, Peter Cosgrove, Bruce Sutherland

## Reunion Dinner at the Melbourne Cricket Club



John Retschlag, Kathy Penman, Denise Retschlag



Jan Maguire, Garry Mayer



Jeff Strawbridge, Dianne Gage





## Battalion Remembrance Service, Shrine of Remembrance



Jenny Peachy after laying a wreath

## Reunion Barbeque at the Royal Botanic Gardens



Kev Trent, Barry Martin, Ray Sparke, Bruce Douglas

## Day Trip to the Vietnam Veterans Museum



The 9 RAR display prepared by Tom Goode



9 RAR Memorial Plaque in the Garden of Remembrance





# Last Post

## Departed Comrades

“They too shall not be forgotten.”



At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

“Lest We Forget”

David W. JACKMAN  
(December 2015)



Leslie SMITH  
(March 2016)  
See Vale on page 2



Colin R. McLEOD  
(January 2016)

## RARA Commemorative Bicycle Ride - 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan

A small Queensland group from 8/9 RAR, RAR Association and other veteran cyclists participated in a commemorative 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan Marathon Cycle Ride from Toowoomba to Canberra. The Group led by Arthur Willemse (6 RAR) included Dave Murray (2 RAR), Darryl Blackwell (8 RAR), Ted Chitham (9 RAR and 8/9 RAR), Frank Parisio (RACT) Brad Foster (current serving 6 RAR), Peter Campbell (RAEME) and several 8/9 RAR riders.

The Qld Group joined a larger group from Vetricide Victoria in Yass on 18 March for the final leg into Canberra the next day. In Canberra on 20<sup>th</sup> the Groups rode past the AWM before holding a Commemorative Service at The National Vietnam Memorial and after a social gathering at the Old Parliament House Gardens.

The Qld Group departed Toowoomba on Saturday 5 March and followed the New England Hwy, with a rest day in Tamworth before heading to Wellington, Cowra and Yass.

The RAR Group was unable to gain funding for the ride from the DVA Commemorative Grants Long Tan Vietnam Program so thanks to the financial support from RSL Queensland, Searles Gardening Products, cycling goods providers and individual donors the ride is now partly funded.

**NOTE: The 9 RAR Association Qld donated \$100 to this event as did several other Associations.**



Frank Parisio, Ted Chitham



Ted Chitham, Arthur Willemse, Darryl Blackwell



*This is a good example of the RARA “Keeping the Spirit Alive”*

# 9 RAR Assoc. Qld Biennial General Meeting and Birthday Celebrations Saturday 28 November 2015



As in previous years, when the National Anniversary Reunion is conducted in November we do not conduct our own Memorial Service. Therefore this year, we decided to join in with the RAR Association who was conducting the Regiment's 67th Birthday. Prior to the Commemorative Service in the Contemplation Building, we conducted our Biennial General Meeting. We then joined everyone for the celebrations at the "Old" Commanders Mess Conference Centre.



9 RAR Members attending the RAR Memorial Service at the Contemplation Building NMW  
**L to R:** Rod Slater, Julie Slater, Moira McKay, Gavin McKay, Dawn Stalder, Ted Chitham, Dave McDonald, Kathy Penman, Kev Lynch, Ian Sanders, Merilyn Sanders, Derek Nixon-Smith, Dan Penman, Terry Fogarty



*Music by the Dudes of Doo-Wop*  
 Lead by Tony Pennisi





# 8th Battalion RAR Association Qld 46th Long Hai Commemorative Service 28 February 2016



This year, the Service was hosted by the 8th/9th Battalion in their Uruzgan Lines, Gallipoli Barracks. The 9 RAR Association Qld is always invited to attend this most important Service. A wreath was laid by the secretary Dave McDonald. The Service commemorates the 8th Battalions service in South Vietnam and in particular those nine members who died on the 28 February 1970 in the minefield down in the Long Hai hills during Operation Hammersley.



Ted Chitham laying a wreath on behalf of the RAR Association Qld



Dave McDonald laying a wreath on behalf of the 9 RAR Association Qld



# 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment

## Task Force Taji 2 Farewell Parade

### 31 October 2015



Around 300 Australian Defence Force (ADF) members were officially farewelled in Brisbane ahead of their departure for Iraq under Operation Okra.

The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, AC, the Chief of the Australian Army, Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, DSC, AM, the Commander of the Army's 1st Division, Major General Stuart Smith, AO, DSC; and Mrs Jane Prentice MP, the federal member for Ryan, joined families and friends of the ADF members at the farewell parade.

The second rotation of the ADF's Building Partner Capacity contingent, known as Task Group Taji 2, is a combined force of Australian and New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel. Task Group Taji 2 will comprise a headquarters element, training team, force protection and support elements.

Air Chief Marshal Binskin said the second rotation of Task Group Taji would carry on the important work of the ADF members currently serving in Iraq. Operation Okra is the ADF's contribution to the international effort to combat the Daesh terrorist threat in Iraq.

Commander of Task Group Taji 2, Colonel Gavin Keating, said the aim was to help to empower the Iraqis to shape their own destiny. "Building Partner Capacity is all about training the Iraqi Security Forces so they can defeat Daesh and achieve peace and stability," he said. "We are very fortunate to be able to build on the excellent work completed by Task Group Taji 1 and are looking forward to working with our NZDF partners."



Chief of Army Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, DSC, AM, is saluted on the dais as part of the Task Group Taji Rotation 2 farewell parade at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.





**8th/9th Battalion,  
The Royal Australian  
Regiment  
Birthday Celebrations  
31 October 2015**



Commanding Officer 8/9 RAR - LTCOL Jim Hammett welcoming the respective Associations to their Birthday Celebrations following the Task Force Taji 2 Farewell Parade.



9 RAR members supporting the 8/9th Battalion  
L\_R: Noel Brown, Dave McDonald, Dan Penman



Traditional Cutting of the cake:  
Dave McDonald (9 RAR), Pte Zhang, youngest soldier  
from 8/9 RAR, Klaus Scheuermann (8 RAR)



**Biennial General  
Meeting  
28 November 2015**

The BGM was conducted at the NMW and was attended by 12 members. The main agenda item was the election of the new committee. All current members stood again and were elected with the addition of Dawn Stalder and Gavin McKay.

The membership fees were left at 420.00 for the two year period from Nov 2015 to Nov 2017.

If you haven't paid we would ask you to consider supporting the activities of the committee by this small fee.

- Currently the membership stands as follows:
- 64 members who have paid their current fees and are financial till 2017
  - 48 members who were financial till 2015 and who are yet to renew their fees.
  - 61 members who were financial till 2013 and for many reasons have not renewed (note they will get this edition of newsletter).

The major expenditure is the Niner News and in the last six months we have also made a donation of \$200 to the 9 RAR Association National body and \$180 towards the 9 RAR Memorial Plaque at the Vietnam Veterans Museum (see page 6) and \$100 towards the 50th Anniversary Bike Ride (see page 7).  
Thank you one and all for your financial support over the last two years.

**9th Battalion RAR  
50th Anniversary Reunion  
Adelaide November 2017**

Extract from the South Australian newsletter  
"Nine News April 2016"

*"Organisation for the 2017 reunion is well advanced. Once the ANZAC period activities have passed the Adelaide Reunion Committee (ARC) will meet to start pulling loose ends together.*

*Following that meeting a "package" will be made available to all members of the 9 RAR family via "snail mail" in the first instance with details of activities and how to register.*

*The RAR principle will apply to the reunion - Remembrance, Affordability, Reflection.*

## 9 RAR Museum News



During the last six months, we have commenced to re-arrange the layout of the 9 RAR collection and to improve the labeling of the individual items. To assist with this, we have purchased some new display cases and extra shelving to present the items in a more professional way and also to improve the security of the items. Some extra lighting has also been purchased to improve the overall look.



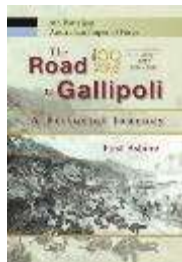
## 9 RAR Association Qld Membership Fees

Membership Fees are now due for the period 2015/17. Ordinary Members and Associate Members are \$20.00 for two years. Life members and Next of kin Fallen are no charge.

We encourage you to continue your financial membership of the Association to allow us to continue to promote and maintain the history of the Battalion.

Much has been achieved over the last few years and for that we thank you for your support

## 9th Battalion AIF - First Ashore



This booklet was produced for ANZAC Day 2015 and gives a brief pictorial account of the service of the men from the 9th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Australian Imperial Force. It covers the period from when they were raised at the Enoggera Army Base, Brisbane on 18 August 1914 to when they were

taken off the Gallipoli Peninsula on 16 November 1915.

The booklet was prepared by 9 RAR Association Qld mainly from a grant under the ANZAC Centenary Grant Scheme. The booklet was professionally designed by Red Canoe Art and Design, Brisbane.

*If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy, please forward me an email and I will advise on the best way to get it to you. The introductory cost for 9 RAR members is \$10.00 plus postage. Dan Penman email: [webmaster@9rarqld.org](mailto:webmaster@9rarqld.org)*

## NOTE: The Road to Pozieres

A follow-up booklet is currently being prepared to continue the journey of the 9th Battalion AIF from the desert of Egypt (Defence of Egypt) to the blood soaked trenches at the Western Front. The 9th Battalion was involved in many of the Battles of the Somme with particular emphasis on the Battle of Pozieres and the Battle of Mouquet Farm. This booklet has been made possible partly by a grant from the Qld Government under the ANZAC Centenary Qld scheme. However, I am still out seeking further donations to cover all costs.

## More of Getting Older part 7

At one point during a game, the coach called one of his 9-year-old baseball players aside and asked, 'Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?'

The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

'Do you understand that what matters is whether we win or lose together as a team?'

The little boy nodded 'yes'.

'So,' the coach continued, 'I'm sure you know, when an out is called, you shouldn't argue, curse, attack the umpire, or call him a pecker-head, di\*ckhead or a\*hole. Do you understand all that?'

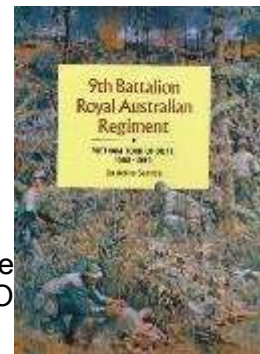
The little boy nodded 'yes' again.

He continued, 'And when I take you out of the game so another boy gets a chance to play too, it's not good sportsmanship to call your coach "a dumb ass or sh\*thead" is it?'

The little boy shook his head 'NO'.

'GOOD', said the coach. 'Now go over there and explain all that to your grandfather!'

**Reprint of**  
**9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment**  
**Vietnam Tour of Duty, 1968-69**  
**On Active Service**



**Background:**

The 9 RAR Tour Book was first published in 1992 with the book being launched by the first Commanding Officer of the 9th Battalion MAJGEN A.L. (Alby) Morrison AO DSO MBE.

The book has been sold out for many years and after many enquiries it was decided to have the book reprinted. As the original material was never kept, an original book has been professionally scanned and this has been re-published as an exact replica including the hard case and dust jacket. It has all the original text and photographs together with two additional appendices: the "Omissions" pages from the "9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Proud to Serve" that was published by Mr B. Vickery and a 10 page "Index of Names" showing the names of the 9 RAR members and 9 RAR family members who are mentioned in the book.

**Purchase and Postage Details: AS AT 17 October 2015**

The purchase price of the 9 RAR Tour Book Reprint is \$60.00 per book.

The postage and handling rates are quoted as from Brisbane:

Brisbane area for 1 or 2 books - \$12.00

All other areas for 1 book - \$16.00 (Includes interstate)

All other areas for 2 books - \$19.00 (Includes Interstate)

All areas for 3 or more books - price according to weight and distance.

**URGENT NOTE:**

The introductory price of \$60.00 for 9 RAR Members will cease after ANZAC Day 2016 and after that the price will increase.

**Ordering Details:**

To purchase the 9 RAR Tour Book Reprint you can visit the website [www.9rarqld.org](http://www.9rarqld.org) and do it online OR you can fill out the order form and post it back to the Post Office Box in Brisbane. You can download a copy of the form from the website OR send an email to [admin@9rarqld.org](mailto:admin@9rarqld.org)

Payment can be made by cheques, money orders OR by direct deposit. For full payment details visit the website OR see details on the order form.

For details See Tour Book Reprint Order Form on Page 15

**Related Merchandise to the Tour Book Reprint**

If you are purchasing a Tour Book Reprint or have an original book, you might also be interested in purchasing a copy of the following items.



**9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment**  
**"Proud to Serve"**

This book was published in 2006 by Brian Vickery.

Purchase price is \$35.00 plus \$12.00 postage and handling.

If you have already purchased this book, you will be aware that the index at the back is incorrect. A corrected version of the Index has been placed up on the website for you to download.

**Bunker Assault Print**

Purchase price is \$15.00 plus \$12.00 postage and handling. Will be mailed in a mailing tube.

**Dust Jacket for the Original 9 RAR Tour Book**

Purchase price is \$5.00 plus \$12.00 postage and handling. Will be mailed in a mailing tube.

*Note: We have been able to source some original dust jackets to fit the original Tour Book. Members have said that their dust jackets have either faded terribly or are torn. This is a great chance to revitalize your collection.*

For these related merchandise See Merchandise Order Form on Page 14

**9th Battalion**  
**The Royal Australian Regiment Association (Queensland)**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

New Member:       Membership Renewal:       Change of Address:   
(Please tick appropriate box)

Surname: .....

First name/s: .....

Address: .....

..... State: ..... Post Code: .....

Home Telephone: .....

Mobile Number: .....

Email Address: .....

Spouse/Partner's Name: .....

Details for Name Tag: .....

(Name Tags for new members are free; for existing members the cost is \$6.50)

Ordinary Member: \$20.00 for 2 years

Associate Member: \$20.00 for 2 years   
(Please tick appropriate box)

Enclosed is cheque/money order for \$.....  
[Make payable to Nine RAR Association (Qld-br)]

Please return application form and payment to:  
**9 RAR Association (Qld)**  
**P.O. Box 1221**  
**Stafford City, Qld. 4053**

**MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM**

Battalion Plaque	@ \$45.00	.....
Battalion Tie	@ \$30.00	.....
9 RAR mini Banner 90x70cm	@ \$75.00	.....
Australian Flag 140x90cm	@ \$10.00	.....
9 RAR Flag (small) 45x30cm	@ \$10.00	.....
Back Pack with Ram emblem	@ \$20.00	.....
Shoulder Bag with Ram emblem	@ \$20.00	.....
Polo Shirt	@ \$32.50	.....
Sizes (please specify number):		
XXXL		.....
XXL		.....
XL		.....
L		.....
M		.....

Stubby Holder with Shaggy Ram @ \$ 7.50 .....  
Cloth Patches with Shaggy Ram @ \$10.00 .....  
ALL PRICES ON THE ABOVE ITEMS INCLUDE  
POSTAGE AND HANDLING. THIS WILL BE  
REVIEWED AT THE BGM IN NOVEMBER 2015.

*PLEASE NOTE for those items marked with \*\*\* below  
there is now a postage and handling fee of \$12.00. This  
is due to the increase in cost of purchasing the satchels  
and especially the mailing tubes.*

Bunker Assault Print ***	@ \$15.00	.....
Dust Jacket Orig. Tour Book ***	@ \$ 5.00	.....
Publication: *** 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment "Proud to Serve"	@ \$35.00	.....

(Please make all Cheques or Money Orders payable to Nine RAR Association (Qld-Br)  
Please find enclosed a cheque /money order for the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, being payment for the items  
above plus postage and handling where appropriate.

**Mail my Order to:**

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Telephone No: (H) ..... (Mob) .....

Email: .....



9th Battalion  
The Royal Australian Regiment Association



**9 RAR TOUR BOOK REPRINT - ORDER FORM**

To purchase the 9 RAR Tour Book Reprint, fill out this Order Form and then mail the Form to the address below with a cheque or money order OR mail the Form to the address below and do a Direct Deposit of fees.

Direct Deposit Details:

BSB: 803 205

Account Number: 20365969 (Defence Bank)

Reference: Ensure to include your name and State. If you make a Direct Deposit please ensure you fill out the Application Form on line or mail this Application Form back asap so they can be linked together.

Make Cheques and Money orders payable to - *Nine RAR Association (Qld Br)*

and attach to Form and post to

9 RAR Association (QLD)

PO Box 1221

STAFFORD CITY QLD 4053

	Quantity	Cost
9 RAR Tour Book Reprint	.....	\$.....
<i>##### (this introductory price will increase after ANZAC Day 2016) #####</i>		
Postage:		
Brisbane - 1 or 2 books	\$12.00	\$..... OR
All other areas - 1 book	\$16.00	\$..... OR
All other areas - 2 books	\$19.00	\$.....
All areas - 3 books or more	(Contact us for separate cost)	
<b><u>Total Cost of Order:</u></b>		<b>\$.....</b>

**Mail my Order to:**

Surname: ..... First name: .....

Address: .....

.....

State: ..... Post Code: .....

Home Telephone: (0.....) ..... Mobile Number: .....

Email Address: .....

Please find enclosed a cheque /money order for the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_, being payment for the purchase of the book/s above.

I have made a Direct Deposit for the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_(date), being payment for the purchase of the book/s above.

**Enquiries can be directed via email to Dan Penman on [admin@9rarqld.org](mailto:admin@9rarqld.org)**

Website: [www.9rarqld.org](http://www.9rarqld.org)



Laid up in the All Saints Chapel,  
Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera



# The Official Newsletter of 9 RAR Association (QLD) Issue 73 - April 2016

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## 9 RAR Association (Qld) Committee Contacts - 2016

President:	Kevin Lynch .....	(07) 5493 6129
Secretary:	Dave McDonald .....	0458 943 212
Treasurer:	Dan Penman .....	0409 067 646
Merchandise	Ian Sanders.....	(07) 3822 3019
Committee Members:	Ted Chitham .....	(07) 3353 2415
	Derek Nixon-Smith .....	(07) 3352 6752
	Dawn Stalder .....	
	Gavin McKay .....	

### Internet Websites

Mail Address:  
9 RAR Association (Qld)  
PO Box 1221  
STAFFORD CITY QLD 4053

Email Address  
Secretary  
secretary@9rarqld.org

9 RAR Association (Qld) [www.9rarqld.org](http://www.9rarqld.org)  
9 RAR Association National [www.9rar.org.au](http://www.9rar.org.au)  
RAR Association (Qld) [www.rar.org.au](http://www.rar.org.au)