



The Scheyvillian

Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee

OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 2, 2015

Officer Training Unit, Scheyville NSW 1965-1973
A newsletter for all Scheyvillians



50th Anniversary of NS, Canberra, 30th June 2015



Class 1/65 50th Reunion 'Primordials' Attendees Brisbane, 4th July 2015

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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 Graduation photographs, there are still no photographs of OCS Portsea classes.

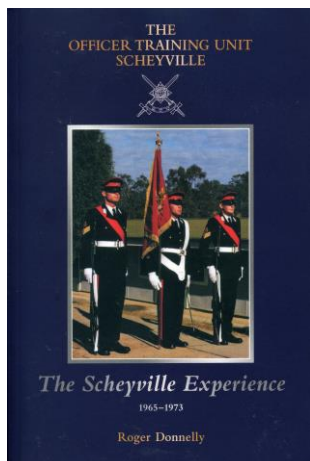
There is now a set of photographs for each class held at the RMC Museum (telephone the RMC Ops Branch for an appointment). The aim is to have at least 40 photographs for each class. The above classes are well short of that number. There must be photographs out there!

Scheyvillians are encouraged to look at the Website and see what is held and check if you have anything that may compliment what 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.

THE SCHEYVILLIAN NEXT EDITION DUE OUT December 2015: It is planned to have Edition 3 of 2015 of *The Scheyvillian* in early December. Submissions need to be received by 15 November 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 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 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!



THE SCHEYVILLE EXPERIENCE – REPRINTS AVAILABLE

For those who missed the launch of the 'The Scheyville Experience' some years ago, 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. www.otu.asn.au

NEW WEBSITE (Webmaster Roger Nation 3/68): **WEBSITE 101**

The original OTU website was set up in 2002 when most computers were desktops with 4:3 cathode- ray monitors. The site was revamped about 5 years ago, but used the same underlying framework, which did not display properly on many current devices. Last year we were advised that our version of the base program would no longer be supported for security updates, and with the plethora of devices on which the website could be viewed (phones, tablets etc), the National Committee agreed to a major upgrade. WordPress was chosen as the backbone of the new site. Originally developed 10 years ago as a blogging platform, it is now used by over 60 million bloggers worldwide. WordPress has evolved into a versatile Content Management System, to the point where nearly 23% of all websites are now WordPress based.

Being ‘open-source’ (free) means that programmers the world over can develop templates and add-ins and post them on the web. At present count there are over 2,600+ possible templates from which to choose, and more than 31,000 free plug-ins available to customise any site. With such a large user base, updates are constantly being produced for security purposes, and to ensure that any website can be viewed on any device. Smart Watch anyone?

While computer technology moves so fast, making predictions can be hazardous, however I believe that this website should outlast the existence of The Association.

Access: The internet address of the OTU Association remains the same: www.otu.asn.au
Entering this into the address bar of your browser will take you to the Public Home page.

TIP: Stop the music by clicking anywhere on the marching video, or click on a destination button.

This is the page than anyone, public or members can see, and differs from the Members Home page, in that only certain articles are available for scrutiny. The main menu bar has three choices:

- [OTU ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA](#).....
contains Chairman’s welcome letter detailing the aims of The Association;
- [HISTORY/AIMS/EXPERIENCE](#).....
self-explanatory;
- [NATIONAL EXECUTIVE AND STATE CHAIRMAN](#).....
provides contact details of the office bearers.

The [DONATE TO OTU](#) button allows you or a member of the public to donate to Youth Leadership, using the secure PayPal credit card facility.

In the top right hand corner is another menu bar:



[HOME](#) returns you to the home page from any of the sub menus;

[CONTACT](#) provides contact to The Association: e-mail links and postal addresses of office bearers.

[SIGN INTO OTU WEBSITE](#) is the member’s gateway to the restricted site;

Use your surname and regimental number as on the previous site.

For those with failing memories, use the [CONTACT](#) form to seek assistance from the webmaster.

After clicking [LOG IN](#) you are taken back to the Home Page, this time with a much broader choice of information and full member’s access.



This symbol takes you to the Q Store.

TIP: Scroll down the page to see: Mug shots of The Association’s Most Wanted;
Words of wisdom from Ray Elder; Advertisements;
And the latest News, and Latest Obituaries.

After LOGGING IN the top right hand menu now contains:



Click on any of these icons to use the features.

Further information on using the Website can be obtained:

<http://www.otu.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/WEBSITE-1013.pdf>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT as at 30th June 2015 Graeme Chester

Membership renewal requests should have been received by all on our email list.

Number of Graduates	1880			
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	1656			
Number Financial		460	(The target membership is 500)	
Number Honorary		25		
Widows		8		
Number Deceased			136	
Number Un-financial (Not Renewed)			870	
Number Un-financial (Do Not Contact)			152	
Totals	1880	1656	493	1163

Percentages:

Of the names on database 29.7% are financial/honorary/widow.

Of the names on the database 8.2% are deceased.

Of the names on the database 52.6% are un-financial (not renewed).

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

At the end of last financial year our **493** financial members was slightly down on the **498** at the same time last year. Sadly, 8 of our number passed on during the year but 18 new members came out of the woodwork and were added to our database.

Currently, we have 280 financial members for 2015/16 which is not bad given a few teething problems we had with the new website payment system. If you wish to renew for 2015/16, a Membership Renewal form is attached to this newsletter or, should you wish, you could renew using PayPal via our website. Renewal by **31 August 2015** would be appreciated.

If you are uncertain whether or not you are financial, you can check via the website. Just enter the website and click on '**Membership Renewal**' on the Home Page.

Regarding the website, did you know you can update your Profile Page in our Database. Simply go into '**Profile**' on the home page and update your information. Don't forget to click on the '**Update**' button (bottom left of page) to ensure the Database is changed. Keeping our Database updated and accurate will greatly assist classes when organising future reunions.



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING 30th May 2015

The annual OTU National Council was held on Saturday following the Victorian Chapter's Annual Dinner. It was good to see all Chapters represented. The meeting discussed many issues relevant to the association and its future and also confirmed details of the upcoming 50th Anniversary in Canberra.

Left: some of the council attendees after the meeting at 'The Heroes Club' in Toorak.

THE FIRST BALLOT – 1965 (from Laurie Muller 1/65)

The first Australian National Service Ballot was drawn on 10 March 1965 at the Melbourne headquarters of Tattersalls. A lottery barrel was used for the draw. A predetermined number of marbles were drawn randomly by hand, one at a time. One hundred and eighty one marbles were placed in the first ballot barrel and ninety six were drawn out. The dates drawn out were:

January 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,21,23,27&28.

February 1,2,4,5,6,9,12,14,16,17,19,20,21,23,24,25&26.

March 2,3,5,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,17,18,20,24,26,27,28,29,&30.

April 1,3,4,6,7,8,11,13,14,19,20,21,22,23,26,&29

May 1,2,4,5,8,9,12,14,19,22,23,26,&30.

June 2,6,7,8,9,10,12,14,15,17,20,21,25,26,&29.



Two birthday draws per year were held – 1 January to 30 June and 1 July to 31 December. The dates drawn were kept secret to discourage avoidance of call up.

Between 1965 and 1972 there were 804,286 registered. 237,048 balloted in, 63,735 conscripted and 18,654 served in Vietnam. Each draw identified approximately 4,200 men, with the objective of 8,400 men per year. Approximately 5% of each intake was identified as potential officers.

A Snapshot of 1/65.

The first class at OTU Scheyville was made up of 98 national Servicemen and 8 Air Cadets. A total of 76 graduated made up of 69 National Servicemen and 7 Air Cadets. From a pool of approximately 4,200 conscripted from the first ballot, 98 were selected for the initial march in to Scheyville on 17 July 1965. That's 2.3% of the intake, which it is fair to say makes the group a bit special.

Of the 98 National Servicemen 70 graduated (including 1 back-squadded to 2/65 due to injury). That's a success/failure rate of 71/ 29%. Only one Air Cadet failed. The 70 graduates represent 1.7% of the first intake of 4,200.

Of the 70 graduates 17% came from Qld, 24% from NSW, 30% from Vic, 10% from WA, 9% from SA, 6% from TAS and 4% from ACT. Religious orientation was 42% CoE, 30% Prot, 27% RC and 1% Jewish. Corps allocation was: RA Inf 46, RAAOC 8, RAA 7, RAAC 7, RAASC 6 and RAE 3 (note: transfers to AAAvn came on successful completion of flying training).

As at July 2015 the *In Memoriam* list consists of seventeen names.

nil bastardum carborundum



NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

50th Anniversary Second National Service Scheme – Canberra 30 June 2015



In recent times Canberra's weather has had a lot of negative temperatures at the start of the day and this thought was too much for some, but the hardy souls among the NSAA and OTU members fronted for the 50th Anniversary of the Second National Service Scheme on Tuesday 30th June 2015. By 9am the temperature was +2° and would only get better. In fact, the sun came out during the service and warmed all those not sitting in the shade of the only tree on the site!

Hard to estimate, but around 300 men from both associations formed up on the western

approach to the Australian War Memorial. At the appropriate time the gathering was called to order and marched to the National Servicemen's Memorial on the eastern side of the AWM. One of the few hiccups for the day when no Army 'Red Hat' appeared to take the salute on the AWM steps, so our own Maj Gen Paul Irving (Ret'd) stepped up and took on that role. Another small hiccup was when the RMC Band was

withdrawn from the parade and a civilian band found at short notice.

Unfortunately the band was not a marching band and the choice of music was not the best to march to.

Nevertheless, the parade marched across the front of the AWM, an 'Eye's left' was given and all arrived in the right place at the right time.

The service began with the arrival of a friend of OTU, the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove. The Director of the



AWM, Dr Brendan Nelson welcomed all and introduced the GG for the Commemorative Address. During his speech Sir Peter (above) in referring to his time in Vietnam said that some time after taking over as a replacement Platoon Commander he asked one of his Corporals how many of the platoon were Nashos. The Corporal responded 'About half, including me!' Sir Peter had nothing but praise for Nashos and OTU Graduates.

OTU National Chairman Frank Miller (4/67) (right, with the GG) was the next speaker and spoke about some of the statistics involved in our NS Scheme. After Prayers from Nasho Senior Pastor Wayne Lyons (Vietnam Jul 70 – Jul 71) and a hymn,





Floral Tributes were laid. Nasho John Blackett recited ‘The Ode’ then one of the Band played the Last Post and The Rouse. Following the National Anthem and the Benediction, OTU Graduate Tim Fischer spoke, reflecting on his time and involvement with National Service. NSAA President Major Earl Jennings (Ret’d) thanked all for their attendance and farewelled the gathering.

Left: Earle Jennings (NSAA) and Frank Miller (4/67) at the lunch.

Lunch was organized at the Ainslie Aussie Rules Football Club, a few minutes’ drive from the AWM. Numbers were a bit of a guess but eventually all in attendance were fed plenty of hot finger food. Frank and Earle again took centre stage and had some words of thanks for the organisers of the day.

Photographs from the 50th Anniversary March and Service in Canberra on 30th Jun 2015 are available at:

Tony Sonneveld’s facebook collection:

OTU - 50th Nasho Anniversary photos Facebook album link:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152923412862927.1073741954.617862926&type=1&l=b80b85a51b>

The AWM Collection:

www.flickr.com/australianwarmemorial select Albums - 50th Anniversary of NS

OTU Dinner, Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla

The OTU Association held a dinner at the Royal Canberra Golf Club at Yarralumla. The club backs on to the Governor-General’s residence at Yarralumla. Around 130 were in attendance. Canberra’s Wal Hall (2/68) did an excellent job as MC. Frank Miller and Tim Fischer gave excellent speeches with Tim regaling stories of his time as a Nasho, a Parliamentarian, his passion for train travel and as Ambassador to the Holy See to name just a few areas covered. A big thank-you to Wal Hall (2/68) and his ACT Chapter for their work in setting up the night!





Left: A number of Scheyvillians giving a hearty rendition of the OTU Song. Below: attendees listen intently to Tim Fischer's speech.



During the dinner Brian Cooper (3/69) read part of a letter from Ex OTU CI/CO Dick Flint who was unable to attend the service or dinner. The full letter follows.



I am truly sorry not to be with you tonight. It would have been a pleasure to meet with the lads from 3/69 to 2/71 and also from the other classes. Your time at Scheyville was different from the normal run of life and there will be varying memories and recollection of events from all of you. Some will be pleasant but the majority will describe various uncomfortable things that happened. Of course, you will expect me to say that they were all for a purpose and I suppose they were. Those of you who experienced moments, even periods of intense concern, will look back on some of those pressure situations and recall that even though you were made uncomfortable, that when later in life something real happened, your reflexes chimed in and you took it in your stride easily.

Left: CI Dick Flint

If I can add to the events of tonight, I would like to tell you of things that you could not have known at the time. You had enough on your plate and if you did hear of them you would not have cared a jot. First, let me talk about the quality of the instructors. Those of you who were early in the piece had hand-picked staff. Colonel Geddes had first pick at the Military Secretary office and was able to choose from the best available. Some of the early staff went on to make general rank. Most advanced to high rank. In the non-commissioned staff, the Directorate of Personnel Employment threw its doors open and even men recently reposted to a new job were plucked out to meet his need. The Corps Directorates produced panels of known high quality instructors for Geddes to have his choice. "Bat Moon" was known to the School of Infantry as one of their finest leaders. I knew him in 1963 when he did a Warrant Officers' Refresher Course and then he was retained for a few weeks while the Drill Manual was being revised. He was a real asset. The "weaponies" were also the best available. The needs of the battalion being prepared for service in Vietnam were the only competitor for Geddes's manning challenges.

As the Vietnam War progressed and the pool of the best instructors diminished so did the second and third commandant's manning problems become more difficult. The willingness of those chosen was never questioned but they had their problems. For example, a manager in an Ordnance Depot suddenly became the Senior Instructor in the Military Arts Wing. His skill as an instructor did not match his expertise in warehousing. Another young technical signals expert was asked to teach map reading and at the same time teach communications. The three Captains in Advanced Training Wing had not long come home from Vietnam where they had been combat weary Platoon Commanders suddenly asked to be expert in

un-conventional warfare theory. The next RSM had been the RSM of 4 Field Regiment during the period between Long Tan and the Tet Offensive. His duties there were several and various and quite different than to be the Master of Drill and Ceremonial. Everybody got on with the job and I bet you didn't notice.

As for me, although I had experience in the first National Service Scheme in Recruit Training and at the School of Infantry as a small arms and heavy weapons instructor, the intervening years between 1963 and 1969 were in staff appointments in operational headquarters. As a senior Major attending the TAC 5 examination at Canungra, I topped the course and as a reward for long hours of study trying to catch up with the youngsters, was immediately promoted and just beat 4/69 through the gate - they to learn to be second lieutenants and me to learn how to be a lieutenant colonel. To this day I don't know who won.

Looking back on my nine intakes, I can now say that I was only half a Chief Instructor while the other half was an instructor of instructors. The Commandant insisted on top quality instruction and he spent time wandering around the lecture rooms listening to the instructors. The result of his day's work was relayed to me after the day was done. I got reports of the deficiencies of this warrant officer or that sergeant who was teaching poorly. "Fix it Dick" came too often. As it turned out this was probably a good team effort. Had I have been the observer of poor instruction and having to fix the problem too, it would have been time impossible. As it turned out, he was a good critic but probably not as good as me to train instructors. Colonel Studdert was a technical wizard. He attended the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, UK, and did so well that they asked for him to stay on in the staff. While he was there, he was able to take a degree in Engineering at Liverpool and some post graduate stuff at Manchester. On return from his lengthy stay in UK he was posted to the Master General of Ordnance Branch (later to be called Materiel Branch) in The Directorate of Materiel Policy. He was a true 'boffin' with a clear analytical mind and a problem solver. There was a break in his service when he was given command of 4 Field Regiment at Wacol for a short period but returned as the DMP, a job in which he stayed until the MS decided that he should have a another command to be the third Commandant of 1 OTU.

Early Intakes experienced some activities that were eventually discontinued or modified. Take the "Buddy Rating". After a period of time the class was invited to grade their fellow cadets. Basically the theme was 'Who is the best cadet and rate the rest in your order as potential officers?' The question varied over the next three years. But argument among the staff strengthened and it was dropped. Few mourned its passing. The assessment system kept going for longer but it had many faults. Firstly, I complained that my voting weight was the same as a muscle bound bombardier PTI. Secondly, all scores were weighted evenly without due regard to active service importance. Potential leadership rated the same as the Cadets' skill in conducting odd admin stuff, important as it might be, but most staff deemed it clerk stuff. The most important fault was the effort put into the daily grading required. Most instructors were hard pressed to keep up the standard and in big classes, the lesson was taught more than once and preparation took a lot of time, so time to mark up the daily rating of everybody seen was very much at a premium. Short cuts were frequent and the Commandant raged that inaccuracy was rife. He was right! Instructors were required to mark as many cadets as they could, failure to meet an acceptable number was noticed, so many staff marked the cadet as average rather than either negatively or positively because if you went either way and couldn't justify it at the Board of Studies, you got a growl.

Toward the end of my time one of my smart young Captains came to me and with one hand dropped the two inch thick computer print-out provided by IBM and then a single sheet of graph. He had written a program that gave me magnificent information. On it he had plotted every exam, test, TOET result, performance in class and field exercises. It had a wavy red line down the centre. If the cadet had done well all the boxes right of the line were good. The left ones were the weaknesses. This gave the Guidance Officers something real to talk about and finally the means to aid decisions in the final Board deliberation.

The 10 day exercise was really the final test. But I thought it was not good enough. I got the head shed together and copied the JTC Tac 5 system. It had six problems and six stands. Each cadet queued through

and eventually presented a solution to all senior men of the staff. The result was that the seniors actually assessed every man on the course. The problems were a complete cover of the essential elements of platoon commander skills plus a competent idea what the company commander did in case he had to take over in an emergency. The Board of Studies made a valid decision with no guesswork or favouritism. It was probably the only argument I won against the Commandant in my time there.

Let me get on to something that has bothered me over the years. Some of you may know that I have been invited to regular bi-monthly lunches in Brisbane and that I have also been to the 'black-tie' dinners at the USC. On those many occasions, during conversation in a group, the question was asked "How come Cadet 'so and so' never graduated" Mind boggling conversation continued on the question until I patiently explained that he just never made the grade in exams and was assessed negatively. The Board of Studies had determined that he would not be a suitable person to command men. In some cases, later events in their lives proved this assessment wrong. But on the day, I explained, that at that time he was deemed unsuitable because when it got right down to the wire, he just didn't have motivation to study, to absorb instruction. His heart was not in it. Later life in another sphere he performed differently because he wanted to do whatever it was.

Another thing, there is a general perception that we as Instructors did our level best to fail cadets. The syndrome of "Them and Us" was universally accepted. Nothing could be further from the truth. Let me tell you what went on. A few days before the Graduation Day and after the Board of Studies had deliberated, the Commandant would sit down and write the After Action Report direct to the (then) CGS. Sometimes even before Grad the CGS would respond, usually explosively. "John, this is not nearly good enough, I have given you about 100 young men who are the cream of their cohort. The Medics, Psychs and Recruiters have given you fit, healthy, sane, law abiding highly intelligent men. All are OIR5 (Officer Intelligence Rating) sometimes a higher level than the candidates for RMC or OCS. John, there is no reason that the men I have given you cannot fly through the course. It is not 'rocket science'. All you have to do is polish them up a bit, teach them to salute and clean their brass. They are smart young men and their new Commanding Officers can teach them what they need to know. John! I need more officers. Every unit has vacancies. You better do better next time or you will be the next Range Control Officer in Maralinga. Get on with it"

Within seconds the Staff Captain 'A' would be oiling his way to my door. "Sir, the Commandant wants you now!" I put my cap on, I knew what was coming. I was never invited to sit down, He started right in without a 'good morning'. "Flint" (he always called me 'Flint') you are going to have to smarten up your Instructors. You are going to have to work much harder to get better results. It is not good enough. We must pass many more" He paused to get his breath. Then again "but, the standard must not lower. Only the highest standards must apply. You just have to get better with the instruction techniques. I want some better results or you will be the next Area Commander at Greenbank. Get on with it"

I was a bit grumpy when I returned to my desk to a pile of Final Reports waiting to be written. The phone rang. It was the MS himself. I knew Blanc White pretty well when he was in DMT. I wasn't ready for the explosion. "Flint" (he also always called me 'Flint') how the bloody hell can I man the bloody Army if you don't get off your arse and give me what I expect to get from Scheyville. RMC and OCS can't fill the vacancies. It's up to you. If you think you have a future in this army, I better get some more officers next intake, or you will be counting boots at Gaythorne Depot. Get on with it"

So help me, no sooner had I put the phone down when it rang again. "What now?" I thought. It was the Director of Infantry. Dick (he always called me Dick, he was my company commander in Vanimo NG) "Maaate. How are you, you old bugger. Maaate I need your help urgently. I have a battalion coming home from Vietnam with eight time expired Nashos. And that's not all, the battalion next to go has two vacancies already and 7 RAR commanded by Ron Grey is filling up and is four short. Maaate! I need fourteen more infantry graduates. This intake hasn't graduated yet have they? Have another look at the Grad List see if you can pick up a few more Grunts. I see there are sixteen on the list already, change a few more and pick goodies mate, Studdert won't look at the list again. I need a favour old buddy. Oh, and

by the way, remember I am on the Promotion and Selection Board and I can easily arrange for you to be the next Deputy Commander at Singleton. You are supposed to be good with recruits. Love to Lyndall. Best of luck!"

Gentlemen I wanted you to all pass, the staff wanted you all to pass because I was having conversations with them too. The myth that the staff was hell bent on failing cadets was a pipe dream some disgruntled Cadet dreamed up because I was rude to him somewhere.

I guess the rest is history. But, you will be sorry to know that all the computer files and records of Scheyville were stored for a while in Eastern Command but when Training Command emerged, from the ARPS study done by General Hasset, they were all destroyed. All those techniques of 'fast learning' and the shortcuts we introduced to eliminate useless information and padding have been lost forever. DMT couldn't have cared less. They were locked into their doctrine and since they didn't invent it, it had to be wrong. JTC (then changed to Land Warfare Centre) didn't want it because they didn't invent it. You might know that I went to RMC as the Lt Col Admin after Scheyville and when I described OTU stuff to the Director of Military Art, all I got was a short snort and a gruff reply "We don't do that kind of stuff here. We have been training officers since 1911, we know what we are doing!" So gentlemen, as far as the Army is concerned Scheyville didn't happen. When I was the Director General of Army Training much later I tried a couple of times to convince GOC Training Command that OTU had some good techniques, but both of the men who were there during my term were 'old school' and couldn't be convinced. Pity about that!

So gentlemen, fifty years has gone by with the last intake seven or so years less. I learned a lot while I was there and I am sure you did too. It was a hard grind, as demanding as my time at the School of Infantry. Scheyville wasn't the toughest course ever run by the Army. SAS is tougher and the 'Battle Efficiency Course' at Battle Wing JTC was more physically demanding, but it might have been the cause for your memory buds to get excited sometimes. Keep the Association going I wish you well.

We said to you "I can and I will!" **YOU DID AND YOU ALWAYS CAN** Good onya! Dick Flint

17561 Richard Seaton Flint born 19 Sep 1928 (details until 1971)

25 Aug 1952	Lt 2/14 QMI		
22 Dec 1952	RAAC (RASR) 11 NS Trg Bn	2 Jul 1955	Australian Staff Corps
30 Mar 1957	PIR Adjt	6 Jan 1958 – 1 Jul 1959	T/Capt
2 Aug 1959	PIR	2 Jul 1959	Capt ASC
22 Aug 1961	Attached US Army (Interchange Offr)		
19 Nov 1962	Inf Centre	16 Jan 1964 – 1 Jul 1965	T/Maj
26 Jan 1965	Attend No. 19 Course RAAF Staff College	2 Jul 1965	Maj ASC
17 Jan 1966	SO2 D Inf		
10 Oct 1967 – 14 Aug 1968	GSO2 (A & Psy Ops) HQ AFV		
24 Sep 1968	GSO2 DMO & P AHQ	13 Oct 1969	T/Lt Col
20 Oct 1969	CI 1 OTU	31 Aug 1970	Lt Col ASC
17 May 1971	Lt Col I/C Admin RMC Duntroon		

Visit to RMC Duntroon

Between lunch and dinner on Tuesday over 40 Scheyvillians and Guests visited RMC Duntroon. They were met by Major Geoff Leaver from the Army History Unit who has been posted as Manager of the RMC Museum. The museum is the repository for the history of all Australian Army Officer Training establishments: Duntroon, Portsea, Scheyville and George's Heights (WRAAC). Geoff gave the group a run-down on the current situation with the museum and the plans for revamping it.

Geoff wants the museum to concentrate more on what Graduates did post-officer training rather than be a collection of uniforms of Generals who many years earlier had graduated from Duntroon. The layout will be on a timeline basis.



Above: Major Geoff Leaver (AHU) and National Chairman Frank Miller (4/67)



The group moved to the Cadet's Mess, passing to pause and reflect at the memorial for the Scheyville Graduates who died on active service while in Vietnam. In the Cadet's Mess hang the two Honour Boards for the recipients of the Governor-Generals Award for the Cadet graduating first in the class and the Sword of Honour presented by the Military Board to the Cadet showing exemplary conduct and performance of duty. Later in an ante-room, photo boards were looked at showing officers who had died on active service, including Scheyvillians. Above right, Max Gaylard is seen in front of the board showing his name as the Sword of Honour recipient for Class 3/68.

Casey's Bar in the mess displays an OTU Badge.



From the mess the group then visited the RMC Museum and viewed the OTU memorabilia and the rest of the museum. The RMC visit was completed with a visit to the RMC Chapel to view the 1967 presented Governor-General's Banner.



Some Emails following the Canberra Reunion:

From: Peter Hateley (2/71) **Date:** 2 Jul 15 **Subject:** 50th Anniversary
 Hi Guys, the 50th Anniversary of National Service made it to Seven News that evening. Two fine OTU Graduates feature at the link and at the end of the news article (Wayne Bruce and yours truly). Of course Time is featured a number of times.

The link is: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/nsw/video/watch/28621638/soldiers-remember-national-service-on-anniversary/#page1>

Thanks to Frank, Brian and all on the committee for a job well done! Now back to catch up on the outstanding calls. Cheers, Peter Hateley 2/71

From: David Underdown (2/70) **Date:** 3 Jul 15 **Subject:** 50th Anniversary
Afternoon all, hard to follow up on the accolades, Facebook photos and Channel 7 news coverage. Just wanted to throw in my humble thanks for the tremendous effort put in by the organizers, and also greetings to the OTU survivors who I met for the first time, or caught up with from my class 2/70 and the ex AAAn bunch especially Bernie Gleeson, (long 40+ years mate), Roger Dundas and Peter Vincent. Cheers and may we all survive to meet again in the not too distant future. Dave Underdown

From: Nick Israel (2/70) **Date:** 3 Jul 15 **Subject:** 50th Anniversary
Dear All, now back in God's own paradise ☺ after an 11 hour drive from Mittagong and had lots of time to reflect on the event, and I totally agree with the positive commentaries that the Reunion was well coordinated and executed by those involved with Frank Miller's leadership; thank you and I echo Dave Underdown's suggestion for another event say in 5 years which by the energy exuded by all of the OTU mob we should still be in good form to convene again. Great to reconnect with some not seen in 45 years..... Best, Nick

From: Stan Beaman (1/72) **Date:** 4 Jul 15 **Subject:** 50th Anniversary
Here's my HERE! HERE! to David's accolades. Many thanks to the organisers and their hours and hours of hard work, including negotiations with the AWM and others. Kind regards, Stanley Beaman (Lee)

From: Peter Vincent (2/66) **Date:** 4 Jul 15 **Subject:** 50th Anniversary
Well done to all who put this great event together. 55th sounds good to me, maybe a slightly warmer location? Peter Vincent

Class Reunions

A number of classes took the opportunity to hold their own mini-reunions in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary. One such reunion was Classes 2/68 and 3/68 who met at a Thai Restaurant in Griffith on Monday 29th June. 2/68 was represented by Canberrans Wal Hall and Winston Bucknall. 3/68 was



represented by 2/68 Repeats Wayne Mayo, Barry Anderson and Neil Leckie, along with Phil Marley and Max Gaylard who had recently returned to Australia. Graeme Chester was staying with Winston and also attended, along with Malcolm Kennedy (a DS from May 67 – Jan 69) a long-time friend of Winston. A great time was had by all catching up and hearing about life on the other side as a DS at OTU.

Left: 2/68 Classmates Barry Anderson, Winston Bucknall, Wayne Mayo, Neil Leckie and Wal Hall.



Left above: Max Gaylard, Phil Marley, Neil Leckie, Barry Anderson and Wayne Mayo.

Right: Graeme Chester (2/67), Madhuri Gaylard, Mandy Anderson, Marg Goodwin and Mal Kennedy (DS)

Class 1/65 Reunion *The Reunion of the Primordials*. 3-5 July 2015

The 50th Anniversary Reunion held in Brisbane during 3-5 July was nearly 50 years to the day we “primordials” stepped of the buses and onto the parade ground at OTU Scheyville on 17 July 1965. For most of the blokes it was 50 years since we had seen each other and whilst there was the occasional second look to confirm who was who, the conversations resumed as though it was yesterday.

Courtesy of former Colour Sergeant Harry Neesham we recovered an original roll call of the march in to Scheyville on 17 July 1965. There were 106 of us, made up of 98 National Servicemen all 20 years of age and 8 air cadets. Out of that mix, 70 national servicemen graduated (including Gordon Hurford in 2/65 because of injury) plus 7 Air Cadets. In tracking down the 1/65's we located 50 of us still on the planet, 17 who had passed on and 10 still unaccounted for, but not forgotten. An impressive contingent of 39 of us, plus partners made it to Brisbane for three sparkling days of celebration. And celebrate we did.

Day One was a fantastic “meet and greet” at the famous old The Regatta Hotel on Coronation Drive, overlooking the Brisbane River. Some 65 graduates, partners, former staff and select guests disembarked



from *CityCat* river ferry, bus, train and taxi at this grand old pub and crossed its threshold with heightened expectations and perhaps some trepidation. Up the grand staircase they came and were made welcome with great pomp and very little ceremony. Gordon Hurford had gone to huge trouble, with generous sponsorship, to produce five spectacular pull up poster stands showing images of Scheyville from 1965. And what a welcome to the

reunion it became. Pumping out of the sound system was our quick march “*The Road to Gundagai*”, our slow march “*Riding to the Never Never*” and our graduation parade march off “*Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*”. This was followed by three hours of the soundtracks of our lives from 1965, together with a continuous slide show, on three big screens, of images of our time at Scheyville and beyond.

Below: John Silvester, Geoff Opray, Mick Delves & Jim French

Everyone received a personalised folder with a welcome pack containing the story of our call up. Included was the Original Roll from July 1965 with block and room numbers, company, platoon and section details, guidance officers and home addresses. This extraordinary complete snapshot of our about to be new lives, really got the conversations off and running! Also in the welcome pack were details of the original barrel, marbles and method of drawing our birthdays plus the dates themselves, together with details of our complete march in, success/failure rate, religious persuasions, State of origin, Corp allocation plus our Graduation Order. All in all an intriguing profile of a bunch of then “innocent” twenty year olds.



Add to that three hours of good food, plentiful beverages and splendid company in a nostalgic setting and you had the perfect ingredients for a great afternoon. And a great afternoon it was with renewal of old friendships and the making of new ones.



Left: *THE ORIGINALS* -all from prior OTU days.

Glenys Fisk, Laurel Opray, Kath Neesham, Pamela Lombardo and Fay Trevethick

Day Two on Saturday 4th really stepped up a gear with the Anniversary Dinner at the Customs House. This stunning, historic building is located on the Brisbane River at the top end of Queens St. We were generously given the magnificent Long Room for our celebration and it suited us to a treat. What a night of celebration. Sixty five of us sat down to a superb meal, in excellent company and ahead lay a

great night of clever speeches, plus a few unexpected novelty events.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Laurie Muller (left) who faced the daunting task of



keeping a bunch of enthusiastic speakers to their allotted six minutes and ended up failing miserably. Several speakers have since received 'Extras'. First up was the most senior graduate present, 0003 Terry O'Hanlon, who revealed the secret lives of those who resided on King's Row. Surprisingly this was comprised of mainly insubordinate activities, such as desecrating the parade ground to celebrate the birth of the RSM's new daughter by painting his cannon pink and turning out the sizing up parade in muck order of long johns, boots, gaiters and drill caps. Nothing much else of importance seemed to occur,

which didn't really surprise the rest of us back in the trenches.

Next up was 0006 Harry Neesham who explained away, but nowhere to the satisfaction of those present, how he managed to get three consecutive weekends of leave to play in the quarter final, semi-final and grand-final of his East Fremantle Football Club in Perth, whilst the rest of us were being slowly ground down at Scheyville. The price he paid for this was being made godfather to RSM Moon's newly born daughter, a responsibility he has carried with honour for fifty years.

Seeking a perspective from the bottom of the Class 1/65 we asked 0073 Dave Webster (right) to enlighten us. He explained that as he did so many "Extras" and that his room was so far from the parade ground that in marching to it each morning he would accompany himself on his mouth-organ by playing a march or two. To demonstrate this skill he produced an ancient, battered mouth-organ and played what sounded a bit like *Lilly Marlene*. He seemed to indicate that this was a primary reason for him making it to Brigadier later in his career. We privately thought we too could have made it to red banded cap if only we had known so in '65.



Hoping for an overdue, dignified and respectful speech we invited OTU's first PMC, 0008 Ted Pott, to address us and we weren't disappointed. In proposing the Toast to OTU he reflected on the exceptional quality of our instructing staff and the great camaraderie that evolved amongst Class 1/65. We toasted that most enthusiastically and saluted Ted for his untiring and mildly successful efforts throughout 1965 in developing our latent attributes as "young gentlemen".



The attempt by the 1/65 all male choir (left) to sing the OTU Song was possibly hampered by the lack of a large print version of the words. Nevertheless we had a manful crack at it, but it was probably symbolic that the bloke who wrote it, 0032 Colin Clarke, was absent and sensibly hiding out somewhere in South Carolina.

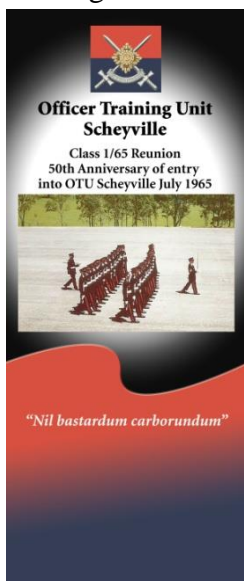
It was fitting that the Toast to Absent Friends was proposed by our first Scheyvillian to command a battalion, 0081 Gordon Hurford AM MID. It was also appropriate that this sombre moment was marked by a table with two empty chairs below the flag, to honour 0050 Gordon Sharp and 0060 Kerry Rinkin who did not return from Vietnam.

Being our collective 70th birthday we celebrated with a magnificently decorated cake, replete with pink cannon. The 1/65 Ladies Choir sang us an enthusiastic Happy Birthday. We gave 0049 George Fisk a chance to redeem himself, after having got the muck order parade very wrong by turning up in his polyesters, by blowing out the lone candle. He managed it quite competently to his and our great relief. Our man Gordon Hurford, who had slipped back to 2/65 to nick their Sword of Honour, used it most effectively to cut the cake, which had been most expertly decorated by his big sister, a champion cake decorator.



Pamela Lombardo who witnessed Adrian's call up and progress through Scheyville, then delivered a wonderful speech giving the feminine perspective on matters OTU and beyond. The room became silent and thoughtful and then responded with a mighty round of applause. (Pamela's memorable speech is available as a 'Word' document).

To celebrate our lottery win in 1965 we put our graduation numbers in a barrel again and asked former Instructing Staff Captain and Guidance Officer, Phil Clover, to draw them out. Fifty years on our numbers once again came out but this time, courtesy of some \$4,000 of extremely generous sponsorship, everyone got a prize in the form of a gift voucher worth \$100 or more from the likes of Bunning's, KMart, The Good Guys, Dick Smith, Australia Zoo and the like.



In an act of inspired spontaneity, instigated by J P O'Halloran MID, who featured in and coveted the Rugby team poster, it was decided to auction all the printed pull up posters, with the proceeds going to Legacy. The auction was conducted by 0071 John Gunn, a former stock and station man from the bush in South Australia. Top price was paid on the night by George Fisk for the muck order parade version showing him a lonely figure in his polyesters. 0023 Don Stewart former General Manager of Legacy South Australia gratefully received the cheque for \$1,250 for Legacy Australia.

To conclude the evening an attempt was made at a Class 1/65 photograph in front of the flag. A bit of unruly behaviour in the rear ranks but otherwise a satisfactory effort. *Lights Out* at the Customs House was 2300hrs, but field reports indicated the evening continued at various locations elsewhere in Brisbane well into the wee hours.

Day Three Sunday 5 July was by necessity a day of rest, allowing those who were so inclined to get together for breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner at the myriad of venues along the riverfront. No reports of unruly behaviour filtered through.

Day Four Monday 6 July was a day of action.

Eight able bodied golfers gathered at the fabled Indooroopilly Golf Club, at the gentlemanly hour of 10am, to play eighteen holes in perfect Brisbane winter weather - a crystal clear sky, no breeze and a balmy 22 degrees.

As expected a competitive few hours were spent on the rolling fairways by the banks of the Brisbane River. Some found the course a touch challenging, but it was 0070 Tony Trevethick, also known as *Tom Terrific*, who tamed the course and triumphed.

Tony took out the individual Stableford component and collected an armful of trophies, including single malt whisky, an umbrella and golf balls courtesy of Gordon Hurford clearing out the stock room at his home. The four ball Stableford event was claimed by a surprised 0016 Jim Rule and 0021 Laurie Muller, who had both remained calm and steady whilst all those around them succumbed. They too were presented with largesse from home of G.Hurford Esq.

Some reflections, observations and salutations.

You were not the highest quality group in terms of university education but you were for real, facing Vietnam at the end of your course. We were probably tougher on you than later intakes, because we had by then adjusted our expectations and standards. They were not lowered but perhaps made more appropriate. Scheyville was the best posting I ever had in the Army and the service given by OTU 1/65 to our country in your two years was more than we could all have hoped for.

Tony Larnach –Jones June 2015 (Captain A W Larnach-Jones 28 April 65 – 13 July 67 DS & Guidance Officer)

Within a short period of time the character of the first class became apparent. There was a strong determination to succeed, to participate fully and respond positively to what was a very tough course. What also stood out was inherent mate-ship that developed amongst Class 1/65. You stuck together; you supported one another and showed an 'esprit de corps' that was outstanding. We knew then we had been given excellent raw material from which to mould a second lieutenant- platoon commander.

Adrian Clunies-Ross June 2015 (Major A Clunies-Ross 22 March '65 – 22 December 1966)

It was a great privilege to serve at OTU Scheyville and now, fifty years on, reflect on its great success and the fine body of young men it produced. My best wishes to you all.

Norm Goldspink June 2015 (Warrant Officer Class Two N Goldspink DS 1965-1966)

Being part of OTU was one of the experiences of a lifetime for Cadets and staff.

My best wishes to you all in Class 1/65 in your time together.

David Millie June 2015 (Captain D R Millie 1 April '65 – 16 April '66 DS & Guidance Officer)

When OTU awoke to the dramatic spectacle of the parade ground cannon painted pink and the flagpoles festooned with nappies, the NCO's were greatly relieved. We knew then that we hadn't broken your spirit.

Larry Moon April 1967 (Warrant Officer Class One L. Moon RSM April 65- Marc 67)

At the dinner I mentioned to someone in the room, that there was no talk whatever of any grief or illnesses we carry. The weekend was full of so much positive energy. Such was the character of those present.

Such was the product of 1/65.

“Joe” Martin July 2015 0062 Iain Herbert “Joe” Martin

Not having been to a reunion of any kind previously it was particularly memorable. I hadn't seen the majority of our old class since the day we graduated and even though I was a late arrival on Friday I was able to immediately feel part of Class 1/65 once again. Thank you for a splendid reunion.

Don Stewart 0023 Donald Martin Stewart

ANZAC Day Reports

Adelaide (Gary Vial 3/69)



The SA Chapter currently has 44 members on its Database of which 30 are 'active' and functions attract 6-10 plus partners. The April lunch was postponed because of the involvement in the ANZAC Day March.

The ANZAC Day March was not as well supported as we would have liked as many were interstate or overseas, but we ended up with our own grouping and 20 braved the initial rain to complete the march. We were given excellent coverage by the ABC telecast

(photo) and the voiceover. Special credit is due to Don Stewart (1/65 and DS) who marched with Legacy, then doubled back to do it all again with us, and Simon O'Brien (1/70) who on short notice arranged for our banner. After the March, many gravitated to The Exeter Hotel to re-hydrate. We have requested a place in the 2016 March. The next luncheon is programmed for Sun 8th Nov 2015 at a city venue (tba).



For the first and possibly last time, 3 generations of the Vial family marched to the Dawn Service at Brighton, SA. Tom Vial wore his step-grandfather's medals (Albert W Knowles RAC – WWII); Gary wore those of his grandfather's (Cpl William Vial - badly wounded on ANZAC Day 1917) and his step-uncle Joseph Cantwell MM - who landed at Gallipoli on the first day and was killed on the Western Front in 1917; Gary's father, 92 year old Allan - DFC, OAM, OPR, COM; Sam Vial wearing his great uncle Mervyn Smart's medals. Smart was killed on the night of 30-31 Aug 1943 over Harrogate, North Yorkshire, UK when two fully bombed-up aircraft collided while making formation.

On Monday 6th July 2015 nine South Australian WWII Veterans, including Gary Vial's father Allan, were honoured by France at an official ceremony. The veterans were honoured with France's prestigious *Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur* (Legion of Honour). The Legion of Honour is the premier French award for outstanding service to the Republic. Created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honour rewards both outstanding military accomplishments and other distinguished service to France. It is conferred without regard to birth or religion.

The ceremony was held at Adelaide Town Hall and honoured the veterans who risked their lives in the service of France during the Second World War. Right: Allan Vial with His Excellency Mr Christophe Lecourtier Ambassador of France to Australia.



Allan Vial enlisted in the RAAF on 18th Jul 1942 in Adelaide, SA as Air Crew – Bomber. He was posted to 35 Squadron and flew 64 operational trips with Pathfinder Force between May and December 1944. On D Day, 6th June 1944, he was tasked to mark and bomb the German gun battery strategically located between Gold and Omaha beaches. He was discharged 15th Aug 1945 with the rank of Flying Officer.

Since 1998, many Australians who served in both the First and Second World Wars have received the Legion of Honour in recognition of the sacrifices of Australian troops. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 2014, the French Ambassador to Australia invited all eligible Australian veterans to nominate for the Legion of Honour. This year across Australia, 106 Second World War veterans were the recipients of this prestigious honour.

Brisbane: Owen Williamson (4/70)

The ANZAC Day March, under the OTU Banner, was conducted in Brisbane this year in perfect weather conditions with plenty of sunshine and a warm balmy day. Twenty one members and carers turned out to march. We had the pleasure of having one of our Chief Instructors Stan Maizey accompanied by his granddaughter Courtney Maizey. Stan was ably pushed in his wheel chair by Owen Williamson's grandson, Lachlan Dean. The Banner carriers were Doug Oliver (4/71) and Peter Moody (2/67) who were assisted by Norm Jensen (2/66), our left marker, who tried valiantly to keep us in step. This was not easy as we were placed strategically between the National Servicemen's' Pipe Band and another band which unfortunately were not in sync with each other. Our group did us proud by marching in step (most of the time) with great pride and dignity.

It was very pleasing to see such a fine assembly of members who made this a memorable day. We had one of our largest contingents so far with 21 marchers for the 100th Anniversary ANZAC Day parade which is very encouraging. We missed our very supportive mentor in and Chief Instructor Dick Flint. We also missed Mick Hart (2/69) who was interstate visiting a very sick OTU class mate and Leon Rowe (4/71) who tried valiantly to make the march but on the day was just too sick to attend. I want to thank the ladies who supported their men folk either at the march and/or later at the United Service Club buffet luncheon which was a great success. The buffet luncheon food and the seating arrangements provided by the club were excellent considering the large number in attendance.

A 'Roll Call' of all the attendees is listed below. I encourage all members to join us next year to feel the sense of appreciation and support from the crowd for our efforts all those years ago, something that was sadly lacking over many years. I also wish to thank all the newcomers who overcame their reticence and apprehension to join us at the march. I especially want to acknowledge Brian Drury (1/70) who opted to march with us instead of his unit.



Attendees:- Nick Israel 2/70, David Maley 4/70, Chris McEvoy 2/69, Peter Moody 2/67, Norm Jensen 2/66, Geoff Gardiner 4/69, Gary Basford 3/68, Bernie Carney 1/70, Noel Haupt 1/67, John Knack 4/72, Doug Oliver 4/71, Stan Maizey CI, Brian Drury 1/70, Rick Hodel 4/71, Ross Wyman 2/68, John Brown 2/68, Pat Harrington 2/66, Keith Michael 2/71, Peter Sheedy 1/65, Owen Williamson 4/70.

Melbourne (Frank Miller 4/67)
Melbourne's weather for ANZAC Day was certainly not ideal with cold, intermittent showers and full cloud cover. None the less, over forty Scheyvillians proudly marched behind the OTU banner from Collins Street to the Shrine of Remembrance. The crowds lining the route were the biggest seen in years and they applauded with genuine enthusiasm.



In true form most managed to keep in step despite frequent stoppings and the lack of an audible band. Lt Col (Ret'd) Brian Cooper (3/69) did a splendid job of leading the contingent. (Photo Alan Stevens, 4/70)

After falling out at 'The Shrine' most caught the tram to the Heroe's Club (Toorak Services Club) where fine fellowship was dispensed and a sit down roast beef lunch served. (Previously the order of the day had been drinks and sandwiches with participants standing up.) All of this proved a huge success with every one joining in with gusto.

The "cream on the cake" was when news came through that the ABC TV coverage of OTU Scheyville the March turned out to be among the best for any Unit on the day. It detailed Brian's career in the Army, the history of OTU and the graduates who had subsequently achieved prominence in military and civilian life.

The Parade to The Shrine is a fitting way for the Association to remember those who have given their lives and to those who have served our country.

Sydney: (Dick Adams 2/72)

On an unusually dry ANZAC Day in Sydney, 53 OTU graduates proudly marched behind their banner on the occasion of the Centenary of the Gallipoli landings. They are shown here, in quite jovial mood, prior to stepping off on the March which, this year, went for well over 4 hours. Many more graduates marched behind their former unit or formation banners. Quite a number of these blokes also attended a record ANZAC Dawn Service in Martin Place, where the crowd was reputed to have swelled to in excess of



10,000. There were 47 attendees at the luncheon following the March, held at the NSW Masonic Club. During the afternoon all attendees had the opportunity to take part in an ANZAC Service at the Club.

STATE ACTIVITIES: ACT CHAPTER



On 15th June 2015, Clive Badelow (4/69) represented the ACT Chapter at the RMC Graduation Award Ceremony and presented the OTU Leadership Award to RMC Graduate John Shipp.

On 30th June 2015 the ACT Chapter hosted the 50th Anniversary Dinner at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla.

ACT Calendar

The remainder of the year Calendar for 2015 for the ACT Chapter is:

- 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)

Since our April report, NSW Chapter events have been low-key, and limited to our regular monthly lunches at the Athenian Greek Restaurant. Support for the lunches remains strong and a good opportunity for members to meet and enjoy one another's company. However, the September lunch on the Harbour, in and around the newly developed precinct of Baranagroo, has been abandoned for lack of support.

The NSW Chapter mourned the passing of Colin Gray (1/72) on the afternoon of 28th June 2015. As a proud association supporter, Colin will be much missed by those who shared in his participation. An In Memoriam written by close friend Tony Sonneveld (1/70) appears in this edition of the Scheyvillian.

QUEENSLAND CHAPTER (Owen Williamson 4/70)

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

TASMANIAN CHAPTER (Ray Williams 2/71)

The February Chapter lunch was held at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania in Sandy Bay, which has a delightful view of the Derwent River. Photo: Ross Robbins (2/69), David and Annie Taylor, Ray and Pam Williams (2/71), Lorraine, James and Di Reade (1/71) and Dennis Townsend (2/70).



The May lunch was held at Joseph Chromy's Vineyard near Launceston. Numbers were down due to the annual exodus north to avoid the cold! Photo: Ray Williams (2/71), Lorraine, Pam Williams, David Taylor, Jane and Ross Robbins (2/69).



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) (check with Ray Williams):

1. Friday 21st August 2015 - to be held in Hobart area.
2. Friday 20th November 2015 - to be held in Launceston area.

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)

A delightful gathering on 10th June has been followed by a memorable trip to Canberra for the 50th Anniversary, with lots of tales to tell, and lunch again on Wednesday, 8th July. 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 booked at 12.30pm at RACV Club, Melbourne, 501 Bourke St, 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

Annual Dinner

The 29th May 2015 saw around 100 members and guests attend the Victorian Chapter Annual Dinner at the William Angliss Institute. Once again the students produced an excellent meal and gave the attendees great service. We are sure that they would gain a high assessment mark for their performance. Our old friend Ray Andrews (1/70) once again took on the role of MC and as usual gave an informative and entertaining performance. In his introduction Ray spoke of the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the commencement of our scheme and welcomed Dave Sabben and Mike Delves from that first intake and first graduating class from OTU. He also welcomed interstate visitors Frank LeFaucheur (1/71) from WA, Doug Oliver (4/71) from Queensland, Dennis Townsend (2/70) from Tasmania and Mike Buick (1/67) from the ACT. During the evening Ray interviewed Frank LeFaucheur asking about the derivation of his name and his work as a Surveyor. Frank stated that he has seen the whole of WA during his work as a Surveyor.





From one Frank to another Ray introduced National and Victorian Chairman Frank Miller (4/67). Frank gave his usual polished performance speaking about Victorian matters and the upcoming 50th Anniversary in Canberra and, of course, 1 Mobile Petroleum Laboratory!

It is usual during our dinners to celebrate with those whose birthday turned in a multiple of five. This year it was for the 70's group. It would appear that the vast majority of those members at the dinner turned 70 (with many having had exemptions and therefore not members of 1/65 or 2/65).

The usual raffle was held and raised \$1,307 towards the association's Youth Leadership projects. Prizes were:

- 2 Cadbury Chocolate Hampers (Frank Miller 4/67): Rob Youl (2/65) & Brian Cooper (3/69)
- A bottle of Cardhu Scotch Whisky (Frank Miller 4/67): Ian Watkins (2/70)
- 2 Pairs of bottles of Shiraz (Beth Brown): Mary Crane (Table 10) & Alex Gretorix (Table 9)
- A \$100 voucher to The Tassal Salmon Shop 339 – 343 High St Kew. (Allan McCallum): Brian Scantlebury (3/67)
- A family hour on the 'Tall Ship Enterprize' (Ian Watkins 2/70): Noel Osborne (4/66)

A great night was had by all, especially the interstate visitors. A big thank you to Frank Miller and his sub-committee for setting up the night!

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Quarterly lunches continue in the West and provide great comradeship and networking. The latest was held on 7th Aug 2015 at *The Romany* hosted by Enzo. The protocol of bringing an 'interesting' wine of your choice to extend our palates and enhance the day, continued. Interstate visitors are welcome to join in on these lunches. The August lunch saw Bill Hewitt and Dave Ward (2/66), John Barnes (2/67), Glenn Williams (3/67), John Sharp (2/68), Howard Sattler (3/68), Dave Atkinson (2/69), Steve Pearson (3/69), Kevin McCarthy (1/70), Dave Harley and Dave Macoboy (2/70), Ben Blake (4/70), Frank LeFaucheur and Giles Waterman (1/71), Jim Crockett (2/71) and Glenn Longmire and Andrew Martindale (1/72) attended. Apologies were received from Harry Neesham (1/65), Bruce Elliott (1/66) David Eyres (3/67), Graham Mathieson (1/70), Steve McDonald (2/70), and Ron Packer and Pip Edwards (1/71).

VALE:

Colin Gray (1/72) (Tony Sonneveld 1/70 comments at Wake on Friday 3 July 2015



We had some great times together since 2007 when Colin and Judy attended a PCFA Men's Health Forum in Darling Harbour. I was always in awe at his love for Judy and admired his email updates leading up to her passing on 9th March 2009. When in Thredbo we always visited Judy's plaque hidden between granite boulders at the top "The Cruiser" "chairlift above Merritt's Mountain House.

Colin maintained the family passion for skiing by taking Lisa every year to Thredbo. Lisa is a gutsy skier even after damaging a knee in a fall in 2010. Colin focussed on Lisa's needs over the past 6 years whilst maintaining a heavy schedule with Sydney Markets. Lisa is almost on the verge of gaining her "Ps" and she might have her eye on another smart BMW (Colin's pride and joy).

Colin graduated as a Second Lieutenant at the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville in Class 1/72 and was posted to Infantry Corps. In a career spanning 21 years he served in command, training and operational appointments in Australia, Europe, South-East Asia and with UNTSO in the Middle East. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and served as SO1 Organisation, Land Headquarters, before retiring from full time military service in 1993. He continued to serve in the Army Reserve with Land Headquarters until 1997. As well as being a graduate of the Australian Army's Command and Staff College, he was a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA), Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and Australian Institute of Training and Development.

Our activities shared together:

- ANZAC Day marches 2009-2015, Officer Training Unit Association NSW dinners @ VBOM & lunches at Athenian, Concord Golf Club & other venues since 2003,
- Melbourne Cup events at Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess (VBOM Honorary Member),
- Lunches with Burrcutters Union @ Mosman Hotel and Investment Group @ VBOM,
- Through the Sydney Market Foundation Colin chaired many committee meetings and officiated or was MC at numerous events and functions; he was a consummate performer with Military precision ably assisted by Carol Dollar.
- Mango (Fundraiser for Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia) and Cherry Auctions at Sydney Markets raising close to \$80,000 for PCFA over the last 5 years.
- Sydney Market Foundation functions at Rosehill races & Gala evenings where I got to meet his brother Les, daughter Melani and son Zion, Colin was a proud grandfather to Melani's children.
- ANZUP "Below the Belt" Pedalthon at Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Creek.



Colin and the Mango Auction team were honoured by PCFA at Kirribilli House & NSW Government House over many years in recognition of funds generated for prostate cancer research. My thoughts and prayers have been with Colin during his extended ordeal at Macquarie University and Greenwich Hospitals. OTU members at the 50th Anniversary of National Service Commemoration in Canberra offered their condolences last Tuesday.

May Colin now "Rest in Peace" without pain or suffering!!
Your mate, Tony Sonneveld OAM

Some of the twelve Scheyvillians at the funeral, Left to Right: Back Row: Geoff Bennett (2/66), Stan Beaman (1/72), Steve Mayhew (1/67), Richard Jeffkins (1/70), Tom Geczy (2/66). Front Row: Tony Sonneveld (1/70), Paul Irving 2/72), Doug Miller (1/71), Brian Vale (4/67).

2799401 Colin Harold Gray was born in Sydney on 15th Jun 1947. He completed his secondary schooling at Fort Street Boys High School, was a University Student before commencing NS and was posted to 5 RAR on graduation from OTU.



Philip Michael Cogan (4/72)

5719748 Philip Michael Cogan was born in Perth, WA, on 30th June 1952 and completed his secondary education at Aquinas College. Prior to commencing his National Service Philip worked for Western Australian Petroleum as an Acc. Pay and Rec. Clerk. Little did he know then that his NS would only last just nine weeks before all NS commitments were cancelled. However, Philip was one of twenty three Nashos who completed their Officer Training Course in April 1973 after NS had been cancelled.

Phil's family and friends told of how Philip put to good use the skills he picked up at Scheyville during his short Army career. These skills were used during a varied work life that included running his own catering businesses (one of which catered for the America's Cup Challenge in Fremantle in 1983), a Service Station (Denmark, WA) and the working fifteen years with Mitre 10. Workmates said that 'just working with Phil made you want to be a better person'.

As well as his work Phil was a good sportsman and also found time to be involved with community projects including surf life-saving and men's groups.

Phil married a long-time friend Nicki McCarthy (the best looking girl on the school bus) and together they had Joanna (recently married to Bowman) and Sarah.

Phil died suddenly on 9th June 2015. The test of how good a person is will be shown by the number of people who attend their funeral. Over 1,000 people attended the ceremony to celebrate Phil's life held at the Denmark Sea Rescue Club at Ocean Beach on 20th June. Surf Club members formed a Guard of Honour when the casket left the club for a private cremation. Right: Phil and Nicki at Denmark on ANZAC Day '14



David Roubin (1/65)

1731038 David John Roubin was born on 5th May 1945. He graduated from OTU with the first class and was posted to the RAAOC Centre. On 10th October 1967 David was posted to 2nd Composite Ordnance Depot (2 COD) in South Vietnam and from 1st January 1968 served with 2nd Advanced Ordnance Depot (2 AOD), returning to Australia on 25th February 1969. On 2nd July 1969 David joined the Australian Staff Corps and served in many RAAOC postings in his many years in the Regular Army retiring with the rank of Major. David was a Treasurer of the Brisbane Chevra Kaddisha and a long-time President of the Queensland Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women.

David passed away on 25th June 2015, aged 70 years. His funeral was held at the Jewish Chapel, Mt Gravatt Cemetery, Queensland on Friday, 26th June 2015 with a burial service at Mount Gravatt Cemetery, Macgregor. He is survived by his children Michael and Elizabeth and their children and brothers Gary (USA) and Loris (Melb) and sister Deborah (Melb).

Alex Bomm (1/65)

3787079 Alexander Bomm was born on 27th Jan 1945 and lived in Echuca. He was called up in the first intake of Nashos on 30th Jun 1965 and graduated from Scheyville on 18th Dec 1965, being posted to 2 RAR. Alex rejoined the Army in 1969 as a Temporary Captain in the Pay Corps. He served in South Vietnam with HQ AFV (Army) as an 'Audit Inspector' from 16th Apr 1969 to 16th Apr 1970. After his Vietnam service Alex was discharged. Alex was living in Wagga prior to his death on 20th May 2014. He was buried in Wagga on 30th May 2014. He was 69.

Bob Cooper (1/66) c/- Graham Adnams (1/67) Army Transport Association Newsletter September 2014.

3783894, Robert George Cooper was born on 1st Jul 1945 in Dromana, Vic, and brought up in Albury. His Primary and Secondary schooling were in Wodonga, Vic, and he worked in Melbourne for T&G Insurance, Victorian Railways and the Immigration Department. Bob commenced his NS on 29th Sep 1965, graduating from OTU with Class 1/66. After attending the RAASC Centre in Sep 1966 Bob was posted as Admin Officer to 44 Coy RAASC in Devonport, Tasmania. On 22nd Apr 1967 he took up a Short Service Commission and was posted as 2IC of 88 Transport Platoon at Randwick, NSW in Jan 1968. After a return to the RAASC Centre and a posting to 21 Supply Platoon Bob was posted as OC 52 Supply Platoon Detachment in Vietnam from 3rd Dec 1968 until 10th Dec 1969. Bob served in the Regular Army until June 1984 transferring to the Reserve where he served until 1990.

Bob worked in the training area until retiring in 2006. He had married Kayleen in Hobart in 1968 and they have three children and seven grandchildren. Bob passed away at Wollongbar, NSW, on 21st Aug 2014.

FEATURES:

Scheyville from the Other Side 5411009 Peter Tomlinson (Staff)

Peter Tomlinson grew up in Carnarvon on the WA coast, left school at 14 and worked all sorts of jobs including on a prawning boat, in a shearing team and a last job before joining up was 'a counter jumper' with Dalgety. His Dad signed him up for the Army Apprentice School when he was 15 and he had the air tickets but 3 days before he was due to fly out he received a telegram to return the tickets as the course had been filled. He was still keen to join up but it wasn't till he had a talk to one of the blokes at Dalgety, a Korean War Veteran (3 RAR at Kapyong), that he applied for the Army.

Peter joined the Army on 21st March 1961, went to Kapooka for the winter, living in the old Nissan huts, about 12 to a hut, the odd maggot on your lunch and not enough fuse blocks to run all the huts. He found Kapooka wasn't too bad with good instructors, some from WW2 and a lot from Korea, and all knew what it was all about.

He then went to the Infantry Centre at Ingleburn where his platoon was known as Beal's Boys (Lt Beal was 'the Boss', He thinks he was famous for some reconnaissance work on the Cambodian border). He first met WO2 Cochran there and later at Scheyville (Peter knew WO2 Cochrane's brother Bob who ran a garage in Carnarvon). On 19th October 1961 he was posted to 3 RAR Enoggera.

Peter found 3 RAR was well located being a tram ride from Brisbane and not far from the Gold Coast, though he did lose a couple of good mates in a car smash on the road to the Coast. In those days most of the younger blokes wore uniforms on weekend- leave because the drinking age was 21 and most of them were too young to get into a pub but the uniform did the trick and it did help with the girls.

Towards the middle of 1962 Peter started to have trouble with his feet and after a Medical Board he was posted to HQ NT Command on 22nd March 1963. He states that he was a little 'pissed' about that as 3 RAR was going to Malaya. In Darwin he was in charge of looking after a large group of Melville and Groote Islanders who worked in the kitchens and looked after the gardens. It was a little bit of a problem as the two groups didn't get along very well. They were all issued old WW2 khaki uniforms and considered themselves part of the Army. Peter said that most of them were good blokes.

One day he got called to the RSM's office and was told that the Sergeant's Mess Steward had been removed from the NT for being 'a naughty boy' with a local Aboriginal girl. That was the start of Peter's involvement in the catering area. His Infantry Corps time was at an end and he had qualified as a Steward in October 1964. His next posting came up 2nd March 1965 and it was to OTU Scheyville. 'Where? Scheyville?? Where the hell's that??' No one had heard of the place. After some checking around he was told it was near Windsor NSW.

Peter had some leave to take and put his VW beetle on the WA state ship MV Koolama and sailed to Fremantle then drove 600 miles to Carnarvon and married a girl he had met in Darwin. They drove across Australia. It was quite a trip! They set off with about 55 pounds, hit an emu on the Wooramal River bridge and so had to buy a new mudguard in Perth. They pulled off the road on Greenmount, unbolted the old mudguard and bolted on the new one. Next they 'threw a tread' before getting to Norseman and as it was Easter Weekend, nothing was open so they drove across the Nullarbor without a spare. Next they 'threw another tread' at Penong SA and dragged a bloke out of a pub and purchased one new tyre for nine quid, but still had no spare!

The drive at night in the rain over the mountains from Lithgow to Richmond was a nightmare. Peter had only ever driven on flat country and all those switchbacks and advisory speed signs 15 & 20 mph and he was having a battle to get under 40. They pulled up in a layby shaking like a leaf and slept in the front

seats until morning. They drove into Windsor to look for accommodation and luckily the first Estate Agent they saw had a RAAF couple moving out of the flat behind the shop and they could have a look at it. The RAAF couple let them sleep on their lounge as they were moving in a couple of days.

They were nearly out of money by then so next day it was on the train into Sydney to hock the camera and that held them over until payday. Scheyville was easy to find as the place had been in use for about 40 years. His first pay from Scheyville was on 29th April 1965.

There was a bit of work going on to get ready for the first intake of Cadets. He remembered the ovals getting the lawn seed and a bit of excitement when the grass actually came up on the day it was predicted. Peter remembers one officer landing his Tiger Moth on that oval. (Clunies-Ross comes to mind) Peter revisited Scheyville in April this year and wondered, looking at the size of that oval, 'how the hell did he land there and better still how did he get it off again?' But he did.

In 1965 he started in the Cadets Mess as LCpl and, as all Cadets remember, meals were served at the tables but none of the Stewards had ever done anything like that before. A lot were Nasho's and had only done basic training but they soon got into the swing of things.

Peter's next move was to the Officers Mess for a short time. 'That was different, arranging for officers laundry to be done and the bar work'. A highlight was serving the NSW Governor Sir Roden Cutler VC. From there he moved to the Sergeants Mess where they only had two Army Stewards and the rest were civilians. The civvies could be bit of a problem because when they had a sickie due they would not turn up, they would let us know on Friday 'I won't be in Monday, I've got a sickie due'. At least we could make allowances.

Peter talks about working in the Sergeant's Mess: 'I was a steward and worked the bar and later looked after ordering of the booze and any extra food for formal dinners and looked after our civvie staff. The beer had to be picked up from the Riverstone Hotel. The bar at the Mess opened at lunch time (12 to 1 pm) and I remember one discussion about watches. WO Stevenson (Chief Clerk) commented on how waterproof his watch was and dropped it into his beer and everyone laughed as the face slowly filled up.'

'Another lunch time WO Stevenson on having his first sip said "this beer is off" and it was agreed by all that the keg was no good. RSM Moon "Cpl Tomlinson, I am condemning that keg it can go back to the brewery, put a new one on". So I went into the cool room and pulled the pipe out of the keg and then plugged it back into the same keg then went out and ran the tap the cleared the air bubble. "Ah, that's better". Next morning the RSM was doing the stock take with me and said what happened to that keg I condemned yesterday? I said "You blokes drank it" He had a bit of a laugh and then said: " In future Cpl when I condemn a bloody keg it stays condemned!"'

'Coming up to the Sgts Mess Christmas in 1966 I purchased three large turkeys from the Dingle Dangle Turkey farm. The idea was to have the turkeys carved at the table. Cpl Armet (he may have been Sgt by that time) explained to me how he was going to stuff them and how not to let them get to dry during the cooking he then put them in the oven and went to have a 'camp' for the arvo as I did (I think it was a Saturday). When I returned to the Mess later that evening to supervise the dinner all hell had broken loose, the birds were well overdone and were not able to go on the table in one piece. RSM Moon was not impressed.'

Cpl Andy Tame was in charge and when he was posted out Peter was promoted to Cpl and on the 12th Sep 1966 started to get Higher Duty Allowance for Sergeant. When he was due for discharge in 1967 RSM Moon said he would get his stripes if he signed on. He wouldn't have minded but his wife had two children and wanted to go back to the west. Peter was discharged on 20th March 1967. After he left the Army Peter started a cleaning service. After leaving that he has been jack of all trades. Back on the boats, linesman, 15 years on a banana plantation, 12 years in reticulation. He retired in 2007

after 51 years in the work force. Nowadays he does a bit of fishing and is a volunteer skipper and radio operator with the local Sea Rescue.

Peter has read 'The Scheyville Experience' and found it very interesting. He said it was good to see that a lot of people who went through there went on to be outstanding citizens.

Looking through the list of Directing Staff he could remember many names. He remembers Lt Col Clark, whose nick-name was 'Shoot to kill'.



Back Row left: 1 – Cpl Tame, 2 – Cpl Armet (Sgt's Mess), 4 – Pte Munlwitt (Cadet's Mess Steward)
From right: 5 – Peter Tomlinson.

Scheyvillians in Battle, The Battle of Nui Le, 21 September 1971

A conversation with John Sonneveld went something like 'Gary McKay met up with one of the NVA trying to kill him in 1971. There might be a story there!'

The story then is that a local Vietnamese guide was aware of Gary's involvement in the Nui Le battle of September 1971 and also knew Vo Xuan Thu was also involved because of his affiliation with the 33rd Regiment (who Australians had fought in a few big battles including Binh Ba). About four years ago the guide asked if Gary would mind meeting Thu and they met at Thu's tennis club where he was flogging some poor opponent. Thu is 67 and seriously fit. Over a beer, when they started talking, Gary asked what his job was at Nui Le and discovered he was the radio operator situated next to the 12.7mm MG on the hill and that they were shooting at all the aircraft supporting him. So Thu actually was trying to shoot down John Sonneveld rather than at Gary. Thu was born in Hanoi and trained south of the city and then walked (yes, walked) from the north all the way down the Ho Chi Minh Trail with his fellow reinforcements into III Corps in South Viet Nam. He was a Corporal (equivalent) and had been attached to the RHQ while they were withdrawing off the feature. Gary describes Thu as an engaging bloke who held no grudges and said that we were all young and 'just doing our job'.

Gary continues (this action is covered in Gary autobiography *In Good Company* & AWM Wartime 55). We were patrolling on our very last operation through the jungle in northern Phuoc Tuy Province. I commanded 11 Platoon of Delta Company 4 RAR and we had clashed rather fiercely with a platoon-sized group of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers on 20 September. They were dressed in greens with chest webbing, carried small green packs and wore green pith helmets. The end result of a half hour long fire fight was that we had killed at least two that we later searched and buried. The next day we would be sent further north towards a hill complex comprising two features: Nui Sao and Nui Le. We had been previously advised by coded radio message that there was a possible large concentration of enemy somewhere close to these hills. It turned out to be an understatement.

By the early morning of 21 September all three platoons of Delta Company were moving in an easterly direction towards Nui Sao/Nui Le with 11 Platoon furthest east and on the same latitude as 12 Platoon (2Lt Graham Spinkston) about a kilometre to the west. Ten Platoon (2Lt Kevin Byrne) was to our south travelling with company headquarters (Major Jerry Taylor) about a kilometre south. Spinkston hit the enemy first and after savage fighting had lost one Digger killed and several wounded. I had been told to stay where I was until 'Spingo' sorted out his contact. We set up our machine guns covering a track we had been checking and around 9.30 am we were surprised when a large group of enemy numbering about 50 burst out of the bush to our immediate front and started assaulting our position. We beat them off but not before we had used up a fair amount of our ammunition. We had put a marker balloon up to indicate our position to the American and Australian fighter bomber and chopper crews. It seemed that there was some confusion as to where that balloon was in regard to the enemy, so I moved my platoon to the west and placed ourselves about 100 metres from where our last fire fight had been with the NVA. The platoon was now very low on ammo and my sergeant Daryl Jenkin set about redistributing what little we had, and began calling for an OPDEM (urgent resupply) of a complete first line of small arms ammunition.

Before long the enemy again attacked our position but they came at us on an oblique angle and so we had them almost enfilade. They were rushing forward on a 40-metre front in a skirmish formation. I had deployed our Claymore mines in two banks of six to help stave off any likely attack. The platoon held their fire until I initiated the Claymore banks about 20 metres in front of the enemy. The blast of these powerful weapons tore their assault to shreds. It was devastating, and the NVA withdrew very quickly after half of their assault line went down.

We were now very low on ammo and our direct support helicopter flown by fellow 2/68 Classmate 2Lt John Sonneveld (later awarded the DFC for his flying) dropped pre-loaded magazines and grenades through the scrub onto our position (and nearly on me). The ammo was quickly distributed and we waited to see what would happen next. We could hear over the radio and in the background the sounds of 12 Platoon's contact that seemed to be going on forever. Things were really warming up.



(In his usual unassuming way John said that, looking back, the day was a blur and that he was 'Just doing my job to support the boys on the ground'. That morning John had flown the CO, Lt Col Jim Hughes, on a 'recce'. Realising his battalion was in a big fight the CO ordered John to drop him on Courtney Hill from where he could command his battalion during the battle.

When the call came through to deliver the ammunition Cpl 'Bluey' Neal, on his second tour, was bundled in to the Kiowa and the two took off to deliver the ammunition, dropping it through the thick canopy. Later that day John flew a number of other flights including tree-top 'recce' flights.

John's recommendation for the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross includes:

- At no time was he deterred from his task of providing every possible assistance to the troops on the ground. On numerous occasions he delivered urgently required ammunition to the troops in contact, knowing very well that other aircraft operating over the contact area had already received hits from enemy small arms fire. When it became obvious that a large enemy force was involved, he skilfully conducted reconnaissance at tree top height to locate the enemy and guide our own troops to their positions.

- The quiet determination, courage and skill shown on this day were always evident in the eleven hundred hours of operational flying carried out by Second Lieutenant Sonneveld in support of the ground forces. His conduct and unassuming manner have been an inspiration to other unit pilots and reflect great credit upon himself, his Corps and the Australian Army.

Note: John was the first Australian to be awarded a DFC while flying a Kiowa).

It got a lot busier now as an American forward air controller came on our internal radio net and commenced marking the area to our front with white phosphorous rockets, and then we witnessed an awesome display of firepower as F-4 Phantoms and Cobra helicopter gunships started rocketing and bombing the area to our front. I adjusted the fire support as close as I could as I didn't want the enemy to start 'hugging' our position. The enemy did come at us again but we managed to dissuade their attempts at taking our position with judicious shooting by the machine gunners and well-aimed shots by the riflemen. The NVA were not withdrawing and our forward air controller, Callsign Jade 07, cranked up US Army Huey gunships and they brought their fire into about 40 metres and strafed and rocketed the area to our front with mini-guns and 2.75 inch Zuni rockets. They denuded the jungle to our front and we could now see out to about 75 metres.

The enemy were still engaging us but now slightly further out, and after I told Jade 07 this, he said he would call up some 'wall to wall heat'. Before long several F-4s returned and dropped napalm bombs to our front. The impact of this was spectacular to say the least. We felt the blast and shock wave and then the heat as the canisters exploded about 150 metres in front of us. I looked around and everyone was wide-eyed and grinning; the sort of grin one sees when not sure if you should be happy or scared.

It was now around 1.30 pm and Major Taylor decided to regroup the company into a single position and see what the CO wanted to do next. While we were moving we heard radio traffic from the pilots describing large bodies of enemy troops withdrawing north towards Nui Le. We also heard that American 'Pink teams' were being engaged from the top of the Nui Le feature with 12.7 mm MG fire and they had been taking hits. ('Pink Teams' fly around to draw fire, locate a firing weapon and call in a Gunship onto the weapon's location).

By 2.30 pm the company was regrouped to the east of where my platoon had had its contacts and we were now south of what was believed to be a large enemy bunker position. Pilots who were flying the Super Sky-Master A-37s reported that they were engaging columns of enemy withdrawing to our north. The bunker position was still being engaged with artillery fire when the aircraft were not on station. Jerry Taylor told the platoon commanders we were in front of a battalion position, but it looked like it was being abandoned. I think we all quietly sighed deep inside. Soon, it seemed we would have nothing to do but sweep through burying corpses.

By 3.30 pm I was called into another orders group and told we were going to assault the bunker position in a classic two-up company assault. My platoon would be the right forward platoon. As I returned to give my orders my legs felt like jelly. We knew precious little about the position we were about to assault. We had no tanks and only our artillery to help overcome any dug-in enemy. I had quick orders and said we were going in, and I could read the look of dread on my section commanders' faces. We all knew that every time we attacked bunkers we took casualties, and this would be no different. I was trying like hell to remain cool and calm but I had wedge-tailed eagles in my stomach.

Just before we crossed the start line at 3.45 pm someone dropped a sandbag of M-26 hand grenades next to me saying that everyone was loaded up and these were left over. I stuffed half a dozen grenades down the front of my shirt as we commenced our assault. We moved very slowly in a half-crouch for about five minutes and then came across the first line of bunkers. I gave the field signal for everyone to now crawl on their guts. We continued like this for another 30 metres when the platoon came under withering small arms and machine gun. The ferocity and intensity of the engagement was stunning. I had never heard noise like it before.

The enemy were firing RPGs into the trees above our heads and it wasn't long before we realised we were in a fire lane. I had trouble seeing what was going on and took the chance on standing up and could see that my men were having trouble moving to fire positions, but much worse my two assault machine gun teams were out of action. I raced forward to where Private Ralph Niblett lay wounded and could see a huge hole in his chest. In this movement I had my hat shot off my head but arrived safely next to the gun. Ralph's number two on the gun was a recent reinforcement and he had been head shot and was dead. I ripped one of his dog tags off and stuck it in my breast pocket and clamped the other tag into his teeth. My stretcher bearer came forward and started treating Ralph. I started stripping ammo off Ralph and his dead number two.

At this time it became evident that without our machine guns working the enemy were about to counter-attack. I started getting the machine gun back into action. Over to my right I could see that Private Kevin Casson was trying to get the second machine gun back into operation. Both machine gunners were shot through the head. Under extremely heavy fire Casson went forward recovered the M-60 and started to engage the enemy. The NVA were starting to move in small groups of two or three and rapidly darting from bunker to bunker as they closed on our now depleted assault line. I now started throwing all of the grenades I had down the front of my shirt with great effect. I also heard at this time that my platoon sergeant had been wounded and was out of action. Things were looking decidedly untidy.

Artillery fire was now walked in to hit the enemy and for the next 15 minutes or so it seemed that the outcome of this fire fight was in the balance. I did think fleetingly that I was probably not going to get out of this alive, and was determined to take as many bad guys with me as possible. It seemed an eternity but soon the amount of incoming enemy fire slowed and lightened. My radio operator yelled at me that the company had to pull back to allow the artillery to come in closer. In failing light Delta Company moved about 400 metres southwest and went into all round defence. Just as we were about to complete our harbour drill, we found we had withdrawn into another smaller bunker position and the enemy were now on three sides of us. A short fire fight ensued that was followed by a long engagement where most of the fire was incoming. It was hard to locate a target in the failing light as it was now close to 6 pm. While trying to consolidate this position the NVA were constantly raking fire into the position, but luckily it was above our heads. I was still trying desperately to link my section of the perimeter up with 12 Platoon. I had to place my soldiers on the ground one by one, and all of this on my guts, as to stand up was inviting death. Green tracer fire zipped everywhere just above head height.



Every time I tried to yell a fire order I was shot at by several enemy. Eventually they tracked me down, and as I was taking cover behind a small tree, several AK-47 rounds ripped into my shoulder shattering the joint, dislocating my arm and one round tore a huge exit hole near my shoulder blade. That was the end of my active fighting for the day. I spent the rest of the night propped up against a tree in company headquarters with Corporal Mick O'Sullivan, the company medic, pressing shell dressings into my wound to stop me bleeding to death. I was evacuated the next morning around 9 am and winched out on a jungle penetrator.

Post script. Five Australians were killed and 24 wounded including Gary McKay in the battle. For his actions McKay was awarded the Military Cross and Private Casson was Mentioned-in-Despatches, eventually being awarded the Medal for Gallantry. Platoon Sergeant Daryl Jenkin was Mentioned-in-Despatches. John Sonneveld was awarded a DFC.

Ordnance called in that day:	Artillery (104 Bty and A Bty) expended 2074 rounds
967 HE rockets	120 flechette rockets 5300 40-mm HE rounds
143,500 7.62-mm rds	28 pods of napalm four 500-pound bombs

Report into The Effects of The Scheyville Experience on OTU Men

(Greg Todd & Warwick Graco both 2/71)

This activity began during a sustenance-renewal process(!) at an OTU lunch – what a surprise! It was ANZAC Day 2013 when a cluster of class-members from 2/71 resolved to elevate anecdotal effects of the Scheyville experience to a more rigorous study. We are all aware of the personal challenges and military skills and knowledge OTU provided – but what were the **actual** effects of that 22-week experience?

There were approximately 2,600 National Servicemen, OCS Cadets and Air Cadets selected to attend Scheyville, but only 1,871 graduated (1639 being Nashos). This proportion represents around 2.5% of the total inducted into the Second National Service Scheme. Many graduates have progressed in their careers to appear among the highest echelons in the Army, in Federal and State politics, in the public sector and on the boards of some of Australia’s larger corporations seemingly in proportions above the national average. Did the Scheyville experience promote above-average life achievement by participants or did the experience simply assist the development of innately high-achieving individuals? Maybe the Army was simply good at selecting the best candidates?

The questionnaire you saw first in Dec 2014 gleaned 220 valid responses from among the Association’s membership. Clearly there were some biases – for example, respondents were more likely to have graduated from OTU than not; respondents were volunteers in replying; anecdotal evidence among the association’s membership of negative attitudes to OTU and to the Army in general was not substantially represented in the responses. It’s fair to say that the survey can’t be generalised to the broader OTU population, but it can still be of significant interest. As a bit of an aside, we found that older respondents were significantly more likely to complete the survey than younger ones. I wonder why!

Results

The survey asked how the Scheyville experience contributed to development of a number of attributes. The overall ranking of responses (with the mean score out of a maximum of 5) was as follows:

Rank	Attribute	Mean Rating
1.	Leadership	4.39
2.	Confidence and self-belief	4.38
3.	Resilience or staying power	4.32
4.	Motivation and determination to succeed	4.27
5.	Organisation and administrative skills	4.20
6.	Problem solving and decision making	4.13
7.	Personal habits and organisation – dress, bearing, punctuality	4.08
8.	Fitness and health	3.92
9.	Staff skills – the ability to write orders and instructions	3.80
10.	Ability to express yourself orally	3.65
11.	Ability to express yourself in writing	3.25

All had ratings above 3 indicating that the training had positive effects.

Respondents were asked to rate themselves on a series of standard psychological scales in order to gain an understanding of the personal attributes of a “typical” OTU man. The attributes were scored as follows (with a maximum rating being 5):

Rank	Attribute	Mean Rating
1.	Conscientious vs Lax	4.25
2.	Organised vs Reactive Approach	4.17
3.	Agreeable vs Disagreeable	3.83
4.	Practical vs Imaginative	3.64
5.	Extravert vs Introvert	3.51
6.	Complex vs Simple Thinking	3.51
7.	Strategic Vs Tactical Thinking	3.49
8.	Systematic vs Intuitive Thinking	3.30
9.	Details vs Essentials	2.95
10.	Closed vs Open-Minded Thinking	2.16

Along with these scales, respondents were asked a range of open-ended questions about their ongoing civilian and military training and experiences – seeking both positive and negative responses.

Observations

Training received at Scheyville was reported as having a positive effect on the development of many graduates – for some a life-changing experience! Clearly there was support by respondents for the development of leadership and military skills, but they believed it particularly developed a number of personal qualities including resilience and staying power, motivation and determination, and confidence and self-belief. For some, it gave them an inner belief that they could manage any situation regardless of its degree of difficulty – that’s a pretty good attitude to develop in order to face any of life’s complications!

Responses indicated that OTU men are hard-working, disciplined, focused and organised. Indeed, conscientiousness is a key predictor in explaining the training and career success of graduates.

The survey supports something you may have noticed - that OTU men tend to be pleasant and outgoing in their temperament. They also tend to be both strategic and systematic in their thinking, they thrive in situations that are difficult and complex and are free of dogmatism or the tendency to see things as either black or white.

Many respondents made substantial comments in response to the open-ended questions which supported much of the statistical data above.

It is not possible to state categorically that the effects reported in the study are directly attributable to the training received at Scheyville since there may have been other experiences in the subsequent 40 years (or even earlier years) that contributed to an individual’s personal development and life success. Nevertheless, it is clear that the Scheyville experience was generally positive (for the long term if not while doing EDs!)

As one could anticipate, the questions about active service drew mixed responses. Apart from the monetary benefit from Vietnam service, respondents also noted the positive impacts upon their leadership, decision-making and other interpersonal skills; but it’s clear that a number of our men still suffer PTSD as a result of that service – something for us to keep an eye on!

There are still a bunch of unanswered questions. Given the life experiences that National Servicemen brought with them to Scheyville compared with RMC entrants, did the two training processes produce different young officers upon graduation? Did the Scheyville experience simply accelerate the personal development of high-achieving participants towards their inevitable life success? Given approximately a third of graduates transferred into the Regular Army before the end of their period of National Service

(despite, one assumes for most, a lack of interest in a military career before being conscripted), what impact did their engagement have on other people's military careers or performance? Who knows?

We intend to share the survey outcomes with current Army personnel involved in the recruitment and training of officers at RMC. There are some good lessons to learn about indicators of success during the candidate selection process and for the development among cadets of "self-belief" during the years of training at ADFA and RMC. It's clear that not just military skill and knowledge are required for an officer to succeed!

Word of the survey gets around! We have shared your responses (with appropriate anonymity secured) with Nick Jans and Noel Turnbull (3/67) who are putting together a book on leadership. The study will also be the subject of a paper being given to the International Military Testing Association conference in September.

May we thank all members who responded to the questionnaire, especially those who made open comments – these are incredibly valuable! If you have any questions about the survey methodology, the statistical analyses or any other matter, please contact us on w.graco@gmail.com or greg_todd_au@yahoo.com.au.

Editorial Note: As shown in The Scheyvillian 2 of 2014, the final numbers of Graduates from OTU were: NS – 1688, Short Service Commissions (Aviation) – 111, OCS – 68, RAAF – 3, CMF – 10. Total: 1880.

Chalkies in the PIR Part 3 (Rod Keown 1/71)

This is the final part Rod's memories of his time as a 'Chalkie in the PIR'



East New Britain and Vanimo Because PNG was to be granted the first stage of its independence in 1972 the Army was doing quite a lot of "surveillance and education" type patrolling when I was there and through the separate misfortunes of two of the Battalion's existing Company 2ICs (one got hepatitis, the other broke an arm) I was pulled out of transport and dropped into their roles.

As with my original TO posting I didn't have a clue about what a rifle Company 2IC was supposed to do so I pretty much had to make it up as I went along. I can only remember getting bawled out by my Vietnam Vet OC on one occasion so my CSMs must have covered for me pretty well.

The misfortunes of the existing company 2ICs was my good fortune because both their Companies were about to embark on exercises in remote parts of PNG that I would otherwise not have seen.

Rabaul to Jacquinet Bay The first exercise was intended to be a 6 weeks patrol on the island of New Britain from Rabaul to Jacquinet Bay. The patrol ended up taking only 4 weeks and, as the RAAF Hercules that was to pick us up and take us back to Wewak after the 6 weeks couldn't be rescheduled, we, God dammit, had to spend 2 weeks fishing and swimming whilst camped next to a tropical beach.

We didn't have much fishing gear but ended up trolling for Spanish mackerel using a bit of white rag as a lure. The fish were so big that the only way we could get them into the dinghy we were using was to gun the engine and drown them. Having been on K rations for a month the change of diet was welcomed by the soldiers. Coconut meat can be quite a pleasant dessert also.

When I was in Rabaul on the way to Jacquinet Bay, that town was a vibrant tropical township of 20,000 on the north coast of the island. It was subsequently destroyed by heavy ash fall from the simultaneous eruptions of nearby Mt Tavorvur and Mt Vulcan volcanos in 1994.

Apparently the same thing happened in 1937 which was only five years before it was occupied by the Japanese in WWII. After the 1994 volcanos the resident Rabaul population was moved 20 kilometres up

the coast to Kokopo which was developed as the replacement capital of the district. It has a current population of about 20,000.

Prior to WWI Rabaul was the headquarters of German New Guinea until it was captured by the Australians in 1914 after which it became the capital of the Australian mandated territory of New Guinea. As noted in *The Scheyvillian* (Number 1, 2014) the first reported casualties of Australian servicemen in WWI were an Able Seaman and an AAMC Captain who were killed near Rabaul on 11 September 1914. The Australian submarine known as AE1 that disappeared without trace off Rabaul 3 days later had a crew of 32 sailors and 3 officers.

Rabaul has an excellent deep water harbour and the Japanese captured the place shortly after Pearl Harbour in 1942 and established it as its principal South Pacific base. By 1943 there were estimated to be 110,000 Japanese troops stationed in the town. Today New Britain produces more than 50 percent of PNG's cocoa and copra crops.

Jacquinet Bay Jacquinet Bay is on the north-east coast of New Britain. The only signs of civilisation that I can recall are a copra plantation and a Catholic mission. There is no road into the bay so presumably the plantation and mission got their supplies from coastal trading vessels.

The Japanese occupied the bay during WWII but were booted out by the Australians (unopposed) in November 1944. The Australians proceeded to build a one mile long airstrip that, whilst no other aircraft used it in the two weeks that we were camped adjacent to it, was still in sufficiently good condition for a C130 to land and take off for our Company's evacuation. There are a number of (presumably then unserviceable) military aircraft that appear to have been pushed off the tarmac and into the jungle which, by now will almost certainly have engulfed them.

The plantation manager (owner?) and his wife who lived on the property with two adolescent kids were pleasant folk. They invited me and one of the Company's platoon commanders (Duntroon) up for a drink in their hauswind one evening. We got an inclination of how isolating living in such a situation was (no internet or telephone services in those days) when the woman, without explanation, promptly got up and left her husband and we two on our own. Apparently she was offended by the RMC wallah telling us that he had read "The Female Eunuch" which was a highly topical publication at the time. Her husband explained to us that his wife wouldn't have read the book but just read about it in the *Woman's Weekly*!

The hauswind (presumably a house that lets the wind through) is a PNG institution. It is an open sided pagoda affair where one sits in the evening drinking SPs and enjoys the cooling effect of the trade wind. Every self-respecting resident of the place with a spread of more than a quarter acre has one. The trade wind and ceiling fans are the only things that make living in that part of the world bearable.

Still Serving Greg McMahon (2/71)

It would appear that there are still five OTU Graduates still serving in the Army. Major Greg Todd (2/71) and Colonel Robert Walters (1/72) are listed as 'RES-A' (Active Reserve). Colonel Michael Donaghue (2/70) and Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hodgkinson (3/72) are still in the system but listed as 'RES-I' (Inactive Reserve). Maj Greg McMahon is currently on Full-time Service.

Last Draftee – we can beat that!!!! Robin Hunt (3/69)

New York: Last Vietnam Era Draftee Retires.

The U.S. military says a central New York native has retired as the Army's last Vietnam-era draftee.

The 2nd Infantry Division's public affairs office at Camp Red Cloud says Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ralph Rigby's retirement ceremony was held on Oct. 28, his 62nd birthday. A native of Auburn in Cayuga County, Rigby was drafted in 1972. He is thought to be the Army's last continuously serving active-duty draftee.

The ANZAC Centenary (Neil Leckie 3/68)

As far as I have been able to deduce the Scheyvillians at the Gallipoli Centenary were:
Gary McKay (2/68) Graeme Smith (3/68)
Neil Leckie (3/68) Geoff Daly (4/69)
Tony Sonneveld (1/70)

If you were there the rest of us would like to know and share our experiences!

Right: Tony Sonneveld and Neil Leckie at Lone Pine prior to the Australian Service.



ANZAC Day was brought about to commemorate the original landing at ANZAC Cove on 25th April 1915. It is only fitting then that the ‘real’ ANZAC Day Centenary Commemoration was undertaken in the area of Gallipoli now known as ‘ANZAC’. In the 1990s small groups of families, friends and a few small tour groups such as Ron Austin’s Belmore Travel groups commemorated ANZAC Day on the small beach known as ANZAC Cove. The 50th and 75th Anniversaries saw larger crowds with some veterans returning to both services. As the centenary approached people’s interest in the commemorations, and their interest in their family members who served at Gallipoli, increased, peaking on each five year commemoration. The normal crowd in recent years is 3 – 4,000 and the DVA and Turkish authorities calculated that the maximum crowd on the North Beach site would be 10,500. With the NZ authorities the decision was made to split the numbers 8,000 As/4,000/NZ plus about 500 VIPs, security, etc. A trial run of all the administrative arrangements was held in 2014. The Australian Government official in control of the Australian component of the ANZAC Centenary was Senator Michael Ronaldson.

To limit the crowd a ballot system was introduced with people having a Gallipoli relative having a priority. Converse to many people’s thoughts the Government only allocated the tickets. Apart from a small number of ‘WW1 War Widows’ it was up to the individual to arrange and pay for their own flights and accommodation. The first 4,000 pairs of Australian tickets were allocated and as people decided that they could not go their tickets were re-assigned to the people who were next in the ballot ‘Wait List’.

As there is little accommodation in the Gallipoli area most of those obtaining tickets needed to arrange accommodation in Istanbul, about 4 – 5 hours away. They would travel from Istanbul on 24th April, stay overnight for the services and return to Istanbul on the afternoon of 25th April.

The process was that all buses would pass through a Bus Registration Area on the Istanbul Road. Each bus would be given a Registration Number, ticket holder’s tickets and Passports checked and one Tour Guide per bus given a pass. The bus would then proceed to a ‘Drop-off’ Point at Kaba Tepe and all would proceed through a ‘Check Point’ into a ‘Holding Area’. Those ticket holders with a ‘Mobility Assisted’ pass, along with their helper, were ‘Shuttled’ to the Main Entry. ‘Mobility Assisted’ ticket holders and their helpers, were directed into the seated area. Other ticket holders walked (in daylight) or were ‘Shuttled’ from the Holding Area to the Main Entry in the order that their bus arrived. Here a final ‘Airport’ style search was carried out. Those ticket holders took any available seats or moved on to the grassed area.

Some interesting statistics were that it was announced that a crowd of 10,150 was ‘on-site’ by 3.30am (This, however, did not include the 292 Tour Guides who were not supposed to be in the area, but were not ‘asked to leave!’) and there were 310 buses – mainly the 55 seat size.

At the conclusion of the main service those without ‘Mobility Assisted’ passes walked the 3 kms to Lone Pine for the Australian Service (or 6 km to Chunuk Bair for the Kiwi Service). The crowd was orderly and well-behaved. Those with MA passes were shuttled to Lone Pine or Chunuk Bair. Once the

Australian Service was completed the VIPs moved up the ridge to the Turkish 57th Regiment Memorial before heading further up the ridge to Chunuk Bair for the Kiwi Service. As the only road out passes through Chunuk Bair no buses could leave Lone Pine until, as the announcer stated, the ‘Sheep Shaggers’ service was finished.

Buses were moved up in groups of five in the order that they arrived, the numbers being shown on the ‘big screen’. There was a need to move over 10,000 people in 310 buses on one road. At first it was a slow process as each five buses had to ensure they had every passenger before moving the five buses off. After a while the co-ordinators realised that they could line up two groups of 5 buses and this hastened the move out. Still there were people who did not move out until after 9.00pm. It was a late night for people on those buses when they had to return to Istanbul.

People who were late leaving Lone Pine complained that the system was a shambles. However everyone, or at least the Tour Companies, was warned not to expect to be able to leave Lone Pine in a hurry after the completion of the Australian service. All sorts of suggestions have been made to speed up the process with most impossible to implement. *From my point of view*, having spent the last fourteen years of my Army Reserve service in Admin, all in all the day was a massive administrative task and one I could only say was well done!

Another ANZAC Day perspective (Pat Gurrie 1/65)

When learning that some Scheyvillians would be at Gallipoli for the 100th, Pat Gurrie (1/65), advised that he had been there in 2004. Some things have changed, some remain the same. Some of Pat’s report:



Arrived at a point North of Anzac Cove at 12:30am. Debussed and were told we had a 7km (4+ mile) walk to ANZAC Cove (the location for the memorial service at dawn). Good walk in the company of many Aussies and a few Kiwis. Along the way, saw a lot of armed military standing 10-15 metres off the road, in the darkness. Took about 1 hour 50 minutes (had to pass through a military staffed security check point about 1km away from the site - women into one queue and men into another for body pat downs as

well as pack searches) and found that many thousands (especially backpackers) were already there. The backpackers had their sleeping bags and consequently took up twice the space as they slept on the grassed slope of the viewing area. Anyway we (about six of us who had become talkative over the previous few days) banded together and found a spot and settled down for a long wait in very, very cool conditions that were degraded further by a strong cold off-shore wind).

After an hour or so, we were asked to move and the sleepers were asked to sit up to allow the still arriving “pilgrims” to get into the area. Once again, we found a good spot thanks to the co-operation of others. Then it was just wait, largely in silence, sometimes interspersed with short conversation. I was amazed at how many younger ones were there. There were many of our post-WWII generation there but we were absolutely outnumbered by people in their 20’s and 30’s not all of whom were backpackers. Whether it has become the trendy place to go I don’t know, but I can say that apart from the very odd ‘yobbo’ (noisy and drinking), the vast majority were most respectful and very well behaved.

At 4:20am, the Royal Australian Navy Band provided some contemporary musical entertainment which was not aimed at pumping up but more to alleviate boredom. (Don’t know whether I agreed with this but they probably had their reasons based on past years). After half an hour and then a short break, the band gave a half hour recital of largely Australiana tunes and songs and that was well received.

At 5:30am, a 50 minute dawn service began. Whilst it contained addresses, prayers, readings, poems, hymns and the like, the crowd was absolutely silent throughout apart from their invited participation in

the prayers etc. Absolute reverence and respect! I have seen this before at the Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne but that is usually only for 15 or 20 minutes - it is absolutely spine chilling and goose bumpy (not caused by the cold weather).

I don't think that I have ever been so proud to be an Aussie as when the Ode of Remembrance was recited and the Australian National Anthem was reverently sung by the crowd as the final of the three (Turkish, New Zealand and Australian) anthems. It was the only one sung, the first two were recited. Certainly a very emotional and awe inspiring moment!!!! The service then concluded.

I don't know how many were there but the organisers kept saying it was a record attendance. I can usually estimate crowds if I can see them from the side but being in the middle of this one, I can only guess that it would be in the vicinity of 12,000 (based on the number of buses etc - don't know what was reported on the TV back home).

Had to then wait for the bus to come in and pick us up. It was the 196th bus in the line (yes I counted as we waited) and I guess there were at least another 100 behind us. At 30 per bus that makes about 9,000 people. It took until 9:00 (about 2 hours from the first bus for our bus to arrive. During that time, people were departing on foot for the Beach Cemetery and other cemeteries and pick up points and a few thousand waited for their buses to pick up on site. Then it was on to Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair Services.

Ten Weeks or Twelve (Neil Leckie 3/68)

Over the years I have heard a lot of comments made by OTU Association members and seen on many Websites the length of Recruit Courses during the Nasho era as being twelve weeks. Very few OTU Graduates, or Non-graduates, completed a Recruit Course prior to attending OTU. Many graduates returned to the RTBs or 3 TB on graduation and were Platoon Commanders and trained other Nashos as well as ARA Recruits. These members should know the length of the course.

I was one of the few who completed a Recruit Course (2 RTB) and was a Recruit Platoon Commander (1 RTB). I can assure all readers that the length of a Recruit Course for Nashos and ARA during the Nasho era was ten weeks. I joined the Army on 7th February 1968 and 'Marched Out' of 2 RTB on 17th April, ten weeks to the day. I was a Platoon Commander at 1 RTB for four Recruit Courses all of ten weeks.



2Lt Michael Neels (Air Cadet 3/67) 15 Pl, C Coy, 2 RTB at the end of their ten weeks Recruit Course.

Nasho Recruit Courses started and ended on a Wednesday with a March-Out Parade. It was physically impossible to commence a new Recruit Course on the same day, so if the course was 12 weeks and there was a week's break between courses then the fourth Nasho Recruit Course each year would run over Christmas. This did not happen!

While OTU Courses did have some variation in length (20 – 22 weeks), when discussing the length of Recruit Courses please remember that the length was ten weeks!

Dates for Vic and NSW Nashos, other states may vary a day or so due to travel:

Intake:	Recruit Course Dates	OTU Dates
Intake 1 (OTU 1/65)	30 June – 8 Sep 1965	16 Jul – 18 Dec 1965
Intake 2 (OTU 2/65)	29 Sep – 8 Dec 1965	15 Oct 1965 – 8 Apr 1966
Intake 3 (OTU 1/66)	2 Feb – 13 Apr 1966	18 Feb – 22 Jul 1966
Intake 4 (OTU 2/66)	20 Apr - 29 Jun 1966	6 May – 30 Sep 1966
Intake 5 (OTU 3/66)	13 Jul – 21 Sep 1966	29 Jul – 23 Dec 1966
Intake 6 (OTU 4/66)	28 Sep – 7 Dec 1966	14 Oct 1966 – 31 Mar 1967
Intake 7 (OTU 1/67)	1 Feb – 12 Apr 1967	17 Feb – 14 Jul 1967
Intake 8 (OTU 2/67)	19 Apr – 28 Jun 1967	12 May – 9 Oct 1967
Intake 9 (OTU 3/67)	12 Jul – 20 Sep 1967	28 Jul – 22 Dec 1967
Intake 10 (OTU 4/67)	4 Oct – 13 Dec 1967	27 Oct 1967 – 12 Apr 1968
Intake 11 (OTU 1/68)	7 Feb – 17 Apr 1968	23 Feb – 19 Jul 1968
Intake 12 (OTU 2/68)	1 May – 10 Jul 1968	17 May – 11 Oct 1968
Intake 13 (OTU 3/68)	17 Jul – 25 Sep 1968	2 Aug – 20 Dec 1968
Intake 14 (OTU 4/68)	9 Oct – 18 Dec 1968	27 Oct 1968 – 12 Apr 1969
Intake 15 (OTU 1/69)	29 Jan – 9 Apr 1969	14 Feb – 17 Jul 1969
Intake 16 (OTU 2/69)	23 Apr - 25 Jun 1969	9 May – 4 Oct 1969
Intake 17 (OTU 3/69)	9 Jul – 17 Sep 1969	25 Jul – 19 Dec 1969
Intake 18 (OTU 4/69)	1 Oct – 10 Dec 1969	17 Oct 1969 – 16 Apr 1970
Intake 19 (OTU 1/70)	28 Jan – 15 Apr 1970	13 Feb – 16 Jul 1970
Intake 20 (OTU 2/70)	22 Apr – 1 Jul 1970	8 May – 3 Oct 1970
Intake 21 (OTU 3/70)	8 Jul – 16 Sep 1970	24 Jul – 19 Dec 1970
Intake 22 (OTU 4/70)	30 Sep – 9 Dec 1970	24 Oct 1970 – 22 Apr 1971
Intake 23 (OTU 1/71)	27 Jan – 7 Apr 1971	15 Feb – 15 Jul 1971
Intake 24 (OTU 2/71)	21 Apr – 30 Jun 1971	7 May – 7 Oct 1971
Intake 25 (OTU 3/71)	7 Jul – 15 Sep 1971	23 Jul – 18 Dec 1971
Intake 26 (OTU 4/71)	29 Sep – 8 Dec 1971	15 Oct 1971 – 19 Apr 1972
Intake 27 (OTU 1/72)	26 Jan – 5 Apr 1972	12 Feb – 13 Jul 1972
Intake 28 (OTU 2/72)	19 Apr – 28 Jun 1972	5 May – 7 Oct 1972
Intake 29 (OTU 3/72)	5 Jul – 13 Sep 1972	20 Jul – 21 Dec 1972
Intake 30 (OTU 4/72)	7 Sep – 4 Dec 1972	15 Oct 1972 – 19 Apr 1973

National Network Travel and Cruise Di and Dave Sabben

Dave Sabben (1/65) and wife, Di, take tours back to Vietnam to visit the main ANZAC battlefields (Tour 1) and other battlefields (Tour 2) each year. The highlight of the first tour is to walk the **Long Tan** battlefield. Dave is currently arranging tours for August 2016, to be at Long Tan for the 50th anniversary of the battle on 18 August.

The first Tour (the **LONG TAN TREK** Tour) leaves Australia Monday **15 Aug 2016** and is **9 days & 8 nights**. Price is \$3,348 per person twin share, plus approx. \$550 fuel levy/tax. Following on from the **Trek Tour** is an optional second tour to points north – it starts from Saigon on Tuesday **23 August** for **13 days & 12 nights**. Price is \$3,198 per person twin share.

You can download the flyer for both these tours as well as the full itinerary for each from:
<http://www.sabben.com/longtantrek/VN%20Long%20Tan%20Trek%20Tour%202016.html>
 The travel arrangements are made by National Network Travel, (lic 30280), www.nntravel.com.au .
 If interested, please contact Dave's RSM, Di, on 0412 278 888 or disabben@ozemail.com.au

Contact Di on 03 9787 8888, 0412 278 888 or disabben@ozemail.com.au

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES

The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia was formed to assist Vietnam Veterans and their families after their return from the Vietnam War. The Association has progressed, and now looks after all Veterans regardless of conflict, or Service, and all members who have served in the Armed Services.

Honour the Dead..... But fight like hell for the living

Adelaide: Sunday 16th August, Torrens Parade Ground (King William Rd, opposite the Festival Theatre)
This year will be the final VV Day Concert to be held at Torrens Parade Ground, so let's send it off with a bang and show our appreciation to all those generous show folk who have been so giving with their time and entertaining skills for our benefit over the years. Make this final concert one to remember.

0800 hours Gunfire Breakfast

1040 hours March

1100 hours Service

1145 hours Free concert featuring Vietnam Veteran Normie Rowe (intake 1/68).

Displays, food and refreshments available. The public, along with Veterans, friends and family welcome.

Brisbane: Tuesday 18th August 2015, ANZAC Square, Brisbane. Arrive by 1145 hours.

1200 hours Form up at Jupiter's Casino in George St

1210 hours march off

1220 hours Service at ANZAC Square

Townsville: Tuesday 18th August 2015, ANZAC Park, The Strand, adjacent to the Cenotaph.

Arrive by 1645 hours. Dress is uniform, suit or neat casual and medals are to be worn if applicable.

1700 hours Service

1800 hours Get-together following the service at the Townsville RSL

Canberra: Tuesday 18th August 2015, Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Avenue, Ainslie.

1140 hours Assemble

1200 hours Service (dry or wet weather) For a seat contact: vietvetsday@gmail.com

Hobart: Tuesday 18th August 2015, Hobart Cenotaph. Assemble 1130 hours.

1145 hours Laying of Floral Tributes

1200 hours Service commences

Guest Speaker Lt Col Alex Thomson, CO 12th /40th Battalion, Royal Tasmania Regiment

Melbourne: Tuesday 18th August 2015, the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

50th Anniversary of the 1 RAR Battle Group arrival in South Vietnam.

0930 – 1100 hours: Gunfire Breakfast

1030 – 1130 hours: Gather at Forecourt for a 1200 Step-off

1200 – 1300 hours: March, Service and Wreath Laying on the Forecourt.

Shrine Representatives include Air Vice Marshall Chris Spence AO (Ret'd)

Perth: Sunday 16th August, Vietnam Memorial, May Drive, King's Park. Ph: 0424 368 670

1030 hours Assemble

1045 hours Step-off

1100 hours Service

Post service activities are under Unit Association arrangements.

Sydney: Tuesday 18th August, Cenotaph, Martin Place. Arrive 1015 hours.

1030 hours Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Service

Springwood, NSW: Sunday, 16th August, Macquarie Road, Springwood. Arrive 1045 hours.

1100 – 1230 hours Parade and Service

1600 – 1700 hours Beating the Retreat Ceremony with Lithgow Pipe Band at the War Memorial

Q STORE (Order through the Website)

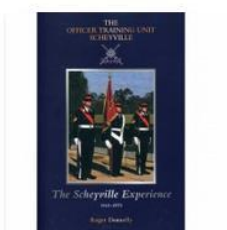
New Items: 40th Anniversary Badge and 'The Scheyville Experience' Reprint.



ADD TO CART



ADD TO CART



ADD TO CART

For those who may have misplaced their 40th Reunion Badge or would like one:
\$5 per badge incl P&H.

'The Scheyville Experience'
\$25 incl P & H.

OTU Sticker:
\$1 plus \$2 P & H.

Other badges:
\$5 plus \$4 P & H.



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STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS:

Queensland: Owen Williamson (4/70) olwilliamson@bigpond.com or WilliamsonO@AureconHatch.com
Back-up: Stephanie Mauchlan (Mick Hart's secretary) smauchlan@clearyhoare.com.au
07 3230 5252 or Mick Hart mhart@clearyhoare.com.au
Monthly Luncheons: 2nd Thursday of the month

NSW: John Bushell (4/69) 0400 136 517 jb@shoehornconsulting.com.au
Monthly Luncheons 3rd Wednesday @ Greek Athenian Restaurant, in Barrack Street

ACT: Wal Hall (2/68) 02 6288 5251 0418 659 010 walhall@ozemail.com.au
Winston Bucknall (2/68) 0408 492 405 wbnsec@bigpond.net.au
2015 activity dates – see Page 22

Victoria: Frank Miller 0401 140 762 millerfw@netspace.net.au
Bernie Gleeson 0427 601 983 berjulgleson@bigpond.com
Monthly Lunches, 2nd Wednesday

Tasmania: Dennis Townsend (2/70) 03 6247 3892 det47@y7mail.com
Ray Williams (2/71) adaptbm@bigpond.net.au
Quarterly lunches advertised by email

SA: Gary Vial (3/69) 0414 762 525 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
Frank LeFaucheur (1/71) Lunch Co-ordinator 08 9246 2666 lefauche@inet.net.au
Jay McDaniell (3/69): 0438 959 050 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 David Ward.

The back page:



Left: Three Scheyvillians are among the last five Life Governors of The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne (no more ‘life’ appointments will be awarded):
 Peter Whitelaw (OTU 3/66) – 20 years
 Colonel George Mackenzie OBE RFD – 37 years
 Wing Commander Peter Isaacson AM DFC AFC DFM
 64 years
 Lieutenant Colonel David Ford CVO AM GM
 (OTU DS 65-67) – 33 years
 Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Lombardo (OTU 1/65) – 28 years
 A David Simmonds photograph’.

Below: Some of Class 3/68 at the 50th Anniversary in Canberra:
 Neil Leckie (hatless), Phil Marley (cap) and Barry Anderson (Hat)



Below: The grave of William Schey after whom Scheyville was named. A possible restoration project for the association (Dick Whitaker 1/69)



Below: Julie and Bernie Gleeson and Robin Hunt (both 3/69) at the RMC Library & Museum building after the 50th Service.



Below: The OTU Corner in the RMC Museum



Right: 1/65 50th Reunion, Brisbane

