



CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| PRESIDENTS REPORT | 1 |
| UPCOMING EVENTS | 1 |
| ANZAC DAY | |
| 9 RAR NATIONAL REUNION | 2 |
| VIETNAM VETERANS DAY | 2 |
| FEATURE STORIES | |
| TIME FOR THE RSL TO GET OFF ITS KNEES – Charlie Lynn | 2 |
| RSL MUST EMBRACE CHANGE OR DIE - Kel Ryan | 3 |
| ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY CORP | 4 |
| PILARA REGIMENT NW MOBILE FORCE 51 ST BATTALION | |
| RAR MEMORIAL | 6 |
| EXERCISE CROIX DU SUD | 6 |
| WINGS OVER VIETNAM | 7 |
| DONALD TRUMP | 8 |
| VALE | 9 |
| INFORMATION PAGE | 10 |
| ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | |
| MEMBERSHIP 2017 | |
| DIRECT BANKING | |
| FUNNY STUFF | 10 |

PRESIDENTS REPORT



In writing this report I'm pleased to say that last November we had good attendance at our annual service at the Shrine, which of

course was followed by our traditional luncheon. All who came along enjoyed the day and it's always good to catch up with one another in a relaxed and congenial atmosphere over a few drinks.

As we go into 1917 the 100th anniversary of major First World War Battles such as, Bullecourt, Messines, Ypres, Passchendaele and Bersheba, names of which we are all familiar with will come to the fore. Furthermore, as we approach November and our journey to Adelaide we'll be thinking more about our own involvement in the service of our country reflected in the raising of the 9th Battalion RAR in 1967. In a way it's hard to imagine that 50 years have slipped by and that we're now in the same position as in age as the first world war veterans were

when we were dispatched to South Vietnam in 1968. Father time simply marches on.

Anzac day 2017 is soon coming around and normally the weather in Melbourne presents us with a lovely Autumn day. I'm quite sure that if you are able to make it to the march you'll be there to ensure we have a good roll up. I look forward to seeing you all on the day and in the meantime keep well and enjoy life.

Stan Sutherland.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANZAC DAY 2017

FORM UP

Collins Street East (by Town Hall)

TIME

Official Step off time: 10.40

ORDER OF MARCH

Leader – RAR Association

- 6 RAR
- 7 RAR
- 8 RAR
- 9 RAR**
- 5/7 RAR
- 1 RAR
- 2 RAR
- 3 RAR
- 4 RAR
- 5 RAR

TRANSPORT

There will be cars available for those who cannot make the full march; we will sort transport for those members who need on the day.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The battalion's banner should be in position by 10.30 am.

Most of you have done this march countless times; you know the drill, remember to remove your caps or hats when saluting the Eternal Flame and place your right hand over your medals.

Once we have passed the Eternal Flame and just before we reach the steps leading to the Shrine, we wheel to the 'right' heading down to the RAR tree/plaque and move in close together

where battalion banner bearers are requested to display banners at the head of the gathering.

ANZAC DAY REUNION LUNCH



ROSCO'S

519 ST KILDA ROAD, MELBOURNE

Same place as last year, catch a tram from the Domain Interchange to the corner of Commercial and St Kilda Roads — the tram numbers to catch are 6, 67 or 72. As we are most likely to start marching around 11.00 am, we expect that it will be finished by 11.45 hrs at the latest. This should get us to Rosco's before 12.00 hrs.

At Rosco's could you pay your membership dues (still \$30.00) to the lovely Sue ASAP, this will enabled us get the AGM out of the way (usually takes around one hour). Then we can all enjoy ourselves with food and drink

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION – VICTORIA REUNION LUNCH TO BE HELD AT:

MAIL EXCHANGE HOTEL

Location:

Basement 1
 688 Bourke Street
 Melbourne VIC 3000
 (100 metres from "Southern Cross Station")



Restored and housed on the lower ground of the old Mail Exchange building.

The hotel has an enormous bistro with capacity for 200 and features a stunning central bar. There's an atrium with internal courtyard and informal lounge areas.

Bill Williams (1 RAR) has also spoken with the President of the Melbourne RSL Mike Moroney and he has informed Bill that the hotel has a room that accommodates 100 - 150 (over and above the bistro) that we could use if it is not already booked, on ANZAC Day. The Melbourne RSL will also run a "2 Up" game at the hotel from 12 noon.

Members who wear medals are charged \$5.00 for a pot (300 ml) of Crown Lager and all other Carlton beers. The meals are very good and reasonably priced.



They will also arrange for the City of Melbourne Highland Pipe and Drum Band to be in attendance – it should be a great afternoon.

If you do not have another reunion lunch to go too, then make this your destination for Anzac Day 2017.

DAWN SERVICE

The Dawn Service commences on the Shrine Forecourt at 0600 and concludes approximately at 0630; immediately after a Gunfire Breakfast will be served on the lawns in front of Victoria Barracks; a gold coin donation is encouraged.

In 2016 some 60 - 70,000 attended the service; the Shrine recommends you get to the Forecourt by 0430 to get a good position.

If you are driving into the Dawn Service, don't get booked for illegal parking on St Kilda Road and surrounding streets.

We are unsure how the tunnel works along St Kilda road will effect parking in the area.

9 RAR NATIONAL REUNION - ADELAIDE 2017

The "official" reunion will begin on Monday 13th November 2017 with the anniversary Dinner in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Adelaide preceded by a cocktail function in the adjoining Balcony Gallery.



On the following day we conduct our Service of Remembrance at the "birthplace of the Battalion" Keswick Barracks. Following the service, refreshments will be available for purchase and a tour of Keswick Army Museum will be available.



On the Wednesday a "picnic" will take place at the Lake Breeze Winery in Langhorne Creek where food and beverages will be available for purchase. Musical entertainment will be provided during the afternoon. A coach will be available to transport people from Adelaide and return.



Unlike previous reunions we have combined the "Meet & Great" and Dinner. We have also split the Service from the Picnic (BBQ) as one is a dress up function, the other a "dress down" affair.

We (SA) will be organising a major raffle, auctions, sale of goods etc to

raise funds and will be applying for grant funding which is available. The idea is to reduce the cost to each person attending significantly so that the cost of attending does not prevent them coming.

Apart from fund-raising and grant funding we have looked at the cost of catering for a meal, such as the BBQ lunch, as against organising food outlets to be onsite to provide a variety of food for purchase as chosen by the buyer. This way we don't have to guess how many may turn up.

Essentially the only upfront payment will be for the Dinner (which will include a 5 hour beverage package). Coach tickets and food purchase of one's choice are extra but people get to choose what they have.

Once a few loose ends have been tidied up the Reunion will be officially launched by email and snail mail.

We have looked at the positives and negative from previous reunions and have worked to using the good, avoiding the bad and staying away from the ugly.

The RAR principle will apply to the reunion: – Remembrance, Affordability, Reflection.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY (LONG TAN DAY)

18 AUGUST 2017

The 51st anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, now synonymous with Vietnam Veterans Day. In acknowledging Vietnam Veterans' Day, communities throughout Australia remember the sacrifices made by our young men and women in a conflict that spanned a ten year period, thus making it the longest war in which Australian's participated.

We all know the drill for the day, medals, ties and look smart.

TIME FOR THE RSL TO GET OFF KNEES

Charlie Lynn
13 January 2017



If ever there was an act of national moral cowardice it has been the RSL's nil response to plans to cancel some Anzac Day commemorations this year over possible terrorist threats.

The bed-wetting, jelly-kneed councillors on the Blue Mountains City Council dissolved over an imagined threat to the annual Anzac Day march in their area and decreed there will be no marches or services in their jurisdiction.

When the RSL had real leaders like the late Bruce Ruxton and Rusty Priest, men who were never afraid to articulate what their membership believed, the pissant Blue Mountain councillors would have quickly retreated, yelping and with their tails between their legs.

Unlike the men of the militia 39th Battalion who never yielded against overwhelming odds as they defended the Kokoda Trail during Australia's darkest days in 1942.

"Who's that mob?" queried a bystander as a group of emaciated soldiers hobbled back along the road to Sogeri after their Kokoda campaign in September 1942.

"This is not a mob – this is the 39th," yelled the furious officer leading the group. History records these ragged troops faced odds uncounted but were undaunted in their epic battle against the Japanese at Isurava – many had fallen with their faces to the foe.

Because the men of the 39th did not yield during Australia's hour of peril the tide of war turned. Years later 18th Brigade veteran Sergeant Stan Bryant addressed an attentive Anzac Day audience at Sydney's Martin Place.

"I say to all you people here today, to you who are responsible for governing this country, to all you who hold positions of leadership in the

community, to all Australians, it is from the men we honour today that you inherited this land.

"These were the men who helped build this nation. They were the ones associated with building of our harbours and our bridges. They sealed the roads across the black soil planes, and they built the railways across Australia. Then they fought off the Japanese invasion so that you could inherit this country.

"You now have the fruits of our labours. The cities and the harbours and the plains are yours.

"We few survivors are aged and can only look on with pride and wish you success in the future.

"But we do charge you, to accept the responsibility of your inheritance and nourish and guard them with care.

"They paid the price of your future. Only they know the real cost.

"And remember – remember – we solemnly promised God that we would never forget."

Death has spared Stan Bryant spared the ignominy of watching Blue Mountains City councillors collapse against an imagined threat to the annual Anzac Day march in their area.

Fortunately, these quislings threw the pin instead of the grenade, which blew up in their sullen faces, the result of a spontaneous public backlash.

Stan Bryant has also been spared the ignominy of watching a cowardly RSL fail to take the lead on this issue.

That is a serious concern for the organisation's broader membership who would have applauded a media release announcing that 'the RSL will march on Anzac Day – with or without Government approval – as it has every year for the past hundred years – and will do so every year for the next hundred'.

There can be no greater insult to surviving members of the 39th and their fellow veterans than the betrayal of their sacred day by traitorous Blue Mountain City councillors and the current leadership of the organisation they believed in so passionately who are missing in action.

Nobody but nobody will stop them marching behind their battle honours

on the 75th anniversary of the Kokoda campaign this year.

Anzac Day symbolises our national battle honour and the right to commemorate it as our Anzacs did must never be compromised.

The RSL must also urgently fill the leadership void created since the passing of resolute leaders like Ruxton and Priest.

Imagine how they would have reacted when the radical Islamic terrorist, Man Haron Monis wrote despicable letters to the wives of our servicemen killed in action in Afghanistan. Imagine their outrage over prosecuting commandos for doing what we sent them to Afghanistan to do – kill the enemy.

Imagine their reaction to defence mandarins directing ADF personnel not to wear uniform in public so they won't offend our very own Centrelink sponsored terrorists. In a recent Spectator article former Lieutenant Colonel Kel Ryan surmised that a key factor in the decline of the RSL was their unwillingness 'to enter the public debate on those core issues that are fundamental to the members of the RSL'.

Ryan declared it was also attributable to their inability to embrace more recent veterans; its failure to plan strategically to meet the demand of the 21st century and its failure to advocate strongly for the issues so clearly enunciated in its constitution'.

The RSL would be wise to reflect on its motto that 'the price of liberty is eternal vigilance'.

It should also take heed of President Roosevelt's dictum that 'it is better to die on your feet than live on your knees' when dealing with governments of all persuasions.



Vietnam Veteran Charlie Lynn retired as a major from the Australian Army after 21 years

service. He later served in the NSW Parliament for almost 20 years. A veteran of 84 Kokoda Trail crossings

he was inducted as an Officer of the Order of Logohu in the 2015 PNG New Years Honours List.

THE RSL MUST EMBRACE CHANGE OR DIE

KEL RYAN'S OPINION



Once Australia's premier veterans' advocacy organisation, the Returned and Services League is in rapid if not terminal decline.

Its leaders membership, which continues to provide support at local sub-branch level.

The RSL national leadership has failed the challenge of the 21st century as sub-branches close, local leadership ages and resists change.

Young veterans shun the organisation. Charlie Lynn's Flat White article Leadership crisis dogs RSL is accurate, timely and significant.

However, Lynn does not address the broader issue of why the RSL has "not adapted to change and has vacated the field of public debate".

The RSL's problems are broader than NSW where the erstwhile National President Rod White and his former state board colleagues face serious misconduct allegations.

The malaise in the RSL is national.

In 1916 the RSL was established as an organisation for 'returned men' only.

This term referred to those who volunteered to join the 1st AIF, had served overseas, and 'returned'.

The RSL is not a national organisation but rather a federation of state organisations established under separate state legislation.

These two terms, 'AIF' and 'returned men' (now veteran) resonated across the RSL until the 1980s as they meant that membership was restricted to those who met these criteria.

Those who enlisted but did not go overseas during the world wars (500,000 men and women) were denied membership of what became the core grouping in local communities across the country – the RSL sub-branch.

That included those who defended Darwin against the Japanese because they were not "returned".

It is a hurt that resonates even today among their children and grandchildren.

Members of militia battalions who fought on the Kokoda Trail and at Milne Bay in the early days of the Japanese War were also excluded – because they were conscripts, not AIF.

Even though militia members were accepted in 1944 the damage was done creating a permanent rift among many who vowed never to join.

A more recent example is that of a father who served four years during WW2 in Australia whose only son, a conscript, was killed in Vietnam and commemorated by his local RSL.

An RSL the father could not join.

Even with the belated acceptance for reasons of organisational survival of those who served in the regular and reserve forces post-World War II, old prejudices remain.

The RSL structure, the financial dominance of some state branches, the penury of others and its blinkered attitude toward organisational change has enabled and encouraged the rise of more dynamic ex-service organisations outside the RSL.

The RSL has demonstrated the singular power of turning potential organisational highlights and opportunities into negatives.

This is emphasised by the organisation's inability to embrace more recent veterans; its failure to plan strategically to meet the demand of the 21st century and its failure to advocate strongly for the issues so clearly enunciated in its constitution.

There is no enthusiasm to investigate governance models better suited to the present combative environment where professional lobbyists vie for the ear of the federal government on a daily basis.

The days of any government deferring to the wishes of its warriors who have defended the nation is no longer a given.

As its World War I founders and leaders faded away by the 1980s the

RSL gradually became a Canberra centric organisation.

With little background in the organisation until their appointment they have generally – no pun intended – proved unsuitable to the role.

They have proven unable or unwilling to enter the public debate on those core issues that are fundamental to the members of the RSL.

A caveat here, however, is necessary.

The national RSL president and by implication the national headquarters is starved of funds. It still relies on the annual subscriptions from a diminishing membership for the bulk of its funding.

Some state branches have accumulated great wealth through their historical business acumen, as for example Queensland with its art union prize homes and NSW through its clubs and poker machines.

There is certainly no broad enthusiasm to fund national HQ's advocacy role for the broader membership.

The onus clearly rests with the national executive to resolve the decline in respect for the organisation among its existing and potential membership and the broader Australian defence community.

This same national leadership must steel itself for some difficult decisions to abandon the past and embrace the future.

They must also overcome the mistrust at sub-branch, state and federal levels to convince the membership they have not only a vision for the future but the will to introduce it.

They must certainly convey that view to those eligible ADF members who shun the organisation in droves.

Change for the RSL as a national organisation can either be embraced or denied.

The latter is not an option.



Kel Ryan is a Life Member of the RSL in Queensland. He has also held elective office in a number of other ex-service organisations. He is currently completing a PhD on Pathways for the advocacy of the issues of the Australian Defence Community in the 21st century.

This article is published in The Spectator Australia 10/1/2017

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY CORP



The role of Royal Australian Infantry Corps is to seek out and close with the enemy, to kill or capture him, to seize and hold ground, and to repel attack by day or night, regardless of season, weather or terrain.

THREE ARMY UNIT MEMBERS

The Pilbara Regiment is an Army Reserve infantry regiment of the Australian Army.



The Pilbara Regiment and is one of three Regional Force Surveillance Units employed in surveillance -

and reconnaissance of the remote areas of northern Australia.



In the late 1970s and early 1980s the need for a military presence in the north was recognised, with an integrated land, sea and air surveillance network developed in response. Part of this involved the raising of reserve infantry units that would act as "eyes and ears" in the north.

The Pilbara Regiment was raised for operations in the Pilbara region of north-west Australia, whilst others were raised in the Northern Territory and Far North Queensland. The regiment was originally formed as a company on 26 January 1982, from the 5th Independent Rifle Company, under Major David Hudson. It was

subsequently redesignated as a full regiment in 1985.

Today the regiment's mission is: "To provide the Australian Army with information by conducting surveillance operations to contribute to an effective Australian Defence Force surveillance network in the North West of Australia (Pilbara Region)." It is responsible for an area of 1.3 million square kilometres from Port Hedland to Carnarvon in Western Australia, and from the coast to the border with the Northern Territory; being approximately one-sixth of the total Australia mass.

A detailed knowledge of its Area of Operations is maintained by conducting reconnaissance patrols by foot, vehicle and watercraft; surveillance from static observation posts; and by systematic communication and liaison with police, customs, other regional authorities, and with local landowners.

On 1 March 2010, Pilbara Regiment became part of the re-raised 6th Brigade and, on 1 September 2014, came under the command of 2nd Division.

The motto of the Pilbara Regiment is 'Mintu wanta', which is a Western Desert Aboriginal dialect for 'Always alert'. It is the first motto of an aboriginal language to be incorporated in a regimental crest in the Australian Defence Force.

The North-West Mobile Force is an Army Reserve infantry regiment of the Australian Army.



The North-West Mobile Force (NORFORCE) was formed in 1981 and is one of three Regional Force Surveillance and

Reconnaissance of the remote areas of northern Australia.



The North-West Mobile Force is an Army Reserve infantry regiment of the Australian Army

Today, NORFORCE is based at Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin. Its area of operations covers 1.8 million square kilometres and encompasses the Northern Territory and the Kimberley region of Western Australia – the largest area of any military unit in the world today.

On 1 March 2010, NORFORCE became part of the re-raised 6th Brigade and, on 1 September 2014, came under the command of the 2nd Division.

The primary role of NORFORCE is reconnaissance, observation and the collection of military intelligence. In the unlikely event of an invasion of northern Australia, NORFORCE and the other RFSUs would operate in a "stay behind" capacity.

Australian Aboriginal soldiers form 60 per cent of NORFORCE personnel and are predominantly drawn mainly from the areas they patrol to draw on their local knowledge. This has resulted in a great trust for the regiment among Aboriginal communities.

51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment



The 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment, is a light infantry battalion of the Australian Army.



51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment (51 FNQR), serves as a Regional Force Surveillance Unit (RFSU), carrying out reconnaissance and surveillance tasks as its primary role.

Every operator in the unit is cross-trained in a variety of 'low-visibility' skills such as weapons, survival,

sniping, medic, small boat handling, driving, tracking, air ops etc.

51 FNQR is the only battalion of the Far North Queensland Regiment, and draws its lineage from an Australian Imperial Force battalion raised for service during WW I.

Today, 51 FNQR plays an important role in the security of Australia by conducting surveillance patrols in the sparsely populated and remote regions of Far North Queensland. 51 FNQR is made up of full-time and part-time members with battalion headquarters and a surveillance company located in Cairns. Surveillance companies are headquartered throughout Far North Queensland at Weipa, Thursday Island and Mount Isa.

Approximately 30 per cent of 51 FNQR personnel are Indigenous Torres Strait Islanders and mainland Aboriginal peoples who, with the Australians of other origins throughout the unit, form the team that is 51 FNQR. It is this diverse make up of personnel and their cultures that give the 51 FNQR its unique character.

51 FNQR is tasked with reconnaissance and surveillance of some 640,000 square kilometres from Cardwell (north Queensland) to the Torres Strait (inclusive of Cape York and the Gulf Country) and west to the Northern Territory border.

Australians of many cultures have been drawn together to provide this capability. Torres Strait Islanders and members of the many isolated Aboriginal communities throughout Cape York and the Gulf Country form an integral component of the Battalion, and provide a vital source of local knowledge.

The real time role of conducting reconnaissance and surveillance in Far North Queensland is what makes service in 51 FNQR so challenging and rewarding for both full-time and part-time members of today's Army. Ask any member of 51 FNQR and they will proudly tell you they are "the eyes and ears of the north".

The 51 FNQR came under the command of the 2nd Division on 1 September 2014.

The motto of the 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment, is 'Ducit amor patriae', which is Latin for 'The love of country leads me'.

RAR MEMORIAL



The Memorial was constructed as part of the National RAR Association's intent to have a public RAR memorial in all Australian State

Capital cities. Although in Brisbane we have The RAR National Memorial Walk at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera, public access to it is hampered by Base Security requirements. This new Memorial was designed by the RARA Qld Team led by its President Neil Weekes and constructed by stonemason Peter Wrafter & Sons. Brisbane City Council approved the location in their Ferguson Park and allowed us to name the space occupied as The Royal Australian Regiment Place. On the reverse side of the Memorial are the place names of RAR's operational deployments. A feature of the memorial is its illumination at night which makes it spiritual and highly visible from Samford Road.

Military prowess on show in the Pacific during biennial French exercise

**Flt-Lt Lauretta Webster reports.
Army: Edition 1387 Dec 1 2016**

More than 100 members of the ADF joined a French flavoured multinational force for training in disaster response interoperability during Exercise



The exercise ran from November 9 -18, 2016 in New Caledonia and is the largest humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise in the South Pacific.

Led by the French Armed Forces of New Caledonia (FANC), Croix du Sud is held every two years as part of France's engagement in the region. Commander of the Australian contingent Lt-Col Paul Manoel said the exercise tackled the more difficult areas of disaster response. "Croix Du Sud allows us to deal with the responses that may be required when the security situation is complex following a disaster," he said. "We are well experienced with supplying aid and disaster recovery forces to the region. This exercise allowed us to train as a multinational force dealing with non-combatant evacuation and security operations."

Ile des Pins (Isle of Pines) was the backdrop for the tactical phase, which involved a non-combatant evacuation operation following a simulated cyclone. Adding complexity to the scenario, role players acted as disgruntled locals who grew more and more frustrated at the lack of food and water available to them. 2RAR troops, with soldiers from Tonga and New Zealand, worked alongside their French counterparts to move in and assist with security operations in the area. They established a collection point for the 'refugees' to get processed and searched before being moved to the airfield for an evacuation flight. Exercise liaison officer Capt David Caligari, of 2RAR, said the training was vital to ensure a prepared force was equipped to react and provide assistance. "Exercises like Croix du Sud are important to ensure that as a multinational force, we are ready to respond in the Pacific when required," Capt Caligari said. "These opportunities provide valuable training in an area where Australian troops can expect to be required to respond. Our region is prone to natural disasters like cyclones and the ADF is often called upon to respond and help. "We assisted in Fiji earlier this year and it's important to keep up our skills. Working with the other nations allows us to test our procedures and processes and to form professional relationships." Maj Ronald Jean, of FANC, welcomed the opportunity to work with the Australians. "To me, this is the biggest exercise for the

FANC and really important for us because we are part of the Pacific region and need to work together to offer help," Maj Jean said. "I would be very happy to work again with the Australians." Croix du Sud included troops from France (New Caledonia and French Polynesia), Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, UK, US and Vanuatu. In addition to the company-minus team from 2RAR, the ADF contributed a C-130J Hercules, two KA350 King Airs, and headquarters and support personnel.

Team-building success sets tone for tactical phase of Croix du Sud



A FRANCO soldier helps Pte Adelle Connor, of 2 RAR tackle an obstacle during Exercise Croix du Sud.

TEAMWORK and communication were essential components for the success at a French-run training day in Noumea as part of Exercise Croix du Sud.

The 2RAR team, including members of the French Armed Forces New Caledonia (FANC), New Zealand Army and His Majesty's Armed Forces (Tonga), joined for force integration training to tackle the rigorous tasks.

Training included building a raft made from bamboo and running it through tangled, muddy mangroves with a number of weighted stores, before completing a water obstacle course that comprised above and under water challenges.

Capt Roch Sardin, of FANC, said the purpose of the activities was to provide a challenging environment to encourage team building and unity.

"The physical training activities are designed to improve unit cohesion and allow personnel to share skills with other nationalities, to build up

the force in preparation for the next phase of the exercise,"

Capt Sardin said. "The main purpose is to realise that people cannot rely on their own strength, and must rely on their team to get through the challenges. "We are on an island here in New Caledonia, so it's important we train with our regional partners so we can prepare to react to any real-time situations and share our knowledge."

Lt David Bannister-Tyrrell, of 2RAR, described the training as innovative and memorable.

"It was surprisingly fun. I'm absolutely knackered, but that obstacle course was an entertaining mix of exhausting and exhilarating,"

Lt Bannister-Tyrrell said. "My team was made up of a combination of French and Australians and it was fantastic getting to work together. The language barrier was a bit of a challenge but we got through.

"It really was a test of communication and all about helping each other overcome the obstacles. It was difficult, but also a bit of fun.

"It was a pretty unique team-building exercise and that's what exercise Croix du Sud is all about."

Wings over Vietnam



A 9 Squadron, RAAF, Iroquois helicopter drops down onto a landing zone to pick up infantry from 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (9RAR), after operations in the area. An unidentified 9 Squadron, RAAF, door gunner with an M60 general purpose machine gun, watches intently for enemy action.

Soldiers awarded for helicopter service 48 years on

2RAR door-gunners were belatedly awarded RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam (HFV) Gunner Wings by Cmdr Max Speedy (Retd) in a cere-

mony at HMAS Cerberus , Victoria, on March 23, 2016.



They were former Ptes Bob Devers, Stan Jaruga, Bill Wearne and Rob Carmichael, all National Servicemen who served in South Vietnam from 1967-68.

Mr Devers said he volunteered to become a helicopter door-gunner with RANHFV to experience how the US infantry operated. "I was already trained as a machine-gunner with all the associated drills and weapon maintenance skills for the GPMG M60," he said. "We did some training with the US Army's 135th Assault Helicopter Coy on the use of protocols with pilots, as well as specific tasks and timings with troop and aircraft protection related to the machine guns." Mr Devers served with the unit for two weeks with alternate days on dispatch and retrieval of US infantry troops and outpost delivery and associated protection duties. "With seven troop days and seven outpost duty days, every day was a duty day as a door-gunner," he said. "While many of our operations in our 2RAR platoon had severe confrontations at different levels, equally there were high risks with the helicopters. "Flying into unknown enemy force zones where the size of the force was unknown and retrieving wounded and overpowered troops were very tense moments – helicopters are

Mr Wearne was a forward scout in 4 PI, 2RAR, when he was told he was going to be a door-gunner with a US Army helicopter company. Wings over Vietnam Soldiers awarded for helicopter service 48 years on, Sgt Dave Morley reports "I had only handled an M60 once before and that was during basic training at Puckapunyal," he said. "I can always remember my first flight – we followed the gunships into the LZ after they blew everything up and we fought our way through the dust and smoke to drop off the 9 Div troops. "On another occasion returning to the base at night, I had a quite dif-

ferent experience. We were diverted to pick up some wounded and deceased soldiers.” Mr Wearne said this was fairly traumatic. “After loading them onto the helo, as we were about to take off, the pilot said to me, ‘door-gunner you are in control’,” he said. “That meant I had to let the pilot know if lift-off was possible because it was pitch black and he couldn’t see the paddy dykes.” Three weeks later Mr Wearne was back with 2RAR. “On leaving the 135th I was presented with a certificate stating I had flown 48.3 hours on combat missions and told I was entitled to the US Army Air Medal,” he said. “The secondment was a unique experience and one I’ll never forget.”

Mr Devers said it was quite unbelievable having his service recognised after 48 years. “We are all humbled and grateful to receive the recognition, but my recognition is all channelled towards my mates in 5 PI, B Coy, who teamed together and displayed remarkable dedication to the tasks allocated to them. “The Navy treated our award with the greatest respect and the ceremony I attended with marching recruits was memorable. “I know emotions were running high and I would like to thank the people at Cerberus for their courtesy and attention to us on the day.” Similar ceremonies were held at HMA Ships Albatross and Leeuwin in March to recognise the nine 2RAR and 40 Navy members who volunteered to fly as door-gunners in the UH-1 helicopters.

In late November 1967 the first two of seven Machine Gunners from Bravo Company, 2 RAR were unofficially seconded to the US Army’s 135 Assault Helicopter Company

History of Unit

This unit, known as ‘The EMUs’, was the home of the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam. The RANHFV was a detachment of Australian naval aircrew, helicopter maintainers and support personnel which was integrated with the US Army.

The B Coy secondment was the result of collaboration between **Lieutenant Commander Pat Vickers** RAN (KIA 22Feb68) 2i/c of the HFV and Platoon Leader 1st Platoon

135AHC and **Major Carter** CO B Coy 2 RAR.

The aim of the secondment was to assist the 135th maintain the normally high degree of combat readiness that was currently being affected by a temporary shortage of door gunners.

The members involved flew between 40 and 90 hours during their time in the 135th. This number of combat hours ensured each soldier an entitlement to the US Army’s combat flight decoration ‘The Air Medal’

Some of the men were given copies of the necessary official statement of their flight hours to enable them to apply for and be granted the decoration. Unfortunately none of them applied for the medal once they returned to Nui Dat. This omission was probably due to the Australian Government’s attitude to ADF members accepting foreign decorations. Only three soldiers appear to have retained their certificate now making it difficult to gain the required recognition of their entitlement.



One soldier, Private Hoger, has with great difficulty and a lapse of about 35 years, been granted The Air Medal. Action is currently underway to obtain the decorations for the other six men.

DONALD TRUMP

Election Therapy From My Basket of “Deplorables”

From Maureen Dowd

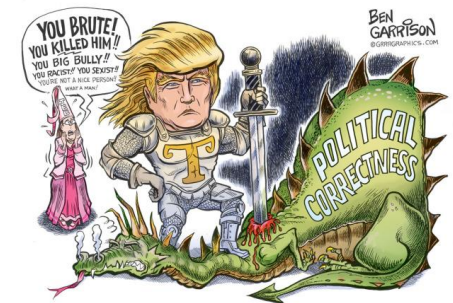
An American columnist for The New York Times, and a best-selling author. During the 1970s and the early 1980s, Dowd worked for Time magazine and the Washington Star



The election was a complete repudiation of Barack Obama: his fantasy world of political correctness the politicization of the Justice Department and the I.R.S., an out-of-control E.P.A., his neutering of the military, his non-support of the police and his fixation on things like transgender bathrooms. Since he became president, his par-

ty has lost 63 House seats, 10 Senate seats and 14 governorships.

The country had signaled strongly in the last two midterms that they were not happy. The Dems’ answer was to give them more of the same from a person they did not like or trust.



Preaching — and pandering — with a message of inclusion, the Democrats have instead become a party where incivility and bad manners are taken for granted, rudeness is routine, religion is mocked and there is absolutely no respect for a differing opinion. This did not go down well in the Midwest, where Trump flipped three blue states and 44 electoral votes.

The rudeness reached its peak when Vice President-elect Mike Pence was booed by attendees of “Hamilton” and then pompously lectured by the cast. This may play well with the New York theater crowd but is considered boorish and unacceptable by those of us taught to respect the office of the president and vice president, if not the occupants.

Here is a short primer for the young protesters. If your preferred candidate loses, there is no need for mass hysteria, canceled midterms, safe spaces, crying rooms or group primal screams. You might understand this better if you had not received participation trophies, undeserved grades to protect your feelings or even if you had a proper understanding of civics. The Democrats are now crying that Hillary had more popular votes. That can be her participation trophy.

If any of my sons had told me they were too distraught over a national election to take an exam, I would have brought them home the next day, fearful of the instruction they were receiving. Not one of the top 50 colleges mandate one semester of Western Civilization. Maybe they should rethink that.

Mr. Trump received over 62 million votes, not all of them cast by homophobes, Islamaphobes, racists, sexists, misogynists or any other "ists." I would caution Trump deniers that all of the crying and whining is not good preparation for the coming storm. The liberal media, both print and electronic, has lost all credibility. I am reasonably sure that none of the mainstream print media had stories prepared for a Trump victory. I watched the networks and cable stations in their midnight meltdown — embodied by Rachel Maddow explaining to viewers that they were not having a "terrible, terrible dream" and that they had not died and "gone to hell."

The media's criticism of Trump's high-level picks as "not diverse enough" or "too white and male" — a day before he named two women and offered a cabinet position to an African-American — magnified this fact.

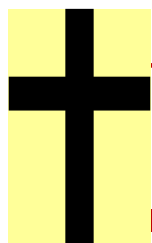
Here is a final word to my Democratic friends. The election is over. There will not be a do-over. So let me bid farewell to Al Sharpton, Ben Rhodes and the Clintons. Note to Cher, Barbra, Amy Schumer and Lena Dunham: Your plane is waiting. And to Jon Stewart, who talked about moving to another planet: Your spaceship is waiting. To Bruce Springsteen, Jay Z, Beyoncé and Katy Perry, thanks for the free concerts. And finally, to all the foreign countries that contributed to the Clinton Foundation, there will not be a payoff or a rebate.

As Eddie Murphy so eloquently stated in the movie "48 Hrs.": "There's a new sheriff in town." And he is going to be here for 1,461 days.

Hillary Clinton's use of the word *deplorable* when describing "half of Trump supporters" sent many people to the dictionary to look up the word. At a fundraiser in New York, on Friday night Clinton said: To just be grossly generalistic, you can put half of Trump supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables. Right? Racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamaphobic, you name it.

Donald Trump's campaign demanded an apology for the remark.

VALE



**AT THE GOING DOWN
OF THE SUN, WE
WILL REMEMBER
THEM
"LEST WE FORGET"
OUR FALLEN AND
DEPARTED COM-
RADES**

RAYMOND GERARD STANLEY
SVN 1968 – 69 D COY (Cook)
Passed away 24 August 2016

CHRISTOPHER DAVID GOLSBY
SVN 1968 -69
Passed away 4 September 2016

**FREDERICK WILLIAM CRAWORD
(WIA)**
SVN 1968 – 69, 3 RAR Korea
Passed away 3 November 2016

GARRY ROY MAYER



SVN 1968 -69, B Coy
Passed away 10 December 2016

Hi everyone,

As Christmas fades into memory and a new year beckons, I can't help but reflect on Garry Mayer's passing and farewell.

Those of us honoured to call Garry our friend, greeted the sad news of his passing with mixed emotions. The deep sadness associated with the loss of someone we cared for mixed with the sense of relief that his suffering was over.

What a long and protracted fight he had fought and finally lost.

To think of Garry was to think of a thoughtful considerate, capable man. A man of compassion who was never rushed or flustered but always in control. A caring man to those he was close to and those he chose to help.

9RAR is indebted to Garry for his contribution across three states. Few have been so widely respected and admired.

He is a huge loss.

His farewell service, as detailed below by Dan Penman, was a fitting tribute to his life.

All who participated did so with dignity and compassion and collectively presented a service befitting so great a personality.

The 9RAR family rallied in numbers as the attached photo will attest and Brian Hamilton, Dan Penman, Brian Vickery and Peter Cosgrove all made outstanding contributions to the service.

It was a proud day for 9RAR and for Jan, despite her immeasurable sense of loss.

Her final words, which I list below, resonated long after the chapel was cleared.

*" Strong of mind
Pure of heart
A beautiful man
A thorough gentleman
Loved by all."*

Farewell, Garry Mayer,
RIP dear friend.

Doug McGrath



INFORMATION PAGE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2017 AT ROSCO'S 519 ST KILDA ROAD, MELBOURNE AT 12.00.


AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes from 2016 AGM
3. Consider matters arising from previous minutes (if any).
4. Receive and adopt reports from the President & Treasurer
5. Elect Executive and Committee for 2017
6. Deal with notices of motion (If any) and General Business.
7. Meeting closed

MEMBERSHIP 2017

● Membership dues for 2017 remain unchanged at \$30.00 p.a. Payment can be either by direct banking to the Bendigo Bank (see below) or by cheque/money order before Anzac Day. Cash will only be accepted on Anzac Day.

VICTORIAN DIRECT ON LINE BANKING DETAILS



9 RAR Association (Victoria) Inc.
BSB 633-000
A/C No. 154877450

Make sure you identify your payment with your Name or Telephone number.

If paying by Cheque/Money Order, please send to:

The Secretary
9 RAR ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC
PO BOX 6213, FRANKSTON VIC 3199

FUNNY STUFF



Yes officer, I did see the 'speed limit' sign, I just didn't see you.



Jonah and the Whale

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'. The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

9 RAR ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 2016

PRESIDENT: Stan Sutherland
 stan.sutherland@bigpond.com
 02 6027 1266

VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Forrest
 wf0377@bigpond.com. 03 9819 5357

SECRETARY
TREASURER Klaus Cimdins
EDITOR
 kcimdins@bigpond.com 03 9770 1074

MEMBERSHIP Geoff Lanigan
 geoff.lanigan@lancivil.com.au
 03 9558 4380

9 RAR ASSOCIATION REP
Allan Tonkin
 allantonkin150@gmail.com 03 9366 1153

DISCLAIMER

Information and articles printed in this newsletter is either reprinted from other publications or is derived from verbal or other notes received by the editor. While all efforts are made to verify the information the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or the Committee of 9 RAR Association (Vic) Inc. No responsibility or guarantee is given or implied for any action taken by individuals or groups as a result of information contained within this publication and no liability will be accepted for any loss from such use.

Klaus Cimdins