



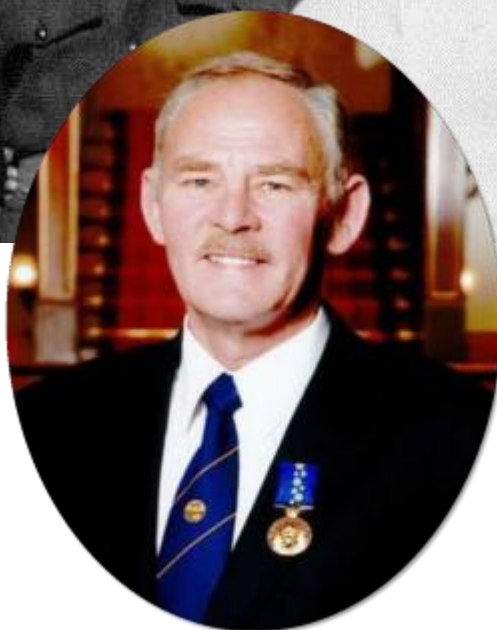
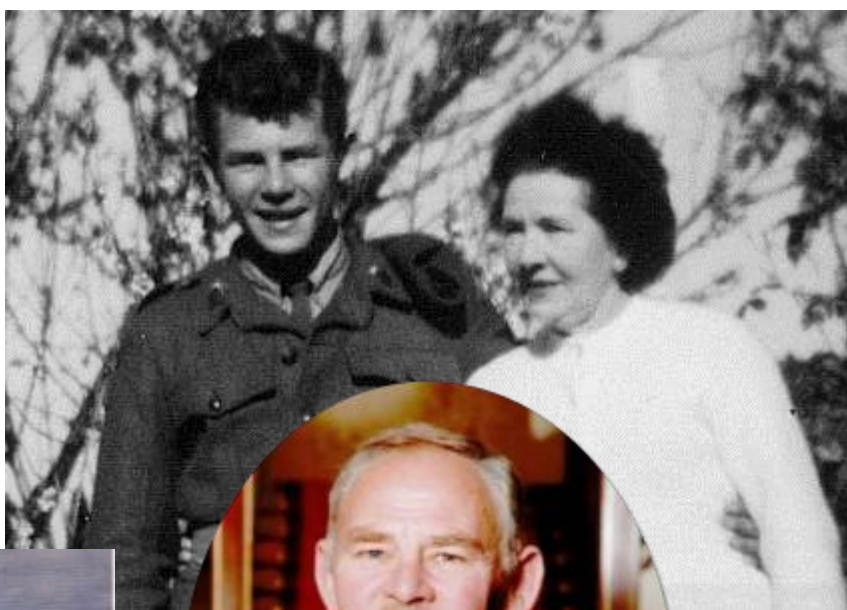
The Scheyvillian

Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee

OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 3, 2016

Officer Training Unit, Scheyville NSW 1965-1973

A newsletter for all Scheyvillians



**The Late Tony Sonneveld OAM,
Past Chairman OTU Association**



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THE SCHEYVILLE TAPES

Earlier this year the association received from Tony Sonneveld a set of Video Tapes and DVDs on Scheyville that were recorded for the NSW National Parks Service. There were 17 tapes and all, and the interviews carried across a number of tapes. These 17 tapes have been re-recorded onto 10 DVDs with the one interviewee/s on a DVD.

The Recordings are of:

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| The First Commandant, Ian Geddes | Max Almond (RSM) |
| The Sonneveld Brothers John (2/68) & Tony (1/70) | Tim Fischer (3/66) |
| Vic Lampe (4/69) | Gary McKay (2/68) |
| Turk Ellis (1/70) | Various Interviews at Scheyville |
| A Windsor Church Parade & Return to Scheyville (2 DVDs) | |

The DVDs are available from The Editor at \$10 incl P&H – cheaper for multiple DVDs!

THE SCHEYVILLIAN NEXT EDITION DUE OUT April 2017: It is planned to have Edition 1 of 2017 of *The Scheyvillian* in early April, in time to advise details of ANZAC Day in the major centres. Submissions need to be received by 15 March 2017. 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 should 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 There less than 40 copies left!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (Graeme Chester, 2/67)

As at the 8 Nov 16, a summary of our FY16/17 membership was:

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of Graduates | 1880 | | | |
| Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff) | 1988 | | | |
| Number Financial | | 435 | | |
| Widows | | 8 | | |
| Number Honorary | | 31 | | |
| Number Deceased | | | 164 | |
| Number Unfinancial (Not Renewed) | | | 1184 | |
| Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact) | | | 166 | |
| Totals | 1880 | 1988 | 474 | 1514 |

Of the names on database 23.8% are financial/honorary/widows.

Of the names on the database 8.2% are deceased.

Of the names on the database 59.6% are unfinancial (not renewed)

Of the names on the database 8.4% are unfinancial (do not contact)

After an initial surge of membership renewals early this financial year, there has been somewhat of a lull in renewals over the last couple of months. Currently, we have **474** financial members which is still a long way from the **530** financial members we had at the end of last financial year.

I am, however, aware of a number of members who were financial last year, and years past, who have not renewed as yet for 2016/17. If something has happened to change your mind about membership of the OTU Association we would be interested to know, otherwise, if you intend to renew, please get your skates on and do so asap. A Membership Renewal form is attached to this newsletter or, should you wish, you could renew using PayPal via our website. Renewal by **31 January 2017** 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 and a statement will appear advising you whether you are financial or not.

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.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT (Ian Kelly, 2/67)

The Association is continually striving to add information to the Website to make it a better tool for Scheyvillians to use. There is a Deceased Members page. There are many deceased members listed on the Website that have no details about their passing. If you have information on the death of any Scheyvillian, Please advise the Webmaster.

Another Website page lists those who served in Vietnam. This list is being updated and later more detail on Graduates service in Vietnam is planned to be added. See Page 28.

The Website is used to send out bulk emails. The Victorian Chapter uses this to advise its members of upcoming activities. Other chapters are encouraged to do so.

Using the website, Membership Renewal Reminders are sent on behalf of the Membership Officer, Graeme Chester (2/67); rapid access to all Financial and Unfinancial members is available; financial statuses are updated; bounced email addresses are followed up and corrected; and The Scheyvillian newsletter distribution method works well.

A problem of deleted PayPal Addresses has been corrected.

VALE: Tony Sonneveld (1/70). (Dick Adams, 3/72, Geoff Houghton, 3/71 and Neil Leckie, 3/68)



Anthony Leonard Sonneveld was born in Holland in 1946, one of eleven children, and completed his secondary education at Christian Brothers College, East Melbourne. He attended the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and graduated as a Diplomat of Secondary Metallurgy in 1969. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman he was employed as a Consulting Metallurgist.

From a young age Tony had a fondness for the military way of life and was a member of the Cadets in 1961. Although conscription put him into the Army it was Tony's desire to succeed and rise above the difficult childhood times that drove him to find his true depths and resourcefulness. He became the BQMS in Class 1/70 at Scheyville, which in itself is no small achievement.

On graduating as a 2nd Lieutenant, Tony was allocated to the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and posted to the RAEME Training Centre at Bandiana for Corps Training from 28 July – 25 August 1970, along with Brent Couper, William Doman, Anthony Harding, Malcolm Nicholle and John Urquhart. On completion of Corps Training Tony was posted to the Puckapunyal Area Workshops where he would later serve with Owen Williamson of Class 4/70. In 1972 after two years in the Army Tony completed his NS with the rank of Lieutenant.

Following his discharge from the Army and returning to his civilian employment in 1972 Tony had no real contact with the Army, nor the fledgling association, until he participated in Defence Industrial Mobilisation Course in 1987. It was during this course that the director, Rear Admiral Fred Lynam, encouraged him to renew his association with the military. This prompted Tony to join the association that year.

Tony immediately became an active association member. He was National Chairman of the Association from 1991 – 93 and organised the first national reunion (the 20th Anniversary of the closing of OTU), at Windsor, in 1993. The reunion was attended by 450 graduates and partners. Tony's first period as National Chairman was characterised by the membership growing from about 40 to 250 members; the adoption of a constitution and the establishment of state chapters; a quarterly published *The Scheyvillian* newsletter; and the establishment of regular lunches in the NSW Chapter.

In 1994 Tony was instrumental in the erection of a commemorative bronze plaque at Scheyville, to recognise the eight Scheyville Graduates who were killed in South Vietnam.

Tony was National Chairman again from 2002 – 04 and organised the 2nd National Reunion (the 30th Anniversary of the closing of OTU) in the Sydney and Windsor areas in 2003, which was attended by 550 graduates and partners. His second period was characterised by growing the membership from 400 to 750 members; erecting a second commemorative plaque to the deceased commandants at Scheyville; and introducing colour into an expanded *The Scheyvillian* newsletter.



Dick Adams' OTU 372 with Tony Sonneveld's OTU 170

In 2011, during the Scheyville Centenary celebrations, Tony worked with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to erect a commemorative bronze plaque to deceased commandants.

Just what part did Scheyville play in Tony's life? As he was growing up Tony had a rather tough time, and with strict Dutch parents he was not to have an opinion. This led to low self-esteem, and to quote Tony directly "Scheyville taught me how to cope in life and to realize that one's physical and mental capacity was not limited to 20% of brain function and with application many things were possible." Tony went on to draw parallels with the movie *Limitless*; and (on the next page) a poem tying all together.

Tony was diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent external beam radiation treatment in 2003. In 2006, a rising PSA and bone scan confirmed existence of metastatic disease. Tony lost his father and father-in-law to prostate cancer in 1992 and worried about the future of his sons and grandsons. In 2012 two brothers underwent prostate cancer surgery. In 2007, Tony joined the NSW Board of PCFA as a Consumer Advocate and Ambassador Speaker to actively promote prostate cancer awareness, education and fund raising for support and research. He was appointed NSW Fundraising Chairman in May 2009.

Tony continued to work with the NSW Chapter of the OTU Association until he was forced by the effects of his prostate cancer to cut back his activities. Tony went into palliative care on 10 November and passed away peacefully early on Sunday 13 November 2016.

The Last Hurrah (Dick Adams, 3/72)

On Monday 29 August 2016, 80 people joined with popular association member, Tony Sonneveld (1/70), to give him a 'Last Hurrah' on his final journey with prostate cancer. The function was neither a pre-emptive wake, nor a final farewell – it was a celebration of Tony's contribution to the association and a gathering with friends he had made over many years.

The function, held at the heritage Cellos Restaurant at the NSW Masonic Club in Sydney, was an initiative of the association and was organised by NSW Chapter Chairman, John (Booka) Bushell (4/69). Tony and Viv were 'piped in' to the dining room where they joined with 48 Scheyvillians, partners, members of Tony's family and a few close friends.

Following on from a successful class reunion in Melbourne earlier this year, where Tony was able to attend, Malcolm Boyd managed to muster 17 members of Class 1/70 to attend the function. They were joined by National Committee Members Frank Miller, Ray Elder and Neil Leckie.

At the function Dick Adams (3/72) acted as MC and provided an overview of Tony's long service to the Association. Malcolm Boyd (1/70) spoke about Tony's long involvement with a close-knit class, lasting

some 46 years; Ray Elder (2/67) entertained the gathering with a few gems about Tony; Phil Drake-Brockman (DS) shared some anecdotes in respect to Tony's skiing prowess; Geoff Houghton (3/71) read a poem he had written in Tony's honour several years ago; and Tim Fischer (3/66) spoke about Tony and the 'Dargo Warriors', as well as the campaign to have John Monash elevated to the rank of Field Marshall.



Left: Tony and Gary Vial (3/69) a few weeks after 'The Last Hurrah'. It was Tony that inveigled (or persuaded) Gary to take an active OTU role MANY years ago.



Tony's brief but emotional response was followed up by he and Viv being 'piped out' of the dining room, where they joined their guests in the bar to follow that time-honoured Scheyvillian tradition of sharing a few beers with a few reminiscences (and some 'war stories') of times long ago.



Above: Tony and his three children.

Right: With Ray Elder (2/67), Tony and Dick Adams (3/72)

Thank you Tony for your service to the Association and we wish you all the best in your continuing treatment.

Inspiration

Breathing is one of the few automatic processes over which we have little control,
Almost everything else we can chart and set course, to ensure we reach our goal,
Adversity and pain, suffering and anxiety, are just hurdles in life to test our metal,
The brain is a wonderful tool; just switch it on to full and let your problems settle,

Start each day fresh with a clean and open mind, never let yesterday set you behind,
Never waste a precious moment to think; in anger or envy just get on with the grind,

We are all much better than we realise and seldom do we reach our full potential,
Forego the harmful and immoral and watch your self-esteem rise as if exponential,

Think of others kindly and offer help where you can but never leave in conflict,
If all of us combined our unused power what a wonderful world we could depict!

Dedicated to Tony Sonneveld for his ongoing fight for the Prostrate Cancer Foundation of Australia: Ted Belly

Obituary - Tony Sonneveld 1946 – 2016 (Malcolm Brown, 3/69)

They called him the "pocket dynamo" and indeed he was, setting out as one of 11 children in an impoverished family, delivering milk as a nine-year-old to help the family make ends meet, and finishing as a highly successful industrialist with a personal estate worth millions. But there was a lot more to Tony Sonneveld than that. He embraced every field he entered, including the military where he was a commissioned officer during the National Service. Everything he touched, whether it was non-destructive testing, construction and termite control, became his own domain. When, at the age of 57, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, he rose to become a NSW chairman of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, waging such a war on the disease that the malevolent deity – should there be one – which had singled him out must have realised it had chosen the wrong victim.

Anthony 'Tony' Sonneveld was born on a ship as it entered a Dutch harbour in 1946. His father, Hendricus Sonneveld, had served in the Dutch East Indies early in World War 11 and, retreating with

other Dutch forces to Australia in the face of the Japanese onslaught, had met a nurse, Eileen Mary Ferguson. The couple married in Melbourne in 1943. Their first child, Michael, had been born in 1944. At the end of the war, Hendricus and his wife travelled to Holland. Tony Sonneveld was born on May 3, 1946 and was nine months old when his parents returned to Australia. He was schooled in Melbourne but because his parents were so poor, he worked throughout his schooling at a variety of jobs and left school in 1962, with his Leaving Certificate, to work as a trainee metallurgist.

Sonneveld completed his schooling at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and continued at the institute, studying part-time, for a diploma in metallurgy. He qualified in 1969 and continued with a company that had already engaged him, Metlab– X-Ray, which specialised in non-destructive testing (NDT) of pipelines, power station, oil refineries and aircraft. In 1970, Sonneveld was called up for National Service. Graduating from a course at the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, outside Sydney, he went to the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Puckapunyal, Victoria, servicing all manner of military vehicles, from tanks to jeeps.

After completing his National Service in 1971, Sonneveld returned to Metlab. Transferred to the Brisbane office, he took responsibility for the company's operations in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Bougainville. In 1973, he moved to the Sydney office and took in New South Wales as well. He also married a teacher, Vera ("Vivienne") Albantow, bought a block of land in Seven Hills, in Sydney's north-west, and built a house. Two sons arrived: Mark, born 1976 and Michael in 1977. In 1978, Sonneveld became Metlab's general manager. The following year, he and Vivienne were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Rebecca. At work, his company, then called Metlab MAPEL Pty Ltd, had operations in Singapore, New Zealand, and across Australia. At one point, he personally dived at an oil rig off the New Zealand coast to do testing. In 2004 he published the "History of Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) in Australia".

In 1986, following a takeover of Metlab by a British company, a subsidiary of Amec plc, Sonneveld became deputy managing director of the parent company's diverse construction operations throughout Australia. In 1990, he joined Transfield Constructions as General Manager of the company's electrical/instrumentation subsidiary. In 1995, Sonneveld left and took up a franchise for a new product, Termi-mesh, a physical barrier to subterranean termite infestation of buildings, which had a ready market following the phasing out of chemical controls. Because he was one of the first in the field, the return exceeded all expectations. The company turned over \$1 million in 11 months and repaid the initial investment four-fold. Sonneveld then bought a run-down Blacktown factory for \$500,000, renovated and extended it to provide a permanent nest-egg for the family.

The 2003 diagnosis of prostate cancer was a terrible blow. In 2006, he received the grim news that the disease had become metastatic – it had gone into his bones and was terminal. But Sonneveld, whose extra-curricular activities had included building a network of military contacts and chairing the OTU [Officer Training Unit] Association nationally, quickly took up the cause of prostate cancer sufferers. He joined the NSW Board of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, became its chairman and a national director, and successfully lobbied the Howard Government to approve the drug Taxotere, an end-of-life chemotherapy for sufferers, to go onto the Prescription Benefits List. Also a national director of the foundation, he became its ambassador, giving public presentations, chaired meetings and attended many fund raising functions each year. Using the media and venues such as football matches, he set out on a campaign to make the general public aware of the disease.

Wanting to pack as much life into his remaining years, Sonneveld initiated a music and fun day in 2006 for many of his friends, which has continued to this day on a biennial basis and has over the years attracted the likes of Mike McClellan and Marty Rhone. Awarded an OAM in 2010 for his services to NDT, Sonneveld handed over his business to his sons and went on an energetic program that included overseas trips and skiing, as well as supporting and mentoring fellow prostate cancer sufferers. But Sonneveld's own disease took its inevitable course and he died on November 13, 2016. Tony Sonneveld is survived by his widow, his three children, five grandchildren and 10 siblings.

The Funeral of Tony Sonneveld (1/70) (Frank Miller, 4/67)



Tony's funeral was held at Mary, Mother of Mercy Chapel, Rookwood NSW on 21 November 2016. That the building was full to overflowing said so much of the high esteem in which he was held by so many people. Over thirty Scheyvillians were in attendance. Some had come from interstate to pay their last respects to a man who had been a major driver in the Association over the years.

The Service commenced with a welcome and prayer given by Barry Denton – a good friend of Tony's. Older brother John Sonneveld DFC (2/68) delivered the Eulogy. Following that, a series of tributes was delivered

by speakers who had known Tony through many aspects of his life. Included in these was Dick Adams APM OAM RFD (3/72) (photograph) who also read out a piece written by Owen Williamson (4/70).

Another of Tony's friends, Mike McClellan, sang a special song "Hand to Hold" after which Tony's wife Viv, sons Mark, and Michael and grandson Jake each gave a tribute. (Viv said that her piece had been written for her by Tony. She did add, however, that each time he travelled overseas he brought her back an ornamental bell to add to the personal collection that she had started many years ago. Many were not altogether to her liking and were made available to whoever wanted to take them after the Service).

The picture of the Tony we all knew emerged strongly throughout the Service. He was a driven man, always ready to take charge and make whatever was in hand a huge success. He was a risk taker who thrived on a challenge. His endearing personality made him friends wherever he went. He was larger than life and was well deserving of the "Pocket Dynamo" title which aptly described his boundless energy. Mention was made by more than one speaker on his lifetime of smoking which had taken up with characteristic enthusiasm at a very young age.

At the finish of the Service refreshments were provided in an area adjacent to the Chapel. Scheyvillians were able to catch up with each other and to reminisce. They also shared fond memories of our fine comrade - "Pocket Dynamo" Tony Sonneveld. The day was a fitting celebration of Tony's life. Our sincere condolences go to Viv, John and the family.

The Victorian Wake (Robin Hunt, 3/69)

In Melbourne, a dozen OTU graduates (including three from Tony's OTU class) gathered together after work at the Toorak Heroes on the day of Tony's funeral to join together to recognise Tony's life. Robin Hunt led off with some observations about Tony's contribution to our Association, Ray Elder (2/67) and Peter Whitelaw (3/66) expanded our knowledge about Tony's work with various prostate cancer projects and three of his 1/70 classmates - Owen Morgan, George Guimmarra and Jon Bate – spoke about Tony's

life at OTU and his contributions to Australian society in general. A glass was raised to a "good bloke and a fine Australian". Other attendees were Ian Kelly (2/67), Mick Stone (1/68), John Parker (1/70), Chris Coates (3/71), Hondo Gratton (3/69) and Peter Hateley (2/71)



Apologies were received from Brian Cooper (3/69), Neil Leckie (2/68), Rob Youl (2/65) in St Arnaud on Art Business, Frank Miller (4/67 - at Tony's funeral in Sydney) and from Wayne Bruce (2/70) who, with his two daughters, walked the Kokoda Trail with Tony in 2003 (just after he was diagnosed). He fought the long good fight - Although he did need to take a "smoko" at locations on the track"

UPCOMING NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

WA Chapter Busselton Weekend 3 – 5 February 2017

Please contact Jay at mcdaniell@ozemail.com.au to advise your intended attendance by **15 December 2016** - with names of partners.

3/72 National Reunion, Melbourne 21 – 25 April 2017

Activities include a Reunion Dinner and participating with the Victorian Chapter's ANZAC Day march and the post-march lunch. Further details will be forwarded by class email and other means. For further information contact Alan Grant alang@waterwayslwm.com.au or Dick Adams at dickadams@ozemail.com.au

RECENT NATIONAL EVENTS

AWM Last Post Ceremony, Canberra, 18th August 2016 – 2Lt Gordon Sharp (Frank Miller, 4/67)

The close of each day at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, is marked by a 'Last Post Ceremony'. This celebrates one person of the one hundred and two thousand Australians who have given their lives in war. Appropriately, on 18 August 2016 – the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan – the life of 2Lt Gordon Sharp (1/65) was commemorated. Gordon was one of the seventeen killed on that day half a century ago. He was the first of eight Scheyville graduates to die on active service in Vietnam. Fittingly, Gordon's part in the battle was recently recognised through his being awarded a Commendation for Gallantry.

We're grateful indeed to John O'Halloran (1/65) for all he did in making this day so special. John had grown up in Tamworth with Gordon, attended the same school then graduated from OTU in that same first intake. The two were then posted to 6 RAR together – Gordon to Delta company and John to Bravo Company. John, recognising this most important commemoration, arranged for members of Gordon's family, friends and Christian Brothers school classmates from Tamworth, and people who had worked with Gordon before his call up with TV Channel 7, to be present. Through his efforts, over sixty Scheyvillians and partners attended.



The ceremony itself was solemn and stirring. Following a brief introduction from the AWM MC, the Australian National Anthem was sung. A piper then played a lament during which representatives of a large number of military and other organisations as well as family, laid wreaths at the base of the Pool of Reflection. Classmate and Vietnam Veteran, Brigadier David Webster AM CSC, placed one on behalf of the OTU Association. (Photo – on the right in front of wreaths).



Fittingly, one of Australia's most recent military heroes, Corporal Mark Donaldson VC, gave the address. He detailed Gordon's early life in Tamworth, his school days at Christian Brothers College, his early career with Channel 7 then his call up and eventual posting to Vietnam with 6RAR. Corporal Donaldson then read the Ode. The ceremony concluded with a bugler playing the Last Post.

Well over a hundred guests then adjourned to the Mercure hotel for a meal and for fine fellowship. In line with John O'Halloran's request, speeches were kept to a minimum. John gave a brief oration welcoming everybody, remembering Gordon, then emphasising that too many speeches can be a waste of time. It was very well said.

Scheyvillian John Knack (4/72) (previous page), had a brief word and proudly displayed his Gordon Sharp Memorial prize – the last awarded to the Cadet who ‘showed the greatest improvement in field training’. Three other attendees had also received this honour on their graduation.

The Last Post ceremony and the “afters” proved a most appropriate way to remember and to honour Gordon Sharp - one of OTU’s best-known graduates. It was also a fine means by which we could remember the ‘Call Up’, the Vietnam War and ‘The Scheyville Experience’.

Classmate John O’Halloran (1/65) wrote: Gordon was born in Tamworth NSW on the 17 March 1945 to Eric and Roma Sharp. Gordon completed his Leaving Certificate at CBC Tamworth and moved to Sydney where he gained employment as a trainee cameraman with ATN Channel 7. Whilst at Channel 7 Gordon was called up in the first intake of National Service on the 30/06/1965 and was later selected for Officer Training at OTU Scheyville near Windsor NSW. After graduating in December 1965 Gordon was posted to 6 RAR as Platoon Commander of 11 Platoon D Company.

After intensive training in Queensland, 6 RAR embarked in early June 1966 for Vietnam. On the 18 August 1966 at 1.30pm D Company relieved 5 Platoon B Company in the Long Tan rubber plantation. Whilst D Company were following the tracks, located by 5 Platoon, they ran into a very large enemy force. The resultant iconic action is now part of Australian Military History...THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN... It was during this action that Gordon was killed.

The above is part of the reading by Corporal Mark Donaldson VC during the Last Post Ceremony (LPC) on 18 August 2016 dedicated to 2Lt Gordon Cameron Sharp. The area set aside for the LPC at the War Memorial was absolutely packed.

After the LPC a get-together was held at the Mercure Hotel Canberra. Approximately 130 people attended this function for a meal and drinks. Those present included Dr. Brendan Nelson and his Mrs Nelson, 20 of Gordon’s Relatives, 15 School Friends from CBC Tamworth, 60 OTU Scheyville Graduates, 15 former Workmates from ATN Channel 7 and about 20 Friends and Vets. In all the LPC and following function was a great “send-off” for Gordon. It is a shame that 6 RAR and Long Tan Vets hadn’t returned to Brisbane prior to the LPC.

David Ward (2/66) A fellow platoon commander (John O’Halloran - 5 platoon, 6 RAR) organised, at the Hotel Mercure, a gathering for the family & friends of Gordon Sharp (11 platoon commander, 6 RAR) KIA at the Battle of Long Tan, 18th August. Gordon & John were schoolmates, called up, graduates of OTU Scheyville of the same class (1/65), and posted to 6 RAR as platoon commanders. I was attending Scheyville (18 August 1966), when it was announced to the parade of Officer Cadets that our first graduate had just been killed in SVN. At that time it had never occurred to me that the worse would occur. Consequently, my awareness of those that did not survive SVN has never ceased. Like you, I attended the services & very thank full for the effort & thought of the organisers & sponsors. As a veteran, I was impressed by the strength & leadership of the GG to express his feelings about the lack of acknowledgement we had received on returning to our country. The acceptance of Veterans that was demonstrated by those present was an uplifting experience that will never leave me. Lest we forget.

Harry Neesham (1/65) Further to the report from David, I visited Vietnam for the 2nd time in August 2016. Having missed all the concerts on the first tour, I thought I would go to the Little Patti concert on 17 August. I have to report notwithstanding Patti being a great Trooper, officialdom denied me a further concert. I did get a great photo with Little Patti. I also visited Long Hai, Dat Do, Hoa Long, Nui Dat, Binh Ba - where I had a photo taken in the same pew in the local church as I did in 1966 - and finally Binh Gia. On the 18 August I attended the Long Tan Memorial Cross and after a wait of just over an hour was able to place a poppy and say a prayer for Gordon Sharpe and Kerry Rinkin, both graduates of Scheyville who made the ultimate sacrifice. The reverence shown by all the Australian visitors and the attending Vietnamese family members of deceased VC was humbling. It was a very emotional experience.

4/69 Mini-Reunion (Geoff Daly)

On 14 July 2016 during the Queensland monthly lunch at Friday's Waterline Restaurant a number of Class 4/69 held a 'mini-reunion'. Geoff sent in the group photograph along with a couple of interesting items. The 4/69s hope to have some more gatherings in the future.



Rear Row from left
Peter Blackwood,
Don McNaught,
Warwick Settree,
Hein van der Heide,
Don Keyes
(front row)
Geoff Gardiner,
DS Dick Flint,
Terry O'Shea,
Geoff Daly

2/69 Reunion, Canberra, 14-16 October 2016, David Jervis.

"It is a mystery why numbers at 2/69 reunions are increasing. After a record attendance last year at Port Arthur this year in Canberra from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th October 50 attended plus 10 from the ACT chapter who added some class to the event.

Most of us stayed at the Mercure hotel and 20 or so early arrivals enjoyed the traditional "hit at the nets" in the hotel bistro on Thursday night. Bearing in mind the noon start for the Friday lunches we retired about midnight to be in pristine condition. The ladies had lunch (and some respite) at the Hoi Polloi cafe in Old Parliament House while the men's lunch was at the Mercure bistro. This lunch finished about 4.15 pm just in time for the men to change into jackets and ties to attend the Last Post ceremony at the War Memorial. Wreaths were laid on our behalf at the Pool of Reflection by Paul Flanagan, John Morris and Kevin Richardson. This emotional and well attended event is held at the closing of the Memorial every evening. After a private tour of the museum 61 attended a dinner at the adjacent Poppy's restaurant.

The guest speaker was Brigadier (Ret'd) Chris Roberts who talked about his new book "The Landing at Gallipoli 1915". His theme was that much of the reporting on Gallipoli is exaggerated or incorrect and he seeks to put that right. For example, he does not accept the popular view that Australian troops who first landed at Gallipoli were exposed to Turkish machine gun fire. During a lively question time he agreed that most countries tend to exaggerate their military feats but firmly maintained that Australia should attempt to record the truth. Who could disagree? He also said that he did not support the campaign to get General Sir John Monash promoted to Field Marshall. After dinner the usual suspects returned to the Mercure bar.

On Saturday we were "at leisure" which included a few light restaurant lunches, sightseeing, attending the magnificent Floreade Flower Show, viewing the Dr. Who collection, golf at Duntroon, shopping and sleeping.



That night's dinner was in a private room at the Mercure. Gary Ryan showed a DVD of bush poet Gregory North's very funny rendition of "The Man from Snowy River" in 15 languages. Peter Don suggested that our diverse and talented group could run the country better than the current mob and proposed that we form the "Only Trust Us" political party. As the potential Prime Minister he nominated his cabinet ministers and we all thought this was a great idea (by the next morning most of the ministers had forgotten what their portfolios were).

After dinner the men retired to the bar while the ladies had coffee in the adjoining lounge. By midnight the bar resembled the bar scene in "Star Wars" partly because a couple of young local girls had dropped in and encouraged us to drink tequila shots and Jagermeister bombs delivered by the Jagertrain trick (Google for full details). A rousing rendition of "We're a pack of bastards!" and the arrival of some wives ended this spectacular.

A creditable 25 people attended Sunday morning's service at the Duntroon chapel. It was reported to me that after the service PTI Don and John Lowis completed the obstacle course (left).

At noon we went on a leisurely 3 hour luncheon cruise on Lake Burly Griffin during which Paul Flanagan entertained us with his brilliant limericks (printed after this article).

Arriving back at the Mercure bar at 4.00 pm gave the "Only Trust Us" party the opportunity to formulate policy. After a short time it became clear that a lot of work needed to be done before consensus could be reached on matters like the secession of W.A., the reduction in the number of "boat people" running the Australian Taxation Office, allowing every household to have a firearm to shoot possums and whether or not stills to make homemade moonshine should attract a government subsidy. Despite never being able to agree on almost anything it is hoped the 2/69 'Google group' may be able to resolve these issues over the next few months.

Formalities ended with a casual dinner in the bistro followed by drinks at the bar until a time no one can remember. This was yet another terrific reunion and many thanks to the organisers Bill and Jennie Watson and Mick Hart. It was particularly pleasing for us that Lawson and Vivien Ride attended from Hobart as Lawson is now wheel chair bound. They were both as cheerful as ever.

Apart from the aforementioned the reunion was attended by Trish Hart, Lotte Monotti, Grahame and Kay Charge, Ross and Jane Robbins, Terry and Jocelyn Keogh, Kath Richardson, Lyn Williams, David and Sophie Jervis, Peter and Cher Wotton, Judy Flanagan, Denise Hogan, Doug and Jenny Harrington, Birute Don, Julie Morris, Rick Jarratt and Irene Jones, Glenn and Denise Smith, Andrew and Kathie Sutherland, Glenn and Yvonne Benson, Tim and Nichole Overall, Carole Ryan, Gordon and Ingrid Campbell, Roman and Keren Ulanowicz, Ian Paull and Annette, Gordon and Anne Dickens. From the ACT chapter were Greg and Joan Monteith, Greg and Vija Todd, Kenneth Finlay, Les and Dawn Boag, Wal and Anne Hall and Dick Whitaker.

The next reunion is in mid-October 2017 at the Novotel Hotel in South Australia's Barossa Valley one of the world's premier wine regions."



Rear l-r: Glen Benson, Cheryl Wotton, Mick Hart
Front l-r: Lyn Williams, Irene Jones and Rick Jarrett

Right: Ross Robbins presenting guest speaker
Brigadier Chris Roberts (rt) with a copy of The
Scheyville Experience

Reflections from 2/69 Canberra Reunion: October 2016

On 2/69 graduates – Growing older but not necessarily wiser.

Tho' the company's still most engaging, it's not hard to observe that we're ageing.
But we're still without peer, in the drinking of beer.
And by night we're still up for some raging.

Lyn Williams – silver haired ladies' man, as smooth as pure silk is our Lynton.

But alas now his hair might need tintin'.
He woos ladies for sport, yet insists he does nought;
And pleads innocence, just like Bill Clinton.

Peter Don – proposed replacement of the government with a ministry of 2/69 graduates and a few wives.

Peter Don has a burning ambition, to replace every last politician.
With a team of old farts, and a few token tarts,
And free booze to guide every decision.

Roman Ulanowicz – remembered among 2/69 for warming himself with urine during a winter night ambush. Now renovates houses in retirement.

Ulanowicz renovates houses. and has no time for whingers or wowsers.
This creative man, Roman, shaves his head to save combin'.
And warms up by peeing his trousers.

Vivienne Ryde – Entertained some of the ladies with her story of being locked out of her room in a Spanish Parador during 2000, wearing her “sparkling millennium knickers” and matching top.

'Tween doorways and shadows she flitted; as some of the passers-by tittered.
'Twas a bit of a lark, 'cause she glowed in the dark.
In her spencer and knickers that glittered.

Dave and Sophie Jervis – Made the most of the recent South Australian blackout.

A cunning old fox was Dave Jervis. When they lost the 'lectricity service.
He said “Soph you're glamorous,” and the dark makes me amorous.
But I'm harmless, so don't get too nervous.

National Council Annual Conference

Once a year the association holds a National Council Conference. The Council provides a formal platform whereby the main executive can hold a dialogue with all of the state and territory chapters together. This has usually taken place the day after the Victorian Annual Dinner as interstate participants can “kill two birds with one stone” by attending both functions.

This year it was agreed that the meeting be carried out electronically using Skype. This was done firstly, because the Victorian Dinner had been brought forward to coincide with the 1/70 Class Reunion and secondly, to save on travel and accommodation costs. Webmaster Ian Kelly did a superb job and the new electronic format proved a great success. The meeting was most effective with a valuable two way exchange between the States/Territory and National Executive being achieved.

One item that has been organised, and paid for, on behalf of the National Committee and the Chapters is the OTU Pavers (right) to be installed at the Seymour Vietnam Memorial Park.



STATE ACTIVITIES:

ACT CHAPTER

The ACT Chapter's main activities since the last Scheyvillian have been the monthly lunches and the Last Post Ceremony on 18 August 2016 where Chapter Members joined in with others from all over Australia. The Christmas Lunch will be held on Friday 16 December at 1200 for 1230 hours at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. Bookings can be made with Clive Badelow. EFT Payment is preferred.

The RMC Prizes and Awards Ceremony is traditionally held the day before graduation and this year will be held on 12 December. Except for the Sword of Honour and the Queen's Medal, all prizes and awards, including the Scheyville Prize presented by an OTU-A Member to the Cadet showing the greatest improvement in leadership in the course, are presented at this ceremony. The former two are presented on the parade ground prior to march-off at the end of the Graduation Parade. The Commissioning Ceremony that night involves the presentation of graduation certificates.

NSW CHAPTER (John Bushell, 4/69)

For the NSW Chapter, the main focus in maintaining the camaraderie of our members remains our monthly luncheons, held at the Athenian Greek Restaurant in Barrack Street, Sydney. October saw a gathering of 18 members, and the November lunch has 13 attending. Of course, the major news from the Chapter is the passing of Tony Sonneveld (1/70) whose funeral service was held on Monday 21st November at Rookwood Cemetery. Tony's dedication to this association is well known, and I expect there to be many tributes to come in following editions of the Scheyvillian.

Prior to going into palliative care, Dick Adams (3/72) and Geoff Bennett (2/66) spent some precious time with Tony at his home. Sadly, as well, NSW Chapter members Noel Dalton (3/70), and David Patton (2/65) passed on this year.

We are looking forward to our final 2016 event which will be a mixed lunch at the Kirribilli Club. Over 50 members with partners have registered to attend, including Neil Leckie, editor of the Scheyvillian and Geoffrey Butts (1/72), a resident of the UK who has made time during his Christmas visit to Australia.

On behalf of the NSW Chapter, I wish all of our graduates and members of our Association a very joyous Christmas and safe festive season. *Booka*

Christmas Lunch 7 December 2016 (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

The NSW Chapter Christmas Lunch was held at the Kirribilli Club and 55 members and guests attended. State Chairman John Bushell (4/69) welcomed all with a humorous dissertation containing poetry, the activities of some of the chapter's members and his thoughts on how the world, especially with the use of technology, is changing.



Representing the National Committee, Neil Leckie (3/68), Editor of The Scheyvillian, spoke on the activities of the National Committee and the major events of the year with the various chapters. He also spoke about the Scheyville Collection of Photographs held on the association website and the databases held for the association. The third speaker during the lunch was Gary McKay (2/68) who spoke on his group's 50th Anniversary Tour to Long Tan and some of the problems that confronted them during the tour. One could say that the lunch ended when the bar closed!

QUEENSLAND CHAPTER (Mick Hart, 2/69)

8 December 2016 saw the 23rd successive Annual Christmas Party held by the Queensland Chapter – part of the monthly series of lunches which commenced in May 1994. The attendance was at or near record level, being 50 attendees including ex-CI, Dick Flint, who is a little older than the rest of us (89, we think). Stan Maizey was to attend but he is not in robust health, and had to cancel that morning. Dick is as intellectually vibrant as ever. Owen Williamson (Qld head honcho) missed the Christmas lunch for the first time. Owen is quite ill but will survive!

As always, it was a raucous affair with everyone talking and no one listening – makes for a brilliant day. Geoff Butts (1/72) made a return from his England Narrow Boat Base. Geoff was one of the original attendees at the lunches and, before his departure to England some years ago, held the medal for most consistent attendee. That medal is now held by Don Keyes (4/69).

There were no schedule formalities (AGMs for Queensland are taken as a given) but respects were paid to those who are no longer with us, including the recently departed Geoff Colless (1/71) – see Vale.

We had some interstate attendees (Neil Curnow from Adelaide and Bill Turner from Victoria – yes, we let him in! – both 2/68) and the "Last Scheyvillian" John Knack (4/72) lived up to his name and his reputation and, again, stayed the distance. Buttsy, Knack and Hart finished at 4:30am.

A joyous occasion (with no fights) and the whole day was leavened with the presence of my secretary, Melanie Griffin, and my former secretary, Stephanie Mauchlan. Stephanie had organised the lunches from 1994 until 2015 and Mel has now taken over.

A joyous and peaceful Christmas to all Scheyvillians from the Queensland chapter.

SA CHAPTER (Gary Vial, 3/69)



On Sat 23July, SA had its biggest ever lunch attendance - over one hundred people for a Long Lunch at Paxton Wines - wines by Paxton - food by Vasarelli Restaurant. Great day !

Well I do exaggerate a little. Eight Scheyvilians joined in with the other 94 people. Neil (2/68) & Linda Curnow; Don (3/68) & Carmel Fairweather; John (1/69) Sierakowski & Annie Healey; Gary (3/69) & Libby Vial.



Left: John Sierakowski; Linda Curnow; Don Fairweather

Right: Carmel Fairweather; Neil Curnow; Annie Healey

State Co-ordinator, Gary (3/69) Vial was VERY disappointed to miss out on Tony Sonneveld's 'Last Hurrah' lunch on 29 August, as he was in the wilds of the Flinders Ranges at the time. This was made more so because just two weeks later, Gary was granted Life Membership of the Association, and it was Tony that inveigled him to take an active role MANY years ago.



However, a few weeks afterwards, Gary was able to have a one-on-one afternoon with Tony and Viv. During the afternoon, he was warned that smoking could affect his health, but Tony seemed unconcerned. And what a power of strength Viv has been in support of Tony's desire to be at home as long as feasible. An awesome lady.

Traditionally we have a lunch on a weekend as close as possible to Remembrance Day, but this year it was decided to hold it 'on the day' in the Adelaide Hills village of Verdun. Couldn't be more

appropriate. The date is always particularly poignant for Gary, as his grandfather was severely wounded near Ploogstreet Wood on 25 April 1917. Many were unable to attend and sent their apologies, but stalwarts Claire & Phil Verco (4/71); Libby Vial; Geoff Houghton (3/71); Gary Vial (/69); Malcom (1/70) & Lee Nicolle and a very relaxed Trevor Ranford (2/72) made the trip and as tends to be the tradition, were the last group to leave Maximillian's Restaurant after an excellent lunch - and a few wines..

The McLaren Vale wine region had more interest than the pink ball day / night test match against South Africa for visitors from 1/71 - Frank LeFaucheur from WA plus Geoff Noble and Bruce Paterson from Melbourne. They imposed on Gary (3/69) Vial to be designated driver and tour guide. After tastings at several wineries and the obligatory long lunch at the iconic 1851 built Salopian Inn, the day concluded sharing opinions of his range of biodynamic wines with vigneron David Paxton.

Frank LeFaucheur (1/71 - Perth) and Bruce Paterson & Geoff Noble (1/71 - Melbourne) recently journeyed to Adelaide for the Fourth Cricket Test where 'we' succeeded in inspiring the Australian team to a fantastic victory at the magnificent cricket venue that is the Adelaide Oval.

We figured our work was 'near done' after Day 2 so on 27 November Gary Vial (3/69) had kindly 'volunteered' to give us a guided tour of the wonderful McLaren Vale with lunch at the iconic and fabulous Salopian Inn on the Saturday.



Needless to add many lies were exchanged and a **great** day was had by all - the day concluded at Paxton's Vineyard where we were treated to his (Dave Paxton himself!) fabulous wines, entertaining company and live music in the grounds of the winery on a blissful and mild Adelaide day - what a memorable day! - no wonder Gary was a world-rated Travel Agent!

As we all "mature"(?!) it never ceases to amaze how there tends to be "no boundaries" between fellow-Scheyvillians, as we all share that common link/experience and it is always wonderful to spend time in their company. Here's to many more similar experiences!

Above: David Paxton, Frank Le Faucheur, Gazza Vial, Geoff Noble, Bruce Paterson

SA functions for 2017 are ..

Sun 02Apr - Foundation Day Lunch - from noon - Australian Wine Classic, Beverley

Tue 25Apr - ANZAC Day March followed by refreshments at the Exeter

Sat 11Nov - Remembrance Day followed by lunch at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club

Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a TRiUMPhent New Year ...

TASMANIAN CHAPTER (Ray Williams, 2/71)

August: The third of our quarterly lunches was held in Launceston on Friday the 19 August 2016. The venue was the newly revamped Penny Royal Mill site which is now owned by Joseph Chromy a local vineyard owner. The restaurant was tastefully revamped so to were other parts of the complex. Our group enjoyed a few 'tastes' in the beer tasting hall prior to descending upon the main restaurant.

The lunch was attended by: Ian & Jean Howard (1/69); Ray & Pam Williams and sister Lorraine (2/71); Ross & Jane Robbins (2/69); Peter Dalkin (SURVACTO 1965/66, 1966/67); Dennis Townsend (2/70); James & Dianne Reade (1/71); and a special mention and welcome was extended to Jan Sydes (husband Robert (Bob) was 3/70, but has sadly passed on since). It was lovely to see Jan and we hope to see her at future gatherings.

Apologies were received from: Gavin Connell (1/71), Peter Williams (1/71), Ross (1/67) & Mary Mace, Anne Townsend, Lawson Ride (3/69) and Annie Louth.

The wet weather (ie it rained all day) did not dampen the groups enthusiasm and all have expressed comments in the positive and look forward to the next lunch, scheduled for Friday the 25 November 2016; this will be duly organised by Ian Howard (1/69) who has booked at St Albis Restaurant, Moonah.



Above: James Reade, Pam Williams, Ian Howard (red jumper), Ross Mace, Jean Howard (back), Mary Mace, Jessica, Ray Williams and Ross Robbins.

November: The last of our quarterly lunches was held on Friday the 25th November at St Albi's restaurant in Moonah. Although numbers were down a little due to some unavoidable last minute withdrawals it was close to 4pm when 'stumps were drawn' which said a lot for the company and the fare'.

While Peter Bysouth could not stay for lunch he did call in and talk with the other attendees Ross Robbins and his daughter Jessica, Ian and Jean Howard, Ross and Mary Mace, Ray and Pam Williams and James Reid, who partook of the fine food, wine and service, and it was excellent!

Planned dates and localities for **2017** are:

Friday the 17 February - Hobart area

Friday the 1 of September – Hobart area

Friday the 5 May - Launceston area

Friday the 24 November – Launceston area.

Venue and timings will be announced closer to the date of each lunch.

VICTORIAN CHAPTER



Attendance numbers at the Victorian Monthly Lunches continue to grow with 17 attending the November lunch. As usual the lunch was held at the RACV Club Bistro, in Bourke St Melbourne. Entry was simply mentioning Brian Cooper's group booking to the doormen. Dress was casual, and good humour and tales of past glory were essential. While Class 3/69 form the basis of the attendees, there are plenty of other classes represented along with DS Phil Davies (2 April 1915 – 23 September 1967). For committee members attending the lunch the National Committee Meeting followed later in the afternoon at 'The Heroes' at The Toorak Services Club.

Annual Golf Day (Frank Miller, 4/67)

On Sunday 23 October a good crew of Scheyvillians, family and friends met at Melbourne's Waverly Golf Club for the Victorian Chapter's eleventh Annual Golf Day. The weather was a little less kind than usual with a cold, windy day really testing our talents. Fortunately the heavy rain over the preceding twenty four hours had not adversely affected the course to any great extent. After a sandwich lunch we headed to the first tee for the contest. As always, Ambrose was the order of the day with each player having to provide at least three of the drives for the group. After the game we gathered in the Clubhouse for fellowship and prize giving. In keeping with tradition a range of items including chocolates, golf balls and wine was on offer to all who had earned them (every one, though, won at least one prize).



The outcome was close with Team Delta (Gerry Pels (4/71), Gerry's brother Paul and their guest Dirk Heinert) winning the day. Gerry also had the longest drive on the fifteenth hole. Brad Hateley (son of Peter (2/71) was nearest the pin on the 5th hole and Frank Miller (4/67) won the nearest the pin on the 3rd.

Not surprisingly, some subtle suggestions were made as to possible individual handicap revisions for next year's event. It's good to see the same will to win alive and well after all these years! We had another excellent day of competition and camaraderie and look forward to a repeat contest in twelve months' time.

Scheyvillians all: Alan Brimelow (3/69), Wayne Bruce (2/70), Tony Trevethick and Mike Delves (1/65).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Frank LeFaucheur, 1/71)

Quarterly Lunch Friday 5th August 2016

Nineteen of the nation's finest former National Service and Short Service Commission Officers and Gentlemen gathered at the Romany Restaurant in the Perth entertainment hub of Northbridge to celebrate their continued survival and enjoy some fine food, wine and camaraderie. There is a regular quarterly gathering of this nature in Western Australia and there is a solid core of regular attendees.

The following had duly warned in and presented on parade at 1300h, armed with interesting bottles of wine and a willingness to consume all of it before the exercise was over: Graham Mathieson (1/70), David Eysers (2/67), Andrew Martindale (1/72), Bill Hewitt (2/66), Steve Pearson (3/69), Dave Macoboy (2/70), Dave Harley (1/70), Dave Ward (2/66), John Barnes (2/67) with guest and Scheyville attendee Elliot Nielsen (1/67), Barry Cooke (3/71), Lawrie Stanley (1/71), John Sharp (2/68), Jim Crockett (2/71), Bernie Houston (1/65), Howard Sattler (3/68), Ken Waller (2/72), Neville Gale (1/66), and outstanding Parade Organiser Frank LeFaucheur (1/71).

A couple of Father/Son stories came to light during the course of the afternoon. John Sharp (2/68) and his Scheyville Son Howard Sattler (3/68) were both in attendance (see picture); and Elliot Nielsen (1/67), attending lunch with us for the first time as a guest of long term friend John Barnes (2/67), met up with his Scheyville Son David Eyres (2/67) for the first time since they were at Scheyville. Father and Son apparently knew each other in their youth, having once attended the same school. In an interesting twist, the Son is actually older than the Father (see picture)!

West Australian members of the OTU Association are very keen to attract more graduates, and non-graduates who attended Scheyville, to come and take part in our activities, whether as members or non-members of the Association. Please contact our Convenor, Frank LeFaucheur (lefauche@inet.net.au).

Quarterly Lunch Friday 4th November 2016

Attendance at the final quarterly lunch of the WA Chapter of the OTU Association was again robust, and members once again enjoyed good company, food and wine within the pleasant atmosphere of the Romany Restaurant in Northbridge.

The following twenty three former officers were in attendance: Bernie Houston (1/65), Dave Atkinson (2/65), Neville Gale (1/66), Dave Ward (2/66), Bruce Thorpe (3/66), Elliot Nielsen (1/67), John Barnes and David Evers (2/67), Glenn Williams (3/67), Richard Baird (1/68), Steve Pearson and Jay McDaniel (3/69), Wayne Banks and Dave Harley (1/70), Dave Macoboy and Steve McDonald (2/70), John Forwood, Ron Packer, Lawrie Stanley and Bob White (1/71), Barry Cooke (3/71), Andrew Martindale (1/72), and reliable Organiser of the Lunches, Frank LeFaucheur (1/71).

There had been some recent email correspondence amongst the members regarding an upcoming telecast featuring the major battles at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, South Vietnam, which two of the members present at the lunch had been involved in as officers in the field. David Ward (2/66) was commander of 5 Platoon, B Company, 3 RAR, and Bruce Thorpe (3/66) was Troop Officer of 1 Troop, 3 Cavalry Regiment. Some of their experiences are related below:

Andrew Martindale (1/72) reports: Northeast of Saigon in May and June, 1968, elements of the entire 1ATF (First Australian Task Force) were involved to a lesser or greater degree in battle operations spanning some twenty six days. Two battalions of Australian infantry, with artillery and armoured support, helped repel several regiment - and battalion-sized attacks from North Vietnamese forces attempting to seize the South Vietnamese capital, Saigon. Fire Support Bases (FSB) Coral and Balmoral were established to give artillery support to assist in repelling this push, and during that period these bases were also the target of repeated attacks by NV forces due to their strategic importance to the Australian and US forces.

David Ward's platoon was the first Australian sub-unit to move to the proposed site of the first base, FSB Coral, 45km north of Saigon, and was assigned the task of helping to prepare and secure the area for the fly-in of elements of 1ATF from its base in Phuoc Tuy Province. The platoon had many enemy sightings during that first day, always out of small arms range, and as more and more elements of 1ATF began arriving, the platoon was forced to relocate numerous times to make room for them. Towards late afternoon the guns of 161 Field Battery arrived on 5 Platoon's position, and there was concern that the platoon, and B Company, had insufficient time to dig in before dark. The Company Commander was given approval by the ATF Commander to withdraw to a more secure harbour position, about 1500m southwest of the forward guns, and 500m south of the FSB perimeter.

At 0145h there was a major attack on Task Force emplacements to the north of David's Company, and they witnessed this from a distance against a backdrop of parachute flares, mortar, heavy automatic and small arms fire, and grenade bursts. By first light the enemy had dispersed and David's platoon was tasked with patrols to the south west of FSB Coral. They engaged an enemy patrol around midday, using fire support from 161 Battery.

The relocation of 1ATF also involved a major road convoy, and Bruce Thorpe was initially assigned the task of assisting to track the convoy from the air and to spot possible obstacles, flying in a Chipmunk reconnaissance aircraft which was piloted by the then OC of 161 Independent Reconnaissance. This may mean that Bruce was the first-ever Australian air-reconnaissance cavalryman! Upon reaching the location for Coral they found the Company-sized advance party in full-on contact with the enemy, and were able, from the air, to direct artillery fire onto the area. Once again a first for a cavalryman?

Bruce Thorpe was later involved in helping to reorganize the defensive layout of the fire support base, as some of the artillery emplacements were overrun in early attacks. Once the base was properly established, Bruce and his crew were actively involved in supporting infantry patrols during daylight hours, but he makes the observation that the APC's were fairly ineffective at night within the base, since

at that stage they had not been equipped with the T50 turret. In contrast, the Centurion tanks proved to be very useful in this role.

Several days after arriving at FSB Coral, David Ward's platoon was moved, with B Company, to the northwest to form up with their Battalion (3RAR), and with armour and cavalry, then moved north to FSB Balmoral. They established their perimeter and dug in, and over the next two nights the company to their left was subjected to full-frontal attacks by the NVA. These were repelled, and B Company was involved in carrying out daytime clearance patrols in the area for many days, aggressively ambushing well-used tracks and on one occasion attacking an enemy camp, using air strike support.

When FSB Balmoral was finally disbanded, B Company was responsible for maintaining the perimeter, and David's 5 Platoon was the last to leave the area. It was thus a case of "First In (to FSB Coral) and Last Out (from FSB Balmoral)".

Many thanks to David and Bruce for giving us these stories and insights, it gives other OTU Graduates an opportunity to get a better understanding of what some of our fellow officers did to contribute to the outstanding reputation of the National Service Officers who served during the time of the Vietnam conflict.



Left: (L-R): Bob White, Steve McDonald, Barry Cooke, David Macoboy, Frank LeFaucheur, John Forwood, Lawrie Stanley, Ron Packer. Right: (L-R): David Eyers, Wayne Banks, Elliott Nielsen, John Barnes, Glenn Williams, Bruce Thorpe, Jay McDaniell, David Harley

VALE:

Andrew Hay (2/68) (Neil Leckie, 3/68)



Andrew Osborne Hay was born in Melbourne on 9 Jun 1945 and completed his secondary education at Geelong Grammar School. He attended the Australian National University and graduated as a bachelor of arts in 1967. Before entering the army as a National Serviceman he was employed in market research by Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI). He was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and posted to the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. Andrew was well known among the other Cadets as when at OTU he drove a

Mark 2 Jaguar with personalised number plates - JAG..., a quite rare event in those days. In 1979 Andrew was awarded the Order of the British Empire in the civil branch for his work in the Public Service. Andrew had a brother, David, and married Marianne. Together they had three daughters, Clementine, Madeline and Matilda. Like their father the three girls attended Geelong Grammar. Andrew passed away on 9 November and his funeral was held at Christ Church in South Yarra on 18 November 2016.



It was well known by his 2/68 classmates that Andrew's father was well up in the government circles, but few 20 year-olds would have known much about him. Sir David Osborne Hay CBE, DSO, born in 1916, was an Australian soldier, senior public servant and diplomat, becoming Ambassador to the United Nations, Administrator of Papua New Guinea, and heading the departments of External Territories and Aboriginal Affairs.

He wrote a history of the 2/6th Battalion, *Nothing Over Us*. He bought back his birthplace Boomanoomana homestead and restored the old family house, garden, outbuildings and land, and wrote a biography of his great-grandfather, *The Life and Times of William Hay of Boomanoomana, 1816–1908*.

He was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1943, a Commander (CBE) in 1963, and was awarded a knighthood in 1979. Sir David passed away in 2009, aged 92.

David Patton (2/65) (John Neervoort, 2/67)

2782784 Warrick 'David' Patton was born on 26 Jun 1945. He called up for National Service and graduated with class 2/65. He was posted to the RAASC Centre for Corps Training. Following a posting at 2 RTB David's next position was as OC 389 Tpt Pl. He then moved to the RAASC Centre and next moved to 1 Supply Depot. David joined the Australian Staff Corps in August 1968 and served for 5 more years.

The rain started about an hour before the funeral of David Patton (2/65) held at Palmdale Lawn Cemetery & Memorial Park, NSW Central Coast at 3pm Thursday 13 October 2016. The OTU Association was represented by Jim French (1/65), John Neervoort (2/67) and Phil Paddison (2/70). There was a simple funeral ceremony where we hear that David had joined a Men's Shed in recent years. Indeed, he had attended a session on the morning of his first stroke. He was rushed to hospital and it was while in the hospital some three weeks later that he succumbed to a fatal stroke on 8 October 2016. Friends from that Men's Shed spoke highly of David, a man of many talents.



David had been a regular participant at the Sydney OTU Luncheons, particularly a few years ago when they were held at Drummoyne Rowers Club or Concord Golf Club. Both of these venues were relatively easy to reach from Strathfield Railway Station and hence by train from the Central Coast. David was the keeper of the OTU nametags. He carried a brief case in which the nametags were attached to the lid in a manner that allowed easy identification. I mentioned to his widow Gale that I often took him to Strathfield Station as it was on my way home. An OTU Luncheon wasn't complete without OTU nametags and more importantly, without the bearer of the nametags - David Patton. Sometimes the smallest gestures produce the strongest memories. Indeed a good man gone.

Geoffrey Malcolm Colless (1/71) (Bruce Paterson, 1/71)

1737423 Geoffrey Colless was born at Barcaldine on 6 April 1945 and grew up in Atherton, Queensland, where his father was the Shire Clerk and his mother ran the home, in which Geoffrey was one of 6 siblings. It was a relaxed rural life with freedom to explore with brothers, cousins and neighbours, all around the same age. However that idyllic boyhood was largely ended when Geoffrey was 14. He was undertaking secondary schooling at St Augustine's College in Cairns when his father died suddenly of a massive heart attack.

Despite this major shock to such a young boy, Geoffrey completed his secondary education at St Augustine's pursued his dream of becoming an Architect, attending the Queensland Institute of Technology, graduating as a Diplomate of Architecture in 1970. Geoffrey married his first wife, Janelle, and was employed as an Architect, before entering the Army as a National Serviceman in January 1971.

He graduated from OTU on 15 July 1971 with Class 1/71 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineers and posted to the School of Military Engineering for Corps Training. From there was posted to 11 Chief Engineer Works on 16 September 1971 and was discharged from National Service, at the end of his commitment, on 27 July 1972.

Immediately after his NS discharge Geoffrey established his own commercial and industrial architectural practice in Brisbane, which he successfully ran until his retirement in 2008. As a “one man band”, Geoffrey punched well above his weight winning substantial jobs all around Australia and the South-West Pacific, many with major companies or projects, particularly in the mining industry. In 1981 he completed a Graduate Diploma in Urban & Regional Planning, further expanding the capabilities of his practice.

Geoffrey also had an entrepreneurial flair and registered a number of patents, designs and trade marks in Australia. In July 1997 his patented ‘crowd control barriers’ guarded both sides of the bridge between China and Hong Kong during the transfer of sovereignty from the United Kingdom to the People’s Republic of China.

Notwithstanding, he and Janelle raising 5 children and his busy architectural practice, Geoffrey also found time and energy for extensive community involvement with various clubs and organisations over the next decades. These included:

- Lecturer and member of the Assessment Committee in interior design at the then QIT,
- Past president of Karalee Country Club,
- Bardon Community Association,
- Rotary Club of Brisbane Planetarium,
- P & F Committee St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School,
- Save the Bardon Bushland Committee, P & C Committee Bardon State Primary School,
- Chairman of Paddington ward Bi-Centennial Committee,
- Taylor Ranger District Scouts,
- Brisbane City Council Town Plan Review Committee,
- Charter member of Rotary Club Brisbane Mid-City, as well as being an active member of the Volunteer Marine Rescue at Bribie and the Bribie Island Yacht Club.



He was always involved in politics, even standing (unsuccessfully) as a National Party candidate for the Queensland Parliament in 2 State elections in the 1980’s. Geoffrey continued his avid interest in the Army during his whole life. In addition to re-establishing in the 1980’s, and then maintaining lifelong, friendships with Paul Egan (1/71, deceased), Bruce Paterson (1/71) and their respective families, he became highly involved with the United Service Club in Brisbane.

Despite his lowly Army rank, after many years on various Club Committees, Geoffrey was made President in 2006 for the regulatory two year period. His decades of significant contribution to the United Service Club were recognised in 2011 when he was made a Life Member.

In 2007, Geoffrey underwent a quadruple heart by-pass which, despite being successful, led him to well-deserved retirement to Bribie Island with his second wife and soulmate, Dianne. They established and expanded a lovely home and garden and threw themselves into the local community, their church, the Little Flower, and its activities, whilst still maintaining an open door for friends and family, including their adult children and an ever growing number of grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Geoffrey loved all those aspects of Bribie Island, but they were not quite enough for someone who was an inveterate traveller and was always looking for a challenge. He took Dianne to Vanuatu on a mission to sail a boat from Vanuatu to Mackay as the only crew to the ship’s master sailor. They left Port Vila in October 2012 with a fully equipped and totally seaworthy boat. Despite the boat springing a leak one day out, the refrigeration breaking down, the genoa sliding into the sea, Dianne being sent up in the boson’s chair to retrieve a halyard swivel, the propeller sticking, the auto pilot breaking down, the gears sticking and –worst of all - it was a dry ship - they made it!

After that near disaster, Geoffrey and Dianne decided to join the Australian Volunteers International and serve in undeveloped countries. They spent 15 months in Samoa in 2013-2014, where Geoffrey developed a new town plan for Apia. As a Rotarian he had previously participated in the building of a Kindergarten and teacher's residence in Mbanga Island in the Solomon Islands. Geoffrey and Dianne then took another assignment in Cambodia from May 2016, where Geoffrey extended his horizons beyond his architectural and town planning background to teach the local people how to market their melons. He took to the role like a "duck to water", making great progress and many new local friends.

It was during a work trip in Cambodia that Geoffrey passed away suddenly on 30th August 2016. His Funeral was held at his much loved Little Flower church on Bribie Island on Tuesday, 20 September 2016, with well over 200 attendees, including a wide range of family and friends, both local and from all the corners of Australia. OTU was well represented by a number of 1/71 and 4/70 classmates and many of the members of the Brisbane Scheyvillian Lunch Club, of which Geoffrey had been a keen member. Geoffrey was a great friend, family man and community contributor, who will be greatly missed by all of those whose lives he impacted. RIP mate.

John Pearce (Gordon Alexander, 3/66).

John was Class 2/66 and repeated the senior term with Class 3/66 but did not graduate. Not content with being sent to an RTB to see out his time, John got himself posted to 1 RAR and extended his NS to see active service. He was the Section Commander of 7 Sect, 12 Pl, D Coy under Major Tony Hammett (one of his OTU Instructors). His Platoon Commander was 2Lt Geoff Bowcock (4/66). John arrived in Vietnam on 18 March 1968 and his company FO was former 3/66 Classmate Gordon Alexander.



1 RAR was a part of the force at Fire Support Base Coral. The base was attacked on the night 12/13 May 1968. On 14 May 12 Platoon was on a fighting patrol to the north. Due to a decoding error the platoon was further north than it should have been. The platoon, with John leading and carrying the MG, moved back to towards the Fire Support Base and was attacked. John was killed instantly. He was buried in Malaysia.



Earlier this year, Gordon Alexander (3/66) among others attended the return of those who had been buried at Terendak Barracks in Malaysia. The 2nd June was a very emotional return for John and 32 others at Richmond Airbase. John Pearce's brothers Rob and David attended for the family and a small group of us from his unit. The Ramp Ceremony was conducted beautifully and I believe now that John has received the homecoming he deserved so many years ago. The full story of John Pearce can be obtained from Gordon Alexander or the Editor.

FEATURES:

The 'Bunfight' at Long Tan (David Sabben, 1/65)

Prior to 17 August 2016: There had been warning signs from all sides prior to the 17th of August 2016 concerning arrangements – or lack thereof – for the approaching "50th Anniversary" commemorations. Problems were disappointing but not surprising.

Morning – 17 August 2016: Our Vietnamese tour guide advised us that Hanoi had voiced concern at the prospect of 3,000+ Australians who were anticipated in the Vung Tau and Long Tan areas over the next few days.

Midday – 17 August 2016: Whenever people visit the cross they need to go to the Long Tan police station and register their visit. For the registration fee, they are loaned the Long Tan cross plaque, which, when hung on the cross, indicates official approval for the visit.

An Australian TV news team, including camera and sound men, took visiting Keith Payne VC to the Long Tan cross and recorded an interview, which was streamed to the news services shortly afterwards. Once the Vietnamese locals and authorities realized that the TV recording was happening / had happened, they reacted swiftly. Hanoi immediately issued a statement that all visitors to the cross site would be stopped. One of the Tour members received the news via an SMS – hardly an “official channel”! The reason Hanoi gave was that “...there has been an ISIS bomb scare at the cross...”

Morning 18 August 2016: News this morning that the bomb scare had been cleared overnight and that the site was again open – but for very limited numbers. The 3:40 pm service was still supposed to be “on”. BUT, the media was banned from filming at the Long Tan cross site – obviously due to the media activities on the 17th and was restricted to only filming people in Vung Tau getting onto the buses to go to the cross site.

Morning 19 August – early! The Trek Tour group took early-morning calls and were on the busses before full daylight. The intention was to get to the Long Tan cross early – before the police road-block was in place, visit the cross and get some photos (and a quick memorial service if possible) and then get on with our day’s events. We were met at the cross site by the Australian officials and were able to spend about half an hour at the cross to take photographs before we were warned to keep moving.....

Why had it all happened...?

- (1) The numbers arriving were indeed daunting. With some three times as many arrivals as had been experienced (Newspaper article above via Frank Miller 4/67) previously, the infrastructure was not in a position to cope.
- (2) The Australian government, media and ex-service groups seemingly failed to make the distinction plain to the Vietnamese that the ANZACs were attempting to commemorate our part in a long war and to honour their part in the same war. The message received by the Vietnamese (rightly or wrongly) was that it was all a “celebration” of the success at Long Tan.
- (3) The deliberate breaching of local media restrictions was taken as evidence of the “I don’t care” attitude of the visitors, and that apparent attitude was returned.

And what of the future...?

The Long Tan Trek Tour has obtained assurances that it will once again be able to walk the Long Tan battlefield in October 2017 and likely beyond. The Vietnamese authorities recognise that on at least 8 occasions previously, the battlefield had been “trekked” and memorial services held at the cross which have recognised both sides of the conflict. Indeed, the Vietnamese have been included in the short services we’ve held.

Lessons to be learned.

Viet Nam is a one-party communist state. All things are more tightly controlled than we ANZACs are used to. Hotels require passport names and numbers. Tours need permissions and approvals, often to be paid for. As a simple example: We hired a boat for 20 people for a day cruising on Ha Long Bay. Only 19 people turned up, the authorities required to know who was missing, where they were, why they were not present and a new approval form needed to be generated and signed off for the 19. This would be considered strange in Australia but we need to understand that this is standard practice in Viet Nam.

Australian Force Praised

Special to The New York Times

SYDNEY, Australia, Aug. 19—Reports of a bitter battle fought by Australian troops south of Saigon yesterday said it had resulted in the heaviest Australian casualties so far in Vietnam. The 17 killed and 26 wounded brought the total of Australians killed in Vietnam to 73 and the wounded to 273. Both Prime Minister Harold Holt and Defense Minister Allen Fairhall issued statements praising the troops’ courage and voicing sympathy for the families of those killed.

The New York Times

Published: August 20, 1966

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We need also to display much more consideration of the losses sustained by the Vietnamese in their three wars of “liberation” or “reunification”. While ANZACs can and do boast of the victories as at Long Tan, we must understand the sensitivities of the other side and of the civilians who still live beside the graves of their war dead. And the media must understand that the “freedoms” they enjoy in Australia cannot be taken for granted and exercised as a right in a Communist country.

The mantra “...*the public has a right to know*...” does not apply all around the world! Despite all the problems, the Long Tan Trek Tour got to the cross, saw the original at Dong Nai and achieved all the rest of the itinerary targets. A great group of folks, and all were in agreement: they wouldn't have missed it for quids.

The full report can be obtained at:

<http://www.sabben.com/images/BUNFIGHT%20AT%20LONG%20TAN%202016.pdf>

Another article of interest is the talk David gave on 15th November at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne on correcting some of the false history coming out of the Viet Nam War:

<http://www.sabben.com/images/Shrine%20Talk%2015%20Nov%202016%203.pdf>

The Victorian Annual Geddes Dinner.

The Geddes Dinner is usually held in August, but due to a number of factors this year it was held on 21 July at its usual location, The Heroes Club in Toorak. The Guest Speaker was Tony Lanarch-Jones, an ‘original’ Scheyvillian! His speech follows:

Veterans and Friends, Bill Slim once said, “There is no such a thing as a good soldier or a bad soldier, there are only good officers and bad officers”. That was our mission, to produce good officers. At your table you can find a list of dates for you to read relating to the National Service Act 1954 and its consequences.

- 24 November 1964 - The National Service Act (NSA)
- 10 March 1965 – 1st Ballot
- 10 September 1965 – 2nd Ballot
- April/May 1965 – 1 RAR sent to Bien Hoa
- May 1965 – NSA amended so NSM could serve overseas
- Late July 1965 - 1/65 Entered OTU
- March 1966 – PM Holt announced NSM to go to SVN in ARA units.
- 18 August 1966 – 2LT Gordon Sharpe KIA at Long Tan
- 5 December 1972 - NS ended by PM Whitlam
- 63,735 NSM served in the Army.
- 15,381 NSM served in SVN, with 200 killed and 1,279 wounded
- 1,880 graduates from OTU
- 8 graduates KIA in SVN
- 60,000 Defence personnel served in VN
- 2,358 wounded & 521 died.



In February 1965 I was testing vehicles with 6 Tropical Trials Unit, in the jungles near Innisfail and was due to be married in Canberra in 26 February. While frequently waist deep in mud, recovering vehicles, I caught Leptospirosis and ended up in the RMC Duntroon Hospital a couple of days before the wedding. I did not return to Innisfail and was sent on remedial leave to Sydney. During that time I was posted to OTU Scheyville from 1 April. I deferred my start because I was on remedial leave and my delayed wedding was on 20 April in Canberra.

I started at Scheyville on 26 April 65 after a brief honeymoon in Melbourne. At about the same time 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) was about to be sent to South Viet Nam and became the only battalion group to serve there without NSM. The first intake for National Service was in June 65. The first selected NSM arrived at Scheyville late July. So we had a lot to get ready.

The Commandant was Colonel Ian Aubrey Geddes and his wife was Jan. They were a good combination. Chief Instructor was Lt Col Lawrence George Clark MC (AKA Algy). We had known him at RMC in 1956 as a captain in the Infantry Minor Tactics Wing. We loathed him, as only 17 year olds could, mainly because he was a bully. On the lighter side, he put us through individual battle runs with

Sub Machine Guns. After each run the holes in the figure targets had to be pasted out. Very quickly the targets had the letters LG on them, all in contrasting colours and great for shooting. Algy thought that was funny.

It is amazing how my opinion of him changed after being with him at Scheyville. He remained a bully when he could get away with it but an excellent instructional coordinator and motivator. Algy - to know him was to....understand him. Back in April 1951, Algy won his Military Cross during the withdrawal of 3RAR at Kapyong in Korea where 3RAR & the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2PPCLI) stopped a Chinese Division and their sweep south. 32 Australians were killed and 69 wounded. Clark was the Adjutant and manned a check point in the withdrawal. He must have done that well.

After RMC in 1956, he went to 51 Inf Bn. He was then promoted to Major and sent to US & Canada for training. He returned 3 years later to be the OC 1 SAS Coy.

In 1962 he was in the first 30 advisors sent to SVN in AATTV (the Team). Three years latter our commitment had grown to a Brigade group of 4,000. Recently it was announced that Australia was to send a training team of 300 to Iraq. Where will that end up?

On his return Clark was sent to Jungle Training Centre, Canungra. He had become very knowledgeable on training systems and solutions. On 3 March 1965 he was promoted to LTCOL to be CI OTU.

Ian Geddes knew how to run with the ball. He was promoted to COL and told to create an officer factory to man the expanded Army. He demanded and got what he wanted. We also thought that he would be watching Algy.

Coming here tonight has made me think about the creation of Scheyville from scratch. This is all from my memory. I did not keep a diary or journal for my non-existent memoirs to go with my Field Marshal's baton.

The site, a rundown migrant camp, had to be converted into a *Portsea sur la Hawkesbury* with parade ground, playing fields, class rooms, accommodation, messes for staff and students, a married quarters patch and the HQ. In addition there was the administrative structure to support the existence and functions of the school. So we, the instructors arrived to find the facility operating except for our part, the instructional machine. There were 28 captain instructors. 25 of those were excellent and you would do anything for them. They were probably the best and most unselfish group that I ever worked with in or out of the Army. We were allocated subjects. I was given Armour, Military Law & Leadership. In addition David Ford and I were made company commanders sometime after the first intake arrived because the appointed majors were too busy running their training wings, poor darlings. David and I were very busy dispensing military justice at lunchtime and watching that our men were not being ground into the deck by any bullying instructors. We were given the OCS Portsea syllabus and told to implement it in half the time or less. Algy bought in heavily and insisted on some things that were not important and removed things that were. We then had to prepare lesson plans which he reviewed. Next we delivered the lessons to each other with Algy down the back giving us his thoughts on the run, mostly applicable and worthwhile. Algy insisted that we create and use multiple choice examination papers and use templates to mark them. He would review the papers and if he did not know the answer to a question, it had to be removed regardless of its importance and the fact that the cadets should know the answer.

By the time the first intake arrived we were ready to teach what **we believed** was important and essential. Each intake was divided into four classes A,B,C & D. Programming was done centrally by a clever warrant officer. If for example the 6 lessons on Armour had to be taught over a two week period, it could have resulted in me teaching on say Day 4 of the second week, Lesson Armour 4 to Class A, Lesson Armour 1 to Class B, Lesson Armour 3 to Class C and Lesson Armour 2 to Class D all on the same day. It was even worse with Military Law trying to lighten it up with funnies and examples of offences. *Had I made that point? Had I emphasised another?* This was often at night after dinner when you were all exhausted from a full day of drill, PT and other boring lectures. It often meant changing the time/date spaces with other instructors and in most cases they agreed.

It was all systems go and it **all began to settle down fully by the time Intake 2/65 arrived.... but then we had to handle two intakes in at the same time.**

Assessment of Officer Qualities. The NSM who volunteered for officer training went through Selection boards and were deemed to have the potential to be leaders. Then we had to train and assess them to make sure that they were. Recording individual Officer Qualities (OQ) assessment was done on IBM cards, This began as a trial but quickly became a large part of your assessment. Each Instructor had to complete cards on every cadet, then IBM collated them and we as guidance officers had to advise our allotted cadets how to lift their rating in individual OQs. It did also identify cadets who had not yet appeared on the radar. There were 15 plus OQs, each with a 1 to 5 scale. We all loved Q *Cultured/Aesthetic*; we believed that this had been included by the Comdt. Sometime later, a Leader Reaction Course was imported in total from the US Marines or somewhere? It consisted of a block of 4 separate walls/areas and teams had to get over the wall. I think that the leader was appointed and all members were assessed for cooperation, leadership etc. Guess who was given the job of running the whole thing? The aim was to get better information on the cadets to achieve better assessments. Do you remember Tiffany's Table Manners for Teenagers? The only book available on etiquette! The dinners where we ate together and you corrected each other on how to hold a knife and fork. *Manners do maketh the man*, particularly table manners.

In the second year I was moved to the Field Training Wing as a platoon instructor. In the bush which it was quite a relief from the lecture rooms, walking around the bush at Pokolbin, Tianjara and other State forests, at infantry speed, watching the birds, feeling the country, watching the students. We lived with you all the time. Then I was given the job of coordinating field appointments/assessments so that every student had a turn as platoon commander and a couple as section comd. Those in doubt or less known were put under the spotlight. Another good thing with field training was that Algy did not interfere. Maj Adrian Clunes-Ross saw to that. Algy would just appear occasionally and draw his own conclusions as to an individual's performance. Field Training Wing kept its own records and opinions. Being fair to Algy, at the Board of Studies, he listened to reason if we had the facts and ganged up on him. The aim was to ensure that those who graduated had the ability to become junior leaders in our Army at war. Imagine how much better and more complete, the individual assessments would have been if had had today's IT facilities.

Lastly, near the end of my time, I was put in charge of the Miscellaneous Students Wing comprising pilots, specialist technicians requiring a commission, CMF conversion to ARA, ex British HK Police officers etc. They were a clever lot and did not like the harsh OTU treatment which had to be modified because their course was even shorter.

As in any organisation after graduation, the show ponies often fell by the wayside. The top cadets, in the main, did well but many of those who just scraped through did much better. It was the same with Duntroon, Portsea and Sandhurst.

I was posted to raise a replacement squadron for A Sqn 3Cav Regt which was in SVN. The detachment was at Puckapunyal. We had to create it then move it to Holsworthy and on to Nui Dat via JTC Canungra and Shoal Water Bay by the end of November 1967. I was supposed to assume command in early May 1967 to start it up. Ian Geddes would not release me until my replacement had arrived. He had been caught with a couple of other exits who had not being replaced on time. So I was finally released to Puckapunyal in July having had little to do at Scheyville over the final two month period. Luckily a recent 3 Cavalry VN veteran had been brought in and got the training under way. Like I said, Ian Geddes always got what he wanted to keep Scheyville operating.

The motto of the 25 US Infantry Division was, "*Go with what you got*". That covered everything - men, equipment, time, fuel and officers. That was what I did with this new squadron and took part of it to SVN in November. I used that motto for the remainder of my 20 years in the Army and in the 30 years in management after leaving the Army - you do the best with what you have but get your priorities right. I still consider that my posting at Scheyville was one of the better postings in my Army career. It was when I confirmed my own standards which are still with me today. OTU Scheyville was an effective development institution. Its success was largely due to the initial planning and fearless implementation by two men, Ian Geddes and LG Clarke.

In our squadron in VN we had no bad soldiers; therefore we must have had good officers. Guess where our junior officers came from? Our Cavalry Squadron was on a system of partial changeover, in that we changed over 25% of our manning every three months. As the NSM left SVN I would hold an

informal parade, whenever possible, to thank them for their service and for giving 2 years of their lives to our Country and our squadron. **This evening, I thank you all for what you gave. ICH DIEN**
Note: Captain Antony William Lanarch-Jones served in Vietnam with A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment from 18 December 1967 until 22 October 1968. Some of the OTU Officers posted to A Squadron during his tour were: Doug Cribb, Lyn Heron and Kevin McAndrew (all 1/65, posted April 67) and Bill Reddrop and Bruce Thorpe (both 3/66, posted March 68).

The OTU Databases:

In 2001, before laptops were readily available, Neil Leckie (3/68) took a stand-alone computer with him to Puckapunyal where he was to be the 'not-too-busy' Camp Commandant for three 4th Brigade Army Reserve courses. He also took the Active List 1970, and the Australian Regular Army & Regular Army Supplement books covering the National Service era. From these books he was able to type up a database of Scheyville Graduate's postings from 1965 until 1975 (for those who continued in the Army). One small complication arose with 34 of the 1965 and 1966 graduates who 'went full-time' and were given an ARA number. Later, Neil was emailed another spreadsheet from a 'contact' in Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, that included details of most of the Nashos who 'served on'. However, put together the database has some gaps in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

In addition, Neil now has a database for all Graduates who served in Vietnam. If you 'served on' or served in Vietnam, Neil would like to hear from you so that your postings in the Database can be completed. Of particular interest are the large number who were posted to HQ AFV (Army Component), a vague posting name. As an example Brian Cooper of Class 3/69 was posted to HQ AFV (Army Component) D&E Platoon, Saigon.

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------|---------|------|--------|-------------|
| Service in Vietnam: | Class 1/65 | 47/76 | | | | |
| 1965 | 67/117 | 1966 | 101/231 | 1967 | 88/255 | 1968 50/256 |
| 1969 | 28/224 | 1970 | 12/252 | 1971 | 3/252 | 1972 0/221 |

Neil is also working on a separate spreadsheet that includes those who Did Not Graduate, those who Repeated and Did Not Graduate and those who Repeated and Graduated with the following class. If you have any information on DNGs or Repeats and DNGs from your class please advise! Neil can be contacted at nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au

So far there data from:

Class 1/65, 1/65 Grad 2/65, 1/66, 2/66, 3/66, 1/67, 2/67, 4/67, 1/68, 2/68, 3/68, 2/70 Grad 3/70, 3/70 Grad 4/70 (thanks to Geoff Davis), 1/71 Grad 2/71, 2/71 Grad 3/71, 3/71 DNG & Grad 4/71, 2/72 Grad 3/72, 3/72 DNG, 4/72 DNG or took discharge end NS.

Class Coordinators from the 2013 Reunion will probably be holding this information. To assist in this project can those Class Co-coordinators please ask their classmates if they hold March-In photos or names of those who repeated or did not graduate!

It is planned that all the data will be placed on the Website in the not too distant future!

What Scheyvillians Did:

OCS/OTU (Rudi Poldoja, 1/73)

The OCS/OTU Classes wore the OCS badge and followed the OCS Portsea syllabus but did more field exercises to meet the needs of the NS guys, so they had sections and platoons to wheel around in the bush for assessment purposes (eg at OCS they had a number of field activities in the six-month Junior and Senior Terms to test the Senior Class members, however at Scheyville, with only three month terms, we were exposed to at least twice as many field exercises, just as was the case with Graduation Parades where we made up the numbers on the parade ground at Scheyville for up to four NS classes graduating each three months; at Portsea our classmates down there were on Graduation Parades twice - once for their Senior Class, and again for their own graduation). As well, we were required to work into the night, as were you, while at Portsea they knocked-off at night to allow such things as married cadets to go home to their families. At Scheyville, having married ARA cadets wasn't possible due to this tempo. While each

of the three OCS (Scheyville) classes sought approval to graduate at Scheyville, this was not permitted - we had to be seen to graduate from Portsea; no doubt a political reason for this. There were a few Vietnam veterans in the ARA classes at Scheyville - we had three (Norton, Poldoja and Smith - Bill Norton is still serving and will be close to being the last Army Vietnam veteran to leave the system; there were less than a dozen or so when I got out last year).

We left Scheyville in November 1973 ten days before the Portsea graduation to join our cohort class down south. Interestingly, we had already faced our last Board of Studies (BOS) at Scheyville, so had effectively 'graduated', while the Portsea lads were still 'not yet passed' when we arrived; some, I believe, didn't make it past their last BOS held while we were there. We had our uniforms, complete with pips etc which one of my class wore when marching-in to Portsea as a 'stir', receiving a rebuke from the RSM. Our final days were taken up, in a cruel Portsea winter, with re-learning how to march (Portsea-style) and wear our uniform accoutrements; the RSM down there set about undoing our 'bad habits' from Scheyville - not a happy time for us and this led to none of our class having an affinity for OCS Portsea; to this day we gather separately for reunions and see Scheyville as the focus rather than Portsea - we see ourselves as 'a cut above' our Portsea counterparts for having done 'harder yards' (more field work, more parades, more classroom time etc). The only reason I feel a connection with Portsea is because I went there as a CAPT Instructor and played a part in training cadets for five graduations down there.

When in our Junior Class it proved to be the last vestige of Scheyville (the tough officer training establishment) when the last NS guys left in April 1973. Being the only class left, about 25 at that point, which came down to 19 graduates at Portsea, we played a bit of rugby against other Defence units like Navy etc. or golf with the officers. The Cadets Mess closed and the OCS Cadets were to eat in the Officers' Mess and went on a field trip to walk the Kokoda Track etc, before appearing at Portsea, as we did, in time for 're-education' to participate in the graduation parade down there; a pretty 'cruisy' time in the scheme of things.

Kokoda Track

Having completed their officer training and waiting for their transfer to OCS Portsea for their Graduation Parade, the OCS/OTU Cadets of Class 1/73 undertook a 'field trip' on the Kokoda Track. Preparations for the trip were strenuous and meticulous. However, all were glad to have able to participate in and complete this journey where they saw what our WW2 Diggers went through in the Kokoda Campaign.



Above and right: Preparations and 'The End of the Track!'



What Scheyvillians Do:

Saluting Monash Council - Tim Fischer (3/66)

The rank of Field Marshal is the highest military rank which can be bestowed by the Governments of Commonwealth countries on its senior soldiers. The origin of the rank of Field Marshal dates to the early Middle Ages, originally meaning the keeper of the King's horses (from old German Marh-scalc = "horse-servant") from the time of the early Frankish kings. Upon their promotions, Field Marshals were traditionally awarded a decorative baton, which they carried as a symbol of their high rank. They were often studded with jewels and inlaid with precious metals.

Why Wasn't John Monash Awarded the rank of Field Marshal?

Clearly the jealousy of then Prime Minister, W. M. Hughes, is the main reason Monash was frozen at the rank of Lieutenant General from 11 November 1918 to 11 November 1929, along with the indifference of Prime Minister S. M. Bruce, who followed Hughes. It caused Albert Jacka VC MC (Bar) to convene a special ANZAC Day Dinner in salute of General Sir John Monash at Melbourne Town Hall in 1924; arising from the fact Monash received NO Australian Government awards after World War 1. Throughout his military life the fact he was a Reservist, not a Duntroon or Sandhurst graduate; and that, at age 50 when he was at Gallipoli, was considered to be too old, were aspects held against Monash.

The Saluting Monash Council, chaired by our own The Hon Tim Fischer AC, is supporting the Jerilderie Proposition: As a salute to all members of the AIF and following on the outstanding contribution of General Sir John Monash to State and Nation before, during and after WW 1 and reflecting the fact that Sir John Monash received no Australian Awards or Honours post 11 November 1918, the Prime Minister approve by Government Gazette publication, the posthumous promotion of one step in rank of General Sir John Monash to the rank of Australian Field Marshal, with effect 11 November 1930, one year after General Sir John Monash was eventually promoted to the rank of General, in accord with the Blamey precedent, where Blamey was placed on active service for one day to allow his Field Marshal promotion to proceed.

The saluting Monash Council's objective is to achieve the posthumous promotion of General Sir John Monash GCMG KCB VD to the rank of Field Marshal by 11 November, 2018.

For further information: **Phone 1300 11 2018, Email: salutingmonash@gmail.com**
www.salutingmonash.org.au

Aussie War Vets: Scheyvillians Stand Tall in efforts to Assist and Support Australian War Veterans Doing It Tough as a Result of Serving this Great Nation of Ours

A new Charitable Foundation, being a not for profit, unlisted public company was registered with ASIC on the 5th of April this year. Its birthplace is Brisbane, but it will be National. It is a unique, innovative and ambitious venture which will give tremendous impetus to the rehabilitation of our veterans who are suffering and struggling with many issues, mostly of which are in the mental health area particularly PTSD and depression.



The suicide rate, domestic violence, substance abuse, unemployment and homelessness in our veteran community are reaching crisis proportions, with much of it resulting from mental health issues in turn contributed to by service to their Nation.

The vision of the Foundation is to establish at least 6 getaway Home Camps, the first being in S.E. Queensland, providing Australian war veterans who are “doing it tough” with residency, primarily on a short to medium term basis, together with the necessary and appropriate support, care (including medical care) and guidance, with their partners in some cases. “Doing it tough” means having issues in areas that include:

- Mental Health including Depression and/or Post Traumatic Stress (“PTS”)
- Physical Conditions
- Family Cohesion
- Homelessness
- Transition
- Self Esteem
- Financial Hardship
- Social Connectedness
- Employment

Furthermore, and in addition to rehabilitation, Camp Guests will benefit from the most meaningful, enjoyable, affordable, and safe experience possible. A better quality of life and improved future prospects are outcomes earnestly sought for them.

The Foundation is currently driven by a small band of volunteers, heavily represented by several

Scheyvillians, one of which is the Founder. It will move to permanent staff in mid-2017.

The Board of Directors include:

Gerry Garard (4/67), Chairman and Managing Director

Bob Minnikin (4/67), Director

The Ambassadors include:

Tim Fischer (3/66), ex Deputy Prime Minister & Marcus Blackmore (4/67), Chair Blackmores Ltd,
The “Shambolic Golfaholic” Charity Golf Days organiser is Laurie Muller (1/65)

Gerry Garard, the Founder, puts his OTU Scheyville experience down as being the impetus and driving force in establishing the Foundation and doing what is badly needed for our veterans. He says that at 71 years of age, it is his “final field exercise”.

He appeals to all Scheyvillians to visit the www.4aussiewarvets.com.au website, and lend a hand by making a contribution, large or small. All donations to the Foundation over \$2 are tax deductible.

Whatever Happened To:

6708752 Daniel Coward was born in Launceston on 3 January 1945 and completed his secondary education at Launceston School. He attended the University of Tasmania and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in 1965. Before National Serviceman he was employed as a Teacher with the Department of Education. While at OTU as a Sergeant Major and Officer. On graduation with Class 1/67 he was posted to the RAAEC at the Port Moresby Education Sector. (Dan changed his name by deed poll in 1992, and can be contacted through The Editor).

Dan: ‘Quite a few of us went to PNG – I think we may have got about a week’s leave. I went home to Tasmania, then we reported to Watson’s Bay barracks in Sydney (much beer drinking) for three days or so. Then we all flew from Sydney to Port Moresby via Brisbane. With me in Education were John Herlihy (who later joined the infantry in 1968 and stayed on in PNG after I left) and Jim Murray. We three went to Murray Barracks PNG Command (in tents – the barracks were being built). Infantry postings to PIR in PNG from Class 1/67 included RJ McEvoy, and I think also Dave Paterson (later KIA in Vietnam) – a couple of others but can’t recall their names. PNG very dispersed so we didn’t see the infantry guys again. In 1968 we three were promoted to Lt – I wrote a letter to our Colonel saying blah blah etc. that we were university graduates, had the same quality of army training as Duntroon graduates, ergo we should be Lts. The Army accepted this! I was at Murray Barracks most of the time in the Army; I was posted to Wewak for about two weeks (relieving someone taking leave), and about a week at Army HQ in Canberra in winter 1968 (I can’t recall what for – but it was a good break.) I accumulated leave in PNG, so took what was owed in one go (4 weeks??) before discharge which was in sometime February 1969 when I got a job working for historian Professor Sir Keith Hancock at ANU in Canberra.’

Two Degrees of Separation (Alistair Pope, 4/66)



An Australian Naval Officer came up with the notion that everyone in the world is connected by no more than a separation of six people. Personal experience tells me he is probably correct. I now live at least half the year in Vung Tau in Vietnam and the other half wherever. This year I happen to be in Vietnam when the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on 18th August 1966 occurs. About 1,000 veterans, families and battlefield tourists were scheduled to be in Vung Tau during this time, so it was not hard to guess that some would be from OTU.

As far as I know, the visitors to Vung Tau with an OTU connection during this week were David Sabben, MG, MiD (1/65); Gary McKay, MC (2/68) and Keith Payne, VC (DS 1966) and myself 4/66.

David and Di Sabben joined my wife and I at our place for dinner. Small world indeed!

Long Tan Place at Scheyville may not be around much longer (Hawkesbury Gazette, 8 June 2016 – via OTU Webmaster
As dusk fell on Long Tan Place at Scheyville, three lone streetlights flickered on, illuminating a strange streetscape of empty, overgrown 1960s houses. Out in the middle of paddocks, despite evening traffic whizzing by on two sides of the little cul-de-sac, Long Tan Place was still an eerie and otherworldly scene when the Gazette visited on Thursday evening, July 7.

We were there after Wilberforce resident Peter Jessop alerted us about the street, and what he was afraid was its imminent fate. Disturbed and puzzled by the empty homes he would frequently drive past, he found out they were now owned by National Parks and rang them, as he felt the 10 homes should be renovated and given to homeless people. “They told me no-one can live in them except National Parks people, by legislation,” he said. “They said some had lived there for a while but were intimidated by squatters in some of the other homes and left, and that they were going to be demolished.”

He also contacted Hawkesbury MP Dominic Perrottet’s office who said they would look into it. The Gazette contacted National Parks to confirm what Mr Jessop was told and ask if his idea was possible. A spokesman said that “all properties are in a very poor condition, contain asbestos and are not fit for human habitation”. He did not confirm they were to be demolished, instead saying “NPWS is currently considering appropriate options for the buildings”. He confirmed some of the homes had been occupied by NPWS staff after Scheyville was gazetted as a National Park in 1996 but they no longer had any need for staff housing onsite. He also said “the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1979 section 151 places limitations on the use of on-park properties for ongoing residential purposes”.

Mr Perrottet’s office said after Mr Jessop raised the issue with them, they contacted the Minister Mark Speakman and were told that to renovate and rent out the homes would require legislative change, and that they were continuing to look into the possibilities.

The houses have a long history, built for the instructors in the Officer Training Unit which began in mid-1965 at Scheyville training camp to train platoon commanders for the Vietnam War. A total of 1871 men, mainly conscripts, were trained as officers, with eight killed in Vietnam. Former Victorian premier Jeff Kennett and former deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer were among the graduates of the grueling course, which ran for 22 weeks of 14-hour days. It ran until 1973. The Gazette will follow up the minister’s response, but in the meantime we tracked down a number of people associated with the houses over the years.

Dick Flint was the Chief Instructor for the young officers in training at Scheyville. He described them as “the top two per cent of Australian males at the time”. “They were very difficult to teach indeed as they were bloody smart,” he said. “It was fast-paced learning as we crammed four years’ training into six months.” He said due to his position he didn’t socialise with them much, but did go to the officers’ houses on Long Tan Place a couple of times. “I sometimes went reluctantly – because command is a difficult position to be in. To preserve command you had to be a bit aloof.” He paid tribute to the wives at Long Tan Place as well.

“I don’t think the breed of woman who marries an army officer is understood by the community,” he said. “These ladies were a special breed of people. There was a community spirit there [at Long Tan Place]. Usually they met at the different places and were at pains not to upstage each other [with the spreads they put on etc]. “They were a very close community and helped each other considerably. The families there would have picnics and do water sports at Wisemans Ferry and go fishing. Many went to the church at Ebenezer as the commandant encouraged people to go. “Have you heard about the bird cage? That was a four-bedroom house at Blacktown where wives of the cadets lived. My cadets would sneak out at night over the dam to visit their wives. I don’t know how they got there.”

Peter Langford (staff 1968 – 1970) said the officers who got to live in the houses on Long Tan Place were more senior or who had kids. “We all lived at Riverstone and had pan toilets. It was everyone’s

ambition to get into the married quarters [at Long Tan Place] as they had flushing toilets and hot water in the kitchen!” he said.

Brian Honner lives in Canberra now but lived in two different houses in Long Tan Place – “the first on the right and the second last on the right” with his wife Kay and four children aged 6, 4, 1, and a baby. They lived in the street from April 1969 to December 1970, when he was posted elsewhere.

He said the couples there were all in their late 20s or early 30s and the kids were all under 10.

“All the kids were very good together and the officers’ wives all helped each other getting the kids to school etc or looked after each other’s kids if someone had to go to the dentist,” he said. “The kindy kids all went to the Air Force kindy at Richmond and the older children went to Pitt Town Primary School.

“All the kids went to each other’s birthday parties and we used to have barbecues in summer or on Cracker Night with everyone bringing their own meat and the kids would run around and play, back in the time before they all had a screen!”

Brian Cooper (3/69) of the Officer Training Unit Association was an officer cadet there in the 1960s. He said he would like to see the houses given to veterans. “There are a significant number of veterans doing it tough as they have no accommodation, and here’s some that’s not being used,” he said.

“After Scheyville [training camp] closed the RAAF were using them right up till the 90s I think.”

Paula O’Keefe who is now in WA lived at number 10, the last house on the left, in the mid-80s; (she thinks from ‘84 to ‘88) as her dad was in the Army. “It was all RAAF families – dad was attached to the Richmond base. It was a lovely little place to live. In the forces everyone helps each other. If you had any worries or needed anything you just had to cross the road. Everyone had lovely gardens. We used to get snakes and frogs coming in [from the surrounding paddocks and bush].

“Just last month I took my husband there and we walked up the street. It’s so sad to see how it looks now. It just felt horrible.”

Noel Davidson was involved with the houses later on. He used to manage them from 1992-2004 when they were run by Housing NSW (formerly Housing Commission). He said back then the houses got water from the huge water tank at Scheyville training camp, which kept leaking and having problems. He said now they are all attached to mains water.

“They were empty when we took them over and we had to assess them. It would take \$30-40,000 each now to get them back up to occupiable standard and they’d command \$400-500 a week each in rent.”

Regarding the asbestos in the homes, he said “most of South Windsor would have it too! It’s only in the bathrooms, kitchens and laundries and would be part of that cost to get them up to standard.”

He said when they were vetting people to live in them they stipulated tenants must have a car as it was 2km to the nearest bus stop.

Lauren Cole, a Fairfax employee, said she lived in 5 Long Tan Place from 1989 to 1992, leaving when she was seven. “About half the families in the street were with Correctional Services,” she said, as was her family. “There was a really nice girl next door and later I was bridesmaid at her wedding. We used to ride our bikes up and down the street. “Dad made his own golf course beyond the end of the street – he mowed it and used to joke there were nine holes. “I had my sixth birthday party there. We knew all our neighbours, unlike when we moved to Bligh Park [afterwards]. They were happy memories.”



Re-writing History (Alistair Pope, 4/66)

On ANZAC Day this year, Quadrant magazine published the full version of Alistair Pope's article on how the history of the Australians at Gallipoli is being re-written from what it has always been. In May 2016 Alistair delivered the article as a presentation to the Geelong Branch of the Royal United Services Institute.

The article (in part) says: The Dawn Services have once more come and gone, attended by many thousands who honour the heroism, valour and, if you will, the essential Australian-ness of those who served and died in all the wars in which Australia has participated. The day after, it will be business as usual for the grant-funded Left as it seeks to tear down that which is good and noble about Australia. Mervyn Bendle has written some inspiring articles countering the smear campaigns that academics and other armchair revisionists have been waging against the original ANZAC's who fought and died at Gallipoli. Mervyn identified the well-thumbed playbook used to denigrate what I regard as some of the finest men Australia has ever produced.

So, the academic war to control and rewrite our history into a more acceptable view is now well under way. One of the first steps of the revisionists has been to depict the ANZAC soldiers as despicable thugs and replace our admiration for them with an active loathing or, at least, a contemptuous sympathy for fools who answered their nation's call and did their duty with honour and bravery.

Rewriting the ANZAC Legend: A grant-funded offensive has arisen over recent decades, some of it funded by the Australian War Memorial! Its specific objective is to diminish the ANZAC story and future generations' appreciation of who the ANZAC's actually were. Worth noting, just in passing, is that those grants flow only in one direction: to the enemies of the ANZACs. What that taxpayer support produces is a farrago of slurs, slights, slanders and, on the part of those who authorise Australian Research Council largesse and the like, a cognitive dissonance laced with toxic irony. This year, as always, hundreds of thousands of Australians gathered at dawn to demonstrate their respect and gratitude to those who served, yet it is the tax dollars of those same reverential Australians that underwrite the books and seminars and fact-averse papers which denigrate the very men and women whose service and sacrifice are honoured at dawn every April 25th. The brazen misrepresentation of the revisionists is breath-taking.

ANZACs, according to one academic enemy of fact and truth, were stated to be no better than testosterone-driven white racists itching to reach the Middle East and kill coloured men, who were only defending their country. Factually, this argument is absurd, as the original ANZAC's arrived in Egypt believing it was only a staging stop on their way to France, where their anticipated enemies were white Austrians and blond Germans. In fact, as the ANZAC Roy Kyle states in his memoir, his comrades were rather upset upon learning they had been allocated what they regarded as a lesser enemy on the shores and cliffs of the Dardanelles. They soon learnt otherwise. Facts have never been an obstacle when the objective is not the truth. For post-modernist academics, hard facts and genuine truth are inconvenient hindrances to be ignored or, if that is impossible, tortured to fit the authorised narrative.

Alistair deals in detail with just two of the many myths of the revisionists: the first being that the ANZAC's and Australians generally were (and are) racists; and the second being that the ANZAC's were just ordinary, or less so. Alistair illustrates with many factual accounts of ANZACs who completely debunk the myths.

Alistair closes with: We would do well to remember the RSL's 'Lest We Forget' motto when we think of the ANZACs. When we think of the academics who insult their memory the motto should be 'best we forget and ignore them'.

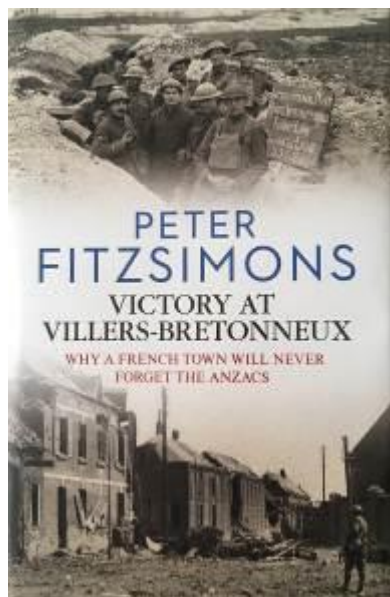
68th Birthday of the RAR, 23 November 2016 (Via John Biles, ex 4 RAR - ANZAC)

On 23 November 1948 the 65th, 66th and 67th Battalions became the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Australian Regiment. An application was made for a Royal title, which was granted on 10 March 1949. The Royal Australian Regiment thus came into being as Australia's first regiment of regular infantry. The formation of the regiment following the end of the Second World War was fundamentally important to the post-war Australian Army, forming a key component of the first "permanent, professional Army, available in peace and war for any task the government might direct". Prior to this time the Australian Army had been substantially a part-time militia with a permanent cadre. A major influence in the raising of the regiment was Australia's desire to secure a prominent role in the occupation of Japan and the eventual peace settlement. After some delays the 65th, 66th and 67th Battalions had arrived in Japan's Hiroshima Prefecture in February 1946. Subsequent employment "involved activities designed to reinforce upon the Japanese the lesson of their defeat", in addition to guard duty, patrolling and training. In December 1948, the Australian component of the BCOF was reduced from a brigade to one understrength battalion, with the 1st and 2nd Battalions returning to Australia, while the 3rd Battalion remained in Japan.

On return to Australia the 34th Brigade became the 1st Brigade. The 1st Battalion was subsequently based in Ingleburn, New South Wales, and the 2nd Battalion at Puckapunyal, Victoria. Both units were significantly understrength as many men discharged on returning to Australia, while others elected to remain in Japan with the 3rd Battalion. From this experience came the core of dedicated soldiers destined to be the non-commissioned officers of the regiment in the Korean War and the outstanding warrant officers and sergeants of the battalions that served in Malaya and in the early part of the Vietnam campaign. The regiment has provided units and individuals for virtually all Australian Army deployments and operations since its formation. The first period of sustained operational service began with the regiment's first deployment in Korea in 1950 and continued until the withdrawal of combat units from Vietnam in 1972. These 22 years were arguably the most significant for the regiment with between one and three battalions involved in combat operations in South-East Asia at any one time. A second lengthy period of operational service commenced with the intervention in East Timor in 1999, which became the first of many commitments for the regiment that have continued to the present day including Iraq, Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands. Approximately 95,000 personnel have served in the RAR during this time, with casualties sustained by the regiment on operations including over 700 killed and over 3,500 wounded.

BOOK/MAGAZINE/WEBSITE REVIEWS (Robin Hunt, 3/69)

Books from the bookshelf and into the Christmas stocking

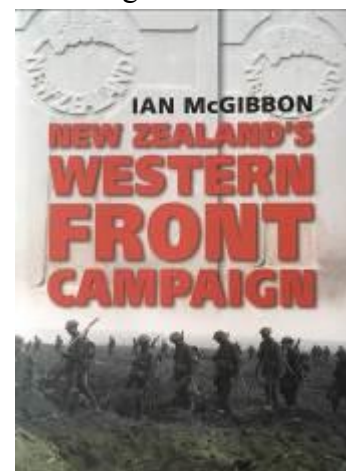


It's interesting to see how many recently published military history books are authored by other than formally trained historians. I think of journalists such as Les Carlyon ("The Great War" and "Gallipoli") and, in particular, Peter Fitzsimons. The latter has three WW1 books to his recent credit: "Gallipoli" (2014), "Fromelles & Pozieres: In the Trenches of Hell" (2015) and most recently "**Victory at Villers-Bretonneux**" (2016, William Heinemann Book/Penguin Random House Australia, \$50). I have not had time to fully read the 750+ pages of the VB book (which was released at the beginning of November) but I am working my way through it. The impression I get is that it is very readable, full of facts (indeed many are in the form of direct quotations – with the data for them arising from extensive research). Some are contentious – such as the one saying of John Monash that he was "the most revered Australian military leader of all time...". By writing that, Fitzsimons neglects the respect accorded to General Harry Chauvel (WW1) and later to FM Thomas Blamey (WW2). Equally debatable, is Fitzsimons' contention (p 654) that "All along the line, the Australians really *had* held those bastards,

averting Allied defeat in the First World War and staving off what would likely have otherwise been a

German victory in the whole war because of it”. As an aside, I sense that Fitzsimons is getting in well ahead of the publishing avalanche commemorating various military centenaries: the battles for Villers-Bretonneux didn’t occur until March-April 1918. I guess that leaves time for the author to cover the closing stages of WW1 and steps towards peace and repatriation of the hundred and seventy-five thousand soldiers deployed in Europe and the Middle East. It will be hard to make any of that appeal as much as the heroics of the Australians at VB and “Why a French Town “will never forget the ANZACs” (which is the sub title of the book under review).

It is amazing to note that Ian McGibbon’s “**New Zealand’s Western Front Campaign**” (Bateman NZ, 2016) is the “first major account of New Zealand’s whole Western Front campaign since the publication of the official history” (which was authored by Hugh Stewart in 1921). This new book has been published as part of NZ’s First World War Centenary History and was supported by the NZ Defence Force and Massey University. It is interesting to see that the book - which quite rightly focuses on NZ forces - accords Australian WW1 endeavors in the Somme the same coverage as it has the efforts of, say, the Canadians. It’s always good to see history written from another perspective.



Travel News (David Sabben, 1/65)

Thank-you for your patience; the 2017 itineraries are now out for both the Long Tan Trek Tour and the Decisive Battlefield Tour of the North for October 2017.

You can find the 1-page Flyer and the full itineraries for both Tours here in this email or on the following websites: <http://www.sabben.com/longtantrek/VN%20Long%20Tan%20Trek%20Tour%202017.html> and www.nntravel.com.au .

Support to The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne (Robin Hunt, 3/69)

Robin Hunt visited the new exhibition under the Shrine and noticed that a mannequin in the Vietnam displaying his uniform was a bit short of equipment. He began sourcing some extra bits. They need:

- Weapons (pistol and rifle), grenades, smoke grenades
- Toggle rope
- Compass on lanyard with pouch (vital tool for infantry and artillery)
- Water bottles

On emailing the Shrine Robin received a reply (part shown below) from Dr Ian Jackson of The Shrine:

Robin, thank you to you and your fellow OTU members and artillery veterans for looking out for items for the Shrine to fill in the mannequin. *Just as a word of advice, if anyone does have weapons of any kind then if they could give me a call first rather than bring anything to the Shrine unsolicited then that would be good, as the security situation here is a bit touchy in recent months for obvious reasons.*

Please find attached photographs that my colleague Jenna Blyth has taken of the uniform and also of the label. If you publish the photograph of the uniform then please credit the image: ‘Courtesy Shrine of Remembrance collection’.

As you can see there is a toggle rope and water bottles attached to the belt on the uniform but they are a little hard to see as they are partly beneath the arm of the mannequin. Following up on your notes and the illustrations in Lyles’ *Vietnam ANZACs* I was thinking of moving the rope to a more historically correct position where it should be more visible. We don’t have a compass of any kind though as you observe. Similarly it would be good to have an entrenching tool one day.

Thanks for your help and let me know if you have any questions or further observations.

Can any Victorian OTU Members help with the missing pieces of equipment?

Correction: ANZAC's in Vietnam as in The Scheyvillian 1 & 2 of 2016:



The Geoff Jones who passed on the names to Peter Morgan (1/66) was actually Cpl Geoff Jones, the Company Medic, not Geoff Jones (3/70).

Geoff Jones (3/70) is currently 'missing in action'. If anyone knows of his whereabouts, please contact the Membership Officer Graeme Chester.

EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

From: Frank Paton (2/70) **Sent:** 29 October 2016 **Subject:** The Scheyvillian 2 of 2016

Just read your latest newsletter- congratulations on such a detailed and entertaining publication (you can quote me!) BTW it was a big surprise to turn the page and see my Inspection Report - the dreaded dust!

DNG - you ask for names - I remember Patton because he had a similar name - was a big strong guy but he "disappeared" well before end of the course (2/70). Can't recall his first name.

From: Frank Paton (2/70) **Sent:** 3 November 2016 **Subject:** The end of NS

I recall that a group of us simply played poker and other card games over a few drinks all night til dawn. No-one had thought the termination would be so immediate and we were a bit stunned. We weren't really excited, but just thought the occasion needed marking.

We were not unhappy in the service (posted to AHQ at that stage) and most of us there had less than 6 months remaining, so it did not have a dramatic effect on us. Tony Comito (3/70) was one of the others there.

From: Peter Benson (1/67) **Sent:** 5 August 2016 **Subject:** Family in World War 1

Thanks for all the work you do in editing The Scheyvillian. Of particular interest to me is the attached article on Anzac Day 2016 in France, with specific reference to the Battle of Amiens on 08.08.1918. Please forward this email to John Howe (2/66) by way of my thanks to him personally. 100 years ago on 19.06.1916 my grand-father, Stanley Morrow enlisted in Sydney. He was Killed in Action on 18.08.1918, only ten days after the Battle of Amiens. He was part of the 57th Battalion. According to Australian War Memorial internet records, "When the Allies launched their own offensive around Amiens on 8th August, the 57th Battalion was amongst the units in action, although its role in the subsequent advance was limited. The battalion entered its last major battle of the war on 29 September 1918."

50 years ago, I "won" the National Service lottery as my birthday was 27.08.1946. As part of my 70th birthday celebrations this month, my wife & I will be visiting my grand-father – he is buried in Heath Cemetary, about 3 kms from Villers-Bretonneux, probably near the same venue as the Anzac Day 2016 Service. We will be there on my birthday – 27.08.2016 – staying overnight in Amiens.

My mother was almost 8 years old when her father was killed, leaving a family of five, including my grand-mother, aunt & two uncles – all are now deceased which makes it particularly important for me to complete this journey into our family history, which started in Australia in 1790 when the Second Fleet (full of women convicts) arrived in Sydney to cater for the needs of the men of the First Fleet. Why weren't we taught such things in school?

Incidentally, I am related to a Kevin Rudd who traces his Australian history back to the same fore-bear, Mary Wade.

From: Bernie Carney (3/68) **Sent:** 28 August 2016 **Subject:** Brisbane ANZAC Day Commentary

Comment: The following is an extract of the comments from the two TV commentators of the Brisbane Anzac Day March in 2016. I thought that this may be of interest to the editor of the Scheyvillian magazine.

"And as the band makes its way through, we see the Officer Training Unit. This unit trained National Service officers in one of the toughest short courses in the Australian army to provide platoon leaders in Vietnam. And some of them were damn good. They lost 7 killed. What sort of training, when you talk training, how long are we talking about?

Six months. It was a crash course and it was designed to fail you. If you survived and were commissioned then you were pretty good because they needed officers in a hurry. It was designed to fail? Yep. Still, 130 of them were promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and above. And this from the 1870 graduates, so that's pretty impressive.

Lt Gordon Sharp who was killed at Long Tan was one of those graduates at OTU – a National Service Officer".

Q STORE (Order through the Website)



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 (small 1 pin or larger 3 pin):
\$5 plus \$4 P & H

OTU Ties: **\$25 plus \$5 P & H**



OTU ASSOCIATION

2016/17 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Website: www.otu.asn.au

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| MAIL TO: Treasurer OTU Association PO Box 540 BLACK ROCK VIC 3193 CONTACT: (03) 9533 1810 rayelder45@gmail.com | | <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"> Annual Subscription July 2016 to June 2017 Donation to Youth Leadership Development Total Cheque/Cash Enclosed <i>(For Direct Debit payment see below and please remember to update our database or return this form so that your contact details can be confirmed)</i> </td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right; vertical-align: top;"> \$50.00 \$ _____ \$ _____ </td> </tr> </table> | | Annual Subscription July 2016 to June 2017 Donation to Youth Leadership Development Total Cheque/Cash Enclosed <i>(For Direct Debit payment see below and please remember to update our database or return this form so that your contact details can be confirmed)</i> | \$50.00 \$ _____ \$ _____ |
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| Last Name: | | Organisation: | | | |
| Wife/Partner: | | Industry: | | | |
| Address: | | Address: | | | |
| Town/Suburb: | | Town/Suburb: | Postcode: | | |
| State: | Postcode: | Work Phone: | | | |
| Home Phone: | | Work Fax: | | | |
| Personal Mobile: | | Work Mobile: | | | |
| Personal Email: | | Work Email: | | | |
| Personal Web Address: | | Work Website: | | | |
| Class: | | Any Comments: | | | |
| Corps: | | | | | |
| Regimental No: | | | | | |
| Awards: | | | | | |
| I am a new member: <input type="checkbox"/> I am a continuing member: <input type="checkbox"/> | | I am no longer interested. Please delete me from the database: <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | | <i>(Please Indicate)</i> | | | |
| For Office Use: | | You will need to know the following information to pay your Membership using Direct Debit: Bank – National, BSB – 083 298, Account No. 56-687-0611, Reference – Surname and/or Regt No. | | | |

Membership Drive

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

| | NAME | CLASS | ADDRESS | EMAIL | PHONE NO |
|---|------|-------|---------|-------|----------|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS:

Queensland: Owen Williamson (4/70) olwilliamson@bigpond.com or WilliamsonO@AureconHatch.com
Back-up: Melanie Griffin (Mick Hart's secretary) mgriffin@clearhoare.com.au
07 3230 5253 or Mick Hart mhart@clearhoare.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
2017 activity dates – see ACT Report

SA: Gary Vial (3/69) 0414 762 525 garyvial@ctmc.com.au
Advised through SA Contact List

Tasmania: Dennis Townsend (2/70) 03 6247 3892 det47@y7mail.com
Ray Williams (2/71) 0447 006 034 adaptbm@bigpond.net.au
Quarterly lunches advertised by email

Victoria: Frank Miller 0401 140 762 millerfw@netspace.net.au
Bernie Gleeson 0427 601 983 berjulgleson@bigpond.com
Monthly Lunches, 2nd Wednesday 0418 373 874 bjcooper@bigpond.net.au
Annual Dinner 2017 will be May or June at William Angliss.

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 Frank LeFaucheur.

The back pages:



Left: Scheyvillians and Tour Guides: Rod Margetts (2/69) and Neil Leckie (3/68) met up at Polygon Wood, near Ypres, during the recent WW1 Centenary period.

Below: Dick Adams (3/72) after Investiture of the OAM at NSW Government House, 8 September 2016



Left: WA Lunch, (L-R): Richard Baird, David Ward, Bernie Houston, Steve Pearson, David Atkinson, Neville Gale.



Class 2/69 at the Last Post Ceremony, AWM, 18 August 2016



Left: Some 'happy chappies' at the October Victorian Monthly lunch.



Right: More 'Happy Chappies' from the WA lunch.



Left: Vivien and Lawson Ride with 2/69 Canberra reunion organiser, Bill Watson.

Below: 2/66 Graduation Parade, Sep 1966.

