



The Newsletter of the 9 RAR Association SA Family
published May and November annually

Nine

May 2018

News

This newsletter has news and photos of ANZAC Day, stories on our Graveside gatherings, a report on the Centennial Park Tour, Jim & Lyn's Tassie trip, 9th off to Vietnam, a bit on Jenny & Jeff and a November Cruise.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

ANZAC Day 2018 was another beautiful autumn day in Adelaide as an estimated 25 of the 9 RAR family marched in the parade.

It reminded me that 50 years to the day a contingent of the newly-formed 9th Battalion based at Woodside marched in the ANZAC parade. Aged 21 years, dressed in wool battle dress and sporting our beech brown lanyards, for me it was a moving experience marching through the city where my mother's brothers Eardley and Percy had left more than 100 years earlier to fight in The Great War. Regrettably neither of them returned.

After the parade, 58 of the 9RAR family, including a number of groups spanning three generations, lunched or dropped in to the Lion Hotel in North Adelaide. They were very warmly welcomed. This gives me the opportunity to thank Lion Hotel management for allowing us to use the Jerningham Room as we have done in previous years. In addition, I acknowledge those who generously provided raffle prizes.

Regrettably, the "frogs" that we use in the parade to support the banners and next of kin flags mysteriously disappeared from the RAR clubrooms. Jim and Lyn Fisher scoured the tackle supply shops in Adelaide and at short notice were able to secure new ones just in time.

Thank you Jim and Lyn, also Barb Featherby for tracking these down.

Again Jan Stacey has edited a great newsletter, pulling together all the news from 9 RAR South Australia. Thank you Jan for your dedication and Bob Plummer for the final edit, layout and distribution.

David Stacey

President.



15 year old Dylan wearing David's dress jacket

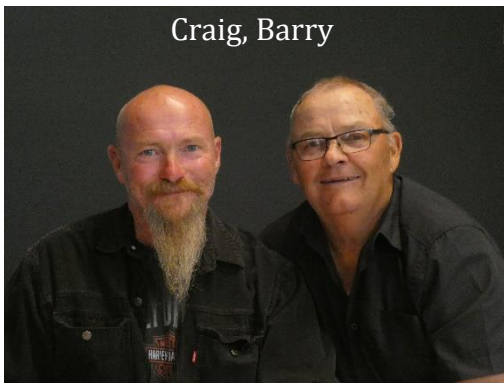
Photos in this newsletter: JR Stacey unless otherwise stated.



The "March". Photograph courtesy of Simon Kelly



ANZAC Morning at the Jamie Larcombe Centre
photo of Jim, Warren, Barb and Neville provided by Darren Renshaw,
(Veterans' Health Advocate, Veterans' Mental Health Services,
Jamie Larcombe Centre, Eucalyptus Lane, Glenside.)



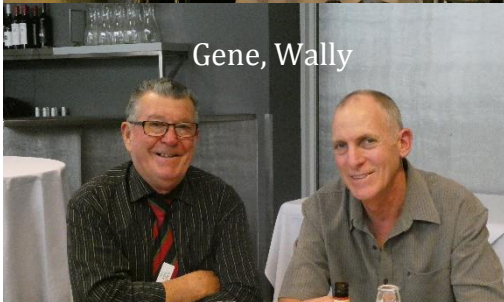
Craig, Barry



Bob and family



Warren, Jim, John, Michelle, David



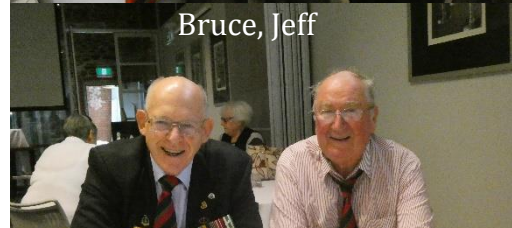
Gene, Wally



Jenny, Mark, Helen, Barb



Simon, Warwick, Pam, Terry



Bruce, Jeff



Leon, Barb, Lyn, Jeanette



Ian and family



Mick and family



Pauline, Ric

ANZAC DAY at the Lion Hotel

AROUND THE STATE:

Anzac Day services and marches were very well attended by veterans, families, service organizations and the public, and these events have been reported on in many city and country newspapers. It is very pleasing to see so many young people paying their respects on this memorable day.

ANZAC DAY, COWELL



Photos courtesy Sue Grund.

Stalwarts of the Cowell RSL Club, 9 RAR's Max Grund and Sue, report that the weather was perfect for the Dawn Service, march and football/netball matches, and Max presented the Anzac Medal to Jack Kenny. Winner of the Sister Mary McFarlane Anzac Day Medal was Kyla Franklin. John and friend dining out with Max and Sue earlier this year.



KADINA

ANZAC Day in Kadina went very well this year. We had five serving members march with us old blokes and one of them has agreed to command our march for as long as possible. He was an old student of Kadina Memorial High School and it is great to have him involved. We had 20 or so veterans together with a number of next of kin and the students who were later to lay a wreath march around the block, to a strong reception from the crowd. About 700 or so people attended and we have had some very positive comments back. Even though it was school holiday time, there were 40 or so students present, all looking resplendent in their uniforms.

Once again, it was a privilege to lead the service along with Pastor Phil Charles, ably assisted by students from Kadina Memorial School and Harvest Christian College.

Contributed by Les Maynard.



NEW RSL CLUBROOMS AND ANZAC DAY, STRATHALBYN

The Governor of SA, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC recently opened the re-located Strathalbyn RSL to the new clubrooms within the Strathalbyn Football Club facility.

The clubrooms are on the upper level with a spectacular view overlooking the oval. Many of the original plaques have been affixed to the walls and rotating displays will show some of the history of the club.



Following the Anzac Day Dawn Service for about 500 at the monument, people adjourned to the Strathalbyn Oval for refreshments. Those veterans able to travel then made their way to Adelaide for the march.

The ANZAC Day clash between Strathalbyn and Langhorne Creek Football and Netball Clubs took place at Strathalbyn where at 6 pm the traditional Parade of Diggers (on the back of utes) was followed by the ANZAC Day Service on the oval. Strathalbyn won the Daish Cup and Sam Elliott was awarded the Anzac Day Smith-Follett medal.



CUMMINS

Wendy and Geoff Holman were part of the activities again this year and according to the Port Lincoln Times more than 500 people attended the Anzac Day dawn service at the Cummins Garden of Remembrance.



Geoff Holman (past president Cummins RSL) and David Stacey – both ex 5 Platoon, B Coy – caught up recently at Cummins.



Wendy has been involved with a community mosaic group creating amazing public art to enhance the town - see their work at the toilet block in the Cummins Railway Triangle Community Park, the Area School entrance, and at the hospital.

GOOLWA

Bob Plummer reports that the Goolwa Dawn Service again attracted large numbers estimated at in excess of 2,000 people packing out the RSL Garden of Honour and spilling over to the carpark and surrounding lane.

This year for the first time we had a catafalque party supplied by local (Victor Harbor) 423 Army Cadet Unit. We were also joined by a contingent from 808 Squadron based in Nowra (808 and Goolwa have a link). Our singing was augmented by 25 members of Sing Australia.

As always we were pleased to have representatives from the Goolwa Primary School, Investigator College and Victor Harbor High School take part in our service reading introductory pieces and placing wreaths. A record number of community groups requested the opportunity to place wreaths.

As many of us wish to travel to Adelaide for the march Goolwa holds its "Church" service and march on the Sunday before ANZAC Day.

Again good numbers turned out for the march with many more joining us for the service. The Goolwa Concert Band accompanies us for the hymns and then entertains us before and after the service.

Photos courtesy of the Victor Harbor Times.



Goolwa RSL President Bob Plummer and Commanding Officer of 808 Squadron Commander Scott Palmer.



FUTURE: Sebastian Sperring and Kyisha George of Victor Harbor 423 Army Cadet Unit.

KINGSTON, SOUTH EAST

At the April meeting the Kingston Senior Citizens were entertained by their president Lyn Possingham and 9 RAR's Dennis Sigston reading poems relating to the Anzacs, followed by a modified game of "two up" run by Kingston RSL members Dennis and Rodney Nankervis.

The Senior Citizens Club was one of many organizations represented at the Dawn Service, with the president placing a wreath in remembrance.

Excerpt from article in coastalleader.com.au.



Dorothy Sigston reports that "Rod Nankervis does an amazing job helping out at the retirement village in Kingston, and of course Dennis is still fishing".

It is heartening to learn about men such as 9 RAR's Rod, Dennis, Bob, Max, Les & Geoff being so involved and active in their country community, and their contribution being recognized in the local newspapers.

ANZAC Day 2018 proved to be different for Michael Mummery.

During the middle of last year I became aware of a reunion of ex-army apprentices (Appies) to be held in conjunction with ANZAC Day in Canberra in 2018. It was to mark 70 years since the inception of the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe in Victoria. Being a member of the 17th intake of apprentices to join the school (and having never participated in an ANZAC Day Parade in Canberra) I felt it just might be worth a go.

As time rolled on it became evident that there would be members from almost all of the 49 intakes and the numbers attending continued to grow. The first estimate was that there could be between 300-400 Appies gathering in Canberra. The powers that be arranged for the members attending, as a mark of respect, to lead the ANZAC Day March. In the end there were almost 1,000 ex-apprentices marching at the head of the parade.

On the evening of the 24 April some 1,250 members and family/friends attended a Meet and Greet at the National Convention Centre (NCC). The number attending (as usual for reunions) was swelled by some who had failed to advise of their intentions and this led to an increase in the time to process the registrations and some disquiet in the ranks. However, all went well. The Dawn Service was very evocative and most poignant. As the day dawned I could not believe the number who had attended. The Service was followed by the Gunfire Breakfast at Poppy's Cafe (no alcohol provided, but Appies being what they are, I know of at least one bottle of rum that provided a number of them with a few "Rounds of Gun Fire").

The march was fine, apart from the delay at the start (great coats on, great coats off as usual) but being the first unit we had but a short march before we did our Eyes Right to the Governor-General. Some rowdy bugger was heard to yell out to the GG "9RAR" to which the GG, pointing at the offender, yelled back "See you at Olims".

The rest of the day was set aside for the usual post ANZAC March get together.

At 1600 on 26 April there was a Last Post Ceremony at the AWM. This preceded the honouring of the ex-apprentices who had paid the supreme sacrifice by a service for 18797 Cpl Ronald John Engstrom, 1 Fd Sqn RAE who was killed in Vietnam 30 January 1970. Cpl Engstrom had been an 18th intake carpenter and joiner and was selected, at random, to represent all those who had been killed on active service.

The final function for the 70th Anniversary was the formal dinner held on the evening of the 26 April, once again at the NCC, with most of the members attending.

A great occasion, catching up with mates I hadn't seen for more than 50 years. As well as old mates who I ran into during my career, mates who had not been at Balcombe when I was there but whom I served with in the non corps postings I had.

I travelled to Canberra and stayed with a mate from Strathalbyn with whom I had spent the first 4 years in the Army. In fact, we spent the vast majority of those 4 years in the same hut. We had decided to take a couple of extra days after the reunion to have a better look at Canberra. Another visit to the AWM was high on the agenda and I can only say that it was well worthwhile. The new section of the memorial dealing with the more recent activities of the Australian Defence Force is an eye opener. Those of 9RAR who attended the Long Tan Service in 2016 will be pleased to know that the video taken during that service was on view as we departed the museum.

All in all a great week.

That should be more than enough to bore you all, if you would like to know more just ask!

source of logo: qld.raeme.org.au

AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION

BALCOMBE 1948-1982

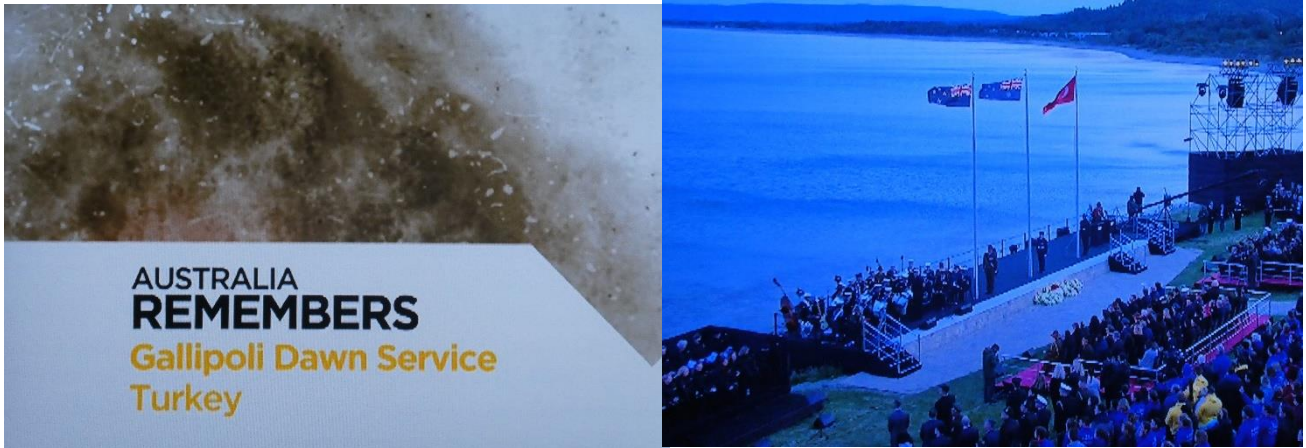


1983-1995 BONEGILLA



Anzac Day: 2018 Gallipoli Dawn Service & Villers-Bretonneux Centenary Commemoration

GALLIPOLI - photos from ABC, Anzac Day service



VILLERS-BRETONNEUX - photos from dva.gov.au and ABC Anzac Day service



- Snow falls on the John Monash Centre Villers-Bretonneux during construction of Sir John Monash Centre.
- Anzac Day Service from Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux
- Principal Chaplain Darren Jaensch, Director-General Chaplaincy of the Australian Army, formerly of Salem SA.
- The lone piper from the tower.
- Anzac Day dawn at Villers-Bretonneux.



MARCH/APRIL MEETING - OFFICE OF AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES

The March meeting held in April! was a scheduled visit to the Adelaide Office of the Australian War Graves, Pasadena.

The Assistant Manager, Matt, was our guide for the afternoon. We really appreciated his explanations about commemorations in the Garden of Remembrance, Derrick Gardens, RSL walls, Centennial Park War Cemetery, and on private graves.

Pte GJ Scales headstone shows the style of the plaque supplied by OAWG. The cross is on the lhs, rising sun on the rhs top above the name (initials only). There is a limit to the number of characters allowed.

The South Australian OAWG staff have a regular maintenance programme and cover South Australia - as far west as Penong - as well as Broken Hill, Mildura, and Ouyen.

Office of Australian War Graves Information Brochures are available at the OAWG office, DVA and online at dva.gov.au. Topics include:



- Official commemoration of eligible Veterans
- Who is eligible?
- Determining who is eligible
- What happens when a veteran is eligible?
- What types of memorials are available?
- Grave Memorial in a General or Lawn Cemetery
- Memorial in a Crematorium
- Memorial in a Garden of Remembrance
- Maintenance of war cemetery and post-war commemorations

OTHER SERVICES

Permission to use the Service badge
Information on war dead and cemeteries/memorials overseas
Funeral benefits



JIM & LYN'S TASSIE TRIP

We spent 10 days in Tasmania recently, touring around. The main purpose of the trip was to photograph and GPS the headstones of the Vietnam war dead who rest in graves around the island. Interestingly we found some issues with a couple of graves – but as usual the Office of Australian War Graves was positive and quick with their response to our concerns.

A bonus upside was lunch with Vince Restuccia and his partner Rene, who live in Hobart. They took us to a lovely bistro in Peppermint Bay, with views to Bruny Island and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. I did take a photo of Jim and Vince, but somehow it magicked itself off my phone.

Another highlight – most unexpected and delightful, was a meeting with Peter Cundall AM, gardening guru and Korean War veteran. We visited the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens on a Sunday morning, where the vegie patch segments of Gardening Australia are filmed. Peter was there, launching a line of green manure seeds and speaking live on their radio gardening show. We waited and spoke to him, and for 20 minutes or so he and Jim talked about their respective war service.

Peter pointed out to us the plots set aside for veterans at the Botanical Garden. He and others present gardening and vegie growing sessions to veterans and their families, as part of Peter's commitment to the well-being of the veterans, and with support from DVA and other groups. What an outstanding man (and I got a hug!).

Of course there was a brewery tour – ours was at Boags in Launceston. Informative – but the other tourists learned just as much from Jim about home brewing as they did from the guide about the commercial brewing business. All round good fun. At the Cascade brewery in Hobart we just had lunch in their rather spectacular restaurant.

We had an excellent tour of the Female Factory near the Cascade brewery. We were given stories about the women prisoners, their 'crimes' against society, and their future roles as prospective mothers to help populate the colony. Harsh times indeed.

We did go to MONA - Museum of Old and New Art. Lovely and informative ferry trip. The buildings are intricate and interesting, as are some of the art installations - but I discovered I am not really a fan of some of the new art.

Overall impressions of Tasmania – very green, very pretty and very, very hilly.



Peter Cundall and Jim Fisher - an amazing and emotional meet-up.
Photos courtesy L & J Fisher



THE 9TH GOES OFF TO VIETNAM

researched by Lyn & Jim Fisher



LEFT: Pte. Russell Cromarty says goodbye to his girl friend, Eileen Gow, before HMAS Sydney sailed from Outer Harbor today for Vietnam. They are both from Melbourne.

BELOW: Troops line the flight deck of the carrier as it pulls away from the wharf.

*Apologies for quality of the image
- see below for a copy of the text.*

Sunday Mail. Adelaide November 9 1968.

Relatives, friends, wives and sweethearts, many crying, waved farewell to soldiers of the 9th Bn., Royal Australian Regiment, who sailed from Outer Harbor for Vietnam in HMAS Sydney this afternoon.

The 800-strong 9th Bn. will relieve 3rd Bn. at the Australian task force base in Phuoc Tuy Province.

Like 3rd Bn., which was also South Australian-based, 9th Bn. will spend a year in Vietnam. Nearly half the 500 who left today are National Servicemen. They have had a year's training.

Their commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. A.L. Morrison, 41, formerly of New South Wales, said that despite the short training some of the men had received, they had carried out a rigid program and were well-equipped for Vietnam.

He said the soldiers, of whom about 100 were from South Australia, had trained at centres throughout Australia but had been based at Woodside.

A number had already served in Vietnam and other parts of South-East Asia.

While on board the Sydney, the troops will continue weapon training and attend corporal and sergeant promotion courses. They will also study the Vietnamese language, and be given Vietnamese indoctrination.

Many travelled from interstate to farewell friends and relatives today. Mr and Mrs John Bell said they had driven 460 miles to see Mrs Bell's brother, National Serviceman Pte T.R. Wickham, of Victoria. Pte. Wickham, 21, said it did not matter much to him what he was going into. "It is a matter", he said, "of what I am leaving behind." He said his fiancée, Rosa Lassing, a part-time model of Maitland NSW had been unable to come to Adelaide. "As soon as I return I will marry her", he said.

An Adelaide man Cpl H.R. Musicka, 23, of Albermarle Street, Hindmarsh, said he was sorry to be leaving his wife Kay and their 14-week-old daughter, but he had always wanted to go to Vietnam.

He said he had spent a year in Malaya and had been in the Regular Army for three years.

Jeff Howe didn't leave for Vietnam on the Sydney, he was in the advance party and went the week before. The Advertiser photograph shows Jeff and Jenny at the airport on the day he left.

Photograph courtesy Jenny Howe



HMAS Sydney leaving Outer Harbor.
Photograph courtesy Jeanette Whitehead

On the 9th day of November 1968 the Battalion left Adelaide on route to Vietnam for a 12 months tour of duty. This was some 4 days before the Battalion's 1st birthday, which was of course celebrated at sea.

This year, on the 9th day of November (2018), it will be 50 years since that momentous event.

We plan to recognise the occasion by leaving from Port Adelaide to go to sea, albeit for just 2 - 2.5 hours and not 365 days!

In lieu of a function held on the Battalions birthday (13th) it is proposed to make a booking on the Dolphin Explorer and recognise the departure and birthday at the same time.

The plan is that on Friday 9th November we will take a 2 - 2.5 hour cruise aboard the Dolphin Explorer leaving from Queens Wharf, Commercial Road, Port Adelaide at 11:30 am for a lunch cruise. The cost per person (at this time) is \$27 for seniors (\$29 otherwise) for a 2 course meals plus tea & coffee. Bar facilities available at own cost.

If you would like to join us for this event, contact Bob Plummer 9rarsa@gmail.com or 0403 996 093 with numbers attending.

GRAVESIDE GATHERINGS

These have continued in 2018 following a very simple format. This group gathered in remembrance of Pte GJ Scales. Two further gatherings are planned for 2018 12 noon July 6 for L Cpl RJ Abraham at Whyalla Cemetery and 11 am July 12 for Cpl BAJ Adamczyk at Centennial Park. Members of 9 RAR family are most welcome to attend these occasions.



TWEETS/PHOTOS:



FROM THE WEB:

Opening of the Sir John Monash Centre at Villers-Bretonneux 24 April 2018 - Watch live here:

[youtube.com/watch?v=P_VDZW...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_VDZW...)

Anzac Day: Emotions run high as French PM Edouard Philippe pays tribute to diggers at Sir John Monash Centre opening.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-25/french-pm-pays-tribute-to-brave-australian-soldiers/9695508>

Please contact the editor if you would like a transcript of this speech.

REMINDER - NEXT MEETING

1300 hours, Thursday 7 June

Meeting Room, Ground Floor Torrens Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground
MEMBERS/PARTNERS WELCOME to the meeting and coffee afterwards

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January Commemorative Services 5 th , 7 th , 18 th , 19 th , 20 th As per Honour Roll	February Commemorative Service 14 th (L Cpl P A Chant)	March Meeting First Thursday 1 pm Commemorative Service 5 th (Pte G J Scales)
April ANZAC Day 25 th	May	June Meeting First Thursday 1 pm
July Commemorative Services 6 th & 12 th As per Honour Roll	August Vietnam Veteran's Day 18 th	September Meeting First Thursday 1 pm
October	November River Cruise / Lunch 9 th	December Meeting First Thursday 1 pm

HONOUR ROLL

L Cpl R J Abraham 6 Jul Whyalla
Cpl B A J Adamczyk 12 Jul Centennial Park
L Cpl P A Chant 14 Feb Centennial Park
Sgt J R Cock 19 Jan Centennial Park
Sgt J M Duroux 5 Jan Centennial Park

Cpl A W Graham 7 Jan Stirling North
Cpl H R Musicka 19 Jan Centennial Park
Pte R A Phillips 18 Jan Murray Bridge
Pte B J Plane 20 Jan Ardrossan
Pte G J Scales 5 Mar Centennial Park

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