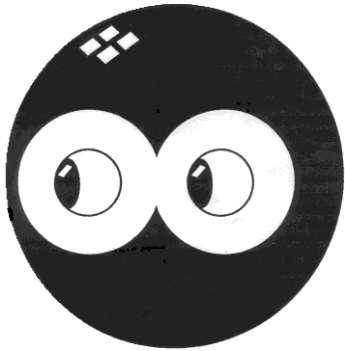




BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL



The Quarterly Newsletter for
**THE 8th BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**
PO Box 213 Scarborough Qld. 4020

ISSUE No 141
April 2025



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

All articles and letters published in this newsletter are from the members. The views and opinions expressed are not necessary those of the Association. The 8th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association Incorporated, its committee and members accept no responsibility for information and articles appearing in this newsletter. Members are encouraged to submit articles, photographs and items of interest. The editors reserve the right to decide on the publication of any article or item for any issue of "Behind the Eight Ball"

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LAST POST

Rest ye, oh Warrior, you'll battle no more no longer to live the horrors of war your duty was done, with honour and pride'
farewell! Oh brother, until we march by your side.

"Well done thou good and faithful friend."

Errol Weatherall D Coy Malaysia and Vietnam

Laurie Rowley D Coy Malaysia

Graeme Jones A Coy Malaysia

John Edward Hodgson Sp. Coy Vietnam

'WE CAN NEVER FORGET'



President Report

Well, what a way to start the year, with the 55th anniversary of Long Hai Day, commemorated at the Sydney Reunion.

The NSW team led by Mick Carter, Kev Sullivan and Ron O'Connor did not disappoint the almost 200 who attended. We all owe a huge vote of thanks to them for a truly memorable reunion.

I don't think anyone at the Long Hai Luncheon could fail to have been moved by the poignant 'Toast to the Fallen', as mates emotionally remembered their coppers who didn't come home.

This is what our Association is all about: gathering together to remember and enjoy the mateship and camaraderie we all shared in our time in the Grey 8, at whatever stage in the unit's history, and to remember those who are no longer with us.

The other thing that strikes me, from our very first reunion, is the way that our wives, partners and families have bonded in the very same way – it is a joy to see them renew friendships each reunion, like it was only yesterday.

At the Annual General Meeting held during the reunion the following were elected to the committee to oversee the continuance of your Association: President, myself; Vice President, Ted Forward; Secretary, Paul 'Wombat' Gallagher; Treasurer & Membership Officer, Len Thompson; and committee members Kym McDougall, Kev Sullivan, Tony Sillcock, Dennis Moss, Simon Kleinig, Jim Stopford and Dennis Lines.

You will notice that, excluding Ray Richardson and John Weatherly, this is the same team who have led your Association for the past two years. For this, we all owe them our thanks for the time they have all given, and continue to give, to ensuring that the Association prospers.

It has not been an easy two years for them, and we thank them all for their dedication and perseverance in trying times.

Special thanks are due to Ray Richardson and Ted Forward who, despite struggling with ill health, have continued to provide leadership and support throughout.

Thanks to too Wombat Gallagher and Len Thompson for saddling up yet again to take on the important roles of secretary and treasurer, without whom our Association would cease to exist.

This provides a neat segway into our future. For the past two or more years there has been considerable discussion around the ridges regarding the outlook for our Association. At the AGM this was put swiftly to bed with the unanimous decision that our next reunion would be held in two years' time at Twin Towns on the Gold Coast.

This return to Twin Towns makes sense in a lot of ways: you can fly direct into the Gold Coast from most areas of Australia; Twin Towns is very experienced in running similar reunions, making planning and organising a reunion relatively simple; there is a huge variety of accommodation options available; we have the support of 8/9 RAR, who will ultimately be the custodians of Long Hai Day; and, the Gold Coast is a nice place to extend your stay should you so choose.

Speaking of 8/9 RAR, make sure you mark your diary 20th September for the presentation of 8 RAR's King's and Regimental Colours. This will be a scaled back activity to that foreshadowed in the February 8 Ball, but your Queensland crew will organise a memorable weekend for you. More to follow on this.

As most of you are aware, the past two years have been difficult, with an ongoing dispute with Peter Cousins, one of our members. As I have already signalled to you in my email of 19th March, I am pleased to say that we have reached an amicable and mutually accepted agreement to put the whole thing behind us and to move forward, for the sake of our Association that means so much to us all. The final step to conclude this dispute is a mediation meeting to be held on 3rd April to address all of the issues that led to this situation.

The 'In Direct Support Award'

The '*In Direct Support Award*' was instituted in 1992 by Alan 'Buck' Peters, the D Coy FO from 161 Battery (NZ), our direct support battery in Vietnam.

The trophy consists of an engraved 105mm artillery shell case and is presented annually to a person or group who in some special way has helped support the Association and its members.



For a variety of reasons, the trophy has not been presented for the past two years. It is my very great pleasure to announce the recipient of the 2023 award is Tom Lyons; and the 2024 recipient is Kym McDougall.

Tom's contribution to the Association has been outstanding. In 2020, when no-one could be found for the role of secretary, he and Des Evans put themselves forward to take on the task, as a team. Our constitution requires that the secretary must live in, or within 60km of the Qld border; Des assumed this role, while Tom, who had the computer literacy, shouldered the burden of the day-to-day functions of the secretary. Tom was inexperienced in this role but soldiered on in true digger fashion to keep the Association functioning when it would otherwise have folded. Thank you, Tom, and congratulations!

Kym McDougall is a familiar face to all Queensland members and has been a stalwart of the Association for as long as I can remember. In this time he has actively involved himself in all facets of the Association; always first to volunteer for any task that comes up – secretary of our Qld group, helping to run events and reunions, organising meetings, and a myriad other tasks. At the national level, Kym serves on the management committee, where his knowledge, experience, wise counsel and attention to detail are a real asset; and on top of this, for the past eight years he has been responsible for the design, procurement and distribution of all of the Association's clothing and memorabilia. Kym, congratulations and thank you!

In closing, I wish each of you the very best for Anzac Day, wherever you choose to celebrate the day, and I look forward to welcoming you all to Twin Towns in two years and eight months' time.

Duty first,

Chad Sherrin
President



Secretary's Report

We are now into a new financial year of the Association and I am pleased to acknowledge the smooth running of the AGM held in Sydney at the recent National Reunion. Best I've been involved in and by all accounts the reunion was an outstanding success and as a result the members present at that AGM voted overwhelmingly in favor of holding

another reunion in two years' time (2027) at Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads which will mainly be organized by the Queensland committee with the assistance of the NSW committee as Twin Towns is in NSW!

I am also pleased to welcome Chad Sherrin back as the newly elected President of the National body and to recognize and congratulate and thank sincerely Ted Forward, as Vice President fulfilling the role of President as Ray Richardson was simply too unwell to do so and I, on behalf of everyone, wish Ray all the very best in his continuing difficult battle!

The rest of the committee is as was in 2024/25. I thank each and every one of these people with sincere gratitude for continuing the journey and I look forward to working with them as they are a good bunch of men who work hard and tirelessly for you! We are particularly lucky to have Len Thompson back with us again as his expertise and knowledge in all matters financial and membership is second to none!

Duty First – Paul (Wombat) Gallagher

RAFFLE RESULTS

I wish to advise that our annual raffle was drawn during the recent reunion and the following members are the lucky prize winners: -

1st. Phil Hay - \$1000

2nd Graham walker - \$250

3rd Mike Spiller – Bronze Cast Figurine (kindly donated by Chad Sherrin)

Congratulations to those members and thanks sincerely to all who participated in this annual fund-raising venture as the only other avenue we pursue to raise funds is through the sale of memorabilia.

Paul (Wombat) Gallagher - Secretary

Queensland



With the National Reunion held this year in Sydney there is not a lot to report from Queensland. Nonetheless, a small group from 8 RAR, joined with 8/9 RAR for a commemoration of Long Hai Day on Saturday 1st March. The commemoration was held in conjunction with an 8/9 RAR family day so that the soldiers' families could meet the new CO, LTCOL Andy Raven, and hear what is planned for the Battalion in 2025.



The Long Hai Commemoration was held on the 8/9 RAR parade ground with Charlie Company providing the guard for the 8 RAR Colours. Paul, 'Wombat', Gallagher delivered the Hammersley Address and wreaths were laid by 8/9 RAR and the 8 RAR and 8/9 RAR Associations.

Following the service, 8/9 RAR soldiers joined with 8 RAR Association members in the 'Toast to the Fallen' using the pewter tankards donated by RSM Stan Paulson in 1992. Stan was our guest-of-honour at the Sydney Reunion luncheon.



Tom Nailon, Dave Goodall and an 8/9 RAR digger toasting our fallen comrades.

Each year Ken Falvey lays out 8 RAR flags at the base of the trees planted in memory of our fallen in the RAR National Memorial Walk.



Enjoying each other's company: Sue Falvey, Judy Backwell, Leone McNaught, Val Picton, Shell Craig & Marg Corliss.

Long Hai Day Brisbane, thank you Dave Goodall provided the following pictures.





ANZAC Day.

Many of you will be attending ANZAC services in your own towns with family and friends. As we all get on in years, this day seems to be increase in importance and we encourage everyone to attend as representatives of our beloved 8RAR. March with pride!

Brisbane march.

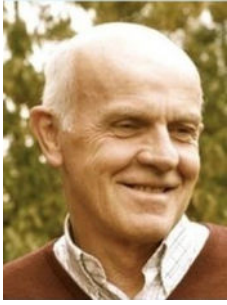
For those in the Brisbane area as well as regional areas, you are invited to join us for the march in Brisbane. Last year we had an almost record turnout, let's try to repeat that. ANZAC Day this year is on a Friday, you might consider making a weekend of it to catch up with friends and family. Family are warmly invited to join the march with you. 8RAR will step off at 1025 hours from our normal location in George Street near Charlotte Street. The after-march gathering will be at the Stock Exchange Hotel Edward Street.

IMPORTANT.

Please notify Kym at kymmcdougall@icloud.com asp of your attendance and please also consider whether you or anyone you know from 8RAR Assn will need vehicle transport. It is readily available and to date we have one member taking advantage of this. This opportunity closes 8 April.



Victoria



Welcome to the first update for 2025 from the Victorian branch. Despite some concerns over the directions being taken by the Shrine of Remembrance our Long Hai Commemoration service was a great success on Sunday 2nd March. Whilst en route to the venue your writer discussed the likelihood of a healthy dose of Melbourne wet weather during the service with Shrine staff and the location was changed from the Post World War Two Remembrance Pool to the hallowed area of the Sanctuary deep inside the Shrine. At midday an assembly of 8 RAR veterans and loved ones plus a range of Shrine visitors gathered solemnly on seats placed around the Rock of Remembrance with the stonework and magnificent marble columns of the Sanctuary adding to the importance of the occasion. A Shrine Guard in Australian Light Horse uniform and .303-inch rifle added to the atmosphere. With Neil Smith as MC the service took the form of a welcome by our own 8 RAR veteran and Life Governor of the Shrine, Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Lombardo; an address by Dennis Moss; a prayer and poem *The Five Hundred Not Returned*; plus the reading of the Honour Roll; a tribute listing all the recently passed; wreath laying by Adrian and Sylvie Smith; The Ode recitation; Last Post bugle call; a minute of silence; The Rouse; National Anthem and closing remarks before all adjourned to the Western Gallery for refreshments. Other speakers during the service were Cait Moss, Alan Holland and Bruce Lankford. Quite a team, eh? Thanks to all.

The Long Hai service resulted in the following 8 RAR folk attending. Jim and Dawn Brown, Sian Stevens, Ralph Miller, Wayne and Vera Maschette, Geoff Ravenscroft with son Steve and daughter-in-law Katherine and their children Thomas and Sophie plus about 15 to 20 visitors. Apologies had been received from John Onrust, Arthur Koo, Keith and Cathy Vines, John Cooper, Julie and Graeme Agnew, Bill Westhead and Grant Coultman-Smith. Numbers were down of course due to the National Reunion in Sydney. In fact, it could be said that Graeme Agnew was so impressed with Sydney that he arranged a day in Bankstown Hospital before returning. Kidding Graeme. We are delighted you are back hale and hearty. In short, the Long Hai Service 2025 in Melbourne was a resounding success.



A question from the Long Hai Service 2025. If we prefer, we can have the service in the Sanctuary or keep it outside. Obviously, weather may always dictate when the Sanctuary is to be used but which would you prefer? Please let Dennis or Neil know. Don't forget!

Another enjoyable even raucous luncheon was held at the East Doncaster RSL on Sunday 16th March 2025 with hosts Subbranch President Dennis Clarke and his wife Martha and their team including Kym, Dot and Chas. True to form it bucketed down for the event but that was soon forgotten. Among those present were Alan Holland, Dennis and Cait Moss supported by daughter Sian Stevens. Jane Andropov was there and remarkably mobile too given some recent issues; so too was John Onrust, Neil and Sylvie Smith, Paul Fraser (spelling noted Paul...sorry), Peter and Janet Fraser, Bruce and Marilyn Lankford, Allan and Joyce Small, Ralph Miller and Jim Pleasance and Ilka Nowak

Some updates from the day at Doncaster follow. Allan Small is another among our group who continues to serve the community as does Dennis Moss. Allan is a Divisional Commander of the CFA in the Kilsyth area and the previous day had been much involved wrangling choppers, trucks and more which responded to a fire and low explosion incident in the area. Good work Allan. Absent for the occasion was Arthur Koo who reported in from his sick bed having recently taken a fall while undertaking a rather strenuous 18 km bush hike near Kinglake with like-minded folk. Some nasty injuries ensued but being so fit they won't keep Arthur off the track for too long. Chad Sherrin our new National

President called during the function and his efforts to date drew many accolades from the gathering. Bruce Lankford raised the matter of our reading out the names of those 8 RAR men who have passed on. It was decided that despite an earlier intention, the list would be read out at the Long Hai Commemoration Service every year as the numbers were just too many to be held over for another year. This year Bruce himself read the names of 31 men who had died over the past 12 or so months.

Dennis and Neil brought everyone up to date on Branch and other matters. Diary dates were confirmed with functions and activities including ANZAC Day – watch the papers, Ringwood RSL 22nd June, Frankston RSL 3rd August for the Battalion Birthday and East Doncaster RSL for our Christmas break-up 23rd November being locked in. Neil briefed on the Save Our Shrine initiative which can be found on-line – just google those three words. Readers might recall growing concerns over the appalling management at The Shrine of Remembrance which has become increasingly evident in recent years. Happily, some concerns appear to have been assuaged by the profile raised in the SOS push but there is more to be done. Witness the change of heart over permission being reinstated for us to have our own refreshments inside the Shrine after the Long Hai service in March. Have a look at the SOS site – two pieces submitted by Dennis Moss will be of interest.

Cait and Sian are off to Fiji then Texas for a week or two in coming days. Go girls! Neil and Sylvie are heading West in a week or so to revisit old haunts and a few friendly faces seldom seen these days. Once a Sandgroper, always a Sandgroper says Neil. Thinking of those who hail from the West, Wayne and Vera Maschette couldn't make the luncheon at the last moment. Prompted by the luncheon others also touched base with apologies including: Geoff Ravenscroft, Keith and Cathy Vines, John Cooper, Grant Coultman-Smith, Geoff Hopkins, Ken Emmett and partner Ros Vowles, Warren and Joy Madex, Ewan and Sandra Morgan, David and Pam Brooks and Graeme and Julie Agnew. Thanks all for staying in the loop but if intending to come along to a branch function, do try to let us know beforehand for catering purposes.

Mark Twain, the American writer and humourist famously said: *There are 3 kinds of lies: Lies, damned lies and statistics.* No argument but there but there are a few stats which seem to be about right and might be of interest to our readers. A recent epistle from DVA to a researcher makes the point. DVA now maintain that 63,718 Australian service personnel served in Vietnam. Remember when the figure was about 50,000? Your writer well remembers when Army were made aware that the figure was many thousands more about 15 or more years ago. Anyway, DVA also acknowledges that 18,807 men who served in Vietnam were National Servicemen. Currently there are about 20,000 veterans receiving Totally and Permanently Incapacitated payments and support.

Finally, with ANZAC Day around the corner, a few answers to some rather obvious questions we have all heard, which you might find useful. *They are medals, not badges. They are citations, not pins. Medal recipients wear their medals on the left side of the chest covering their heart; family members wear the medals on the right side of their chest.* Lastly, the red poppy symbolizes peace, death and the sleep of fallen servicemen and women, similarly a purple poppy remembers animal victims of war. Orange poppies acknowledge military families including loss to suicide of veterans. The last one is the white poppy worn between 1918 and 1939 which symbolized the wearer's commitment to peace.

Cheers,
Neil SMITH

ACT/Monaro



Greetings from the ACT.

Sincere thanks to the NSW team for organizing and running a very enjoyable and successful reunion. I was pleased to be joined by Adrian Clunies-Ross, and Peter and Wilma Wood as the ACT representatives.

The next event on our calendar is Anzac Day. This year there will be the usual Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial followed later by the March and National Service. Organisers have requested that participants in the march join their groups at 0830 on Anzac Avenue. The march is due to start at 0930. Details are on the AWM website and I will send out any updates that I receive.

Following the service the ACT Branch of the RAR Association is hosting a gathering at the Mecure Hotel for drinks and finger food. Also, a chance to catch up on subscriptions for RARA. The event has a good mix of 'old hands' and more recent RAR veterans.

Best wishes for commemorations around the country.

Tony Sillcock
ACT Representative

South Australia



LONG HAI DAY COMMEMORATION

Friday, 28th February 2025

A good turnout of 8 RAR(SA) members, and their partners, for this day so close to our hearts. The group

assembled in front of the 8 RAR memorial on the *Pathway of Honour*, directly behind Adelaide's Government House. Those present included Gavin Power, Dennis Broadbent, Malcolm (Toby) Tylor, Alan Handley, John Kelly, Kym Growden and Adrian Coles. A one-minute silence was kept to remember fallen and passed comrades, especially remembering two of our number who sadly have passed recently, Des Milde and Graham Harris.

After the commemoration, a group of fourteen members and their partners adjourned to Jolleys Boathouse Bistro on the banks of the River Torrens to enjoy a pleasant lunch and friendly conversation.



ANZAC DAY

Friday, 25 April 2025

Arrangements for Anzac Day remain unchanged from those of last year. 8 RAR(SA) members should form up on the southern side of North Terrace, east of Pulteney Street, and be ready to step off at approximately 9.30am. After the march, we will be meeting for lunch at the Britannia Hotel (opposite the Britannia Roundabout), 1 Kensington Road, Norwood at 12.30pm. Please

confirm your attendance with President Ted Forward for both events.

Western Australia



ANZAC DAY WA.

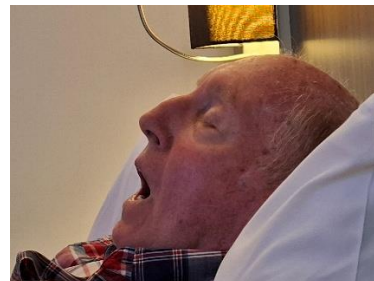
As our numbers dwindle, we are talking with guys from 9 RAR and 8/9 RAR with the intension of trying to create something together with them. This maybe in the march or after at a pub to get a few beers in together after all we have all been through the army at some stage. Towards the end of last year, we met at the Raffles hotel in Applecross and all there enjoyed the evening. So, it is with that in mind we will try to do something together again.

BANKSTOWN REUNION.

The reunion in Bankstown was very well organised and a lot of fun always good to catch up with your mates, even if numbers were down. We all hope Kevin Saxon has recovered from his encounter with Vertigo!

We can all look forward to 2027 when we return to Tweed Heads. We know we will be a few less as we go, we are all in the departure lounge now (as John Larkin likes to remind us). That's our lot now and those 50+ years flew by.

When I returned to my room panic set in, I had to call the ambulance because this is what I was confronted with when I got back to the room. Mr. Wongs nemesis from the battle of Ap Qui Bi. The nogs on the street were packed many rejoicing that the Pig Killer from that battle had passed on. However, by the time the ambulance got through he had sprung to life, and I was stuck with the \$1600 bill, I live in hope of reimbursement from this man below.



NEXT EVENT BATTALION BIRTHDAY.

We have held this at 3 different venues in the past. The Grosvenor, the Como Hotel and the RSL Perth. We have also had a get together at the Hyde Park Hotel. What I would like to know is at which venue you would like to go to but I would also like to throw in a couple of suggestions all being around Mundaring as hopefully we will have had some rain and it should be a bit greener, it

would also give us a chance to catch up with Alan Beer (Captain) & Doc Livingstone. Cast your votes and let me know.

1. The Mundaring hotel.
2. The Mahogany Inn.
3. Mount Helena Tavern.

A young Irish priest arrived at his new parish and he's only there six days when his bicycle was stolen. He was very annoyed, and he complained bitterly to the parish priest and the parish priest was a wise and counselled old man and he said to him listen don't worry about it don't get to angry about it. The parish priest says I'll tell you what to do as part of the sermon at Sunday mass he says do the ten commandments and when you come to the you shall not steal, he says have a good look around your congregation and he says you will spot the guilty face. So, he's waiting for him on Sunday after mass he says well did you do the ten commandments? He says did you come to thou shall not steal? Did you find your bicycle? Well, he says to tell you the truth father I didn't get that far I only got as far as thou shall not commit adultery, and I remembered where I left the bike.

A young priest arrived at his new parish and he's only there six days when his bicycle was stolen. He was very annoyed, and he complained bitterly to the parish priest and the parish priest was a wise and counselled old man and he said to him listen don't worry about it don't get all het up about it. The parish says I'll tell you what to do as part of the sermon at Sunday mass he says do the ten commandments and when you come to the you shall not steal, he says have a good look around your congregation and he says you will spot guilty face. So, he's waiting for him on Sunday after mass he says well did you do the ten commandments? He says did you come to thou shall not steal? Did you find your bicycle? Well, he says to tell you the truth father I didn't get that far I only got as far as thou shall not commit adultery, and I remembered where I left the bike.

New South Wales



Will start my report off by saying how good the reunion was, and you can read Kevins report on this topic.

ANZAC Day

Anzac Day will begin with the service at Regimental Square at 8-30am After the service form up at Bligh St for the March. After the March we will be going back to the Royal Exhibition Hotel, 88 Chalmers St near Central Station. We have the same room as last year where it will be only for 8RAR.

2025 Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our AGM in May details below and we will be having drinks afterwards. Please note that nominations have already been received for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Notice it is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of 8RAR Association NSW Branch will be held at the Epping Club 10-00am on Wednesday 7th of May.

1 To receive

(a) The Management Committee Report

(b) The statement of Income and Liabilities

2 To receive the Auditor's Report upon the books and accounts for the preceding financial year.

3 To elect Members of the management committee.

a President

b Vice President

c Treasurer

d Secretary

e Company Rep

By Order of the management committee Any notice of motion anyone wanting to nominate for a position on the committee or wanting to nominate someone for a position, on the committee, please send notice of motions and nominations by the 25th of April to;

The Secretary

Ron O'Connor JP

11 Linford Crescent

Carlingford 2118

NSW

Regards Mick Carter

Last Post



Errol Weatherall



By Paul Simpson

On Thursday 27th February a large number of family, friends and military personnel gathered at Albany Creek Chapel to farewell our good friend, our mate and comrade in arms Errol Weatherall known to many as simply The Big E. The mourners came from far and wide with the funeral being live streamed and viewed by the Battalion members who were attending Long Hai Day down in Bankstown.

I met up with one of Errol's school mates from Woomera who described him as the class scallywag, to those who socialised with him the lovable rogue and to those of us who served with him in Vietnam the battle-hardened professional soldier.

His friendship with Blue Roberts goes back 60 years and Blue has provided a brief outline of Errol's military career.

Errol joined the Australian army in 1964 and shortly thereafter went to South Vietnam with B Company 1 RAR and stationed at Bien Hoa with the US army 173 airborne brigade and was badly wounded in May 1965, just over a month after arriving, he'd been shot through the jaw and shoulder.

After recuperating he was posted to officer cadet school as a batman which did not appeal to him at all, he was classed as not fit for war service. After much wheeling and dealing he managed to be declared fit and posted to 8 RAR in Malaysia. After Vietnam with 8 RAR he stayed when they became 8/9 RAR where he was promoted to Sergeant. Then posted to Darwin on HQ staff as an OPS sergeant

and again posted to UNSWR in Newcastle as a WO2 then back again to Darwin as CSM of the HQ Coy.

While there's no doubting Errol had a very illustrious military career there would have been many well-known incidents and stories during that time that best be left to enjoy over a beer in the years to come..

I think the words of Des Evans sums up what we all feel. If Errol regarded you as a mate it was for life and he is alive in our memories forever, Des is proud to say I truly loved you mate. RIP



Des Evans, Errol Wetherall, Ken Falvey and Klaus (Tank) Scheuermann at the Gaythorne RSL early in January 2025. They were accompanied by Ann Evans and Sue Falvey. A day out for Errol not too long before he was admitted to hospital for the final time. During that get together a few old "warries" began to be told by Errol and Tank. One was about a shark suit that was shared by both.



Tank in the shared sharkskin suit. Charlie Company members including Errol and Tank drinking Tiger beer in Malaysia 1978.



“E” and Me. (Tankie)

In 1964 after completing recruit training at 1RTB Kapooka, E and I went to the same platoon at the Infantry Centre at Ingleburn for Infantry Corps Training. After Corps training, we were posted to 1 RAR (Pentropic) in late November 1964. Whilst in 1RAR we were allotted to different companies. I went to A Coy. At some point 1 RAR was warned to shed some of its members to fill out 4 RAR who were going to replace 3 RAR in Malaysia. In addition, 1 RAR were warned for service in South Vietnam in May 1965. 1 RAR as a Pentropic battalion had a strength of roughly 1480 personnel. To meet both the Malaysia and SVN commitments Defence decided to disband the Pentropic establishment and raise additional smaller conventional battalions. On 1 March 1965 1RAR split to form 5 RAR and later 2 RAR split to form 6 RAR.

Those under 19 years and not old enough to deploy went to 5 RAR. E being 19 years and old enough went to 1 RAR. At the time we had all bonded into a solid team and the split caused some emotional moments and admit I literally shed some tears parting from E and some other mates. We had shared clothing to enhance our limited wardrobes and impress the ladies. E would borrow my Sharkskin Suit, and I take his grey suit as we did at times move in different circles. My suit was always the worse for wear after E had worn it.

He was seriously wounded in SVN and sent to RAAF Hospital Butterworth to recover before being sent home. I believe he spent some time recovering as a storeman at OCS Portsea. He and many former members of 1 RAR later joined a nucleus to raise 8RAR at Enoggera in August 1966.

In the meantime, after having returned from SVN in May 1966 with 5 RAR. I was on leave and decided to have a drink at our unit watering hole in Liverpool. One of the units HQ clerks dropped by and happened to mention they were looking for volunteers to go to Malaysia with 8 RAR. So, I wasted no time in getting to HQ and dropping my application in. I joined the 8 RAR at Shoalwater Bay on the final days of the battalion exercise and ran into my old mate E. By August 1967 the first contingent of single men were onboard HM Fleet Auxiliary Ship Sir Lancelot to Singapore. I was posted to C Company along with E. I was in 8PL with Jimmy

Barrett, Ray Raines and Kiwi Monk and E in 7 Pl. Both E, Jimmy Barrett and I were promoted to LCPL. Kiwi and Ray were CPLs. Our soldiers were predominately a talented bunch of Nashos with a smattering of young regs. On our return home E went on promotion to D Coy and I stayed with 8 Pl.

After that, came the heavy training program for our Vietnam Tour.

On our return home many of the senior CPLs went over to Support Coy. E to Anti-Armour, me Pioneers and later Mortars before being posted to 3TB Singleton.

After that we parted. He did his twenty years and got out of the Army in 1984 but we ran into each other from time to time.



Laurence (Laurie) Rowley



Laurie was called up for National Service and served in Malaysia with 8 Battalion, his leadership qualities were recognised during that time and he was promoted to corporal and signed on so he could go with the battalion to Vietnam. I was in Laurie's section and could not have wished for a better leader he was as tough as nails. Sadly, after our exercise at Shoalwater Bay a foot inspection was sprung on us and Laurie had patrolled those many kilometers with his feet a bloody mess and not a word of complaint from him and he must have been in pain, this ended his military career.

After his military time Laurie drove semi-trucks all over Western Australia and enjoyed the solitary life in the small towns, he lived in up the north of W.A. they don't make them like Laurie anymore.

Lest We Forget. Kevin Sullivan.

The 8 RAR sash was presented to Laurie's sisters Michelle and Fay who along with their families enjoyed a meal and a get together at the Sale RSL & Community Club on the 14 March. Laurie was a quiet man and did not want any funeral. He just wanted to be cremated with no fuss. Laurie was a victim of cancer and was living with Michelle at the time in Denison west of Sale in Vic.

Rudy Schwarschnik (Swaz) gave a talk on his service with 12 Platoon in Malaya and Australia and Geoff Hopkins had got to know him from meeting him at the reunions. Laurie was medically unfit for Vietnam and didn't do the tour with the Battalion.



Graeme Jones



29 Mar 1946 - 2 Dec 2024

Graham (Spag) Comitti advised:

After a 6-month battle with cancer, Graeme passed away peacefully in his home at Maryborough, Vic. on Monday 2nd December 2024. Aged 78 years. Loved husband of Judy.

Dennis Moss and Graeme will present Judy with the association sash.



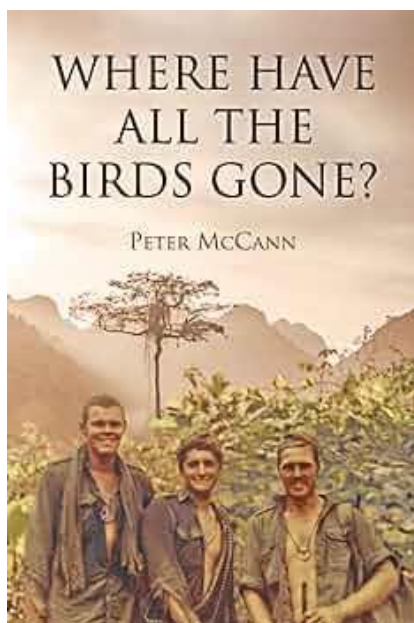
John (Skippy) Edward Hodgson



17 April 1948 – 25 March 2025

With only recent notification of Skippy's passing, we will have a report in the next 8 Ball.

Items of interest.



Last 8 Ball I gave you a run down on Peter McCann's book and I am pleased to advise that the association has copies available to you for \$35.00 please advise me if you would like to purchase a copy.

Editor8rarassociation@gmail.com

National Reunion 2025

I would like to thank Ron O'Connor and Carol and Mick Carter for their excellent work in organising this year's reunion. They don't come together as successful as this without a lot of hard work. Also, I would like to thank Paul and Peter Fraser and Rod Cleggett for your assistance helping Kym on the Memorabilia table.

A special thanks to you the members who attended the reunion the comradeship enjoyed by all was everywhere to be seen over the three days.

It is pleasing to advise that the grant the NSW Branch received from the Epping Club to assist us each year with conducting our Long Hai Memorial Service and Lunch helped cover any unforeseen expenses incurred by the organising committee and we were able to put this event on without seeking any funding from the National Branch.

I am sure we all look forward to renewing our friendships at Tweed Heads in 2 years.

You will find more pictures on pages 14, 18, 19 and 20





Mortar platoon always have a good turnout...



Ron O'Connor and Kevin Sullivan greeting our president Chat at the registration.










Ready for the AGM Mick Carter and Ray Richardson



Long Hai Memorial Service

MEMORABILIA CATALOGUE

Enquiries to Kym McDougall Memorabilia Officer
memorabilia8rar@icloud.com

	<p>T Shirts. Great for travelling, the van, in the yard, in the gym. Cool micro mesh. Sizing chart below.</p>		<p>Drink Coolers.</p>																						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Size</th> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>L</th> <th>XL</th> <th>2XL</th> <th>3XL</th> <th>5XL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Full Chest</td> <td>105</td> <td>110</td> <td rowspan="2">Sold out</td> <td>120</td> <td>125</td> <td>130</td> <td>140</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Length</td> <td>69</td> <td>75</td> <td>76.5</td> <td>78</td> <td>79.5</td> <td>82.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Size	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL	Full Chest	105	110	Sold out	120	125	130	140	Length	69	75	76.5	78	79.5	82.5		<p>Battalion Ties. With regimental logo and V111.</p>
Size	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL																		
Full Chest	105	110	Sold out	120	125	130	140																		
Length	69	75		76.5	78	79.5	82.5																		
	<p>8RAR peak cap. High Quality, with DUTY FIRST on back</p>		<p>Infantry Combat Badge Large and Small</p>																						
	<p>Key Ring/Dogtag, Regimental logo on front and areas of service on back</p>		<p>Regimental Logo (Skipper's Badge) Large and Small</p>																						
	<p>Drink Coasters, set of 4. Clear acrylic coasters in a boxed set with Regimental logo, Citation and Duty First</p>		<p>Vietnamese Presidential Citation. Large only.</p>																						

We also have small quantities and limited sizes of polo shirts, dress shirts plus beanies, flags, lapel badges. Enquire by email.

MEMORABILIA ORDER FORM

FIRST NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Item	Description	Price	Quantity Req.	Amount \$
T-Shirt	Casual design for relaxation, gym	\$35 each See sizing chart		\$
8RAR Cap (Grey)	One size fit all	\$30 each		\$
Dog Tag / Keyring	Dog tag design with regimental logo	\$10 each		\$
Coaster Set	Sets of four with regimental logo	\$18 set		\$
Label Badge	Pin on lapel Badge V111	\$10 Each		\$
Cooler	With 8RAR design	\$10 each		\$
Window Sticker	With 8RAR design	\$5 each		\$
Battalion Tie	With 8RAR design	\$35 each		\$
Infantry Combat Badge	LARGE	\$10 each		\$
Infantry Combat Badge	SMALL	\$10 each		\$
Reg. Logo (Skippy) Badge	LARGE	\$10 each		\$
Reg. Logo (Skippy) Badge	SMALL	\$10 each		\$
Citation	LARGE ONLY	\$10 each		\$
Postage		\$15 FLAT RATE		\$15
			TOTAL	

PAYMENT DETAILS

**PAYMENT WILL BE BY BANK TRANSFER TO 8 RAR ASSN INC. NAB. BSB 084283
ACCT 045098582 OR BY CHEQUE.**

**PLEASE COPY THIS ORDER AND EMAIL TO. treasurer8rarassn@hotmail.com or post to
Len Thompson, Treasurer, PO Box 555 Cotton Tree Qld 4558**

Enquiries? EMAIL Kym McDougall memorabilia8rar@icloud.com

THE 8th BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ABN: 12 157 362 866

PO Box 555 Cotton Tree Qld 4558

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Surname:

Given Names:

Home address: Street # Street name:

City/Suburb: State: Post Code:

Postal Address (If different to home address)

Street # & Name OR Post Office Box #.....

City/Suburb: State..... Post Code

Telephone: Home: ()..... Mobile: Work: ().....

E- Mail address:

Spouse/Partner Name:

Service Details: Service # Coy: Platoon/Unit:

Birthdate:/...../19..... . Date enlisted:/...../19..... . Date discharged:...../...../19..... .

Rank on Discharge: Served In: **Australia Malaysia Viet Nam Other**.....

(Circle all that apply)

I HEREBY APPLY TO JOIN / RENEW MEMBERSHIP OF THE 8th BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED AND AUTHORISE THE ASSOCIATION TO PRINT MY NAME IN ITS CORRESPONDENCE, NEWSLETTERS OR ANY PUBLICATION THAT THE ASSOCIATION MAY WISH TO PUBLISH FROM TIME TO TIME, PROVIDING THAT THE INFORMATION OR USE OF MY NAME IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH OR CONNECTED TO ANY DEFAMATORY PUBLICATION.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAS A PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY AND THE AMOUNT OF COVER IS \$20MILLION.

Signature: Date: /..... /20.....

Annual Subs: \$20.00 for one (1) year OR \$100 for Five (5) Years \$.....

Donation (optional) \$.....

Total \$.....

Remember you can now pay your subs directly to the Association's bank account.

Account name: 8 RAR Association Inc Bank: National Australia Bank

Account Details: BSB No. 084-283 Account No. 045098582

Don't forget to put your name in the detail section on the Bank Deposit Slip

If you pay your subscriptions by direct deposit to the Association's Bank Account, please scan and e-mail this page to:-

The Treasurer treasurer8rarassn@hotmail.com OR Post to:-

The Treasurer at PO Box 555 COTTON TREE QLD 4558



Our ladies enjoying High Tea.



The toast to our fallen



Jim Stopford and Blue Roberts



D Company



Mary Roberts, Bronwyn Stopford, Jim Stopford, Blue Roberts and Kevin Sullivan