



## President's Report



Looking back over the last 12 months or so of our Association in Victoria I have found it very rewarding on a number of levels.

When Victoria was tasked with hosting the 2015 National Reunion the first thing to put together was a Committee to organise the event. This occurred in late 2012 and we had a meeting shortly thereafter so that we could bring to the 2013 AGM our thoughts and present them to the members for approval. Once we had the green light to forge ahead we set about booking various venues so that we knew what we were dealing with in relation to these. As the Victorian President of our Association I was extremely fortunate to have on the Organising Committee a group of members (6) who could bring to the meeting table a wide range of experience and skills. This, coupled with their enthusiasm and dedication to the task of arranging a whole raft of matters to ensure Victoria held a memorable reunion was there for all to see over the week-end 13- 16 November last.

The Organising Committee was greatly assisted by sponsors such as Richard Starkins whose generous assistance helped us get over the line and likewise, the support of Broken Hill Artist, Howard William Steer.

Bill Forrest, our Vice President made his home available for us to meet at and in so doing generously put on a luncheon or an evening meal so that our meetings were convened in a joyful atmosphere making it much easier for us to turn our minds to what needed to be discussed. Particularly, when washed down with a beer or a glass of wine. Over the last two years we met at Bills' regularly with meetings increasing in number as we got closer to the reunion date.

Looking back on the lead up to the reunion it seems that the last couple of weeks or so the Committee was working full time on getting all the last minute arrangements into place.

Most of this finer detail fell on the shoulders of Terry Poulton who was driven to distraction more than any of us. Each person on the Committee had their various workloads to attend to and they all did a marvellous job. Whilst we had three years from the Sydney reunion to plan there is not much that can be done until the last 12 months and then the pace in organising functions quickens with the last few weeks being quite frenetic.

At our first meeting held shortly after the Sydney reunion we thought that a target for Melbourne set at 300 would be achievable given that the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the formation of the Battalion in Adelaide only 2 years after Melbourne reunion might impact somewhat. Final numbers for the formal dinner on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November came in at 302 so obviously we were quite chuffed about that. Fortunately for us, the weather was good in that the rainy days leading up to the reunion cleared and the temperature was quite mild. Each of the functions unfolded as planned and the assistance of our volunteers who came forward was of tremendous value and we thank them for it.

Each of the various functions has been written up in this Newsletter by different people of the Organising Committee so enjoy the read.

### Stan Sutherland



CONTENTS THIS ISSUE	
President's Report	1
Reunion Reports	2-6
Meet and Greet	
MCC Dinner	
Shrine Tour	
Memorial Service	
National Sports Museum	
Day Trip to Seymour	
Day Trip to Phillip Island	
Auction Results	6
Committee & Volunteers	6
Vale	7
Colin "Twiggy" McLeod	
David "Jacko" Jackman	
John Griffiths	
Leslie Smith	
Sick Parade — David Stacey	7
George Nagle — Ireland Plaque	8
Justine Schofield – Cookbook	8
Subscriptions 2016	8
Anzac Day Melbourne 2016	9
Shrine — Exhibition 2016/2017	9
Pte Shaun Jenkins 1 RAR	10
Express News	10

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## 52nd Edition

### REUNION REPORTS

#### MEET AND GREET FRIDAY NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

On a pleasant Melbourne evening reunion attendees walked past the famous Waterwall of the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) to enter the building. After collecting our registration envelopes in the foyer, we moved into the Great Hall, with the world's largest stained-glass ceiling designed by Australian artist Leonard French. For those at the first national reunion in Melbourne in 1988 it brought back memories, for this is where the reunion dinner was held.



The day was auspicious, being the battalion's 48<sup>th</sup> birthday: 9 RAR was raised in Adelaide on 13 November 1967. But it was also Friday the 13th, and traffic in Melbourne on any Friday evening is congested. As our Patron, the Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, discovered. Returning from a visit to Ronald McDonald House in Monash, to the south of Melbourne, his entourage was still caught in traffic way past the Shrine of Remembrance when he was due to alight at the NGV. No matter, it allowed those attending to complete their registration and meet and greet



their friends in the Great Hall before our Patron arrived. In his brief visit General Cosgrove managed to meet and greet many of those present and participate in countless selfies and photographs.

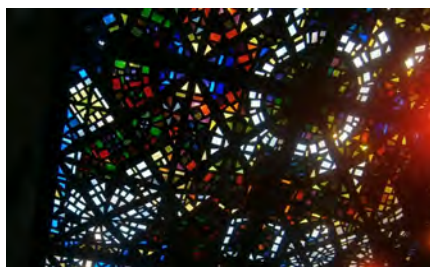


He addressed the crowd and apologised for his truncated attendance at the reunion, but

he had a son getting married the following day in Canberra!

Later in the evening Jenny Peachey spoke movingly to us. This being the first national reunion held since Margaret Morrison passed away last year, it was wonderful to have Alby and Margaret's daughter, and her husband John Peachey, with us at the NGV meet and greet. Jenny was with us again at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday.

This first function of the reunion differed somewhat from past reunions. In planning the event the reunion committee took careful note of comments from past reunions and chose not to have separate company functions or to divide the Great Hall of the NGV into company areas. Quality food and beverages were also a priority. And to be fair to those who drink little or not at all, you had to pay for alcoholic drinks after the first two, using a voucher system. (The same system was used at the BBQ on Sunday.) The fact that many stayed to the very end suggests that people enjoyed themselves and had no trouble moving around the Great Hall to catch up with their friends, enjoy the plentiful food and drink, purchase all manner of memorabilia, including copies of the reprinted 9 RAR Vietnam Tour of Duty book – and did it all with the other attendees at an iconic Melbourne venue close to everything.



Written by: Bill Forrest

## 52nd Edition

### REUNION REPORTS

#### MCC DINNER—SATURDAY

If there is anyone living in Australia who has not heard of the Melbourne Cricket Ground, well! They must live in their own little cave somewhere. The MCG is undoubtedly the premier sporting arena in Australia and actually, well known the world over. What better place to have a reunion formal dinner than in the member's dining room of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

People started to arrive for pre dinner drinks at 6.30pm. However, well over a hundred of our number took the opportunity to tour the adjoining Sports Museum beforehand. The Melbourne Cricket Ground was lit up for the evening and with the ceiling to floor glass walls on one side revealing the stadium and on the other side of the room, the lights of the city high rise buildings only a few hundred metres away made a stunning view and really set the atmosphere for a wonderful evening.

The doors to the dining room were

opened at 7.00pm and we were all piped in by David Hynd of the Rats of Tobruk Pipe band. This gave colour and a wonderful touch to the commencement of the evening.

Once our very nice 3

course meal was served and partaken of, Normie Rowe delivered a great speech. As you know, Normie was an APC driver in the Armoured Corps when 9 RAR was in Vietnam and as a veteran himself he readily identifies with us and his speech went over magnificently.

Our National President Doug McGrath made a speech on leadership and this was followed by David



Stacey, President of South Australia and Bob Plummer giving us an insight into their proposals for the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party of the raising of the battalion in Adelaide in 2017 and inviting us to attend..

During the course of the evening our raffle was drawn and lo and behold, 6 winners came forward to claim the first prize as each of them had the same identifying ticket but from different books. A prompt play off took place with each of them being handed a one dollar coin. The contestants, all lined up, were asked to toss their coin to a designated line some four metres away. The closest to the line determined an outright winner.



Once Normie Rowe's band took to the stage it wasn't long before the dance floor was full of gyrating dancers, only too eager to forget their age and throw off their inhibitions. One way to determine if an evening such as this is a success is by people remaining to the end and this is what happened. Our conclusion was that everyone had a very enjoyable evening and went to bed that night very happy they attended



Written by: Stan Sutherland

#### GUIDED TOUR OF THE GALLERIES OF REMEMBRANCE—SUNDAY

The Galleries of Remembrance is a new \$45 million redevelopment project that utilises 1,600 square metres of undercroft space that exists beneath the Shrine, funded by the Victorian Government and the Anzac Centenary Public Fund. Over 850 objects are included in permanent and temporary exhibition spaces which illustrate the experiences of Australians at war and in peacekeeping operations, from Pre-Federation to the present day, with a particular focus on individual and unit stories of Victorian service and sacrifice. Small items of family memorabilia to large scale audio-visuals and interactive technology provide a variety of moods and experiences.

The Guided Tour was an extremely popular Reunion option. Initially three guides from the Shrine volunteered to take the tours, which were outside normal Shrine opening hours, so we placed a limit of 120, thinking that would be plenty of spots. But they filled very quickly and some people were disappointed to miss out. Subsequently the Shrine advised us that guides would only be able to take 35 people each, so we had to disappoint another 15 people who had registered to bring the number down to 105.

The Tour Guides were very informative and were able to add lots of details to the already extensive audio visual commentaries throughout the galleries. You can even print your own service record for a small fee.

If you haven't visited the Galleries of Remembrance since its opening, make sure you do it next time you're in Melbourne. You can take a self guided tour, but I recommend joining one of the free guided tours, which are held twice daily.

Written by: Terry Poulton

## 52nd Edition

### REUNION REPORTS

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November saw a lovely Spring day unfold on which our Association, family and friends gathered at the Shrine for the reunion Commemorative Service. The old diggers assembled at the city end of the Shrine for-court under the supervision of acting RSM Mick Shave.



The march to the Shrine, in Company order, was led by the Rats of Tobruk Pipe Band. Attached to their bagpipes were the 9 RAR brown banners adorned in gold lettering and the Regimental Crest. Our 35 volunteers each carrying the National Flag in memory of those listed on the Battalion's Honour Roll followed the band.

From the vantage point of the Shrine itself it was a colourful and



dignified parade with the demeanour one would expect. Mick Shave gave the order to right turn and the parade faced the eternal flame.

Adrian Lombardo, Life Governor of the Shrine welcomed the 9 RAR Assoc. and gave a short speech at the conclusion of which he then marched on the Shrine Guards dressed in the uniform of the Light Horse Infantry. Adrian then handed the microphone over to Victorian President, Stan Sutherland, who also gave a short speech inviting the attendees to explore the Shrine via the Visitor Centre while they had the opportunity, as within, is a wide range of exhibitions and collections.



Jenny Peachy, daughter of Alby & Margaret Morrison was then asked to come to the microphone to say a few words and Jenny remarked on how thrilled, proud and honoured she was to be able to address the gathering.

Brian Vickery led the gathering in the Lords Prayer, a Prayer for the fallen and a Prayer for the loved ones of the Fallen

Stan then commenced the formal service by the laying of the four wreaths in front of the eternal flame to the background music of the Rats of Tobruk Pipe band, these were:

A wreath for **all Australian servicemen and women**, laid by Col. John James (Retd), President RAR Assoc. Vic.

A wreath for **9 RAR Association**, laid by National President, Doug McGrath.

A wreath for the **Next of Kin**, laid by Keith Bink.

A wreath for those listed on the **9 RAR Honour Roll**, laid by Jenny Peachy

Personal wreaths/flowers were then invited to be placed.

The service continued in the normal manner with the Ode, Last Post, One Minutes Silence, Lest we Forget, Reveille and National Anthem.

Stan Sutherland then closed the Memorial Service with thanks to Adrian Lombardo and the Shrine Guards together with the ROT Pipe Band and everyone for attending

Written by Stan Sutherland



#### NATIONAL SPORTS MUSEUM MCG —SATURDAY

Written by Klaus Cimdins



The designated entry area was **Gate 3**, and 115 members and partners had paid for this tour.

The scheduled time for entry was 5 pm. and Sue and I processed some 50 entrants within a few minutes. Then the long wait began, where were the rest of them? The Friday nights Meet and Greet and Saturday shopping had taken its toll and they were preparing themselves for the Saturday Dinner.

It was about 5.30 when Jennifer Keating, the Museum's co coordinator said she would wander down to **Gate 2**, which is the entrance to the MCC Members area and to the Dinner. Sure enough Jennifer had another 50 plus in tow to be admitted into the Museum.

It was to late for me to have a look at the Museum as I had to help Geoff Lanigan organise a picture show that were going to be present that night.

I think however every one who attended this tour got the \$15 worth, considering the regular price was \$30.

#### BBQ—SUNDAY



These were held in the Royal Botanical Gardens after the Remembrance Service.

Stan Sutherland advised us that it was a short walk from the Shrine; short walk in Yackandandah, not so short in Melbourne.,

## 52nd Edition

### BBQ (Cont)

The location was as the picture suggests; our BBQ site was the **Nymphaea Lake West Lawn**.

The catering was done by Blakes Feast and there was plenty of food for everyone there. The drink voucher system also seemed to be working well.

The only complaint was the lack of shade and tables and chairs; the day was warm and I must admit this was a shortcoming, however I thought most people enjoyed the afternoon.

Allan Tonkin unfortunately was unable to enjoy the afternoon as he felt unwell on arrival at the BBQ site and had to be looked after by our old battalion MO Dr Bruce Perks until we got his son to pick him up and take him home.

Sue and I left around 5pm and with a few other attendees for our hotel room for a well deserved rest.

### DAY TRIP TO SEYMOUR

This was one of the optional Monday activities and 44 people registered to take the trip. It was excellent value at \$35, which was mostly to cover the cost of the Crown Coach trip to Seymour and back. We assembled at the pickup point at Federation Square for a 10am departure. The coach was very comfortable and the driver, Dean, was an excellent host. We had to divert at Donnybrook to pick up Des and Ann Blazeley who were staying out that way.

The Commemorative Walk is right in the middle of Seymour. It depicts Australia's military commitment in



Vietnam, the period of our involvement and the aftermath.

The Walk is a meandering red earth path set in native trees and

that resemble rubber trees and rice paddies.

On arrival, we were met by representatives of the local RSL who outlined the history of the wall and showed us what to look for as we wandered along the walk. Obviously everyone found their own name and looked for the names of mates. It evoked great memories and discussions as we wandered along.

Along the length of this Walk are walls made up of panels of DigiGlass with the name of every Serviceman and Servicewoman who served in their various capacities. The names are separated only by the Service in which they served in alphabetical order. The plinths on which the panels stand have holes for Poppies. Behind the names is the picture story of the Vietnam conflict.

Following a very nice lunch at a local hotel we set out for nearby Puckapunyal. It was strange meeting a Wilson car park attendant at the gate, rather than an actual soldier, but I guess times have changed.

We were met by the curator of the museum on arrival who spoke to us about the museum and its extensive contents. The Army Tank Museum has more than 70 Armoured Fighting Vehicles on display in Hopkins Barracks, the home of Australian Armour at Puckapunyal. Covering an area of over 4000 square metres the museum is one of the largest armour museums in the Southern hemisphere.



We spent an hour or so examining all the sections of the museum. I didn't know there were so many different models of APCs. Just like cars!

If you're visiting the Commemorative Walk at Seymour, it's well worth a detour to the Army Tank Museum at Pucka

Written by Terry Poulton

### DAY TOUR TO PHILLIP ISLAND



140 km south-southeast of Melbourne, Victoria. Named after Arthur Phillip, the first Governor of New South Wales, Phillip Island forms a natural breakwater for the shallow waters of the Western Port. It is 26 km long and 9 km wide, with an area of about 100 km<sup>2</sup>. It has 97 km of coastline and is part of the Bass Coast Shire.

On Monday two busloads of reunion attendees headed off to Phillip Island for a long but engrossing day on Phillip Island, some 90 km south-east of Melbourne. Travelling through lush farmland at the western end of Gippsland, Victoria's prime dairy country, which was looking its best at the end of spring, we arrived at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on time for an introduction to this unique independent museum founded and built by Vietnam veterans.

First we went out to the Garden of Remembrance behind the museum building, where a short commemoration service was held to dedicate a 9 RAR memorial plaque. In a moving gesture, our President Stan Sutherland called on someone from each company to read out the names of those from their company recorded on the 9 RAR honour roll. Then Stan opened officially the new 9 RAR interactive display inside the

## 52nd Edition

### DAY TOUR TO PHILLIP ISLAND (CONT)

museum. It certainly attracted a lot of attention, as did the rest of the museum's exhibits, including the Light & Sound show. Just as the museum's website says: "Unique. Authentic. Emotive." During this time we were treated to afternoon tea with wonderful scones and jam and cream, as you see only in the country.



We then repaired to the RSL Sub Branch Phillip Island for a drink or two and an early dinner. We were given a spacious function room for our large party. From the numbers of locals using the RSL (on a Monday), it's clearly a major social centre on Phillip Island and helps to promote the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

We then headed off to see the world-famous Penguin Parade, managed by Phillip Island Nature Parks. Sitting on the foreshore at dusk, watching the waters of Bass Strait, darkness fell and scores of penguins started coming out of the water and making their way up the beach to their burrows in the dunes around, between and behind the viewing stands.



Low intensity floodlighting picks up the penguins' white fronts and they weren't hard to see. With plenty of large terns around, however, waiting

to tackle any penguin falling behind on the march up the beach, it wasn't hard to see why the penguins moved together in tight military-like formations. Most of the penguins had come ashore within an hour, so we called it a day. The buses arrived back in Melbourne on schedule, after a long but varied and most interesting tour.

### AUCTION RESULTS

The successful bidder for the Howard Steer painting HUEYS was Harry Birrell with a bid of \$2,000. Congratulations Harry.

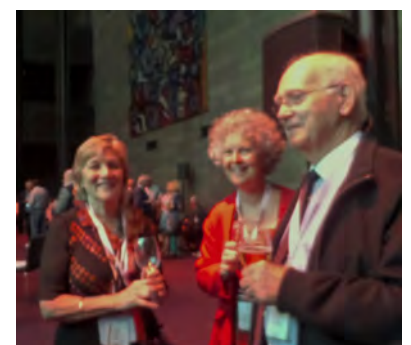
### THE COMMITTEE OF THE MELBOURNE REUNION

HARRY BIRRELL  
KLAUS CIMIDINS  
BILL FORREST  
GEOFF LANIGAN  
TERRY POULTON  
STAN SUTHERLAND  
ALLAN TONKIN

### REUNION VOLUNTEERS

NANCY BIRRELL  
ADAM BIRRELL  
CAROL DUNCAN  
GAVIN DUNCAN  
JANE HOUSTON  
RON MOORE  
COLIN MOYLE  
CATHERINE POULTON  
REBECCA PRESGRAVE  
SUE PREGRAVE  
MONIQUE ROHR  
NEIL SMITH  
PAULA SUTHERLAND

### AND SO IT ENDED—2015



## 52nd Edition



### COLIN ROY MCLEOD On 23 January 2016 6 PI B Coy



Today we farewellled Colin "Twiggy" McLeod at Bacchus Marsh, Colin had other nicknames, included "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 Birrell, 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,

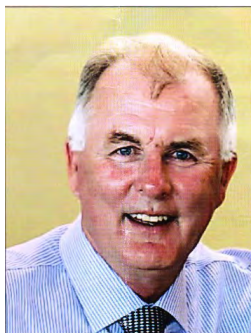
Noel spoke about their life long mateship, Freddy spoke about there time in the Army & later life, I spoke briefly on behalf of the Battalion Association on his Service in the Army. The local RSL Rep then led the RSL Segment of the service,,

Following the Service, we all adjourned 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.

**Allan Tonkin.**

### DAVID "JACKO" JACKMAN On 25 December 2015 B Coy



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 head lined 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.

**Doug McGrath**

### JOHN GRIFFITHS On 8 August 2015 8 PI C Coy

**John having fun in a bar in Vung Tau.**



John provided 8 Platoon with much mirth on 7 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.

. John was a great guy – but a bit older than us, I actually think he was the oldest in C Coy at the time, I think (38), apart from the old staff sergeant in the Q store (Tim Daley) who was over 60 and had served in WW2 and Korea.

**Geoff Lanigan**

### LESLIE SMITH In March 2016 10 PI D Coy

No other details available

## SICK PARADE

### DAVID STACEY From David and Jan Stacey 22 February 2016'



Dear Family, friends and members of the 9 RAR "family".  
"greatcoats on" and "greatcoats off."

Thanks for all the enquires, messages and supporting our family in so 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 0447 373 130 and  
Jan 0438 809

## 52nd Edition

### GEORGE NAGLE

**B Coy KIA 6 JANUARY 1969  
OPERATION GOODWOOD**

George is buried in his home country Ireland and has never had an official plaque from the Office of Australia War Graves (OAWG).

This is the email that started the ball rolling it is from Bill Williams ex 1 RAR to Mike von Berg President of the RAR Association National.

*Hi Mike and Bob .*

*I am in Camolin Enniscorthy Wexford Ireland . I am staying with Ted Somers 1RAR Vietnam 1965/66 .*

*I have been here for 3 weeks and will return home on Saturday. We visited the grave of **Pte George Nagle** who was killed in Vietnam by a mine in 1969 whilst serving with 9 RAR. His mother had to pay 495 English pounds sterling to bring him home to Ireland to have him buried. As you can see there is no mention of Australia, 9 RAR, The Royal Australian Regiment or a Australian service plaque on his grave. Members of the Regiment who now live in Ireland think that something should be done to honour George Nagle service to Australia and the Regiment.*



*George Nagle's niece has his medals and Georges brother Willie and other members of his extended family still live in Clonmel County Tipperary where George is buried. They have spoken with us and they are keen to have his service recognized. There must be something we can do to honour his service on his grave in the proper Australian way a Plaque the Regiment badge and his unit 9 RAR ?.*

*Sunday was Irish Veterans Day same as ANZAC Day is for us .I have enclosed a photo of Ted with the slouch hat on a very big hit with the Irish .regards*

*Bill Williams  
1 RAR*

**From Willie Nagle to Bill Williams  
17 February 2016**

The plaque for George was presented at a ceremony at the home of the Australian Ambassador in Dublin by Brigadier Bill Snowy from London.. We had a very relaxed and pleasant lunch with the Ambassador and her husband. Col. Bourke from Irish defence forces also attended .

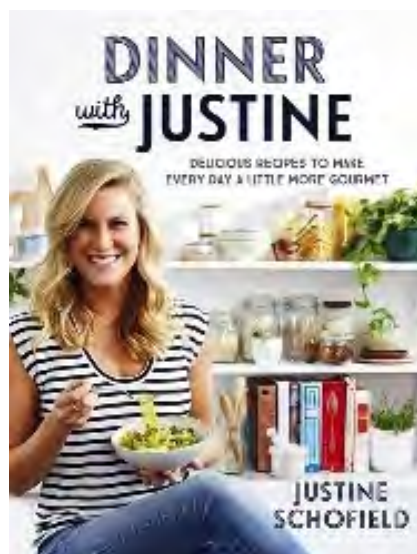


We are making arrangements to have the plaque installed on the grave and will send you a photo when completed.

We much appreciate your help and assistance in this project.

**Willie Nagle**

### JUSTINE SCHOLFIELD



Justine is the daughter of Colin Schofield 6 Pl B Coy. Justine is an past **Master Chef** contestant and my wife Sue thinks she is terrific.

**Editor**

**Colin writes**

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 Mothers Day present catered for, if not yours.

It will be available at all good book stores and Online—the link is to be set up.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS 2016

**DUE 1 APRIL 2016  
ANNUAL COST \$30  
HOW TO PAY**

**CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER  
PAYABLE TO:**

**9RAR Association (Vic) Inc  
ADDRESS  
PO Box 6213  
Frankston Vic 3199**

OR

**BANK TRANSFER PAYABLE  
TO**

 **Bendigo Bank**

**9RAR Association (Vic) Inc.  
BSB 633-000  
A/C No. 1548 77450**

For bank transfers please provide your name or telephone number

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR  
ASSOCIATION**

**Editors Note on George Nagle**

**Allan Tonkin** I believe did most of the hard yards with the OAWG to get this plaque to Ireland. Thank you Allan for all your efforts.

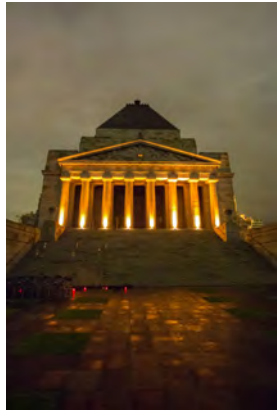


## 52nd Edition

### ANZAC DAY 2016

#### DAWN SERVICE

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



tion is encouraged.

In 2015 some 75,000 attended the service on a very rainy morning. If we have a fine morning this number will be exceeded.

#### MELBOURNE MARCH

##### FORM UP

Swanston St, (Opposite Federation Square/Flinders St Station)

**TIME:** 0915 hrs

##### ORDER OF MARCH

RAR Association

5 RAR

6 RAR

7 RAR

8 RAR

**9 RAR**

5/7 RAR

1 RAR

2 RAR

3 RAR

4 RAR

##### TRANSPORT

There are cars available for those who cannot make the full march; these issues will be sorted out on the day of the march

##### GENERAL INFORMATION

The Battalion banners are to be in position by 0900; as this is a very early start, therefore we do not

expect the usual delays which happen each year this time.

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 proper, 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.

#### REUNION



##### Same place as last year

Catch a tram from the Domain Interchange to the corner of Commercial and St Kilda Roads—Trams to catch are **6, 67 or 72.**

As we are starting the march early this year, we expect that it will be finished by 1030 hrs at the latest. This should get us to Rosco's before 1100 hrs.

I have spoken to Jason the owner and he has advised they open at 0800 hrs for breakfast, so an earlier start is not a problem.

This timing actually works to our advantage, Sue will be able to collect all the outstanding membership fees. We can then proceed to the AGM, which usually takes around one hour.

After these two items are out of the way, we can all enjoy ourselves with and food and drink.

#### THE RAR ASSOCIATION (VIC) REUNION

The venue for this years reunion is the Imperial Hotel, which is located on the Cnr of Bourke and Spring St.



The hotel will open at 1100 hrs.

The reunion will be held on the ground floor; the venue offers pizzas and hearty pub food in a lively sports bar with 2 big screens, plasma TVs and outdoor seats on Bourke and Spring Streets. The City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band will again provide their great music for the Regiment.

Members going to the MCG for the football game (of which we have a number) will find the Imperial a great place for a quick meal and drink before the first bounce. Then walk, tram or train to the MCG.

Few of our members also like to catch up with mates from other battalion, you have a choice, Rosco's first then the Imperial Hotel or vice versa.

Both venues should provide a good afternoon

#### SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE MELBOURNE EXHIBITION from 4 APRIL 2016 until 31 MARCH 2017



**Free Entry,** Opening hours 10am - 5pm daily. Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day

## 52nd Edition

### EXHIBITION (CONTINUED)

#### 1966 THE YEAR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

1966 was the year that Australia sent a Task Force to Vietnam, the year the first National Servicemen served in the war, and the year of the battle of Long Tan. Australia felt the heat of the Cold War and the throes of a youth revolution, in the year the first baby boomers came of age. Fifty years on, this exhibition tells the story of a year that changed the Australia and the world.



#### Helping hands, 8 October 1966 Photographer Winston Coates

Eleven soldiers were wounded when two separate booby traps exploded during Operation Canberra, a search and destroy operation which uncovered a large Viet Cong base in hilly jungle terrain.

PHOTOGRAPH REPRODUCED COURTESY OF THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL COA/66/0877/VN

#### YOUNG ARMY PRIVATE SHAUN JENKINS IS ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S PRIVATE HE- ROES.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH  
30 MARCH 2016



To his mum Shaun was always a reserved personality but when he came back from a seven-month tour of Afghanistan Sue Jenkins

was shocked to find her boy even more withdrawn.

His family knew Private Shaun had been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) but he refused to talk about it.

When Shaun, still a serving member of the First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR), came home for Christmas just past Mrs Jenkins said her son was "noticeably changed".

"He brushed it off saying he was just tired and chilling out - but he wasn't the same person and I had no idea what was coming," Mrs Jenkins told the Daily Telegraph in an exclusive interview.

The young soldier's family believe he was deeply affected by at least two incidents in Afghanistan, he took personally a Bushmaster armoured vehicle accident which crashed 50m down a cliff where the road had fallen away, injuring some of the nine personnel it was carrying.

Within weeks of the Christmas lunch, on January 31, Shaun took his own life. He was just 24.

Shaun Jenkins, based at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville, served in the Australian Defence Force from May 2010 until January 31, 2016.

*Shaun is one of 240 Australian soldiers lost to suicide at home since 1999. Reportedly there have been 17 just this year to 31 March.*

John Davey

### EXPRESS NEWS

#### GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL

Allan Tonkin advises that the Victorian Govt has provided Funding to the "Overland "train to secure it for a further 3 years

#### AUSSIE HERO QUILTS (and LAUNDRY BAGS)

The site is dedicated to encouraging people to make quilts and laundry bags to send to Aussie service men and women currently serving overseas and to express our gratitude for their service. We care about the people - not the politics or the mission. Our quilts are not works of art, but works of the heart.

#### CONTACT

[aussieheroquilts.blogspot.com.au/](http://aussieheroquilts.blogspot.com.au/)

### TOXIC CHEMICALS

Rob Atkinson AO RFD FAMA, Maj. Roger Burzacott and I (Brian Selby), have been researching the effects of toxic chemicals that were used consistently in the attempts to control the malaria carrying mosquitoes in all military base camps and air force bases established on the Malayan Peninsula, in Sabah and in Sarawak by the use of spraying and fogging methods.

#### Minister's Tehan & Payne joint Media release 18 March 2016

Current and former ADF personnel who have concerns relating to the ADF use of anti-malarial medication are encouraged to visit the "Malaria, mefloquine and the ADF" website through the ADF Health & Wellbeing Portal on the Department of Defence website.

Anyone who believes their health has been affected by their use of **mefloquine** or **tafenoquine** during their ADF service is encouraged to lodge a claim with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

### AUSTRALIA'S VIETNAM WAR

Website <https://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au/battlemap>

Have a look, its free.

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### SPORT

#### AUSTRALIAN WOMAN'S IRON CHAMPION

