



# *The Scheyvillian*

*Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee*

## **OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 1, 2015**

**Officer Training Unit, Scheyville NSW 1965-1973**

**A newsletter for all Scheyvillians**



**OTU opened its doors on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1965.  
The Senior NCOs at OTU Scheyville awaiting the first Class.**



**ONE OF MANY 50<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATIONS!  
NSW Chapter celebrates the  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of OTU**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NS, Canberra, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**See details on the OTU Website: [otu.asn.au](http://otu.asn.au)**

## **NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2014:**

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**WEBSITE: [WWW.otu.asn.au](http://www.otu.asn.au)**

## **REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORABILIA: MORE NEEDED**

After the 2013 National Reunion a request was put out through the Class Coordinators of those classes where the association was lacking photographs and memorabilia. The response was fantastic! However!

We still require copies of the Graduation Parade Brochures for classes 4/70 and 3/71.

While the 'Scheyville Collection' of photographs continues to grow we still need photographs from Classes 2/66 & 3/66, 3/67 & 4/67, 1/68 & 4/68, 4/69, 1/71 and all 1972.

**Apart from some poor quality Graduation photographs, there are still no photographs of Portsea overflow classes.**

The OTU Website holds a link to the 'Scheyville Collection' of photographs - the 'Zenfolio 1 OTU Gallery'. There is a gallery for each class along with a general OTU facilities gallery. The 'collection' is regularly updated.

There is now a set of photographs for each class held at the RMC Museum (telephone the RMC Ops Branch for an appointment). The aim is to have at least 40 photographs for each class. The above classes are well short of that number. There must be photographs out there!

Scheyvillians are encouraged to look at the Website and see what is held and check if you have anything that may compliment anything that is there. If you have photos, please send them either in 'jpeg' scan format or if you do not have scanning capability send the hard copies 'Registered Post' to:

Neil Leckie at: Unit 3 / 519 Peel Street North, Black Hill, Vic, 3350.

## **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SECOND NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME – CANBERRA 30 JUNE '15**

The 50th Anniversary of the Second National Service Scheme will fall on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The OTU Association, in conjunction with the National Servicemen's Association of Australia, is celebrating this important milestone with an activity supported by the RMC Band and the Federation Guard, in Canberra, on that day. There will be a short march to the National Service Memorial, adjacent to the Australian War Memorial Canberra, ACT, followed by a commemoration service. The Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, will attend along with association favourite Tim Fischer (3/66). There will be a lunch held after the service at the Mercure Hotel. Final details will be available on the OTU Website.

There will be an OTU dinner for members and partners held that evening at the Royal Canberra Golf Club in Yarralumla where parking is free and plentiful. (Note: the dinner was transferred from RMC Duntroon as it could not handle the number attending). Expressions of Interest were asked for in the last Scheyvillian and confirmation has now been asked for. This **confirmation of attendance is to be forwarded to the National Secretary, Bernie Gleeson**. The three course dinner will be subsidized down to \$80 per head by the association. Accommodation in Canberra is available at a special rate at the Mercure Hotel in Canberra (near the AWM). Just mention the OTU Association!

**THE SCHEYVILLIAN NEXT EDITION DUE OUT March 2015:** It is planned to have Edition 2 of 2015 of *The Scheyvillian* prior to Vietnam Veterans Day. Submissions need to be received by 15 July 2015. If you have any contributions: current stories (eg. Reunions, dinners or other get-togethers) or memorabilia stories, please email them to The Editor, The Scheyvillian, at [nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au) or post to Unit 3 / 519 Peel Street North, Black Hill, Vic, 3350. **Photographs must be sent separate to the articles.** If you have large file size photos, please send individual photos to [nkaleckie@hotmail.com](mailto:nkaleckie@hotmail.com) or send a disc with multiple photos. Photos should be in jpeg format and should preferably be labelled.

As seen in this and other recent issues, the Scheyvillian is about those who attended Scheyville in one capacity or another. We all have stories to tell! Please keep the stories coming and keep the standard of this publication high!

#### **WEBMASTER'S REPORT** (Roger Nation 3/68)

Work progresses, albeit slowly, on the new Website. However, it looks like the new Website will not be finished before Easter.

Once the final version is up and running, members will be advised by email. As the appearance and menu cascade may change between now and then a 'how to use guide' will be available after that time and in the next issue of The Scheyvillian.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT as at 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015** Graeme Chester

The current membership of the association places us nine short of where we were at the end of the 2013/14 financial year. The Data Base numbers have increased due to Wayne Bruce's efforts in tracking down 2/70's.

Number of Graduates	1880			
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	1656			
Number Financial		456	(The target membership is 500)	
Number Honorary		25		
Widows		8		
Number Deceased			136	
Number Un-financial (Not Renewed)			874	
Number Un-financial (Do Not Contact)			157	
Totals	1880	1642	489	1167

#### **Percentages:**

Of the names on database 29.5% are financial/honorary/widow.

Of the names on the database 8.2% are deceased.

Of the names on the database 52.8% are un-financial (not renewed).

Of the names on the database 9.5% are un-financial (do not contact).

#### **AWARDS**

Thomas Roger Hurrey graduated from Scheyville with Class 1/66 on 22 Jul 1966 and was posted to RAASC. He served in Vietnam with 2 Transport Platoon from 22 April to 12 December 1967. On 26 January 2015 Tom, of Arthur's Creek, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the Community of Whittlesea.

At OTU, Tom was the 'son' allocated to Rob Youll of Class 2/65. Rob himself has been awarded an OAM for services to Landcare three years ago. 'Like Father, like Son!'

Another Scheyvillian to receive an award in this year's honours in Chris Madden of Miami, Queensland. Chris graduated from Scheyville with Class 1/70 and was posted to the Armoured Centre at Puckapunyal. Chris also served in Vietnam. He was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Psychological Operations Unit from 5 August until 14 October 1971. Chris was awarded an AO for service to Tertiary Education, to the strengthening of collaborative international education partnerships and cultural cooperation, and as an educator, role model and mentor.

Congratulations gentlemen!

## NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### ANZAC Day

If you want to march on ANZAC Day the State Chapters have the following ANZAC Day involvements:

#### Adelaide:

The Adelaide ANZAC Day March commences at 9.30am on Saturday April 25 from the corner of North terrace and Gawler Place. The RS&L S Website shows the details of which groups are to form up where (mainly in North Terrace and Pultney Street). OTU is a part of Group 12 A which forms up in Grenfell Street, west of Pultney Street.

Please advise Gary Vial (3/69) of your attendance on 0414 762 525 or [garyvial@ctmc.com.au](mailto:garyvial@ctmc.com.au)

#### Brisbane:

**ANZAC Day March:** The Annual ANZAC Day march will be held in Brisbane and if you should wish to attend please call Owen Williamson on 0407 462 341 or email on [olwilliamson@bigpond.com](mailto:olwilliamson@bigpond.com)

The time of the 'fall in' for the March is 10.30 am between Charlotte and Mary St in George St. Look for the OTU Banner. The after function is a buffet lunch at the USC Wickham Terrace. Cost \$65.00 per head.

#### Melbourne:

The Victorian Chapter of the OTU Association will, once again, be marching as a separate organisation in this year's ANZAC Day march to Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

**Dress.** Suit and tie (preferably the OTU tie if you still have yours).

**Medals.** Please wear all medals you have been awarded (family medals may be worn on the right breast).

**Assembly.** Assemble, for an 1100 hrs march off, on the South side of Collins Street at the Western side of Swanston Street. RSL Marshals will direct you to the precise location. The OTU contingent will be behind the National Servicemen's Association.

**Parking.** Car parking is available at the Arts Centre Carpark. It is recommended that medals be displayed when entering as a discount may be made available.

**After the March.** It was planned for lunch at the Palmerston Hotel in South Melbourne, but the area allocated was outside. Lunch will now be held at the Toorak Services Club as in past years. Ladies are welcome. Contact Frank Miller (4/67) [millerfw@netspace.net.au](mailto:millerfw@netspace.net.au) 9561 3630 or 0401 140 762 to confirm your attendance.

The march represents a great opportunity for our Association and we would urge all who can to participate. Please let your OTU Classmates and friends who shared the Scheyville experience know of this. They would be most welcome.

**Perth:** David Ward (2/66).

ADF units march off at 0930hrs heading east along St Georges Terrace, right into Barrack, then left into Supreme Court Gardens. Unless otherwise informed, suggest FUP and bearers as last year, the senior classman present, to lead the assembled. I will call the step. I will book "below 43" for drinks after, unless there are preferred locations?

As this is a long weekend & our lunch is the following Friday, suggest our attendance may suffer on one, maybe both events? There are substantial lead up events to commemorate the "Centenary" & suggest the city will be busy on the day, prepare for travel & parking issues.

**Sydney:** (Dick Adams 2/72)

**General:** Under NSW RSL rules the Sydney ANZAC March is limited to persons who are eligible to be full members of the RSL. As in previous years, our participation is limited to persons who actually attended OTU. Family members, should they wish to take part, should march with the 'descendants' group at the rear of the March. We have, again, argued that our position in the March should be advanced; but have been, once again, allocated a position to the rear of the National Servicemen's Association. However, that gets us to our luncheon venue at the right time. We welcome any of our fellows who have mobility problems; but they will need to have a mate to assist them. Please note that, due to crowd

barriers and the size of the crowd, it is difficult to get off the March route once the March has actually commenced.

**Dress:** Preferred dress for the March is suit or jacket, slacks, OTU tie and full-size medals and decorations. Headdress is recommended for those who, like me, are follicly-challenged – but please, no baseball caps, berets or any item of military headwear.

**Forming Up Place:** The FUP is opposite the Telephone Exchange at 76-78 Pitt Street, Sydney, between Martin Place and Hunter Street. Look for the OTU Banner.

**Timings:** Unfortunately, timings vary and we have no control over the progress of the March. We are scheduled to step off around 10.40am – but sometimes do not step off until after 11am. Many of the fellows gather from 10am – so grab a coffee and get there before 10.30am, please.

**Acceptances:** Please advise me if you intend to march, as we need to inform the RSL how large we expect our contingent to be. Dick Adams [dickadams@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dickadams@ozemail.com.au) 0408 266 805

### **Date Claimer for Class 1/65: 3-5 July 2015**

July 2015 marks the fiftieth anniversary of our arrival at Scheyville. It is also the year in which we shall all turn seventy. Following a casual survey of as many 1/65's as we could muster, it has been decided to hold a very relaxed and inexpensive reunion in the fair city of Brisbane over 3-5 July 2015. A few easy days in Brisbane in July shouldn't be too hard to take for those Winter bound in the South. Many OTU blokes served here, many still live here and three of us have put up our hand to organise it.

Details are still being worked on but it will include a meet and great day in an iconic pub on the Friday, a relaxed dinner with partners at a Brisbane landmark building on Saturday and a gentle seventieth birthday party in the great Brisbane outdoors on the Sunday. It may be a good excuse for many to make it a longer break in Queensland and if so we may be able to structure some other sporting, cultural, or recreational activities around the three days.

At this stage all you need to do is note the date in your diaries, start a little travel planning and drop us an email letting us know whether you are likely to attend. It will help with our planning.

**David Beasley** [dugura@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dugura@bigpond.net.au)  
**Gordon Hurford** [ghurford@iprimus.com.au](mailto:ghurford@iprimus.com.au)  
**Laurie Muller** [lcmuller@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lcmuller@bigpond.net.au)

**(Note: There is time to drag yourself from the joys of Canberra and the big 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary get-together on 30<sup>th</sup> June and do the Brisbane thing! Remember – you can't take it with you! – ED)**

**2/69 Reunion 25/27 Sep 2015 at Port Arthur.** Contact Mick Hart, Bill Watson or Peter Don.



**2015 Lord and Lady Somers Camps National Committee Member's Visits** (Frank Miller 4/67)

Left: Ian McKewan (2/70) and Frank Miller (4/67) with some of our sponsored 'Groupers' at this year's Lady Somers Camp.

For almost 30 years the Association has been funding young boys and girls of sixteen or seventeen years of age to attend the respective Lord and

Lady Somers camps. These are held at Somers on Victoria's Western Port Bay each January. OTU was first attracted by the leadership skills and the self-awareness encouraged over the week that they are there. It was recognised that many of the benefits gained at Scheyville were also strongly promoted at Somers.

Altogether this year the Association sponsored a total of thirteen groupers, seven in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Healesville. In addition, the LS& PH organisation asked if we could help out the young people who were so impressed by their participation in recent years that they had volunteered to return as staff (Slushies). It was recognised that through this avenue the traditions and the longevity so vital to running successful camps could be maintained. It is an investment in the future. A total of twelve people in this category received funding.

Scheyvillians are always invited to visit the camps and again this year a good number chose to do so. It is always worthwhile seeing the enthusiasm and teamwork that had been developed in such a short time frame among the boy and girl "groupers". Clearly the week continues to provide the exceptional self-development benefits that first attracted the OTU Association all those years ago.

## STATE ACTIVITIES:

### ACT CHAPTER



On 14 December 2014 once again OTU ACT Chapter was represented by Wal Hall (2/68) at the RMC Duntroon Graduation Presentations.

This year's Scheyville Prize was received by Staff Cadet Loughlin Oakley O'Keeffe. SC O'Keeffe was born and raised in Brisbane. On completing his secondary education at St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe in 2010, Loughlin commenced his university education and Army Officer Training at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

In 2013 he graduated from ADFA with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in History and Politics. He continued his Army Officer Training at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, where he was a lively member of Kokoda Company and a very active member of the College's Rowing and Rugby Clubs. In addition to playing rugby, his leisure interests include supporting the Queensland Reds and Brisbane Broncos, camping and water sports.

Staff Cadet O'Keeffe graduated from the RMC in December 2014 and was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. He has been posted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment RAA in Townsville for Regimental Duties.

## ACT Calendar

The 2015 Calendar for the ACT Chapter is:

- Fri 17 April - Members Lunch – RCGC
- Fri 15 May – Annual Mixed Dinner – The Commonwealth Club – subject to hosting by James Morris
- Fri 19 June - Members Lunch – RCGC
- Tues 30 Jun – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NS Scheme in Canberra (National Cttee)
- Fri 17 July – Members & Ladies Mid-Winter Lunch – RCGC
- Fri 21 August - Members Lunch – RCGC
- Fri 18 September – Members Lunch - The Commonwealth Club – subject to hosting by James Morris
- Fri 16 October - Members Lunch – RCGC
- Fri 20 November - Members Lunch – RCGC
- Fri 18 December – Members & Ladies Christmas Lunch – RCGC

## **NSW CHAPTER** (John Bushell 4/69)

**Monthly lunches** at the Athenian Greek Restaurant in Barrack Street resumed in February, with 14 turning out for the day. These lunches will continue throughout the year, and are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, including April when there are other events planned as well. For anyone wishing to plan ahead, please check the National website for details, and mark your diary.

**Dining In Night:** The NSW Chapter held a formal Dining In night on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at the New South Wales Masonic Club, Castlereagh Street Sydney. The night was held on commemoration of the formation of OTU Scheyville on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1965 when the then Col Geddes and his staff commenced preparations for the first intake of Cadets due in July 1965.

Regrettably, the Chapter was unable to enlist any of that original class to participate in the night, and due to the closeness to Easter National Committee members were unable to attend. None-the-less it was great success according to those in attendance. The evening was held in the Adam Room, a venue of considerable elegance – perfectly suited to the recreation of the Dining In experience, in which all Scheyvillians participated in all those years ago.

Speakers on the night included the most senior graduate present, Tom Geczy (2/66), who delighted all with his reminiscences on the failure of ‘his college approach’ to surviving Scheyville. Lt Col Gary McKay MC (Ret’d) (2/68), expanded on the contribution made to Army service and culture by Scheyville graduates, and Mal Brown (3/69), having just returned from his second tour of Vietnam teaching English in DaNang, recounted his experiences and considerations of Vietnam today.

The passing of the Port may well have benefitted from some rehearsal, however, our Mr Vice for the night, Maj Dick Adams (Ret’d) (3/72), ensured there was sufficient available for the toasts, and took the names of the ceremony offenders. Toasts included the eight fallen graduates in Vietnam, proposed by Russ Henderson (4/67), and The Battalion of Officer Cadets, proposed by the ever-reliable Novocastrian Phil Paddison (2/70).

A pre-dinner photo of the 22 who attended is shown on Page 1: Standing L to R: Bill Beencke and Greg Woods (both 2/68), Kevin Dixon (4/69), Bill Richards (3/68), Gary McKay (2/68), Tom Geczy (2/66), Chris Pogonoski (1/72), Mal Brown (3/69), Stan Beaman (1/72), Ralph Bertinetti (1/67), Dick Adams (3/72), Al Hirschel (2/72), Geoff Gardiner (4/69) and David Morgan (3/72). Seated John Marsden (2/68), Stu Jones and Phil Paddison (both 2/70), Greg Jenkins and Terry Daley (both 3/70), John ‘Booka’ Bushell (4/69) and Rob Hirst (2/72).

**ANZAC Day:** The NSW Chapter will be marching behind the OTU Banner under the command of Dick Adams (3/72). A complete brief on the March is including in this edition. Afterwards, members are invited to attend the NSW Masonic Club lunch. This year, members are able to bring one guest, unless the seating allocation is exceeded. For those attending the lunch, cost is \$60 per person. Please advise our Treasurer Geoff Bennett ([geoffbennett@optusnet.com.au](mailto:geoffbennett@optusnet.com.au)) regarding your attendance and pre-payment.

Last year’s event was spoilt due to members turning up without notice and without payment, and in the end taking the seats of those who had already warned in and paid. Seating is strictly limited, do the right thing, few of us have PA’s anymore, so ‘get yourself organised and stop stuffing others around’.

**Sir William Schey’s Grave:** The NSW Chapter is forming a committee, tasked to investigate the feasibility of a restoration of Schey’s Grave at Gore Hill Cemetery in Sydney. Scheyville was of course named after Schey (1857-1913), who was a union leader, politician, and public servant of significant note in New South Wales, especially around and after the time of Federation. More on this will be promulgated as the project progresses. Dick Whitaker (1/69) has been a prime instigator in promoting this project. Those who wish to know more should enquire of Dick for other details.

**QUEENSLAND CHAPTER** (Owen Williamson 4/70)

**Monthly Luncheons:** The Monthly lunches at Fridays Restaurant Eagle St Brisbane the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 12.30 pm. Call Stephanie Mauchlan on 3230 5252 if you should wish to attend.

**The Queensland Annual Black Tie Dinner - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

The Annual Black Tie Dinner was held at the United Services Club on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015, celebrating the **50th Anniversary** of the opening of OTU Scheyville on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1965. We had 41 very keen starters including two of our Patrons, Brigadiers Dick Flint, and his Partner Danae along with Stan Maisey and his daughter Judith as our honored guests for the night. The night was a resounding success with Grace said by Hugh Begbie (1/71) and a host of great tales from Doug Oliver (4/71), Gary Basford (3/68) and Laurie Muller (1/65) based on "What teaching experience at Scheyville has most helped them in their civilian life".



We were very fortunate to have Terry Benjamin (1/69) attending the dinner. He has a personal connection with the Minister for Veteran Affairs, The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC and Special Minister of State Senator The Hon. Michael Ronaldson who sent along a special tribute speech to be read out at the dinner in his absence. It topped off a very memorable 50th celebratory Black Tie Dinner for the Scheyville Association members in Queensland.



Above: Terry Benjamin providing the History of Scheyville and reading Senator Ronaldson's letter  
Right: Laurie Muller providing his wonderful stories of the first class 1/65

Glenda and Laurie Muller (1/65) were our special attendees as Laurie was a member of the first class 1/65 that started off the great traditions of Scheyville. As he so rightly pointed out, his class were all a bunch of bastards as not one of them had a father, because there was no senior class. Laurie told us of the fascinating story, when he and a few of his mates painted the parade ground canon pink, along with a gaggle of nappies hung from the parade ground flag pole to celebrate the birth of the RSM's baby daughter. No doubt a Court Martial offence if they were 'dobbed in'.





He regaled us with the story of their last parade, where RSM Moon gave them the instruction to parade the next morning in mufti, which the Battalion of Cadets decided should be long johns, hats, gaiters and boots. 'One for all and all for one' was the motto, but apparently it didn't work here as George Fisk didn't get the information about the dress code, turned up in his 'polys' and was subsequently charged by the RSM for being dressed incorrectly. The traditions of Scheyville live on through these great stories from our training, unit service and Vietnam. Thanks to

Greg McMahon who provided the photos.

### **A Trip to the Riverina and a Visit to see Tim Fischer (Owen Williamson (4/70))**

A good friend of Owen and Linda Williamson was having his 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday at Lockhart in the Riverina in late February 2015 so Linda and I decided to drive down from Brisbane and pay them a visit. They are broad acre farmers with 12,500 acres under crops. As you can imagine, this is a huge operation with exceptionally large and expensive equipment. The risks that these farmers take year in year out are extraordinary and would make any risk adverse business man shudder in his boots. With the extreme vagaries of the weather, from lack of rain, to too much rain, or rain at the wrong time or frosts, pestilence and low sale prices for commodities, all of which you have no control over, why would you be a farmer?



It is these very people that put the food on the table on a daily basis and we should be extremely grateful to them as they come under increasing cost pressures from foreign imports and cost gougers such as Woolworths and Coles. This flying visit was a real eye opener to us about the problems that they endure on our behalf.

The 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday bash for Max was a great success bringing with it a great surprise as Tim Fischer (3/66) was another invited guest. Due to his very busy schedule it was uncertain that he would be able to attend. We had little time to converse with Tim as the

gathered throng all wanted a slice of his time. So he suggested that on our travels of the district we should drop in and see him at his Mudgeonga property, called Grossotto, near Myrtleford in Victoria for afternoon tea. Several days later pursued by a mean looking thunder storm we travelled down the Kiewa valley to visit Tim. On arrival at the professional looking beef stud, Tim bounded out the front door and said that we should quickly do a tour of the upper valley area before the storm hit. We drove up to the head of the valley taking in all the green pastures wooded hills and trickling creeks, before making a timely dash back to the house to be engulfed in a pretty vicious tropical type thunder storm that lashed the house with strong gusts of wind and plenty of rain - 26mm to be precise. Tim was keen to get the jug boiled before the power went out. Luckily the power stayed on and we had a very pleasant two and half hour chat with Tim, his delightful mother in-law Grandma Mary Brewer and his son Harrison.

The picture was taken as Owen and Linda Williamson left Grossotto Homestead with Tim who has a bandaged arm from a recent skin cancer operation.

## TASMANIAN CHAPTER (Ray Williams 2/71)

For those wishing to tie in a lunch with the Tasmanians during a trip to Tasmania this year, the following are the dates for the Tasmanian Chapter lunches (with partners):

1. Friday 29th May 2015. / To be held at **Josef Chromy's vineyard and restaurant in Launceston** (Actually it is situated on Relbia Road, Relbia, on the Southern side of the city. Timings are **1200hrs for a 1230hrs start**. David Taylor has made the appropriate booking and will be the co-ord for this function. E: [david-taylor@dodo.com.au](mailto:david-taylor@dodo.com.au)
2. Friday 21st August 2015 / To be held in Hobart area / Again, details of this will be advised.
3. Friday 20th November 2015. / To be held in Launceston / Details will be advised accordingly.

Note: Adequate prior warning will be given of confirmed dates including venues, timings, etc closer to the applicable lunch date. Check the OTU website for further details and contact numbers.

## VICTORIAN CHAPTER

**Monthly Lunches:** (Brian Cooper 3/69)

Hi All, Great turn up on 21 January at the RACV Club with 15 of us enjoying a delightful lunch. Special mention to Carl Wood for journeying from the NW border while in a delicate state. Some new faces were most welcome and 4/69 made their 3/69 'fathers' proud. A good effort! On 11 February 8 attended and March there were 10. While the lunch continues to be a 3/69 'with guests' event, all Scheyvillians who are in the city on the second Wednesday of the month encouraged to attend. The cost is usually around \$30 per head including drinks. Each month there is a table for ten at 12.30pm booked, but more can be taken. Anyone wishing to come to the lunch is to contact Brian Cooper on 0418 373 874 or [bjcooper@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bjcooper@bigpond.net.au)

## Tennis Day 22 March (Frank Miller 4/67)



The winner on the day was Graeme Chester (2/67). In keeping with long established tradition, all players, administrators and spectators received a prize. At the completion of play the group retired to the fine Kooyong Clubrooms for drinks, fellowship and a meal. The day was a huge success and our sincere thanks go to Denise Cosgriff for putting it all together. We were most appreciative of all she did. Right: Peter Don (3/69), Colin Lindsay (2/67), Dave Lewis (2/68) and Mick Stone (1/68).

On a perfect, sunny Melbourne autumn Sunday eighteen Scheyvillians, wives, partners and friends gathered at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club for the 2015 Victorian Chapter Tennis day. This was a record number in the five year history of the event. Again the competition took the form of a 'round robin' match schedule. The courts were in perfect condition, leading to a standard that brought out the best in all competitors. It was great fun!



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### OTU (WA) South West Weekend, Busselton, February 2015 (Frank Le Faucheur 1/71)

The Western Australian chapter of the OTU Scheyville Association held the second annual South West TEWT (Terrific, Excellent, Wonderful Time) on the weekend 6-9 February, 2015 in Busselton. 12 graduates attended, all with partners for a total of 24 assault pioneers.

Arriving on Friday morning, the 12 OTU members gathered at Sensations Café on the Geographe Marina canal side for the regular quarterly lunch (normally held at the Romany Restaurant in Northbridge). All were accompanied by “an interesting bottle of wine” where as previously reported “the duty of all wine is to be red” was not adhered to, as some thought to infiltrate the gathering with Chardonnays and Sauvignon Blancs.



None the less, imbibing was encouraged and enjoyed to the full – or nearly so - as immediately after the lunch, the officers and gentlemen (not always the same), repaired to the Geographe Bay Yacht Club for further refreshments and dinner with their estranged partners.



Not to be outdone, many of the ladies had staged their own quarterly lunch at Stilt's Restaurant at the Broadwater Resort, so that both parties could understand each other in the ensuing shorthand or heavily accented discussions.

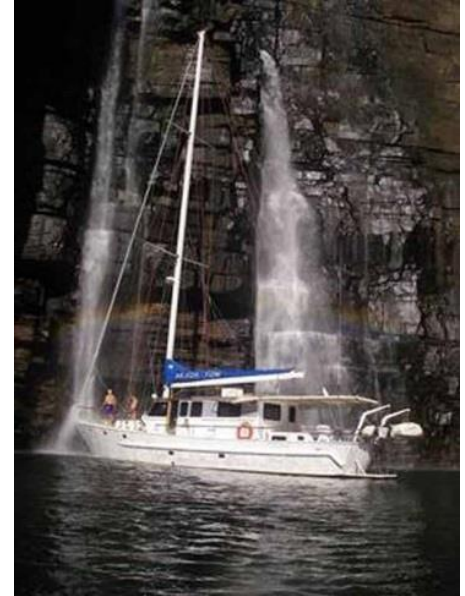
Saturday was a day partly of rest, partly preparation for the evening events while some actually toured the area's fine vineyards, played tennis or just slept! At 1600 hours (or slightly later for some who will remain nameless), the formation gathered aboard MV Major Tom, Ken and CJ Waller's magnificent cruising vessel, for a leisurely twilight sail. Champagne and 'champagne-like' beers and tasty morsels were the order of the day until, safely moored, the 24 attendees trooped their colours to Jay and Maureen McDaniell's new house nearby, for a catered, sit down dinner – and more “interesting wines”. A range of delectable main courses and salads were provided as pictured.



Tall tales and true were regaled by the erudite on the unready (or unsteady) as the balmy evening wore on, and on, and on – until – power to the entire suburb was cut. Always ready for the unexpected, a tactical regrouping around candles and torches allowed the formation to continue their debriefing until finally exhausted they wended their way to their beds.

Sunday dawned bright (too bright for some) and at 1100 hours the old and the bold gathered once

more (dear friends), again at Sensations Café, for a sumptuous brunch, after which fond farewells echoed across the water as some departed. Not to be seen as weak however, the hardy few remained, spending the day exploring, recovering, preparing or just doing nothing, until the final assault was mounted on the barbecue at McDaniell's place for the final fling.



The Roll Call included: Gary Bryant (1/66) and Margaret Collingwood, Jill and John Barnes (2/67), Elaine and David Eyre and Jannie and Glenn Williams (both 3/67), Maureen and Jay McDaniell (3/69), Pip and Wayne Banks (1/70), Chris and Frank LeFaucheur and Philippa and Ron Packer (both 1/71), Jenny and Mark Berry and

Michelle and Barry Cooke (both 3/71), Cath and Andrew Martindale (1/72) and CJ and Ken Waller (2/72).

All declared the event 'outstanding' and worthy of continuing annually. Eastern States' representatives are always welcome and encouraged. Please send your notice of interest to any of the above to indicate interest in 2016's SW TEWT.

#### VALE:

**Brent Couper (1/70)** Mal Boyd (1/70)

Brent John Couper was born in Perth, W. A., on 15 March 1948 and completed his secondary education at Gateshead High School, NSW. He attended Newcastle University and graduated as a Bachelor of Science/Mechanical Engineering in 1969. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman he was a student. Brent was posted to the RAEME Training Centre followed by a posting at Southern Command HQ EME (Electrical & Mechanical Engineers) EIS (Engineering Inspection Services?) where he completed his NS.

*"Vale Brent, a giant in every way a man should be." Don Edmunds (1/70)*

*“Brent was a real gentleman in the true sense of the word. Brent displayed some very special qualities at Scheyville, particularly empathy, listening and support for others. He was very much the quiet reflective type” Peter Balfe (1/70)*



Brent Couper stood out in Class 1/70 not only because of his physical stature and his perennial nomination as class “Right Marker” but also because of his wonderful nature. When he passed away it brought out a flow of tributes quite unprecedented from many who reflected on a great person that had quietly but profoundly impacted on them all those years ago.

I was privileged to attend his memorial service recently at Athol Park overlooking Sydney Harbour with fellow classmates Terry Williamson and Bill Moss (both 1/70) as well as Greg Jenkins (3/70) who had connected with Brent in other ways. Terry summed it up well when he said that Brent was farewelled by his family and friends with a range of stories of his life and experiences, summed up by the caption “a life well lived”. Brent’s life was certainly rich in life’s experiences with a common thread being his real interest in all the people that he came in contact with and a genuine sense of humility and modesty as he always looked to support others rather than promoting himself, although we all appreciate that he had the Scheyville determination and competitive spirit – especially on the basketball court.



Brent’s first wife Linda was there as well as his most recent partner and carer, Jeanne. In between, Brent had lost his love, Joy with whom he shared a major part of his life. I passed the many comments from our class on to Linda and Jeanne and Jeanne’s response below says it all:

Brent always said that the Officer Training Unit was life changing. It pushed him further than civilian life. He enjoyed the team work, the leadership models and the responsibilities that grew out the ‘father and son’ scheme which helped orientate new recruits and which ensured both ‘father’ and ‘son’ did the punishment for a son’s misdemeanour. Brent said the Officer Training lit up paths that his engineering studies hadn’t. “The army showed me that I was more interested in leading men than designing machines.”

I’m glad Tony Sonneveld (1/70) remembers Linda fondly recalling pinning on Brent's graduation Pips. Just a few weeks ago, Brent described “When you graduate from the Army there’s a passing out parade and a ball. For me at age 21, this was my first time in Army finery and it was very fine: navy blue pants, dinner jacket and waistcoat. The Armoured Corps had two yellow stripes down their trousers and a beret with one silver Pip on each shoulder for a second lieutenant. The Army asked a woman – a mum or sweetheart – to put your Pips on. And that was so moving.”

Thank you, thank you kindly for these memories and for being part of Brent’s life. Jeanne Walker

**Lyle Brown** An original (1/65) Graduate Number 63 (Frank Miller 4/67)

Lyle Brown was born on 29 June 1945 and commenced his NS at 2 RTB on 30 June 1965 as 3787210 Recruit Brown. On 16 Jul 1965 Lyle became Cadet Brown at OTU in the first class at OTU, Class 1/65. Lyle had some previous military experience having served with No. 7 Flight Air Cadets, gaining the rank of Corporal in his first year, 1958, at now defunct Coburg High School.

With another Cadet from nearby Pascoe Vale, Lindsay Robbins, Lyle featured on Page 1 of The Coburg Courier on 21 December 1965. Lindsay and Lyle had done some socializing together while at OTU, even venturing to Mt Panorama at Bathurst in Lindsay’s car to watch most of the ‘Armstrong 500’. Lindsay owned what he described as a ‘decrepit’ 1960 VW (engine died shortly after Graduation).

(No doubt before 'low flying' back to Scheyville before the dreaded cut-off time for leave – Ed)

On graduating from OTU on 18 December 1965 Lyle was posted to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps and undertook Corps Training followed by some time as a Platoon Commander back at 2 RTB. Lyle was enjoying the Army life and transferred to the Australian Staff Corps in Sep 1966. A posting as Assistant QM of 2 PIR in PNG was followed by a tour of Vietnam from 10 December 1970 to 23 August 1971 with 102 Field Workshop Stores Section. Lyle served twenty years in the ARA retiring with the rank of Major.

Lyle Brown passed away suddenly on 13 February this year following a stroke. He was one of those special people who were in the very first Class at Scheyville. It is interesting to note that, being born on the 29 June 1945, he started his National Service the day after his twentieth birthday.

In 1973 Lyle joined the Masonic Lodge and remained a committed member serving in the higher echelons up until his passing. As well as, and to an extent, in conjunction with, his Freemasonry activities he was actively involved with the RSL and the Vietnam Veterans.

Lyle's funeral was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February in the Springvale (Melbourne) Crematorium's Boyd Chapel which was filled to overflowing. The funeral included a Masonic Service and an RSL Service. There was also a collage of photos of his time at Scheyville. It was a fitting celebration of the life of a man who gave so much and was attended by six Scheyvillians: Classmates David Sabben and Tony Trevethick, Junior

Classmate Rob Youl (2/65), Alistair Pope (4/66), Frank Miller (4/67) and Gus Steegstra (3/70).



The association's sincerest condolences go to Lyle's wife, Beth, and the family.

Funeral attendees, L to R: Frank Miller (4/67), Alistair Pope (4/66), Tony Trevethick (1/65), Gus Steegstra (3/70), David Sabben (1/65) and Rob Youl (2/65).

**David Mee** (3/66) by Maggie Mee with Neil Leckie (3/68)



David Richard Mee was born in Tasmania on 5 April 1945. A deferment saw David commence his NS on 13 July 1966 at 2 RTB Puckapunyal as 6708589 Recruit Mee and at OTU Scheyville on 29 Jul 1966 as Cadet Mee. On 23 December 1966 Graduate Number 293 2Lt Mee was posted to 32 Small Ships Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers (Transportation) or RAE (Tn). David served the rest of his National Service with 32 Small Ships. During 1967 and 1968 David spent time in Vietnam, although his name does not appear on the Vietnam Veterans Roll. This is, according to the 32 Small Ships Association, not unusual. The ships were in and out of Vietnamese waters regularly and Roll Keeping on the ships did not always indicate whether members were considered in Vietnam or not.

After National Service David decided to become a Chef and studied in Nancy in France and in Italy. He travelled the world working cooking up a storm for diners - his speciality was French & Italian.

David married and had two daughters Gemma & Katrina. There would be four English born Grandchildren and later a Melbourne born Great Grand-daughter.

In 1987 David married Maggie in Scotland and at the Glasgow Garden Festival in 1988, he was assigned to take care of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. In 1989 Dave and Maggie returned to Tasmania staying in Sheffield, near Devonport, with his family before eventually building their first home in Woodbridge in Tassie. David worked at the local pub and enabled them to win the best restaurant in Australia.

From Tassie, David and Maggie moved to Melbourne and David worked in a number of restaurants and also in Aged Care Homes sharing his love of cooking.

In 2004 Maggie was appointed to be the Head of Retail Banking for ANZ PNG. Dave said "go for it"! He then 'consulted' for the Holiday Inn in PNG and taught at the local TAFE, his students calling him 'Mr Wash Wash' as he was always making them wash their hands before, during & after cooking! He taught a lad who was deaf and dumb how to become a butcher - so inspiring!!!

David was proud to be both an Australian and a Scheyvillian and was still competitive even in later life playing Lawn Bowls including for PNG. In 2008, David received his National Service Medal from Peter Costello at his constituency in Melbourne. David and Maggie travelled the world together with their last overseas adventure including a visit to Malta.

Maggie said: 'He was passionate, kind, warm-hearted and believed that you could achieve anything!!!! His Army experience left an indelible mark and also from an emotional perspective in what he experienced in Vietnam, however, he never let that stop his love of life and even in the last days of his life "he was so brave". He is and always will be for me irreplaceable!!!!'

## **FEATURES:**

**Dick Flint (DS) talks to Bernie Gleeson 3/69): Still on the Right Side of the Grass!**

G'Day Bernie,

I downloaded the "Expression of Interest" attached to your recent email to all. I will forward it to you indicating my interest but for now a few notes FYI.

You were 3/69 and as I recall you went to Avn. I was your brand new CI and took over from Stan Maisey who did your Junior Class. He is not too well and it would be only sheer will power that would get him to Canberra in the middle of winter. So as the last standing member of the 'Head Shed' I will do my best to attend at least some of the functions.

No doubt finer detail will follow if the function goes ahead. At 86 I have passed the urge to march anywhere but I would like to watch just to see how much you have remembered (assuming that I am still this side of the grass.)

Assuming that the march will terminate at the NS Memorial I certainly will be honored to pay my respects.

Forget about me being anywhere near a BBQ. I lived in Canberra for a fair length of time. Anyone who is outdoor except golfers in Canberra in June is looney. Why don't you ask for the use of the RMC gymnasium?

The dinner at Duntroon would be nice. I was the Lt Col in charge of Admin (at RMC) after Scheyville and while I was there the College was happy to sponsor reunions of RMC and OCS Classes. I am sure that any overtures you have made has been met with positive response but I imagine if the numbers attending exceed the capacity of Duntroon House that the Cadets' Mess might be the venue, provided that the 'little people' are out in the bush on exercise. I will keep in touch with the Brisbane group.

I will be accompanied by Mrs Danae Tattam, widow of the late LT Col Jim Tattam. Jim Tattam served on staff with NS Bns then 1 RAR 1957/58, 3 RAR 1958/60, 1 RTB 1960/61, 1 PIR 1961 (including Adjutant - took over from Dick Flint) to 1964. Cdo 1964/65, OC C Coy 1RAR (1<sup>st</sup> Tour) at Bien Hoa (5 Jun 1965 – 3 Jun 1966) OC PNG Training Depot (Goldie River). Jim attended Staff College in 1969 and was posted as DAA&QMG at HQ 10 TF 1970 and in 1972 was posted to Washington. You might have crossed airwaves somewhere in Papua New Guinea, Bernie.



The photo is of Danae and Dick at the dedication of a plaque honouring the Pacific Islands Regiment placed in a park in Surfers' Paradise. The gong third from the right on Danae is a Bronze Star won by Jim in 1 RAR's first tour in Vietnam. He got it for bravery in the duck yard, undetected crime and long distance spitting.

Danae was born in Samurai, Papua where her father Ian McDonald was a copra plantation manager. They evacuated just in

front of the jap invasion of Milne Bay. Her father went on to be part of ANGAU and the Papuan Inf Bn (Mother of PIR). So Danae's attendance at the commemoration ceremony was a very emotional experience,

Dick went on to say that his absence from the lunches were for health reasons mainly a balance problem. 'At 86 I'm not much of a forward scout! Bear with me I will come if I can but 'not in a bloody taxi mate!'

### **George Fisk (1/65) Retires after 53 Years of Service with VicPol (Frank Miller 4/67)**

On the evening of 5 February over one hundred work colleagues, friends and family gathered at the Melbourne Cricket club to celebrate the retirement of Victoria Police Superintendent George Fisk APM. The event was special in that George had completed exactly fifty three years' service on that day – a remarkable career. Included among the guests were many former and current senior Police from Victoria and other parts of Australia. George had clearly earned a deep respect over his years with the Force.

Following a fine meal Deputy Commissioner Lucinda Nolan opened formal proceedings. Lucinda detailed some of the highlights of George's long career. As part of this, there was a 1970's training film clip featuring him demonstrating the correct procedure for interviewing and arresting a suspect. This was accompanied by the theme music from the television series "Homicide".

Deputy Commissioner Nolan also read out a letter of congratulations from former Chief Commissioner Ken Lay and presented George a signed card wishing him all the best from Prime Minister, Tony Abbott.

George had always regarded his graduation in the first Scheyville class as a highly significant part of his life's development. National OTU Chairman, Frank Miller filled the assembled guests in on all that those six months entailed and the enormous challenges they presented. The point was clearly made that



graduating – especially as one of the trailblazers – from Scheyville was an outstanding achievement. It put him in the top 2.5% of all National Servicemen.

George has made legend status in the OTU story. There still exists a photograph of the early morning parade held on the day of the first graduation ceremony. (This is shown in Roger Donnelly’s book “The Scheyville Experience, 1965 to 1973”). With the assembled throng all dressed in long johns, winter singlets, gaiters, boots and standard headwear, there is one person alone in the regulation khaki polyesters. It turns out that one person was George Fisk. He hadn’t been told of the change in dress!

George finished the evening’s formalities with a humorous trip down memory lane, going over the different postings he’d had in his fifty three years with Victoria Police. It was a very special occasion!

Our best wishes go to George and his wife Glenys for a long and happy retirement. It has been well earned.

Right: Superintendent George Fisk APM (1/65) is congratulated by OTU Association National Chairman, Frank Miller (4/67), on his retirement after fifty three years with the Victoria Police.



### National Service Day 1 (1733148 Brian Patrick Cunningham)

This day should be remembered well by Queenslanders from Class 3/67, Graduates 1733257, Geoffrey Stirling Winwood-Smith (RAAOC), 1733308 John William Emslie (RAE), 1733319 Nigel Groves (RAA) and maybe by Class 4/67 Graduate 1733272 Marcus Charles Blackmore (RAE)!



On the morning of Wednesday 12 July 1967, my brother David drove Mum, my sister Margaret and me to the Northern Command Personnel Depot in Ashgrove (a near city suburb NW of Brisbane). At the Admin Office I handed over the relevant paper work that had been sent to me earlier. The Clerk sitting behind the desk took the papers and then informed me that from that moment on I was subject to both Civil and Military Law. Then I rejoined my family on the Parade Ground. Other new Recruits were gathered there to say their goodbyes to their families and girlfriends.

About a week earlier I had received a letter from the Commanding Officer of the Third Training Battalion (3TB), Singleton, welcoming me to his unit. The CO gave me a few tips on what I should bring in my baggage: including football boots, football socks, tin of boot polish, tin of Brasso, polishing cloths, marking pencil, shaving gear, rubber thongs, padlock and an old toothbrush for cleaning a rifle. He also suggested that I have a neat and trim haircut before marching into his unit. Concluding his letter, the CO emphasised that I would be made welcome at 3TB, and the Regular Army staff would help me to adjust quickly to Army life. After Mum read that letter, she said, “He sounds like such a lovely man”.

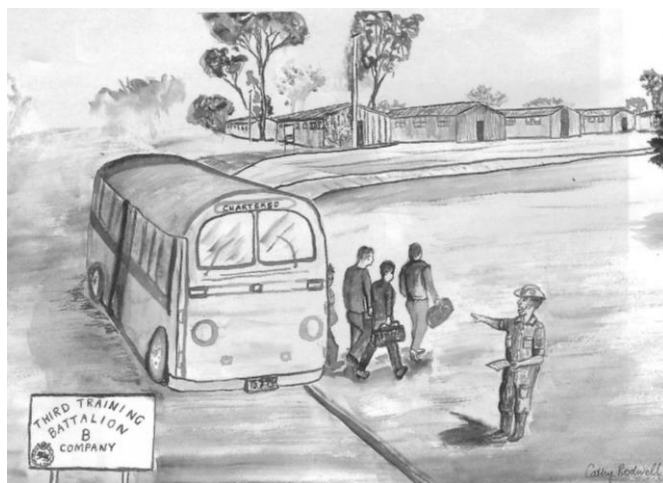
Eventually, a young Corporal politely yelled out to those of us gathered outside the Admin Building, "Please board the bus, gentlemen!" So I shook hands with my brother, David, kissed my sister, Margaret, and as I was giving Mum a farewell hug she said, "Go with that nice young man, son".

After boarding the bus, we 'gentlemen' were driven to Eagle Farm Airport, which was what Brisbane's main airport was called in those days. Arriving at the airport, we disembarked from the bus. Soon after that I had my first ever flight in an aircraft when I flew in a Trans-Australian Airlines' Fokker Friendship from Eagle Farm Airport to the Royal Australian Air Force Base at Williamtown, a little north of Newcastle. We 'gentlemen' then boarded another bus for the 80-kilometre trip from Williamtown out to Singleton.

On the afternoon of July 12, 1967, we passed through the gates of 3TB, Singleton, New South Wales. Waiting for us as the bus pulled to a stop was a Sergeant who forcefully and impolitely yelled, "Line up here, ya d\*\*\*\*\*s!"

The first experience in store for us was to be taken to the Mess Hall; not for a snack, but to be jabbed in the arms with a couple of needles: the first of many inoculations we were to receive in the months ahead.

Then it was off to the supply store, called a Q Store in Army parlance. The first item issued was a mattress cover that was gradually filled with blankets, sheets, a pillowcase, towels, dress uniforms, working dress, socks, underpants, singlets, jumper and greatcoat. We were also issued with a slouch hat, bush hat, belts, boots, webbing, backpack, camping gear, eating utensils, enameled brew mug, bayonet and, of course, a rifle.



When it was your turn to be issued with uniforms, a young Corporal looked you over to estimate your size; he then yelled the information to a Storeman on the other side of the counter who presented you with the required number of trousers, shirts, etc. I usually wore size 4 trousers. I was issued three pairs: a size 7, a size 9 and a size 11.

After depositing our gear in our hut and while still in our civilian clothes, the Sergeant ordered us to line up so we could be marched over to the Camp Barber Shop. Naively, I approached the Sergeant and informed him that I had followed the CO's advice and had myself a neat and trim haircut just yesterday.

"Get back in line, ya dickhead; everybody gets a haircut!" the Sergeant screamed in my face.

That was probably my first real understanding of what the CO meant when he wrote in his letter to me that the Regular Army staff would help me to adjust quickly to Army life.

(Later in his National Service Brian, right, would serve in SVN with 4 RAR from 21 May 1968 to 30 May 1969. In those two years Australia had its highest annual death rates. From a total of 478 Army deaths there were 107 in 1968 and 104 in 1969.)



## **An Original ANZACs Descendent among us**

With the Centenary of the landing at ANZAC almost upon us it is timely to have been sent words of an original ANZAC whose Grandson is Steve Merralls (3/70) who has provided many of the photographs for 1970 in 'The Scheyville Collection' of photographs on the association Website.

### **DIARY OF AN ORIGINAL ANZAC**

Diary of: 862 Pte. William Daniel Bevis 16 Pl D Coy 11 Bn, 3 Bde, 1<sup>st</sup> Div

Transcribed by: Stephen Ronald Merralls (Grandson), 23 Feb 2014

(The note book is a hard bound book measuring about 130mm x 80mm and written in pencil in very neat but small hand writing. I have transcribed it as written including errors of spelling and grammar. ie. quite instead of quiet is used throughout the diary. Additional information in the book is included after the chronological text. Where words could not be deciphered they are shown as xxxxx)

Inside Front cover:	1.1.1915	Aged 19 ½
Next page:	Enlisted	21.8.1914
	Reported	28.8.1914
	Embarked	31.10.1914
	Returned	7.10.1915
	Discharged	15.9.1916

Later added in pen: Sailed Ascanius 2.11.1914

Stops at Columbo and Aden (spelling errors by author), Then Port Said, Through the canal to Alexandria. Disembarked. Train to Cairo and Mena Camp

**Page 1. Alexandria 2.3.1915.** Left Cairo at 3AM Monday morning. Embarked at 8AM at Alexandria on the SS xxxxxx Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 1915. Sailed Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Destination unknown.

4.3.15 arrived at Lemnos, a Greek island near the Dardanelles. We have been here three days now and have no sign of landing. I think we must be going to the Dardanelles as soon as the warships have made the way clear. Went into Hospital at Lemnos on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1915. Left Lemnos for Alexandria to recover my health 15<sup>th</sup>

**Page 2. April 1915 on the SS Osmani.** Arrived at Alexandria at 6AM Saturday 17. Arrived at Cairo and went into hospital same day. Discharged from hospital 23<sup>rd</sup> April and attached to second 11th Batt Reinforcements. Left Egypt to rejoin Battalion at Dardanelles on SS Sarurnia Saturday 30.4.1915.

Arrived at Lemnos Monday night 2.5.1915, left again Thursday 5.5.1915. Arrived at Dardanelles and went into the firing line Friday 6.5.1915.

15.5.1915 safe and sound so far. We are well entrenched here and there is not much danger of an attack.

**Page 3.**The only danger is from shrapnel and Some Days the Turks give us plenty of that.

16.5.1915 They rained shells on us this morning but nobody was injured down our end. We are in support from four yesterday until four o'clock today when we go into the firing line. And so it goes around twenty four hours working party, the next 24 support and the next firing line. Then back again to the working party digging trenches

#### **Page 4 17.5.1915**

In the trenches today and jolly glad to get out of them too. There are dead Turks lying everywhere and the smell is something awful. The enemy rained shrapnel on us tonight. There must have fired 50 shells. Tues 18.5.1915

They are shelling us again tonight. We brought up a big six inch gun up last night, that ought to stop them a bit. There is a great scarcity of water here.

**Page 5:** One has to go along with a small tin dipping it out of mud holes and it is so muddy that you can stand a knife up in it. I have only had one wash and shave since I have been here. Twelve days now. Wednesday 19.5.1915

The Turks made an attack last night at about twelve o'clock and again this morning at about 3AM. And didn't we tickle them up. They must have lost hundreds in killed and wounded.

**Page 6 20.5.1915**

Nothing much doing today except the usual shelling and we are getting quite used to it now.

21.5.1915 The calm that proceeds the storm. I thought there must be something doing. The Turks have not fired a shot all day but my word they did send it in about six PM. Two or three were killed and some wounded. Poor old Don got shot through the shoulder, not too bad but enough to keep him in hospital for a couple of months. I feel very lonely now having no mate.

**Page 7 Sat 22.5.1915**

Things have been very quiet again today. I wonder if they are going to shell us again tonight. Two thousand Light Horsemen have arrived yesterday. They are going to use them as Infantry Reinforcements. I heard that a German General in charge of the fort that has been giving us so much trouble, surrendered today. I am beginning to think that this game is not what it is cracked up to be. Don was lucky to get out of it so easy. It came through

**Page 8:** today that the Turks lost eleven thousand in their attack of Wednesday 19 May. Good work.

Sun 23.5.1915 Not much doing today. The light horsemen arrived and went into the trenches' and we are having a couple of days off. One of the enemy's Aeroplanes dropped a bomb near the Batt headquarters, killing one man.

24.5.1915

Today has been a day of peace. Both sides taking eight hours off to bury the Dead.

**Page 9:**

We made an attack on the Turk trenches last night. We all got back safe with the exception of two killed and a couple wounded.

Tuesday 25.5.1915 I saw a very sad and imposing sight today. The sinking of HMS "Triumph" by a German Submarine. We are on a hill overlooking the sea and I happened to be looking that way, when I heard an explosion and saw the warship heel right over on her side. A crowd of Destroyers at once

**Page 10:** came along side of her and I think most of her crew were saved. She went down in about ten minutes. It has been very quiet in the trenches today hardly a shot being fired.

Wed 26.5.1915 One of our Aeroplane's dropped two bombs on the Turkish trenches in front of ours. I don't know if there was any damage done. Another quiet day today. I think there must be something brewing.

**Page 11 Sat 29.5.1915**

Thursday and Friday were very quiet. The enemy made an attack on our left this morning. Things were pretty brisk for an hour or two but they were driven off in the end. Oh for a good hot bath and a change of clothes. It seems years since I had a decent sleep, just now I feel as if I could sleep on a picket fence. As for food, well I am going to prepare a list of all the different dishes that I sometimes wish I had here, and when I get back I won't stop eating for a week. So look out for the pantry lock.

**Page 12: May 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> of June.**

Things are very quiet these last three days, so quiet that you find it hard to believe that a war is going on. Some times there is utter silence for hours unbroken even by a single rifle report. The Turks must be up to something. The general opinion is that they are undermining our trenches, so we live in expectations of being blown up.

2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> June

Everything in nice and peaceful down our end today but you ought

**Page 13:** to hear the warships bombarding down where the tommies are. It has been one ceaseless roar of guns all day. I am jolly glad I am not a Turk, it must be a perfect hell in their trenches today. Just imagine one of xxx xxxxxxxx 15" shells which contain 20,000 bullets bursting alongside of me. Just about give one some sickness of war I'll bet.

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> June I am getting tired of war. I wish the Turks would make another charge

**Page 14:** to liven things up a bit. I believe our company are going out to take a trench tonight or try to. It will be bit of a change, that is if one does not get potted, but that is all in the game.

(The pencil entries stop here but it carries on in pen. The handwriting is identical and must have been written by my grandfather after leaving the front and could have been recollections much later.)

In pen and not dated: The diary ends here so I think this must be where I "copped" it. My right hand was somewhat shattered and it was a long time before I could hold a pen etc. I know I walked down to the beach and the Photo of me sitting with other sick and wounded tells the story.

(A number of blank pages and the a note in pencil) Went into Hospital Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March 1915.

(Then under this in pen the following) This would have been on Lemnos when I have the measles. The landing on ANZAC took place 39 days later. In the meantime the tent hospital had been cleared of all its patients that could be moved, put on a hospital ship and sent back to Egypt to make way for the expected wounded from the landing. (Under this in the same hand but another pen colour, probably added much later.) This included me.

(The diary also included pages of Morse Code after Page 8 as if he was learning it while in the trenches.)

(Also an entry which read – whilst in Cairo)

12-1-1915: We saw in the paper that the Turkish attack on Egypt cannot be long differed. It might mean a bit of xxxxxx for us. We are living in hope any hour.

30.1.1915: It seems to have blown over. There has been a lot of talk in the press but nothing has come of it up to date.

Some addresses in the back of the dairy:

No 862 Private W. Bevis No 16 Platoon D Company 11 Battalion  
3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division Mina Camp Cairo Egypt

Mothers address: Mrs J.M. Bevis, Yarloop P.O., Yarloop, S.W.R. Western Australia

### **Chalkies in the PIR Part 2 (Rod Keown 1/71)**

This is Part 2 of Rod's memories of his time as a 'Chalkie in the PIR'



#### **PIR Background**

At the time I was in PNG PIR was a two Battalion plus support units, outfit that was headquartered at Port Moresby. The first Battalion was based at Taurama Barracks which is not far out of the Moresby township. 2PIR was located at Moem Barracks which is (was?) located on the north tip of Cape Moem which is a beautiful peninsula that extends out from the New Guinea north coast into the Bismarck Sea about 20 kilometres east of Wewak. I say 2PIR "was" located at Cape Moem because I haven't been able to ascertain whether or not the unit actually exists any more or even if Moem Barracks is operating as a military base. The Regiment was a unit of the Australian Army until PNG became an independent nation in 1975.

Some local politician who, presumably, had pretensions of becoming a knight attached the name “Royal” to the Regiment’s name in 1985. Prince Charles is the Colonel in Chief (think patron).

There is a 5 minute video that was posted on YouTube in 2012 (it was filmed out of the back window of a vehicle that was being driven around the Battalion site) that appears to show that the jungle has moved in and the buildings are derelict and vandalised. Some appear to have been gutted by fire.

If the place has been abandoned it would be unfortunate as Moem was a substantial, self-contained military base which, as well as the accommodation, messing and administration buildings, had substantial RAEME, Supply, Transport (over 40 trucks, Land Rovers and trailers), QM, PWD and MP depots as well as a RAP, RAAEC classrooms, a chapel, a large swimming pool and a theatre.

The history of PIR has been fraught with fracas at different times at both Taurama and Moem Barracks. The ones I am aware of were in 1957, 1961, 1997, 2000 and 2002. There may have been others. The cause of the soldiers’ gripes in most cases were related to pay and conditions. According to the local Wewak newspaper when the 2000 insurrection occurred, the mutineers invaded the 2PIR Officers’ mess when the East Sepik Governor was inside entertaining overseas guests including senior Indonesian military personnel!

The 2002 mutiny at Moem lasted for two weeks and was triggered by the PNG government’s plan to reduce the size of the army by fifty percent. Depending on what you read, between 120 and 700 weapons including M16s, SLRs, M60s and hand grenades were stolen from the armoury and vehicles, including the CO’s car, went missing during the insurrection and the HQ and other buildings, including the armoury, were gutted by fire. Apparently one of the M16s was later found in a bag of beetle nuts that a civilian was carrying onto a domestic flight out of Wewak!

The mutineers requested that the local member and former Prime Minister who was then the Opposition Leader (Sir Michael Somare) act as their go-between and present their 13 point petition to the government. Somare (who lived in Wewak and used to come out to Moem Barracks quite often when I was there) was a consummate politician – when he was visiting the OR’s mess he would wear a traditional indigenous outfit, when he was coming to the Officers’ mess he would wear a shirt and tie!

The insurrection involved 80 soldiers and was instigated by 11 men including 3 former soldiers. At one point some of the rebels drove through the Wewak township in an army Land Rover that they had commandeered and mounted an M60 on the back! Air Niugini stopped flying into the place for a few days after that. Seven officers were held hostage for the two weeks, others apparently swam out to sea to escape the rebels.

The disaffected soldiers’ log of claims included the dismissal of the Prime Minister and Defence Force Chief, the release from jail and granting of full pardons to two indigenous captains who had been jailed for their role in the infamous Sandline mercenary affair in 1997, an increase in the Defence Force budget, a reversal of 100% pay rises recently given to PNG MPs and public servants and a review of all taxation laws – it all sounded like an ambit claim from the MUA!

The 2PIR barracks were reclaimed for the Army by a squad of 1PIR soldiers who were flown up from Port Moresby. Reportedly only two shots were fired – apparently the mutineers were asleep at the time because they had been up all the previous night because they had expected the liberating force to attack at that time!

## **Wewak**

Wewak is the biggest town in the East Sepik (river) province of New Guinea. It has a current population of about 25,000. Its modern history started when gold was discovered in its hinterland. That industry ceased to operate in the 1930’s.

Wewak became the largest Japanese airbase on mainland New Guinea during WWII and the eventual Japanese surrender was conducted at Cape Wom which is just west of Wewak in August 1945. The surrender was preceded by the horrific Aitape-Wewak campaign in which 9,000 Japanese were killed, 13,000 surrendered and 14,000 died of starvation or sickness. Australia listed its losses and casualties as 442 killed, 1,141 wounded and 16,203 "sick" (presumably many with malaria).

A family friend who fought in the campaign told me that his unit turned any captured enemy over to the natives who "sorted them out". Apparently the Japanese did not treat the locals well during the period that they controlled the region. At the end of that campaign the Japanese, who at that stage had no air or naval support were reduced to foraging in the nearby Torricelli Mountains

By the sounds of it many have forgiven. The Japanese PM, Shinzo Abe, flew back home after his July 2014 visit to Australia and New Zealand via Wewak where he visited Cape Wom. According to an article in "The Australian" thousands of well-wishers turned out to see him. The same article said that up to 200,000 Japanese soldiers perished in New Guinea during WWII.

When I was in PNG there was still plenty of evidence of WWII up and down the New Guinea coast and islands. Apparently some Japanese ex-servicemen liked to get back to the place where their unit was located at the time of the surrender and you would sometimes see small groups of them in and around Wewak with their little rising sun flags and an Australian tour guide who accompanied them on their pilgrimage.

### **Leisure Time**

Social life for unmarried Subalterns pretty much consisted of riding our motor bikes into the Wewak Motel on Friday nights and trying to get lucky with one of the Air Niugini hosties who flew in each afternoon from Port Moresby. On most of these nights more drinking than casanovoring got done so quite a bit of skin got left on the corneous road on the way back to the battalion. Corneous is essentially crushed coral/limestone which when compacted is a good road base, unfortunately for riders of two wheel vehicles it is dynamite, particularly after grading. Six or seven pots of South Pacific (the local brew) only aggravated the situation.

The only other option that thirsty Caucasians had in Wewak at the time was to visit the Wewak Club. Members of the Battalion were banned from using the place because of its racist membership policy (indigenous New Guineans were not permitted to join). Whilst I never got to go inside the place, by reputation, it had a contingent of redneck members some of whom, I understand, would have got starring roles in Deliverance had the talent scouts for the film recruited in the town!

There isn't any evidence on the internet that the Wewak Club exists any more. In fact the only reference to a Wewak based club that I could find was a yacht club. According to its last posting it had scheduled a meeting of members to vote on its liquidation because the manager had emptied the club's bank account and headed for the hills! About the only other preoccupation for expat soldiers in their spare time was fishing related.

The local Public Works Department (PWD) representative who lived in the Sergeants' mess used to set a drum line to catch sharks. I recall that he caught a monster tiger shark one night and after soliciting help to get it ashore wasn't quite sure what to do with it. He decided to cut the jaws out with a view to hanging them up on his wall as some sort of trophy. Unfortunately, ants ate the cartilage which held the jaws apart whilst he had them hanging out in the sun to dry so the whole exercise came to naught.

One of the RAEME ORs thought that he could increase his catch rate by using expanding bait on one of the peninsula's inshore reefs and so took a few sticks of gelignite out in one of the Battalion's 10 man, flat bottomed, punt type landing craft. Unfortunately the outboard motor on it cut out after he had lit the fuse and jettisoned the geli and it detonated under the boat. He was compos enough to be able to get the motor going and run the craft up on the beach where someone who had been watching proceedings was

able to drive him to the Wewak hospital where he had a few days to compose his report to the Battalion 2IC. The boat was a write-off.

One of the prime movers on the spearfishing front was a Vietnam Veteran MC, Company 2IC who arranged to take a group of us to one of the offshore islands in the Battalion's remaining seaworthy landing craft one Saturday. The weather blew up a bit on the way back which made it pretty interesting in the low freeboard vessel we were in but I kept telling to myself that if our skipper could win an MC fighting the VC he wouldn't have any trouble getting us back to Cape Moem in one piece. I don't think we had a life jacket between us.

That day ended up being a bit of a wash-out because the Sepik was in flood at the time and the water visibility up and down the coast and out to the islands adjacent to the mouth of the river was only about 5 metres. When I was in the water I kept thinking about the critter that the PWD man had caught on his drum line. I have since read that on clear days the soft corals on the reefs we were diving on are amongst the best in the world.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation at the Battalion was of a high standard with married (expat and indigenous) soldiers having stand-alone dwellings. Single soldiers and Officers lived in 3 level, walk-up, barracks buildings adjacent to the messes. Officers and Sergeants had individual rooms. Officers had (non-Army) "batmen" to do laundry, clean boots, make beds etc.

(Part 3 in next Edition talks about the geography)

### **Found in a Regimental Number Register: 2 RVR Regimental Numbers found**

Nashos are familiar with the seven digit Regimental Number starting with 17xxxxx (Qld), 27xxxxx (NSW), 37xxxxx (Vic), 47xxxxx (SA & NT), 57xxxxx (WA) and 67xxxxx (Tas). When Nashos see other Regimental Numbers they think that they are those of the Short Service Commission Scheyvillians (Pilots). A couple of Regimental Numbers found in a 2 RVR Regimental Number book held at the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum (i.e. the Unit Historical Collection of 8/7 RVR) were:

3112007 Cpl Michael 'John' Sonneveld (Born 24 June 1944), Re-enlisted with B Company 2 RVR 4<sup>th</sup> October 1965, and

359230 Leigh Francis Collins (Born 20 Jan 1948), Enlisted in 2 RVR on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1967.

John Sonneveld discharged from the CMF on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1968 and joined the Army at Scheyville with Class 2/68 on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1968. John graduated from OTU into AAAvn Corps and was posted to 2 RTB before commencing his flying training at Pt Cook on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1969. John flew with 161 Indep Recce Flt in Vietnam from 29<sup>th</sup> October 1970 until 28<sup>th</sup> October 1971. He was awarded a DFC.

Leigh Collins joined the Army with Class 1/70 on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1970. Leigh also graduated from OTU into AAAvn Corps and was posted to 2 RTB. He joined 1 Avn Regt on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1972, by which time the Australian Army had withdrawn from Vietnam. Captain Leigh Collins was mentioned in the New Year's Honours for 1983. He would finally discharge from the Army with the rank of Major on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1990.

Regimental Number: they tell a story (but not anymore! The PMKeys system currently used has everyone's Army number starting with an '8'. Apparently the system could not handle a number with an 'F' in front for female members)

PS: The CMF was reformed post-WW2 in 1948. 2 RVR began in the Australian Army's Pentropic revamp in July 1960. Having held the same CMF battalion number from 1948 – 1960, 2 RVR's number changed to 8/7 RVR in 1987.



**WHAT OUR MEMBERS DO Vietnam – Another Time** Chris Coates 1/71 talks with Joe Debeutz  
This is a brief account of one man's Vietnam drawn from a chat wandering the banks of the Yarra, a faded copy of personal records and assisted by three books listed below which you may find interesting.

A few years ago I met for the first time my cousin Cynthia and her husband Joe Debeutz who were visiting Australia from South Africa. My family had emigrated to Australia in 1957, my father's brother Norman, my uncle, whom I was never to meet, had emigrated to Northern Rhodesia in the late forties. As I chatted to Joe for the first time he reflected on a visit my parents had made to Africa in 1972 and remembered that I was at the time in the Army. I was surprised he remembered and even more so when he asked if I had gone to Vietnam. I said I had not, but in return expressed my surprise that he was aware of the Australian involvement in Vietnam. As he told me his story I understood his interest.

Joe was born in the early thirties in Southern Austria. His father had disappeared early in the war and as a young teen at the wars end Joe, having missed out on much education and in a country struggling to get back on its feet, found work hard to find. In 1951 and 18 he took off to find work. This took him to France and eventually to the Legion Etrangere Francais. He joined in December 1951 and went then to Sidi-bel-Abbes the Legion base in Algeria. From late April to July '52 he was in Tunisia with the 3rd Bataillon Etranger de Parachutistes then again in Algeria until the 24 December 1952 when he left by boat for, as the French called it, the Extreme-Orient. Arriving in Hanoi on the 19 January he joined the 2emBEP base at Hanoi-Bach Mai and awaited the return of the Battalion which had been involved in the defence of Na-San. This had been a relatively successful example of the "base aero-terrestre" concept of a ground force supplied by air and positioned to do significant damage to the enemy and draw them into a fight. It was a concept which was to prove fatal to many of the same soldiers just over a year later.

From March to April Joe with the Battalion was involved in counter insurgency operations in the Delta (in this case the Red River Delta in the north). In April they were flown into Laos to help in the defence of threatened positions on the Plain of Jars. On July the 17th the Battalion jumped into Loc Binh on the road paralleling the Chinese border and provided a rearguard for battered units withdrawing down this RC4 roadway. They were then extracted by sea to Hanoi. In August and September it was again counter insurgency operations and then in late September early October, in the South of the Red River Delta around Namh Dinh with other battalions they took part in a major operation;"Brochet".

Continuing general operations in the Delta in November and December where Joe was decorated they were then rushed to Laos again on the 27 December to assist Groupe Mobile 2 until 10 January. 2BEP was then flown to Saigon and then Nha Trang taking part in amphibious landings near Tuy Hoa ( operation Arethuse) before going by truck to Pleiku in the central highlands where they operated during February and March around, An Khe, Dak Doa, and Plei Bon. On the 17 March 1954 they returned to Hanoi to await deployment into what had now become the besieged and steadily worsening situation of Dien Bien Phu.

When Joe parachuted into Dien Bien Phu with 7 company 2BEP and 676 other members of the battalion it could be said the battle for the position was already a lost cause. There is far too much to tell of the battle at Dien Bien Phu and I recommend the books mentioned later but for Joe he dropped on the evening of the 9/10 of April. The company was scattered all over the base with elements of other parts of the battalion. They waited until morning to assemble at Epervier a point at the South East edge of the one runway, now unusable and 7 company were immediately alerted to undertake a counter attack at Dominique 3 (strong points were all named and numbered) across the Nam Youm River and about 300 metres to the East. The company commander was killed by shellfire reconnoitring the route a Lieutenant took command of the company. The next day after occupying Dominique 3 the 7th and 8 th companies supported other paratroopers under heavy attack on Elaine 1. By the end of their second day 2BEP had sustained 76 casualties For the next few nights elements of 1 and 2 BEP would escort porters the 6 or 700 ms to Huguette 1 which required passing enemy trenches which had now been constructed on the airstrip between French strongpoints. By Friday the 23 April 2BEP still defending Eliane had been reduced to 380 effective men but as the strongest "reserve" in the position they were tasked to retake Huguette 1

which had fallen overnight. Although the senior commander was advised against this counter attack by all the operational commanders he believed it necessary to allow a greater area to receive more parachute reinforcements.

The attack was a disaster. Although aircraft and artillery fire was effective 5 and 6 companies were not ready to attack when the bombardment lifted due to the confused approaches and Joe's company (7) were caught in the open on the metal airstrip, baked by the sun and enfiladed by two undestroyed enemy machine guns. The Battalion commander did not know what was happening due to his radio being wrongly set and was unknowing, while his battalion was pinned down in the open. The attack was called off with 150 men killed or wounded effectively wiping out the reserve battalion 2BEP and any further capacity of the defenders to launch major counter attacks.

The remnants of 2BEP were merged with the also shattered 1BEP on the 25 April. Joe was one of the walking or should I say limping wounded and continued to serve with the unit. The composite battalion or as the French termed such units Bataillon de Marche was given the defence of the last remnants of the Huguette positions Huguettes 2,3, 4 and 5. During the next five nights legionnaires set out in fighting patrols to test the Viet Minh trenches and did considerable damage but essentially the fate of Dien Bien Phu was sealed it was simply a matter of when.

The 30th of April the most sacred day to legionnaires Camerone day was celebrated with one bottle of wine per platoon but no blood sausage. On the first of May Huguette 5 fell to a divisional attack. On May 4 Huguette 4 fell and although the French continued to reinforce Dien Bien Phu, 91 paratroops arriving on May 6 at 1730 on May 7 fighting on the main defensive positions ceased.

Joe along with his comrades became a prisoner of the Viet Minh and of this time he had very little to say and it is hard to piece together from the records what happened to individual units but clearly it was a terrible time. Deaths in captivity with the Viet Minh exceeded I believe the rate of deaths under the Japanese and Joe was fortunate to be returned to Hanoi and then flown home to Algeria. On the 10 December 1954 Joe was given an honourable medical discharge from the Legion.

In his time in Vietnam he was awarded;

Croix de Guerre des Theatres d'Operations Exterieures. (for action I believe in December 1953)

Insigne des blesses militaires( for wounds received in combat)

Croix du Combattant Medaille Coloniale Medaille commemorative de la campagne d'Indochine.

He is also entitled to wear a unit Croix de Guerre with palms awarded to all combatants at Dien Bien Phu.

Joe led an extremely interesting life after this time and I apologise that I have told this tale so badly but three excellent accounts of the French in Indochina and at Dien Bien Phu are;

Bernard B. Fall's: "Street without Joy" and " Hell In A Very Small Place" (Fall was killed while reporting in Vietnam in 1967) and Martin Windrow: "The Last Valley"

I have included a few photographs Joe's daughter Michelle kindly sent me. She has been trying to get Joe to record his story but as with many returned soldiers he is very reluctant and at 80 cannot be bothered.

### **Pilot to Painter:**

Dick Whitaker an intrepid Website searcher found the following article in 'The Women's Weekly 14th July 1971'. (One might ask why TWW? Sorry, Dick it was no doubt a 'Trove' article – Ed!)

Richard 'Rick' Broughton Everingham was born on 2 October 1945. After a deferment he started his NS on 13 July 1966 as 2784503 recruit Everingham On 29 Jul he commenced Officer Training at Scheyville as Cadet Everingham with Class 3/66. Rick Graduated on 23 December 1966 as Graduate No. 251 and was posted to the RAInf at 3 TB Singleton. By 31 Mar 1967 Rick had made a change and gone across to the other side joining the Australian Staff Corps as Regt No. 217229. (Note: the crazy method of National Serviceman changing to ARA Numbers when they joined the ASC applied to Classes 1/65, 2/65, 1/66 and

3/66. The Army realised what a rod they had made for their backs in doing this and stopped the practice from then on.)

● Working on a painting of the Belle Vue Hotel (now sold) in Brisbane (right). "A lot of green colors have to go in," he says.

## A helicopter crash ended his flying career. Now he's . . .

# A PAINTER with PUNCH

Text by JEAN BRUCE  
Pictures by BOB MILLAR, jun.



**Y**OUNG artist Rick Everingham greeted me at the front door of his attractive home conservatively dressed in town trousers and blue striped shirt, but, a little surprisingly, with bare feet.

"Come in," he said warmly, "we're slightly disorganised this morning . . . interstate visitors departing and Desley (his wife) has had to dash along to the salon. Sit down, won't you."

I declined, because I wanted to look around at some of his paintings.

"Then I will." He laughed, sat down, and pulled on his socks and shoes.

All typical of the easy-going, friendly, happy, successful life that Rick and Desley Everingham lead. Both are in their mid-thirties.

Albert, the seven-month-old pet boxer, was in on the opening scene, sniffing, jumping about, and creating

his own small area of confusion.

"Why call him Albert? He just looked like an Albert. He's always on for a game, and he eats plants," says Rick.

An Army helicopter crash in 1968 precipitated Rick Everingham into a painting career. Up till then, his planned career was flying first and painting second. The crash, while he was on a low-level training manoeuvre, broke his back and reversed this order.

### Leisure time

He's a handsome young man, 6ft, 2in. tall, brown hair, brown eyes, and was born in Sydney. Desley is a Brisbane girl, and they live in Brisbane.

Rick says: "I have always thought that whatever I did I would still be able to paint. One of the things about flying is there is time to paint. It's not like an executive job . . . there is leisure time."

Called up at 20 in 1966 for National Service training, he went to the OTU

(Officer Training Unit) at Schoeyville, outside Windsor, N.S.W., topped the course, and won the Governor-General's medal plus the military tactics prize at the end of that year.

"Pretty bright?" He laughed. "I probably just worked hard."

He chose flying as the corps to go into, and signed for five years.

He started flying about the middle of 1967. Then came the crash, the cause was never found, and he spent four months in hospital.

For about a year afterward Rick didn't do anything. He left the Army. Flying was out, for although he was mobile again he couldn't bend his right foot back.

Commercial art again became his livelihood, and although he didn't realise it then he was at the beginning of a new career—painting.

Rick Everingham has made painting his sole means of support for 12 months now, although, as in many young households

today, Desley adds her share from the new hairdressing business she has opened in a developing suburb of Brisbane.

"Very few people can live from painting alone," says Rick. "I am trying, but I don't know how long I will be able just to paint."

Commissioned, including a number for portraits, make up a good deal of his work.

From a one-man show he had in Orange, N.S.W., in January, he received 25 commissions. At the show he sold 23 of the 27 paintings offered, 19 within the first three hours.

Before joining the Army, Rick studied painting for two years in Sydney with Graeme Inoué, and for about six months with G. K. Townsend, the watercolorist.

He learned in the Med-drum style, but is using it as a basis. "It is a good basis," he says. "I think you can do far more developing your own technique. I don't have any rules about painting other than those self-imposed by my taste. I only do paintings I like. I have

a preference for soft color.

"At the moment my paintings are representational, but I can see my style changing all the time. People ask . . . what kind of painting do you want to do in the future? I don't really know." Then he adds: "I would like to concentrate a lot more on portraits."

Apart from painting, he is interested in designing furniture, and feels this may possibly be a later development.

He says, "One day I hope to make individual pieces and sign them. We can't afford furniture now, and we have made most of our own from demolition materials."

### Do-it-yourself

He has a talent with tools—a slab of marble from the Strand Building in Brisbane, now pulled down, has made a handsome table, and a comfortable couch with a bright blue-and-white cover owes its existence to chamber boards and an old mattress.

Desley, with a sunny laugh, long slim legs, and

pretty fair hair, came bubbling in from her hairdressing salon, and boxer Albert exuberantly dashed out, so that he couldn't be found when wanted for a photograph, until Rick scouted around the neighboring gardens.

Of their life together, Rick said: "It is good fun. We don't have any system at all. We are so busy, and we are doing so many different things we really don't have time to get in a rut."

Rick paints at night a lot, depending on how he feels.

His back hurts only when he overtrains it by working for too long at a time.

And sport is out, except for golf.

Ambitions? The two young Everinghams have lots of those.

One is to buy an old house—see one they can make into a "fabulous" home by restoring and renovating.

"Somewhere in the mountains," Rick said.

Rick Everingham is giving an exhibition of his paintings in the McInnes Gallery in Brisbane until July 9.

While a member of the ASC Rick commenced flying in mid-1967 and was posted to 1 Avn Regt on 11 March 1968. An air crash in 1968, while flying with instructor 'Chick' Barron, saw the end of Rick's flying and sometime after March 1969 he discharged from the Army. While recovering from the effects of his crash Rick took up painting, and the rest, as they say, is history. In 2014 Rick returned to Queensland. Locations of his exhibitions are available on the internet.

Charles John Barron, born 21 August 1940, joined the RAAF in 1958, training at the RAAF School at Ballarat firstly as a Radio Mechanic (8 months) and later as a Radio Technician (also 8 months). On 23 January 1964, 7 months short of his 6 years, 'Chick' (who does not know how he obtained his nickname) discharged from the RAAF and as 1200008 joined the Army to learn fly. He undertook officer training under Major Stark at the School of Artillery. In a real show of the ceremonial, just before completion of their flying training, the Officer Cadets were handed their 'pips' and Corps Badges from a paper bag held by a Major. Chick was posted to RAASC.

Leaving North Head Chick commenced Course 54 at the Basic Flying Training School at Point Cook flying Winjeels. Chick completed his flying training and on 25 March 1965 was Attached to 16 Army Lt AC Sqn being formally posted to the Squadron on 3 July 1965. On 25 May 1966 Chick found himself in Vietnam with 161 Indep Recce Fl, returning to Australia on 22 April 1967. During his 'tour' he was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal and was 'Mentioned in Despatches'. On 9 October 1967 Chick commenced Long-term Schooling in the UK training to be a Helicopter Instructor. On return to Australia

Chick's next posting was as an Instructor with 1 Aviation Regiment from 14 February 1968 where he would remain until his discharge from the Army on 29 June 1970.

It was during this last posting that Chick and Rick Everingham came to grief. Chick was Rick's Instructor during flying training on the Bell 47 'Sioux' helicopter at Amberley when on 20 May 1968 practicing 'Torque Turns' (similar to a 'handbrake turn' while driving a car) when, due to a number of errors, the Sioux came in for a very hard landing on its skids. Chick remembers the crash in detail. He would spend 3 months in hospital recovering from his injuries. Rick, who at this stage had about 65 hours flying time, remembered nothing of the crash. He would spend 6 months in hospital recovering from his injuries in that crash.

Chick has met up with Rick in recent years and reports that Rick is looking straight and healthy with no obvious physical problems resulting from such a hard impact.

23 Jan 1964	Joined Army	3 Mar 1965	Completed Training as an Officer Cadet
5 Mar 1965	Completed BFTS, Att HQ (for BFTS RAAF Point Cook)		
25 Mar 1965	Att 16 Army Lt Ac Sqn	3 Jul 1965	Posted 16 Army Lt Ac Sqn
25 May 1966	161 Indep Recce Flt (SVN)		
7 Jun 1966	161 Indep Recce Flt (formal posting date to 161)		
22 Apr 1967	Returned from SVN	9 Oct 1967	AAS UK (Helo Instr Trg)
14 Feb 1968	1 Avn Regt	29 Jun 1970	Discharged from Army

### OVERSEAS TRAVEL

**ANZAC Day 2015** The only reply received from the request in the last Scheyvillian 'How many Scheyvillians are going to either Gallipoli or Villers Bretenoux for ANZAC Day 2015?' came from Geoff Daly (4/69) who, along with Neil Leckie (3/68) will be attending the Gallipoli Services. It is understood that Gary McKay (2/68) will also be at Gallipoli.

### WHATEVER SCHEYVILLIANS DO: Caritas Care Newsletter Advent 2014 (Leon Rowe 4/71)

Both my wife (Deena) and myself were Lieutenants in the Australian Army; and our respective families had relations involved in war service. Our son (Patrick) did two tours of duty in Timor Leste and Afghanistan with a difference—he was a peace-keeper! Our grandson (Isaak) is in Naval Cadets and is interested in joining the Australian Defence Force (ADF). My father (Theo) served in WW2 (3 Mar 1943 – 29 Mar 1946). He suffered permanent deafness as a result of his war service. My mother says that my



father went to war as a boy and returned 'half a man'; spending a lot of time in & out of Repatriation Hospital (Repat). Years later, I worked assisting veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It was here that I met a 'living saint' Colonel Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop who was an Australian surgeon who was renowned for his leadership while being held prisoner by the Japanese during World War II. As a Platoon Commander (left) all my section corporals served time in the unpopular war of Vietnam. They were very up-set when I marched in the 1972 Melbourne Moratorium in order to bring about peace. One of the dilemmas that Christians in the armed services face is not issue of a 'just war' but how a member of the ADF be a peace maker? As I conclude this personal Reflection in the peaceful environment of Caritas Care, I am reminded of the sacrifice of families to achieve peace in the world. We are constantly see conflict on the TV and efforts to achieve some understanding of why young Australians become suicide bombers or Jihadists;

especially with the freedoms we are able to enjoy. For Christians the theme of War & Peace comes into

focus during Advent (four week Sunday 30 November & to Christmas Eve—24 December 2014). It is a period of reflection on the meaning of life and hope of a new age of peace. As Pope Paul VI said: “if you want peace, work for justice”!

### **National Network Travel and Cruise Di and Dave Sabben**

Di and Dave Sabben (1/65) have had a busy year. Their trips included Gallipoli and the Western Front (including the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres and the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Villers Bretonneux), Normandy, Switzerland and London. Later there was a return to Vietnam checking out various hotels.

Dave leads two tours to Vietnam each year:

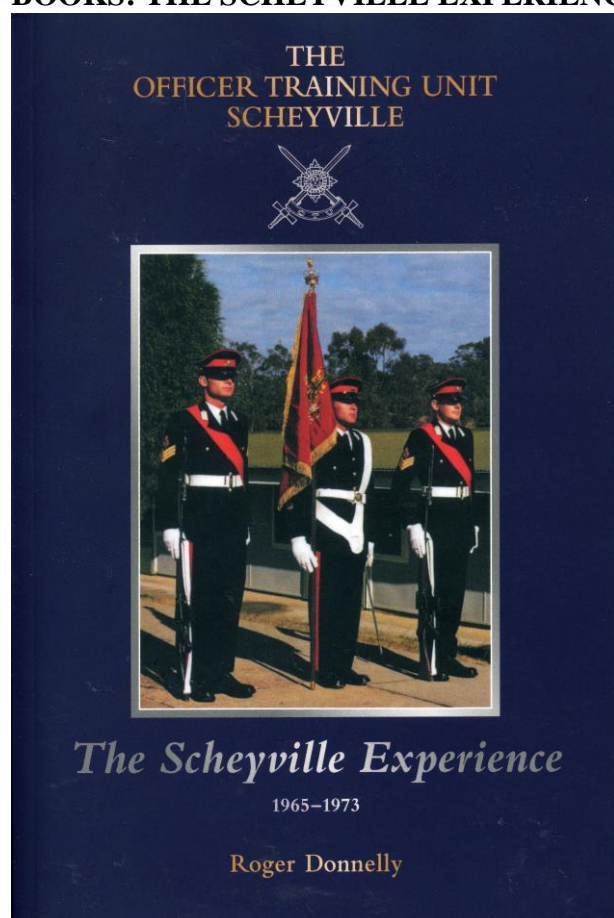
The Long Tan Trek of 8 days, departing this year on 10 October, and

The Decisive Battlefields of the Vietnam War of 13 days, departing this year on 17 October.

For a holiday of a non-military styles Di can also arrange an ‘Ashes’ Tour (departs 13 July) or select from any number of Cruises.

Contact Di on 03 9787 8888, 0412 278 888 or [disabben@ozemail.com.au](mailto:disabben@ozemail.com.au)

### **BOOKS: THE SCHEYVILLE EXPERIENCE – REPRINTS AVAILABLE**



For those who missed the launch of the The Scheyville Experience some years back, the association has had some copies of the book reprinted. The reprint includes an Errata/Addendum Sheet and updates figures and developments from the time the book was first published (2001) to now.

The books can be purchased through the Q Store on the OTU Website at \$25 per copy including postage.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

**Gary Vial threw in a review (not his) on the book ‘Australia’s Secret War’ to ‘stir the possum’. He did that!**

Gary didn’t actually review the book [hasn’t even seen it] which in fairness is a bit hard to glean from the leader, even though it says ‘from’ not ‘reviewed by’. The comments are from Gary’s school-friend who as you can see during his Vietnam service was not at all enamoured of the wharfies. Similar thoughts were also mentioned at the time by another schoolmate, so I thought it might be of interest - and a talking point - for Scheyvillians. From your comments it looks like it has succeeded! That said, I agree with the basic premise that the wharfies at times did not positively assist the war

effort; and sometimes downright sabotaged it.

Noel Turnbull (3/67) asked that his thoughts be included in the next Scheyvillian as a response to Gary’s review.

I have just read Gary Vial’s review of Hal Colebatch’s book about unionists and WW2. It would be a great pity if OTU members believed what was in the book or the bits Gary mentions in his review are accurate. The story about HMS Speaker and leaving Japanese POWs in Sydney Harbor while unionists went on strike is just wrong. Several other claims about lost planes etc are equally wrong. Inventions with no basis in fact. The source cited in Colebatch’s book on the Speaker issue never served in the military nor was a POW according to official records. The ‘lost’ planes story is not confirmed by US records.

Gary says the book has “forensic precision” but everyone who has looked at in detail has found very serious errors and outright falsehoods. Unions in Australia did take strike action from time to time during the war – if Gary had worked on the docks under the conditions which applied then he might have been tempted to do so too – but the rate of industrial disputation on the wharves in Australia during the war was much less than that in either the UK or the US. It was rather more than the rate in the USSR but there could be a variety of obvious reasons for that. It is true that some wharf union officials were communists but after the invasion of Russia communist parties around the world did everything in their power to help defeat the Germans and the Japanese. As for the “Fervent identity politics” Gary refers to I suspect he is projecting his current concerns back into history. The remarkable thing about books like Colebatch’s is that pointing out the glaring errors and transparent bias won’t alter the opinions of those who want to believe what he says. If you want to read any PM’s Literary Awards’ winners it is better to read the book which shared the prize Colebatch was given – Joan Beaumont’s wonderful book about WW1.

When I got back from Vietnam my father, who had served in New Guinea, warned me to be careful about believing the right wing propaganda about war, unions, the flag and all that. All of us who served in Australia were upset that we didn’t get our mail at Xmas but as my late father said: “If you fought for Australia anywhere you also fought for the right of demonstrators to demonstrate and unionists to strike.” This is not ‘treasonous’ as Gary claims but simply democracy. The people who didn’t believe in the right to demonstrate or strike in the 20<sup>th</sup> century were usually Nazis or Communists.

Marek Malter 4/70 also responded: I read with interest the review of Hal Colebatch’s award winning book by Gary Vial. Perhaps a balance to Gary’s view/review might be provided by the review from John Birmingham in The Brisbane Times....Especially the section dealing with the apparently non-existent raid in New Britain! I’m not sure if the wharf incidents detailed by Gary appear in Colebatch’s book but they would on the face of it be quite dissimilar. Especially as the general public were very vocally and visibly opposed to our Vietnam involvement vis a vis the numerous large street marches in the main cities. Whereas the 2nd world war was a necessary evil to protect ourselves from invasion and subjugation

Below is an excerpt from Birmingham’s critique...

’Like the fiction award shared by Flanagan and Steve Carroll, the history section was also split; between Joan Beaumont for *Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War*, and Hal G.P. Colebatch for *Australia’s Secret War: How unionists sabotaged our troops in World War II*. It would be dreadfully unfair to Colebatch should some left-wing villain suggest he might have been better placed with Flanagan and Carroll in the category for, ahem, creative writing. His book is surely chockablock with stuff – like the Second World War – that did actually happen. It seems churlish of Mike Carlton to claim that Colebatch’s effort was a flawed and error-riddled, right-wing revisionist fantasy. Churlish and hurtful. Carlton, you will of course know as the winner of a NSW Premier’s Literary Award for *First Victory*, his magnificent history of the RAN in the Great War. Carlton was, however, also up against Colebatch for the dough, so he admittedly starts from behind. Hal could easily shoot down the critique of *Australia’s Secret War*, by answering a couple of curly ones that Carlton threw out. Why, for instance, did Colebatch claim “that a flight of 16 American Vultee Vengeance dive bombers returning from a raid on Rabaul crashed into the sea off New Britain because the radar station at their base on Green Island was not working”, the valves for the radar having been “stolen by wharfies”. The Americans, somewhat inconveniently, did not fly the Vultee Vengeance in combat and apparently have no record of the 16 missing dive bombers. It’s possible, I suppose, that the bloody wharfies stole them too.

Talking to Helen Razer at *The Daily Review*, the impressively credentialed and multiply gonged Professor Stuart Macintyre thought the choice of Beaumont’s book was obviously made with some care. And the choice of Hal? Tumlweeds. A coyote howls.

On the bold assertion that precious man hours were lost to strikes by vile union commies (presumably in league with Nazis, and possibly even Hydra and the Red Skull) the good professor found Mr Colebatch’s arguments to be “moonshine”. According to the National Archives, industrial accidents accounted for

more lost hours than strikes and damningly, workers in US and UK factories were more likely to take industrial action than their treacherous Aussie counterparts.

On the evidence, as opposed to the feel-pinions of Hal's publishers at Quadrant, it seems Australian factory workers in the Second World War were more likely to impede the march to victory by working too hard, ignoring the rudimentary occ health and safety regs of the day, and getting themselves injured and mangled in their machinery. The treasonous bastards!

I guess it's the old story that the truth depends on the perspective from which you look at it!  
As ever, thanks for an interesting Scheyvillian read! Regards and a Merry Christmas

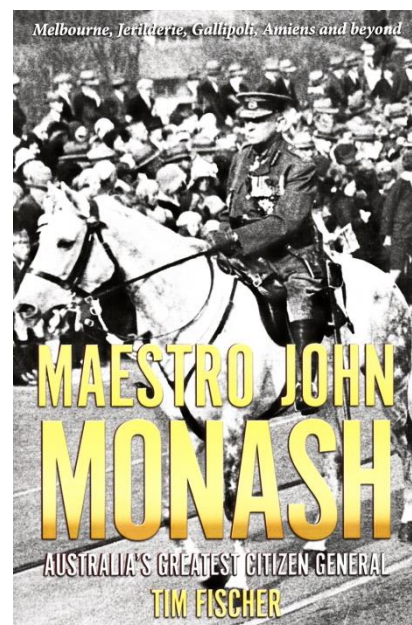
(For Hal it is two to one against here – Ed)

**Maestro John Monash, Australia's Greatest Citizen General** by Tim Fischer (3/66)

Reviewed and enjoyed immensely by: Owen Williamson (4/70), OTU  
Qld Chap - General Dog's Body.

This well researched book is an excellent examination of the contribution of Sir John Monash to the outcome of the Great War and the future of Australia. It details Monash's achievements as an excellent military strategist and planner, a consummate leader, the good and the bad including his extra marital affairs.

Tim Fischer, with his great passion, shows how Monash, despite being a Jew who could speak fluent German and of Prussian descent, could earn the respect of the AIF rank and file and overcome the prejudice and bigotry heaped upon him by influential peers. Tim's detailed research on all things Monash has led him to the fervent belief that Sir John Monash was, to put it in the vernacular, "Plainly duded" by the establishment when it came to his due recognition for his leadership and victories at the Western Front against the Hun. Billy Hughes, the then Prime Minister of Australia, CEW Bean and Keith Murdoch's anti-Semitic and tall poppy syndrome led them to criticise, belittle and back stab Monash about every one of his major achievements. It was up to foreign dignitaries and Allied Generals at the Western Front to provide praise and recognition that was so lacking from his own Government and countrymen.



It was said, "The ex-AIF members would have walked across hot coals for Monash." I can attest that this was true. My father told me on many occasions that he and ex members of the AIF who worked at the fledgling SEC (State Electricity Commission) of Victoria, thought that Sir John was the best boss they could ever have. He knew everyone by name and would not walk past them without making some acknowledgement of their presence.

This inspirational Australian leader is rightly given his due in this superbly documented book. The likeable but quirky little caricatures by Dominic combined with Tim's larrikin style of writing will always stir up robust debate on any subject that he holds dear to his heart. This book makes for an informative roller coaster ride through Monash's life. It is a compelling story to right another wrong against a true Australian National hero by the Australian Government of the day. This blatant mistake can and should be corrected. The members of the Defence Forces need due recognition for their sacrifices for their country and for past wrongs. This would help in a small way to restore the people's faith in Government.

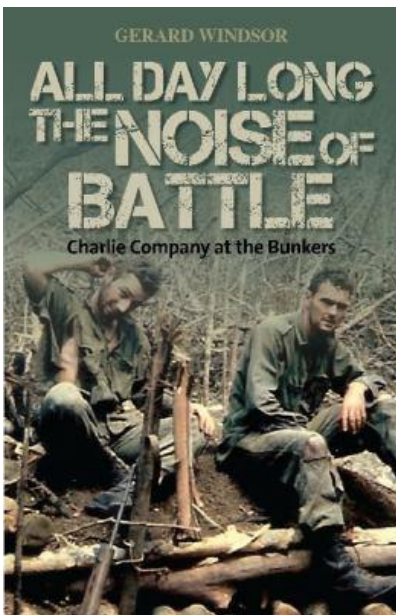
So please take the time to read Tim's latest book and make up your own mind. Tim would like you to know that half the net proceeds of the book go to the Monash Scholarship Foundation.

## **All Day Long The Noise Of Battle (Gerard Windsor)**

During the Tet Offensive in Vietnam in February 1968 an Australian infantry company assaulted a North Vietnamese bunker complex. In the longest sustained attack fought by Australians during the Vietnam War the soldiers went forward again and again over three days. Yet the battle passed without any notice in Australia at the time, and the men who fought it were further insulted by higher command's apparent failure to acknowledge what they had done. Above all decorations for their bravery seemed pitifully meagre. What happened? Why did these men fall through the net of our historical memory?

In answering these questions Gerard Windsor brings up into relief so many of the individual soldiers who went into this battle. *All Day Long the Noise of Battle* is a book about the strengths and problems of this group of men, their alliances and tensions, their relaxations and misbehaviour, their morale, their internal tensions, their reactions to combat, their stand-out characters and their leaders. And throughout, *All Day Long the Noise of Battle* becomes an essay on the nature of men's memory of battle.

On 25 May 1965 Australia's first battalion deployed to South Vietnam. 1 RAR was an all-volunteer battalion and deployed before National Service began on 30 Jun 1965 and served with the American forces at Bien Hoa. On the 1 Apr 1966, 5 RAR and 6 RAR deployed to, and set-up, the Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat. 2 RAR ANZAC replaced 5 RAR and 7 RAR replaced 6 RAR by 2 Mar 1968. On 12 December 1967 3 RAR joined 2 RAR and 7 RAR to bring the Task Force up to its full-strength of three battalions.



On 24 January 1968 2 RAR and 7 RAR were deployed outside the Australian Task Force area in Phuoc Tuy Province, on Operation Coburg, to cover the 'Tet' period where it was thought that an offensive from the north may have occurred.

Australian 'memory' of the fighting in the 'Tet' Offensive in 1968 is heavily influenced by US sources such as film. Yet Australian infantry and artillery units on the ground also played roles. Operation Coburg saw the men of C Company 7 RAR attack a North Vietnamese bunker complex. This was no fleeting contact in the jungle or a rain-obscured contact and rescue as at Long Tan, but a concentrated attack over three days. It was probably the longest attack by Australian troops during the Vietnam War. Yet the events were barely recorded in the media at the time and recognised little better by the military itself. The Australian deployment lasted until 1 Mar 1968. 7 RAR was deployed for that period except for a short break at Nui Dat from 9 – 13 February.

Windsor has written the book in such a way to give it a greater human dimension than may otherwise have been the case. This account should interest not just those with an interest in Australian military history, but also those with a broader interest in Australian history in general.

One member of 7 RAR who became quite well known in the Puckapunyal area in the early 1970s was Cpl Tommy 'Massa' Clarke. Born in Bordertown, S.A., on 21 Apr 1926, 'Massa' deployed to South Vietnam on 8 Apr 1967 and returned to Australia on 19 February 1968.

One serious, but at the same time humorous, story from Massa's time in Vietnam was related as Massa being the last man of a patrol scurrying back into the Task Force lines saying something to the effect that 'If anyone else is following me, shoot the bastard! He is not one of us!'

## **Mini-Reunion in Ballarat**

Membership Officer Graeme Chester (2/67) was at a Rotary conference in Ballarat over the weekend 14 – 16 March. He took the opportunity to stay with fellow 2/67 Colin Lindsay. The pair met up with Neil Leckie (3/68) for a Friday night dinner at one of Ballarat's many top-class eateries – Da Vinci's. A good night was had by all.



## EMAILS TO THE EDITOR (A small selection):

**From:** Andrew Martindale (1/72)      **Date:** 13 Feb 15      **Subject:** Bussellton Weekend  
Well done indeed that man (Jay McDaniell (3/69), and many thanks to both Jay and Maureen for a great effort, who even managed to entertain the Premier, no less, during the course of the weekend, in between sorties with the OTU contingent. Top effort by all of our hosts, who planned and executed a great exercise. Regards, Andrew and Cath

**From:** Max Almond to Frank LeFaucheur      **Date:** 19 Dec 14      **Subject:** The Almonds  
I am happy to inform you that your Mother, Grand Mother, Great grand Mother and friend, Yvonne Almond is coming home on leave from the hospital for this weekend. She has been there for two long and arduous months as a result a fall causing serious injuries to her hips. We all know what a fighter she has been and again has prevailed. We are taking this opportunity to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday tomorrow, and our 68<sup>th</sup> year of marriage on Sunday with our Family residing in WA and Friends. These celebrations Take place a few days early whilst she is on leave. If she has no adverse reactions to this, the Doctor will organise a formal discharge from the hospital and I will have my Darling home again so fingers crossed. We wish you all a very happy Xmas and may 2015 be healthy and prosperous to you and your loved ones. Finally may God bless you all. From Max Almond xxx

**From:** Mark Kovalevsky (3/72 DNG)      **Date:** 11 Dec 14      **Subject:** The Scheyvillian  
Wow ... that's a big production, don't know how you find the time! All the best for Christmas and the New Year. (Mark offered to write the article that was published in 3 of 2014. It was his first introduction to The Scheyvillian – Ed.)

## RMC MUSEUM (Neil Leckie 3/68)

During a recent visit to Canberra, your Editor/Memorabilia Officer visited the RMC Museum and met the new Curator of the museum, Army Reservist Major Geoff Lever, who is posted to the Army History Unit. Geoff advised that there are plans afoot to move the museum from the small room at the end of the RMC Library to a building approximately three times the floor space and closer to the front entrance. Unfortunately, this won't happen, but a room at the other end of the Library building is being made available, doubling the size of the Museum. The move will be partly completed by June 2015 when the OTU Members will be in Canberra for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. Geoff will ensure that the Museum is open on the afternoon of 30 June for OTU Members and guests to visit the new display.

## STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS:

**Queensland:** Owen Williamson (4/70) [olwilliamson@bigpond.com](mailto:olwilliamson@bigpond.com) or [WilliamsonO@AureconHatch.com](mailto:WilliamsonO@AureconHatch.com)  
Back-up: Stephanie Mauchlan (Mick Hart's secretary) [smauchlan@clearyhoare.com.au](mailto:smauchlan@clearyhoare.com.au)  
07 3230 5252 or Mick Hart [mhart@clearyhoare.com.au](mailto:mhart@clearyhoare.com.au)

### Monthly Luncheons: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month

**NSW:** John Bushell (4/69)      0400 136 517      [jb@shoehornconsulting.com.au](mailto:jb@shoehornconsulting.com.au)

### Monthly Luncheons 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ Greek Athenian Restaurant, in Barrack Street

**ACT:** Wal Hall (2/68)      02 6288 5251      0418 659 010      [walhall@ozemail.com.au](mailto:walhall@ozemail.com.au)  
Winston Bucknall (2/68)      0408 492 405      [wbnsec@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wbnsec@bigpond.net.au)

### Fri 19 December – Ladies Christmas Lunch – RCGC

**Victoria:** Frank Miller      0401 140 762      [millerfw@netspace.net.au](mailto:millerfw@netspace.net.au)  
Bernie Gleeson      0427 601 983      [berjungleeson@bigpond.com](mailto:berjungleeson@bigpond.com)

### Monthly Lunches, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

**Tasmania:** Dennis Townsend (2/70)      03 6247 3892      [det47@y7mail.com](mailto:det47@y7mail.com)  
Ray Williams (2/71)      [adaptbm@bigpond.net.au](mailto:adaptbm@bigpond.net.au)

### Quarterly lunches

**SA:** Gary Vial (3/69)      0414 762 525      [garyvial@ctmc.com.au](mailto:garyvial@ctmc.com.au)

### Advised through SA Contact List

**WA:** David Ward (2/66) State Chapter Chairman & Hon Treas 0417 927 146 [david.ward@taxhut.com.au](mailto:david.ward@taxhut.com.au)  
Frank LeFaucheur (1/71) Lunch Co-ordinator      08 9246 2666      [lefauche@inet.net.au](mailto:lefauche@inet.net.au)  
Jay McDaniell (3/69):      0438 959 050      [mcdaniell@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mcdaniell@ozemail.com.au)

**Quarterly lunches** on the first Friday of the month of February, May, August and November at The Romany Restaurant (cnr Lake & Aberdeen Streets in Northbridge). Parade time is 1300 hr. Warning-in is needed with bookings to be confirmed C of B on the Wednesday before via email to Frank LeFaucheur.

**UPDATE** In issues 1, 2 & 3 of 2014 The Scheyvillian featured Gordon Dowell's Personal Reflection on his NS. He dedicated his story to Alec Bell. Almost 50 years later Alec has been remembered in his home town.

VICTORIA Park (WA) raised Vietnam War conscript Alec Bell, who died on January 29, 1968 while on active service with the Australian Army when he was 21, has been recognised in the Town for his sacrifice and bravery. On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2-13 the Town of Victoria Park approved the renaming of Hampshire Reserve to Alec Bell Park. Fittingly, the decision came on the eve of the 48th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. A report by the council said the application met the criteria outlined in the Town's Commemorative Recognition Guidelines, including the fact that Private Bell was a longstanding member of the community, that letters of support had accompanied the nomination and that he was a nominee who had made a significant contribution through National Service. The recommendation of the Town's Culture and Local History Working Group said Private Bell's contribution – namely that he gave his life serving his country – was in keeping with the naming of a park, especially Hampshire Reserve, on the corner of Berwick and Hampshire streets, which had been named purely based on its location.

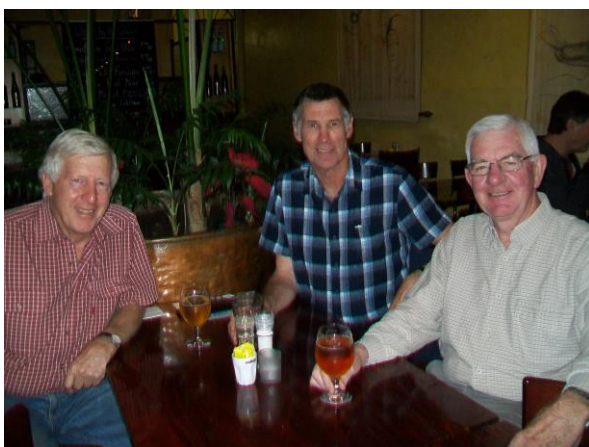
For applicant and fellow National Serviceman Neville Browne, who went to school with Alec Bell in Victoria Park, having his mate recognised formally in the town was the culmination of lobbying over several years. Mr Browne, who served in Papua New Guinea in 1967 as part of the Indonesian Conflict, said he shared the good news with Sgt Tom Bourke from Private Bell's Seventh Battalion Association. "He said news of the park's renaming was tremendous and that Alec was an outstanding soldier worthy of recognition," Mr Browne said. The park was dedicated on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Sgt Bourke praised Private Bell for his conduct in Vietnam, saying his efforts to help fellow wounded soldiers after being seriously injured by a rocket-propelled grenade was the bravest thing he saw during the conflict. In April 2013, Mr Browne wrote to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeal Tribunal to appeal for posthumous bravery recognition for Private Bell and the matter has been referred to the Chief of Army.

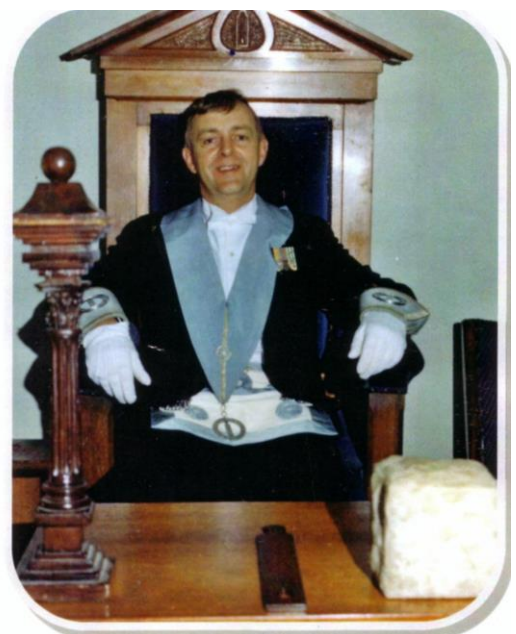
Private Bell was one of three young national servicemen from Victoria Park who died in Vietnam. A plaque recognising Private Bell, Lance Corporal Paul van Rijsewijk (3 RAR) and Private Christopher Roost (4 RAR) is now on a plaque at the Carlisle Memorial Hall thanks to the efforts of Mr Browne.



### ODD SHOTS



**Left:** Colin Lindsay (2/67), Neil Leckie (3/68) & Graeme Chester (2/67) at dinner in Ballarat  
**Right:** Lyle Reginald Brown, Mason, 29 June 1954 – 13 Feb 2015





# OTU ASSOCIATION

## 2014/15 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Website: [www.otu.asn.au](http://www.otu.asn.au)

<b>INVOICE</b>		<b>Please return by NLT 30 April 2015</b>	
ABN 26 390 124 006		Cheques payable to OTU Association	
MAIL TO: Treasurer OTU Association PO Box 540 BLACK ROCK VIC 3193		<b>Annual Subscription</b> July 2014 to June 2015	<b>\$50.00</b>
CONTACT: (03) 9533 1810 rayelder45@gmail.com		<b>Donation to Youth Leadership Development</b> Total Cheque/Cash Enclosed <i>(For Direct Debit payment see below and please remember to update our database or return this form so that your contact details can be confirmed)</i>	\$ _____ \$ _____
<b>MEMBERSHIP DETAILS UPDATE</b>			
<b>Personal Details:</b>		<b>I Have Retired</b> Yes / No	
Title/Rank:		<b>Work Details (If Applicable):</b>	
First Names:		Position:	
Last Name:		Organisation:	
Wife/Partner:		Industry:	
Address:		Address:	
Town/Suburb:		Town/Suburb:	Postcode:
State:	Postcode:	Work Phone:	
Home Phone:		Work Fax:	
Personal Mobile:		Work Mobile:	
Personal Email:		Work Email:	
Personal Web Address:		Work Website:	
Class:		Any Comments:	
Corps:			
Regimental No:			
Awards:			
I am a new member: <input type="checkbox"/>		I am no longer interested.	<i>(Please Indicate)</i>
I am a continuing member: <input type="checkbox"/>		Please delete me from the database: <input type="checkbox"/>	
For Office Use:		You will need to know the following information to pay your Membership using Direct Debit: <b>Bank</b> – National, <b>BSB</b> – 083 298, <b>Account No.</b> 56-687-0611, <b>Reference</b> – Surname and/or Regt No.	

### Membership Drive

Please list details below of those who shared the Scheyville experience who you think **may not be current financial members** of the OTU Association. We will check against current membership lists and follow up non-members.

	NAME	CLASS	ADDRESS	EMAIL	PHONE NO
1					
2					
3					

Commemorating  
**50** Years



## 50th Anniversary 1965—1972

# Second Era National Service Scheme

June 30, 2015 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the commencement of the second (1965-1072) Australian National Service Scheme.

Half a century ago, the first of the 63,735 young men called up for two years (later reduced to 18 months) service in the Regular Army marched into Recruit Training at Kapooka, Puckapunyal and later Singleton. Of these, 150 served in Borneo and 15,381 in Vietnam. 212 made the Ultimate Sacrifice.

The era was most significant in Australian military history with the war in Vietnam and the rapid escalation in the size of the Australian Army.

Although not part of their original life plan, most regarded their time in the Service favourably.

It is proper that this milestone be appropriately acknowledged. Accordingly, the National Servicemen's Association of Australia, in conjunction with the O.T.U. Association is planning a ceremony to pay the occasion the recognition it deserves.

A commemorative service is to be held at the National Service Memorial in Canberra, ACT at 1000 hours on June 30, 2015. It will take the form of a march from the National War Memorial to the site followed by the service itself.

His Excellency, The Governor General of Australia, General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC, has been invited as Guest of Honour.

We would ask that you make your members aware of this significant Commemoration and encourage as many as possible to attend. It will be a worthy celebration of this important part in the lives of so many of your members.

In addition, it provides the opportunity for units of old to hold reunions around the time.

For any further enquiries or further details, please contact the email/postal addresses or telephone numbers given below.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours faithfully,

**Frank Miller**  
OFFICER TRAINING UNIT (O.T.U.)  
ASSOCIATION

**Earle Jennings AM RFD ED**  
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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