



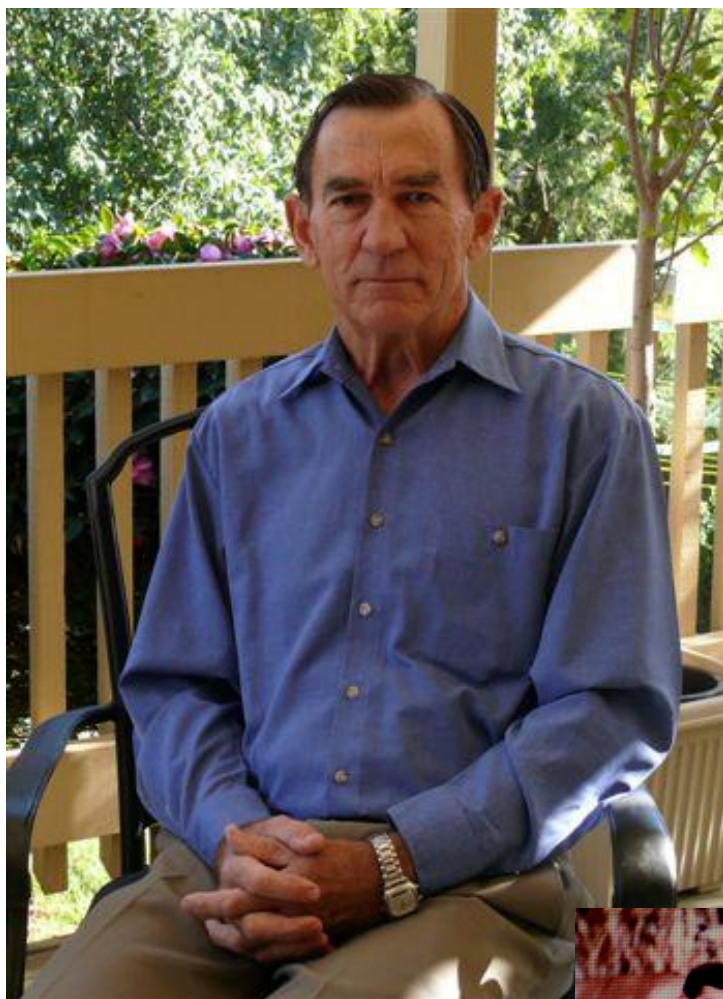
The Scheyvillian

Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee

OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 1, 2017

Officer Training Unit, Scheyville NSW 1965-1973

A newsletter for all Scheyvillians



**Neil Harvey Weekes AM MC
21 September 1945 - 6 March 2017**

**Neil Weekes was never known to walk
away from a fight, whether on
Vietnam's battlefields or battling
bureaucracies over Veteran's benefits.
(RAR Website)**

**'Lead, follow, or get out of the way!'
NHW**

**Right: Cpl Rod Lynch,
Cpl (Later T/Sgt) Bruno Flematti,
Cpl (John) Patrick Hansen,
Sgt Chris Webster
2 Lt Neil Weekes.
(www.1rar.org.au/vietnam-1968-1969/)**

**Believed to be 3 Pl, A Coy,
1 RAR staff taken between
29 Apr – 9 August 1968 in Vietnam.**



NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2016/17:

National Chairman: Frank Miller	03 9561 3630	0401 140 762	millerfw@netspace.net.au
Deputy Chairman: Brian Cooper	03 9879 9485	0418 373 874	bjcooper@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer: Ray Elder	03 9533 1810	0412 354 170	rayelder45@gmail.com
Secretary: Bernie Gleeson	03 9850 1575	0414 702 905	berjulgleson@bigpond.com
Webmaster Ian Kelly		0412 215 171	igkelly45@gmail.com
Membership: Graeme Chester	03 5962 5839	0412 165 420	graeheath1@bigpond.com
Scheyvillian & Memorabilia			
Neil Leckie	03 5333 1383	0400 573 802	nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au
Quartermaster: Peter Don	03 9882 3786	0407 295 718	peterdon@bigpond.net.au
Committee Members:			
Robin Hunt	03 9827 8073	0429 827 807	rvmh@clearwood.net.au
Alan Brimelow	03 9551 9453	0432 012 732	alanbrimelow@yahoo.com
Rob Youl		0407 362 840	robmyoul@gmail.com

Postal Address: OTU National Committee, 3/49 John Street, Lower Templestowe, VIC, 3107

WEBSITE: www.otu.asn.au

THE SCHEYVILLE TAPES

Last 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 each incl P&H – or \$60 the set incl P&H!

THE SCHEYVILLIAN NEXT EDITION DUE OUT August 2017: It is planned to have Edition 2 of 2017 of *The Scheyvillian* in early August, in time to advise details of Vietnam Veteran's Day in the major centres. Submissions need to be received by 15 July 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/USB Stick 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 are just 26 copies left!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (Graeme Chester, 2/67)

As at the 12 April 17, a summary of our FY16/17 membership was:

Number of Graduates	1880			
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	1995			
Number Financial		469		
Widows		8		
Number Honorary		30		
Number Deceased			176	
Number Unfinancial (Not Renewed)			1147	
Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact)			165	
Totals	1880	1995	507	1488

Of the names on database 25.3% are financial/honorary/widows.

Of the names on the database 8.7% are deceased.

Of the names on the database 57.6% 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, things have slowed down over recent months. Currently, we have **507** financial members which is still some way from the **530** financial members we had at the end of last financial year.

However, there are some **77** members who have previously been financial who, thusfar, have not renewed for 16/17. If something has happened to change your mind about membership of the OTU Association we would be interested to know. Otherwise, if it is just a matter of being 'slack and idle', please get you skates on and renew asp. A Membership Renewal form is attached to this newsletter or, should you wish, you could renew using PayPal via our website. Renewal by **30 April 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, particularly as a lot of us are coming up to our 50th.

WEBSITE - REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS & MEMORABILIA: MORE NEEDED

In recent time there have been more photos received: Class 3/68 (from Lew Dowling), Class 1/71 (from Lou Buzai), 2/70 (Frank Paton), Jon Bates (1/70) and Chris Grigsby (O1/73), but we would always like more, particularly from Classes 3/67 & 4/67, 4/68, 4/69, 2/70, 1/71 & 3/71 and all Nasho classes of 1972. Scheyvillians are encouraged to look at the Website and see what is held and check if you have anything that may compliment what is there. There is a provision for comments to be made on any photograph on the Website. If you have photos, please send them either in 'jpeg' scan format or if you do not have scanning capability send the hard copies 'Registered Post' to:

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

We also need **March In photographs** for Classes 1 & 2/65 (if available), 2, 3 & 4/67 and 1/71.

On the memorabilia front, to complete the collection we still need:

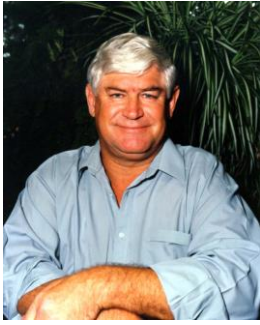
OPD Church Parade Booklet: Class 3/69, Class 4/71 & Class 4/72

RC Church Parade Booklet: all but Class 3/66, Class 3/69, Class 4/71 and Class 2/72, 3/72 & 4/72.

Graduation Parade Brochure: Class 4/70 & Class 3/71

The information in these brochure contains such things as the VIP presenting the Graduation Certificates, which band was playing at the Church and Graduation Parades, the Bandmaster and the RSM, etc.

NEW NSW CHAPTER CHAIRMAN (Frank Miller 4/67, National Chairman OTU-A)



It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Gary McKay MC (2/68) as Chairman of the New South Wales Chapter of the OTU Association. Gary (left) is well known to us as the author of five books on the Australian Army and for his being awarded the Military Cross whilst on service with 4 RAR in Vietnam.

In the mid 'eighties Gary was one of the "founding fathers" of the Association who recognised, and acted upon, the need for those who shared the Scheyville Experience to form a body that celebrated their time at OTU. We wish Gary and the NSW Chapter all the best for the future.



I would also like to thank John "Booka" Bushell (4/69) (right) for his contribution over recent years as NSW Chapter Chairman and to recognise his fine effort in this role.

UPCOMING NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

3/72 National Reunion, Melbourne 21 – 25 April 2017 (Alan Grant & Dick Adams)

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

1/71 National Reunion, Cairns 15 – 19 May 2017 (Ian Kuhl)

Class 1/71 is holding a reunion in Cairns 15 to 19 May. As part of our program we are having a reception hosted by Cairns Regional Council at the Tanks (Gardens) Wednesday the 17th May. It would be great if any of the local graduates could join us or any graduates passing through at that time. Please contact Ian Kuhl (0407 135 645 or email ikuhl@bigpond.net.au). We are sure it will be a great time. This will be our fifth reunion, having been to Canberra, Devonport, Fremantle and Melbourne previously.

2/69 National Reunion, Barossa Valley 13 – 15 October 2017

Class 2/69 will hold their Annual Reunion based on the Novotel Barossa Valley Resort. Early bookings are essential. Contact Bill Watson of your attendance and accommodation needs.

Bill Watson bill1223@gmail.com cc Mick Hart mhart@clearlyhoare.com.au

GRADUATES, REPEATS AND NON-GRADUATES PROJECT (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

At National, and no doubt State, level we have often discuss how many Cadets entered OTU, what % Graduated (we know the number of graduates – 1880 including OCS/OTU and CMF), and what happened to those who graduated and didn't graduate. The general consensus was about two out of three (67%) graduated. I remember at the end of one of my senior classes being told that we were the worst class to graduate from OTU. (Must have been 2/68 as it has the most repeats - 17). But were we?

Being the defacto Memorabilia Officer for the association I felt that I probably held enough information to get a reasonably accurate number for those who 'Marched In'. The process should have been fairly simple – list the names on the 'March In' photos for each class and subtract the names of the graduates. That gave a list of those who did not graduate! However, the association does not have 'March In' photographs for all classes. There were no March In photos taken for Classes 1/65 and 2/65.

1/66 is missing C Class, 2/70 is missing B Class and there are none for 2/67, 3/67, 4/67 and 1/71.

However, with the help of a list of Class 1/65 names prepared for a reunion, the original Senior Term positions for Class 2/65 from Les Myers, a list of names for a Class 2/67 reunion from Graeme Chester, the number of NS 'March Ins' for Class 3/67 sent in a letter to his mother in 1967 by Ray Graetz, some 1/71 papers from Lou Buzai and some other documents held on behalf of the association, I was able to get a fairly accurate number of 'March Ins' for all classes. A summary of the numbers for each class is:

Class	M/In	Repeat	Total	DNG Jnr	DNG Snr	Grad	Repeat & Grad	Repeat & DNG	% Pass
1/65	106	N/A	106		25	76	4	1	72%
2/65	69	5	74		27	41	4	2	55%
1/66	111	6	117		32	79	6		68%
2/66	88	6	94		30	54	8	2	57%
3/66	82	10	92		28	56	8		61%
4/66	58	8	66		18	42	6		64%
1/67	134	6	140		30	97	12	1	69%
2/67	82	13	95		18	65	9	3	68%
3/67	74	12	86		27	50	8	1	58%
4/67	59	9	68		19	43	5	1	63%
1/68	128	6	134		29	92	7	6	69%
2/68	95	13	108	2	25	64	12	5	59%
3/68	95	17	112		39	64	9		57%
4/68	58	9	67		27	36	3	1	54%
1/69	107	4	111		31	76	4		68%
2/69	77	4	81		21	51	9		63%
3/69	74	9	83	5	15	57	5	1	69%
4/69	52	6	58	4	17	32	5		55%
1/70	128	5	133		32	92	9		69%
2/70	84	9	93		14	74	5		80%
3/70	65	5	70		15	51	4		73%
4/70	49	4	53		17	35	1	3	66%
1/71	144	4	148		37	104	7		72%
2/71	84	7	91	12	12	62	4	1	68%
3/71	57	5	62		29	31	2		50%
4/71	107	2	109		51	57	1		52%
1/72	108	1	109		25	82	2		75%
2/72	104	2	106		27	77	2		73%
3/72	58	2	60		21	39	0		65%
4/72	52	0	58		29	23	N/A		44%
Total	2,589	190	2,779	23	767	1,802	161	29	70%

Numbers in **Red** are yet to be finalised.

OCS/OTU

For the OCS/OTU Classes the numbers are:

O1/72	Marched In	37	Repeats	N/A	Graduated	26	70%	
O2/72	Marched In	35	Repeats	1	Graduated	23	64%	(Av 67%)
O1/73	Marched In	30	Repeats	1	Graduated	19	61%	

The pass rate of NS/Air Cadet Graduates against March In was $1,802/2,589 = 70\%$

The best pass rate was Class 1/72 at 75%, while the worst Pass Rate was Class 3/71 with 50% (not counting the Post-NS Graduating Classes 3/72 – 65% and 4/72 – 44% where many left as NS had ended).

During this time-consuming, but most enjoyable exercise, a lot a stories about Graduates and Non-Graduates were passed on. Some of these are:

Four cadets in Class 2/72 did not appear in the March In photos and were not Repeats from Class 1/72. It turns out that the four had been held back at 2 RTB, Puckapunyal, for about two weeks and listed as ‘Aspirants’. They were waiting until some Air Cadets, who had been given priority, were accepted into OTU (or not). In the meantime the four ‘Aspirants’ ate in the Sergeants Mess, where ‘the food was better’ and not the Recruits Mess. As one could imagine they were not very popular in the Sergeants Mess. Eventually the four were flown to Sydney and chauffer driven from Sydney Airport to

Scheyville. One can only imagine the shock the four received when they alighted from the chauffer driven car!

Two Cadets left late in an early course and were posted to 1 RTB, Kapooka, as Instructors. They were given the rank of Corporal. Imagine their surprise when a few weeks later they received a new Platoon Commander from the OTU Course they had just left. One of the 'Corporals' said that he had been given substantive rank and before discharge was given the rank of temporary Sergeant. He had the advantage of living in the NCO lines on Sergeants pay, but did not have to pay Sergeants Mess fees! A couple of courses later another Cadet left late in a course and was also posted to 1 RTB as an Instructor. He also reported that he finished his NS as Acting Platoon Sergeant.

A Cadet in one of the later courses was discharged early in the course as he could not run. He had flat feet! How did he pass the original medical and how did he pass the selection course?

Another from a later class was 'a lovely bloke, a good rugby player and his family had a pub in Western Sydney'. We were sorry to hear he had gone – 'that's all we knew – he'd gone!'

From an Air Cadet: Seven of us left the OTU course early to join a Point Cook flying course. Sadly missed Singleton in mid-June, but did score our first jet flight when 'the system' flew us back to Scheyville for the Graduation Parade. Fifty years later I can fully appreciate the value of the course in building self-confidence to take a young bloke through whatever life may throw at him.

'As you know the DNG blokes just disappeared over night, I don't recall any awareness of any "going", just the empty room. Wonder how they felt and were affected by the experience, suspect it did little to enhance their esteem/confidence. I had a discussion with a DNG a couple of years ago, can't remember his name or class, but he went 1-2 days before graduation, his parents were actually in transit for the graduation...not a happy situation.'

For Class 3/67 Harold Holt's disappearance resulted in no Graduation Ball. The class were allowed to have an 'unofficial' cocktail party, which had to conclude by 7pm, in lieu of a Graduation Ball.

One member of a 1969 class volunteered for NS and wanted to be posted to RAAPro. He did not graduate from OTU, but was still keen to become an officer. Two years later he graduated from OCS Portsea into RAAPro!

Rugby was played on the ground near the road that passed along the front of OTU. It was hard as concrete and had no grass. A late class cadet suffered a fractured eye socket during a Saturday rugby match which resulted in loss of sight in that eye. The cadet was subsequently boarded out on medical grounds. He was a surveyor prior to NS and was able to return to his previous profession. 'He probably became one of your typical Mexican 'one eyed' AFL supporters.' 'One of his classmates was last seen sitting in what was close to a yoga pose over his hexi stove and almost trance like with exhaustion about 8 or so kms from the finish of "that" route march. I don't recall him coming back to Scheyville afterwards.'

Of one class, of two of the Air Cadets, one recently retired after many years as a 747 captain and the other, who was too young to graduate and repeated, is now teaching Koreans to fly Airbuses on behalf of Airbus France.

'Another great little bloke was Gus who hailed from Gippsland. Gus and I were both short. Gus couldn't figure out what he was doing at OTU as all he wanted to do was drive a truck. In those first weeks at OTU, Gus and I were taken for height measurements on more than one occasion. I scraped in by 3/4 of an inch. Gus was under the magic 5ft 2 inches and not only left Scheyville, but was discharged from the Army.'

‘The fate of DNG's would indeed be interesting. For some years I fantasised about seeking a Churchill scholarship and trying to research the consequences of their harsh separation from OTU at the time, certainly for my Class, and what befell them thereafter. I have always believed that there would have been some subsequent mental health issues that were never acknowledged.’

‘If I remember he left early in the course “at own request”. I met him at a pub in Melbourne a few years later and we happily compared notes. I remember he said he didn’t find the Scheyville experience positive at all.’

‘One classmate’s mother used to send him cartons (about the dozen bottles of wine size) of home-made biscuits and he had to leave them on the floor of his room so probably had a bit of difficulty with the cleanliness and neatness aspects of our required behavior.’

‘The nervous breakdown suffered by one of our class was a disgrace, he was a nice guy and would have had to stay an extra two months just to do his ‘extras’ and still the instructors charged him non-stop to his finish.....the pricks..... today he would sue them for millions, I have often thought of him, hope he recovered.’

‘Bill said: ‘Fifty years later I can fully appreciate the value of the course in building self-confidence to take a young bloke through whatever life may throw at him.’

Some figures in this project will change when the missing March In photos are located and the number of DNG in Junior Term & Senior Term are found. **If you have any** of the missing March In photos, or know of Cadets who left in the Junior Term of your Class please contact The Editor.

This project has shown that there are many Non-Graduates who are just a surname. Where the name is ‘uncommon’, in conjunction with Regimental Numbers it has been possible, in the classes prior to 1970,



to track down any Non-Graduates who served in Vietnam. Another project may be to see how many Non-Graduates used their experience at OTU and gained rank Post-OTU. Indications on the sample gained so far are that about one quarter were given rank, with some ending their NS as Acting Sergeants. Obviously their time at OTU was not wasted!
Photo: T/Sgt Banks ex Class 2/66 at 1 RTB Kapooka

Next project – The BOC Structure and Fathers and Sons for each course

Class 2/68 Senior - 3/68 Junior, Class 4/69 Senior – 1/70 Junior & Class 2/71 Senior – 3/71 Junior have been found. If you hold the BOC Structure and Fathers and Sons list for your Class contact the Editor.

It is also requested to advise when the four company structure started. According to one paper held Class 2/69 Junior had three companies when their Senior Class went on their final exercise. Brian Cooper advised that 3/69 was four companies.

We need confirmation that the four company structure commenced with 2/69 Senior - 3/69 Junior Classes. This is a bit like when were the OTU badges first worn? Photos held by the association show Class 2/70 were the first to wear the OTU badge. Intake 4/69 was the first to use the Blamey, Bridges, Chauvel and Monash names.

SPECIAL: OCS Scheyville – An OCS Graduate’s Perception (Mike Prain 1/72 OCS)

Background and initial impressions



As a civilian, I applied in mid-1971 for entry into the Officer Cadet School (OCS) Portsea to join the January 1972 class. I was totally unaware at the time that the Regular Army was going through an expansion phase and that consequently there was a need to increase the Officer training establishments' output proportionally. As we are now aware, the Scheyville Wing of the Officer Cadet School Portsea was subsequently established to meet the expansion. Interestingly, this was at a time when the anti-Vietnam War sentiment had reached its peak and the three Services, Army in particular, were feeling the brunt of populist feeling.

In 2017 I do not recall the sequence of events some 45 years on, but I was not notified of my successful selection for Officer Training by mail until early January 1972 and then, later that month, I received another letter advising me that I was not going to Portsea, but instead to Scheyville. I knew of Scheyville as I had read some information on the Army Aviation Cadet Scheme in place at the time, but never

thought I would end up there.

I enlisted on 4 February 1972 and marched-in (a term I was not familiar with at the time) to Scheyville approximately a week later. The bulk of the 1/72 OCS-OTU (Officer Training Unit) Class intake reported to what was then the Eastern Command Personnel Depot (ECPD) at Watson's Bay, South Head in Sydney the night before and we travelled to Scheyville the next morning; those without cars by bus, those with cars in convoy behind. I wasn't in ECPD 30 minutes when both Barry Greenwood and myself were told, by the RSM I assume, to march ourselves to the camp barber shop to have a haircut.

My first vision of Scheyville was the now 'famous' cattle-grid that constituted the front gate (why has it not been relocated to RMC along with the Portsea Memorial Wall and WRAAC School Gates?) The next memory I still vividly have from that day is when I first walked into the Cadets' Mess Ante-room and being impressed with what I saw, commented to RSM Mahoney who was lurking just inside, 'This is nice!' I think he grunted back at me in reply. From then on, the next week, if not month was a blur for reasons those who went through Scheyville or Portsea will understand.

I was allocated to 6 Platoon, Chauvel Company (Governor General's Company at the time, I recall), along with Calvin Tilley, Les Haines and Graham Campbell. If I remember correctly, Barry Greenwood, Geoff May, Rick Schurmann and Stu Cameron were allocated to 5 Platoon. I was only recently advised that a cadet by the name of Pensalfini (can't remember his first name) was also allocated to 5 Platoon, but had resigned within the first month. My Scheyville 'father' was Warwick Potter, a chap I wish I had got to know better. Warwick graduated to RAE and I think retired as a LTCOL. We only ever crossed paths on two or so occasions after Scheyville.

My first impression of the accommodation blocks and rooms was that they were tired, but functional. At least we had individual rooms; I had expected a barrack room situation. The ablutions on the other hand were very average and I would think below par even in 1972.

Initially, 37 cadets made up the 1/72 OCS (Scheyville) class, but one returned to RMC within the first week and another four decided they did not like the game within the first month. During the course of the following nine months, of the remaining 32, one was back-squadded and five unfortunately, were removed from the course. This left 26 of the original 37 who went on to graduate in December 1972.

I do recall mutterings of discontent during our first few weeks, *'What were we doing here when we had applied for and expected to go to Portsea?'* This abated after the then Commandant, COL John (Jack) Studdert, addressed the class one Sunday evening in the theatre about his (read the Staff's) perception that we were not happy with our lot. His message was put quite clearly: *'Stop procrastinating and get on with the job at hand'*. That we did!

From then on the attitude in the class was almost one of 'us against them'. 'Them' being the establishment and the Nashos (not that we had anything personally against the Nashos). We began to feel unique and this did have a positive effect on the class as we developed very quickly into a team and not just individuals competing to survive the challenges that were to be thrown at us. The staff helped with

that perception of uniqueness in that they regularly reinforced our being in the top 10 percent of the intelligentsia of Australia's youth. Whether they were put up to it, or if it was even true, I do not know, but it worked and our morale improved. It also became obvious from what some of the Directing Staff (DS) had to say later in our course that they regarded us differently to the Nashos; we were volunteers! Of course, the question that was on our minds and to this day I am not sure it has been answered, was 'Why were we, out of so many successful candidates for entry into Portsea in January 1972, selected to go to Scheyville in lieu?' We were all single and there were no ARA personnel in the class (some were ex-CMF), but was a more informed decision made other than considering those two factors to choose us for Scheyville? Were we, as some assumed, just the Portsea overflow class?

Intelligence levels and maturity

In *'The Scheyville Experience'* by Roger Donnelly (published by UQP in 2001), David Sabben, a member of the OTU 1/65 class and a Platoon Commander at Long Tan, is quoted as saying, when discussing the calibre of the National Servicemen selected for Scheyville, *'The Army didn't just want the best, it wanted the best of the best, and then some'*. An ex-Chief Instructor, LTCOL Dick Flint (1969-71), when interviewed by Roger Donnelly, spoke of the intelligence level of the National Service Officer Cadet, *'One would have been surprised at the relative intelligence levels of RMC Duntroon and OCS Portsea Cadets with those of Scheyville'*. Those National Servicemen selected to go to Scheyville were in the top 5% of their age group (nationally). RMC Duntroon Cadets on the other hand were in the top 10% to 12% and Portsea Cadets were in the top 20%. Roger went on to say *'The type of person who went to Scheyville will never again be available to the Army unless conscription is reintroduced'*. I think this is very true.

With few exceptions the National Servicemen were older than the members of the OCS class. In the case of the first OTU class of each year, the majority of cadets were either university graduates or 'dropouts', having deferred their National Service commitment until completing their studies. From my own perspective, they were a very intelligent group and more mature (and older) than most members of the 1/72 OCS (Scheyville) class. Most had Bachelor Degrees while some had completed their Masters and in some cases their Doctorates. Some found the time whilst at Scheyville to complete the latter, which begs the question 'How?' My experience of working with the National Servicemen at Scheyville instilled in me the utmost respect for them and this has not changed to this day. I was an active member of the OTU Association, ACT Chapter for 20 years and during that time my respect for the National Servicemen who went through Scheyville has only been enhanced.

Given the intelligence level of the National Servicemen and their maturity compared to the average (Portsea) OCS class, did the powers that be take that into account when selecting the 37 Cadets that made up the 1/72 OCS (Scheyville) Class?

Perceived more strenuous environment

The other consideration that may have been taken into account when selecting the 37 was the pace that we were to be subjected to at Scheyville. Again, Roger Donnelly's *'The Scheyville Experience'* adequately covers the academic and physical stress and general tempo the National Servicemen were subjected to given they had only 22 weeks to be trained to become effective Junior Officers. As Roger put it, *'Many former Scheyville Directing Staff have stressed, the pressure and frenetic pace of the OTU were intentional, the idea being that nothing else faced by the individual in his life would be as hard'*.

LTCOL David Ford, a Captain at the time and one of the first DS at Scheyville (Mar 65 to Jul 67), is on record as saying *'Many of the people (National Servicemen) that didn't qualify would have certainly graduated had they gone to Duntroon or Portsea where there was more time to work on them'*. He continued *'Almost everyone that went to Scheyville would have graduated had they gone to the other officer institutions'*.

When comparing the OCS course conducted at Scheyville and that at Portsea, if I may quote from *Loyalty and Service – The Officer Cadet School Portsea, a History of Portsea* by Neville Lindsay (Historia Productions, 1995), *'In theory the courses conducted in the OCS wing at Scheyville were the same as those at the Portsea campus. In reality there was a difference, even though the Block Syllabus used was the same. As an obvious economy measure, where the OTU courses were undertaking components compatible with the OCS ones, which virtually meant the junior class term, the OCS wing attended their lectures and participated in their field exercises. But there was something of a problem in that the compressed nature of the 22-week OTU course meant that everything was done at a faster pace, with "a*

general rush in the air". While this was natural enough for the OTU short course Cadets as had been the case with the first six OCS Courses, it meant that the OCS Wing Cadets had to sustain that pace for a full year, while their colleagues at Portsea retained the benefits of the steadier pace which had replaced the frenetic activity of the original short courses'.

There would appear to be little doubt that the pace at Scheyville for both National Service Cadets and OCS Wing Cadets was more rigorous than at Portsea itself. Was this pace a consideration when selecting members of 1/72 OCS class to be trained at Scheyville?

Analysis of Selection Board results

A total of 197 candidates were considered by the Selection Board (SB) for entry into Portsea in January 1972. Of that figure, 89 either failed outright or were recommended to apply for later entry. Of the 108 remaining candidates, 97 were ordinary entry, ie Australian citizens, but not including RMC transfers. Analysis of the successful 97 candidates' results at the SB, comparing Officer Intelligence Rating and SB Grading, shows no indication that the better or lesser performers were selected to go to Scheyville.

Benefits and disadvantages of attending the OCS/OTU Scheyville Wing.

Benefits of being a member of the Scheyville OCS wing include only being a junior class member for three months and then being senior, senior senior and senior senior senior cadets for the following three terms respectively. Putting it another way, by the time we left Scheyville, we were great-grandfathers under the father/son mentoring system in place. By the time our fourth and final term came around, the 1/72 OCS (Scheyville) Class held the bulk of the rank within the Battalion of Officer Cadets, the organisational designation of Scheyville's Cadet structure. When we finally went down to Portsea for graduation, we took with us more rank than our southern class members held within the Company of Officer Cadets as the Portsea cadet structure was collectively known. Rank in the Scheyville class included a BSM, BQMS, four CSMs and a cluster of SGTs and CPLs. We all held rank.

Another advantage I believe we had over our class mates at Portsea was that by the time we were into the later stages of our fourth term at Scheyville, the DS started to treat us with some respect which I did not observe when we got to Portsea. By the time we made the journey south, we knew we were graduating and had all been issued with our officer uniforms, badges of rank and Corps insignias etc. It was not the same for the Portsea cadets who still had to wait the decision of a final Board of Studies. I will never forget having to wait for a Cadet Platoon Sergeant having to inspect my uniform and webbing the afternoon prior to Graduation Parade before I could go on leave that evening. Yet two days' later, I would be magically empowered to do that for myself and an entire infantry platoon.

The biggest disadvantage of being part of the OCS class at Scheyville was seeing the 1/72 and 2/72 National Service classes graduate before we did. Other negatives included:

- Leave being restricted to Saturday nights and Sundays, or at least that was my perception at the time, but have since been informed that Portsea leave was the same. The married Cadets at Portsea of course went home most evenings.
- The working day, whilst in barracks, consisting of twelve 40 minute periods including three each evening and five on a Saturday morning. This later changed to two per evening (Monday to Friday) and by the time we were into our second six months, formal night lectures were reduced and there was more study time. The Portsea class did not normally have night lectures.
- For the more sports-minded, there were no external sporting competitions. Sporting events were restricted to inter-Company and inter-Platoon competition, the points awarded from which contributed to the Governor-General's competition.
- The number of full ceremonial parades we took part in to meet the needs of the multiple National Service Class Graduations in our year at Scheyville. We did three in the first three months, two in the second, three in the third and two at Scheyville in the fourth followed by another two once we got to Portsea. By that time, we were all over ceremonial parades. The Portsea class would have done six parades as a maximum. I must add the experience however held me in good stead for my later career as I do not know of any other RAEME officer who managed to find himself on as many parades.

The 'father' and 'son' system

I mentioned the father and son system briefly above. My one and only son was Rudi Poldoja. I did not know it at the time (and he did not offer), but Rudi came to Scheyville recently from his second tour of

duty in Vietnam and held the ARA rank of Sergeant. Being concerned about him not earning me any extra drills (EDs); the father traditionally did the son's punishments for the first month, I went about setting up Rudi's room and can still remember asking him, '*Do you know how to spit-polish boots?*' I don't recall the answer, but do remember spit-polishing his boots, and he let me. By the way, Rudi did not earn me one ED. Well done son!

Other memories

Other specific memories that come to mind include:

- The National Serviceman Cadet, who within hours of my being issued my SLR and kit, proceeded to strip the weapon on the floor of my room so I could clean it and then left. What did he expect me to do? He did not graduate by the way.
- Being rostered as the Cadet Duty Sergeant whilst the Senior Class was out on their 10-day exercise and completely stuffing-up my first evening parade and the breaking of the national flag at morning parade. Got some EDs for that!
- Being on parade one morning later in the course when the Assistant RSM (a Scotsman by the name of Jock Stewart if I recall) decided to inspect our class. He ordered us to break our belts (the old 37-Pattern black web belts with brass buckles) to ensure we were cleaning both sides of the brass. I was standing next to the right marker (Les Haines the tallest in the class or it could have been Shorty Barker - as his name implied - the shortest in the class; we often put him there just for effect) and the A/RSM got stuck into me about my biting my fingernails, doing this so loudly that I am sure the Commandant's wife could hear him from her house. He proceeded to inspect the remainder of the class and then having moved back to the front, with equally as loud a voice, praised me to high heaven for being the best dressed Cadet he had seen on parade for a long time. He directed that the other members of the class were to model themselves on me.
- Being charged for 'insecurity' by the then 2Lt Vic Lampe, himself a Nasho Scheyville graduate, and posted back to the unit as the Assistant QM, when he accessed my 'Tables Personnel' by removing the wooden top; a mongrel act. I worked for Vic many years later and we became the best of friends.
- When on the first field exercise partnered up with Peter Martin in a defensive position we were attacked after dark and one of the DS let off a 'whizz-bang' mortar simulator device, just next to the our shell scrapes which we had dug in solid rock. I think the laundry is still trying to get the stains out of our jungle greens.
- Observing the then Officer Cadet McIntosh, (Reg't No. 2800000), later Sir Malcolm McIntosh AC, grovelling in the mud and grime during my last field exercise. Mal already had his PhD in Physics at that time and went on to head up the CSIRO. Sadly, Mal died in Melbourne on 7 February 2000, after acquiring an infection whilst suffering from cancer.
- The daily competition at morning tea in the Cadet's Mess, where first in was definitely best dressed. Oddly enough in our final term, it was the 1/72 OCS (Scheyville) Class that always seemed to get there first.
- Being shown through the OTU Training Development Office later in the course and observing the proposed training program for the remainder of the year displayed on a pin board that covered one side of the office. The programed 'room inspections' did not go unnoticed. The staff did not twig to why the 1/72's rooms were always perfect on inspection days.
- The 1/72's joint effort in composing both the 'OCS/OTU Song' and the 'The Battle of Long Weeney Creek' whilst travelling on the bus to and from Holsworthy for a number of range practices of one sort or another. If I recall correctly, Jim Gilchrist was scribe with the main contributors being Bill Lawrence, Ian Furlonger, Les Haines, Gary Byles and our maestro, Paul Brady.
- Gathering around the Mess pianola following dinner, on those evenings when time permitted, singing songs from the OCS – OTU song book (appropriately named *Digging in with AFT – OCS Scheyville 1/72 Dig in*) with Paul Brady at the keys. How lucky the class was to have a member with Paul's musical talents.
- The Windsor RSL, our favourite watering hole and gathering point on a Saturday evening. Ah, the memories!

- The 'death march' on the last day of our last field exercise which saw us, the 1/72 and 2/72 OCS (Scheyville) Classes and the 3/72 OTU Class, start the day with a withdrawal in contact from a defensive position which lasted to about 1430hrs. By this time, we had reached the Putty Road and were loaded onto trucks to head up the road to the Mellong River (or was it the McDonald River?). On the way, we pulled over to the side of the road to listen to the Melbourne Cup. Then it was back in the trucks to be driven to the aforementioned river for a quick swim/wash, a hot-box meal and then we started walking some 30 miles (felt like 100) to a place, high in the ranges of the Wollemi National Park, called Gaspers. It was a moonless night, you could not see your hand in front of your face and we all hung our compasses over our backs so the bloke behind you could follow the faint glow. The going was very tough with steep inclines/declines and many twists in the trail; not always obvious to the leading cadet. We took it in turns carrying the machine gun (GPMG M60) and radio (25 Set) and at some time during the night when it was my turn, Gary Van Ree stepped forward and said 'I'll take that'. Being completely buggered at that time, I let him. 44 years on I am still indebted to Gary; thanks mate. The plot was that we had to make it to Gaspers as we would then be flown out on a Caribou aircraft. If not, we would walk back out (or at least that was the threat). Sometime during the early hours of the following morning, I had gained my second wind and if I recall correctly, led our class/platoon into the RV, just short of the airstrip.
- Singing the pants off our Portsea brothers at the graduation ball. They provided no competition to our 'OCS/OTU Song', the 'OTU Song' and of course our rendition of 'The Battle of Long Weeney Creek'.



Photo: OCS/OTU Graduates Class 1/72.

Rear – Peter Martin, Noel McRoberts, Stu Cameron, Richard Boyce

Third from front – Bob Deer, Bill Lawrence, Denis Rose, Gary Ward, Geoff May, Calvin Tilley

Second from front – Rick Schurmann, Marty Vincent, Gary Van Ree, **Barry Greenwood, Mike Prain,** Ian Furlonger, Graham Ferguson

Front – John Sands, Jim Gilchrist, Paul Brady, Gary Byles, Paul Cotter, Gary Barker, Les Haines, Mick Izzard, Graham Campbell

I have not answered the question as to why the original 37 members of the 1/72 OCS (OTU) Class were selected to go to Scheyville in lieu of Portsea. I hope, however, that my discussion and recollections expressed above may be food for thought and prompt other members of the class and the two classes that followed to put their thoughts on paper and thus complete a mosaic of what was an incredible experience; one that set me up for my adult life and which I am sure did the same for other classmates.

SPECIAL: Memorial Dedication – NSAA South Australia Branch (Frank Miller 4/67)

On the morning of 17 March 2017 a gathering of some three hundred National Servicemen's Association members, families and guests attended a ceremony at the South Australian Branch's State headquarters. The purpose of this was to unveil a memorial to the 287,000 young Australian men who were conscripted into the Armed Forces under the two NS Schemes between 1951 and 1972. The official opening was carried out by His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC – Governor of South Australia.

The memorial comprised a set of pavers commemorating the 212 National Service men who had given their lives in Vietnam and Borneo and all who had carried out their NS obligation. There was also a stone monument with two plaques – one to National Service and the other commemorating the official opening. In addition there was a Ferret Scout car on permanent display.

The OTU Association had been invited to provide pavers and did so by recording the eight Scheyvillians who died on active service. In broad sunshine it was a solemn and fitting ceremony. Along with the Australian War Memorial monument, opened in 2010, this will provide future generations a reminder of the contribution made by the 287,000 young men who did their duty to the country as National Servicemen.



ANZAC DAY ACTIVITIES

Adelaide

As in the past years, the SA Chapter OTU will be in Group 12 - Returned & Non-Returned Former & Serving Personnel - and as it happens will be placed 12th within that grouping - after the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps and before the South Australian Mounted Rifles.

Although the **March commences** at 0930, our Group does not **step off till 1020**, so it is recommended that those marching be there no later than 1000. Note that access to the forming up areas is likely to be far more restrictive than in the past, so if you are being dropped off; allow a little extra time to be in position. **Group 12 FUP is Grenfell Street**, outside the RAA Office; virtually across the road from where it has been previously. The March ends after we cross the bridge over the Torrens and bear right into Sir Edwin Smith Avenue. Previously we have continued towards St Peter's Cathedral.

Post-March rehydration is at The Exeter, 246 Rundle Street.

Brisbane

The Queensland Brisbane contingent of OTU will once again be marching in the ANZAC Day parade. Please contact Owen Williamson on email at olwilliamson@bigpond.com or mobile 0407 462 341 if you should wish to attend. The arrangements, timing and form up area are similar to every other year. For those who have fading memory like I, here are the current arrangements:

Form up: 10.15 am for 10.30 march off George St, between Charlotte and Mary Street

Dress Code: Slacks, tie, medals, jacket and hat

Please note that there will not be an ANZAC Day **luncheon** due to the lack of numbers available to attend.

Melbourne

Assembly. Assemble for an 1120 hrs march off, on the South side of Flinders Street at the Western side of Swanston Street. RSL Marshals will direct you to the precise location. Our contingent will be behind the National Servicemen's Association. **Dress.** Suit and tie - preferably the OTU tie if you still have yours (QM Peter Don has new ties available). **Medals.** Please wear all medals you have been awarded on left side, other relatives on the right. **After the March.** To be held at the Toorak Services Club (Heroes Club), 72 Clendon Road, Toorak, and will take the form of a sit down lunch. Drinks will be available at bar prices. Ladies are welcome. **For catering purposes we ask that you advise your (and your partner's) intended attendance for this function. It should start around 1300 hrs. Contact Frank Miller 0401 140 762 or millerfw@netspace.net.au**

Perth

According to the RSL Website for 2017: The Dawn Service will be conducted at the State War Memorial on Fraser Avenue commencing at 6.00am. For the main march, the Australian Defence Force will step off from the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace at 9.00am The OTU-A WA Chapter will march in Section H of the Army Section, group 111, behind the WRAAC Association and the Scotch College Pipe Band. The Form-Up Point is in St Georges Terrace west of Barrack Street. **Attendees contact David Ward (2/66) on 0417 927 146 or david.ward@taxhut.com.au to decide on a Post-March gathering.**

Sydney March and Lunch

FUP: Gather at 10.30am at the intersection of Pitt St and Curtain Place (look for the OTU banner).

Lunch: NSW Masonic Club, 169 Castlereigh Street, Sydney. Members and partners welcome.

However, the requirement is to pre-book. No tickets at the door. Cost \$60.00 (includes two-course meal and a beverage).

Contact: Please register interest in marching and attendance at the luncheon to Dick Adams (dickadams@ozemail.com.au or 0408 266 805).

Payment:

- either by cheque (payable to Dick Adams and not the OTU Association) at 7 Lugano Court, Springwood 2777; or (preferably)
- by direct deposit to:
 - o Police Bank, BSB 815 000;
 - o Account Number: 55239;
 - o Account Name: R S Adams;
 - o Reference: Your Surname or, if it can only be numeric, your Regimental Number.

Hobart & Launceston:

As there are insufficient numbers in each of these cities, OTU Members are encouraged to make their own arrangements to march with Corp or Unit Associations and join in their after-march activities.

ANZAC DAY, LONDON 2016



ANZAC Day services are held all over the world. At the London ANZAC Day service Scheyville graduates attended included Doug Oliver (4/71), Don Keyes (4/69), Kevin Dixon (3/70), Neil Curnow (2/68) and met my Doug's old mate Kevin Farrar 3/70 who lives in England and was laying an official wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of the RSL. Doug and Kevin were accompanied their wives and Kevin's son who was living in London. For Doug Oliver it was a repeat of 2012 where he attended with Terry Benjamin (1/69) and their wives, and for Don Keyes a repeat of 2015.

The "ceremony" actually includes three ceremonies: (1) Dawn Service at the Australian and New Zealand War Memorials at Hyde Park Corner (2) March and Wreath Laying at the Cenotaph (3) Midday service at Westminster Abbey, and Kevin Farrar later went to the official reception at the Australian High Commission. The Queen was represented at all three ceremonies by Prince Harry.

In the photo Doug is in the back row centre in a grey suit, Don is in the second row in a green jacket, Neil is beside Don in a navy jacket, Kevin Dixon is in the right row nearest the camera in long coat. Kevin Farrar was in the official party and not in any of my photos.

For any-one expecting to be in London on ANZAC Day and wishing to participate, application can be made through the Australian High Commission website

STATE ACTIVITIES:

ACT CHAPTER

The ACT Chapter continues to provide a presence in Officer Training in Australia with the presentation of the OTU Leadership Award at the six-monthly RMC-Duntroon Graduations. This duty was undertaken by Wal Hall (2/68) in December 2016.



Lieutenant Joshua Jelly graduated from the Royal Military College on 13 December, 2016. He was presented with the award for Most Competent Military Police Graduate. He also received the Scheyville Prize for Most Improved in Leadership Skills and Ethics.

Joshua was born on 12 June, 1992 in Wagga, NSW. With a passion for sports, fitness and the outdoors, Joshua quickly made a name for himself locally on the football field in Junior Rugby League, achieving numerous awards over 14 years, including Best and Fairest and Coaches Awards several times.

After graduating from Wagga Wagga High School in 2009, Joshua enrolled in Charles Sturt University and completed a Degree in Environmental Science and Management while maintaining a position of employment in a local restaurant and working his way up to Functions Chef. During his studies Joshua did a stint in Cambodia carrying out Environmental Biodiversity Field Work as part of his International Studies. He completed his degree after an Internship with The NSW Department of Primary Industries, carrying out Biodiversity Surveying on the Murrumbidgee River with the Narrandera Fisheries Centre.

Joshua entered RMC immediately after completing his University Internship. It was an impromptu decision. Looking for a more mentally and physically challenging role he decided that The Australian Army could provide that while offering a secure career, with room for advancement and self-growth.

Joshua's time at RMC proved to be rigorous, testing him mentally and emotionally. The most valuable lessons learnt during his time at the college were the importance of mateship and the ability to develop a plan and execute through orders. During his time at the college Joshua was ranked as Corporal of CSC. Highlights of the time at the college included playing sports, travelling to the Philippines as part of a FAEP, attendance to the Governor-General's reception and participating in Exercise Bardia.

LT Jelly graduated as a Military Police Officer, and will be initially posted to 1 MP Bn, as Pl Comd of 2 Pl, A Coy. Prior to this role, he will undertake Service Police Officers Basic Training Course in Sydney.

Postscript

A quote I used during my time at RMC to help get me through, due to the hardships I faced particularly early on during my time:

- "Every passing minute is another chance to turn it all around"

I was very much a dark horse for a large portion of my time at the college, due to my inexperience and disciplinary problems early on. I turned that around however, and with the help of senior instructors was able to exploit my potential.

NSW CHAPTER (Gary McKay 2/68)

Gary McKay has been elected unopposed in Trump-like style to replace John Bushell as the leader of the pack for the NSW Chapter. A lunch was held at the Athenian Restaurant in the heart of the Sydney CBD and 20 intrepid souls gathered to celebrate our common bond.

The NSW Chapter will endeavour to carry on the traditions laid down by its' predecessors with Gary running the lunches and other social functions and Dick Adams will coordinate the ANZAC Day march and lunch, a task he has been doing with great style and professionalism for quite some time!

The last lunch was held on 9 March. There will be no lunch in April owing to a the many other activities like school holidays, Easter and Anzac Day, so the next lunch will be on Thursday 11 May commencing at 12.30 p.m. The cost for the lunch is \$65.00 for a sumptuous lunch and beverage package that starts at 12.30 p.m. Contact Gary on garymckay@bigpond.com or 0411 574 019 for further details on NSW lunches.

QUEENSLAND CHAPTER

The Queensland Annual Black Tie Dinner - 18 March 2017(Owen Williamson, 4/70)

The Annual Black Tie Dinner was held at the United Services Club Brisbane on 18 March 2017, to celebrate the **52nd Anniversary** of the first March-in of an OTU Scheyville class. We had 40 enthusiastic starters including one of our Patrons, Brigadier Dick Flint and his companion Danae as our honored guests for the night. The night was a resounding success with Grace said by Hugh Begbie and a host of great tales from Geoff Daly (4/69), John Knack (4/72) and Michael Hart (2/69). As per tradition Owen Williamson was the MC and Mr. Vice for the evening.



Danae Tantom and CI Dick Flint



Linda and Owen Williamson

We were amusingly entertained by Geoff Daly (4/69) who provided a very witty and salutary account of the role of a BSM at OTU Scheyville a place you know is near Windsor in NSW. John Knack (4/72)



gave a very interesting and moving account of his visit to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in 2016 for the dedication service for Gordon Sharp, the first OTU officer to die in Vietnam. John, who was the last recipient of the Gordon Sharp Memorial Prize awarded at Scheyville (see The Scheyvillian 3 of 2016 Page 9), had the pleasure of meeting up with the very first recipient of the prize (Peter Thomas Class 2/66, shown at left with Gordon Sharp's parents after receiving the prize). John was also able to show to Gordon Sharp's family members his silver cigarette case award, appropriately inscribed. It topped off a very memorable 52nd celebratory Black Tie Dinner for the Scheyville Association members in Queensland.

Dick Flint proposed a toast to OTU Scheyville. Owen says 'I am sure that it will ring true to all those who attended Scheyville as it captures the essence of the place and the struggles that we endured. However, the most heart rendering aspect is the pride and honour that Dick feels about his grubby little charges that he helped mould into very credible young officers who served with distinction in the Australian Army.'

Thank you for the honour to propose the toast to Scheyville.

This task does not come often to a Directing Staff member and so I feel privileged to have been chosen. I am happy to do so. You have asked me to make a toast to Scheyville but it is a place. OTU was an Army unit. Army units are people, not a place. Scheyville is now a junk yard, or perhaps, is it a memory?

It's hard to forget the rectangle of asphalt with two cannons looking at it, with a flag pole and a flag that went up and down hundreds of times. But you did learn about discipline and team work and some of that has probably stuck with you.

Why can't I delete from my mind the agonising Leadership Reaction Course with its tests of leadership to solve impossible problems, even when by some miracle somebody solved one. I concede that you found out that a group needs a leader to solve anything.

And the Luna Park gymnasium and the interesting things you did there. It's a place you pay money to go to now. However, you did get fit and you did do things you might not have tried before, or didn't think you could. Maybe you still have a bruise or a psychological one. Can't forget the myriad of syndicate and lecture rooms even if it was boring stuff that you got fed there. I always thought that you could probably learn that stuff when you got to your unit but the commandant usually won arguments like that.

An important sector of Scheyville was the tactics wing. It was there that I made up my mind if a man could lead men. All of the information we pressed into you was only relevant if you could answer the question "What are you going to do now platoon commander?"

You can't ignore the cell block huts where you slept sometime when you were not scouring it out and chasing ants so that you didn't get an extra for keeping illegal pets. I don't think I want to go there again, hey! What about the ten and four day picnics we had up the Putty Road. Dunno about you but I haven't got any energy left to think about them.

Forget the Cadets' Mess and the Wine and Cigar Nights we had where free booze came from the Hunter River Vineyards and you sang songs alleging that your parents were not married and that fornication was better than fighting. Better leave that alone. Forget the camp: it is an indescribable wreck now. Nothing in it worth space in the memory.

What I want to toast is the men who went to Scheyville and made the incredible reputation accepted by the rest of the army. Men who were selected from volunteers for Officer Training in a time-honoured way the same as at Duntroon. You arrived by bus confused and apprehensive but you brought with you all the necessary elements that make up an officer. All that was needed was to rearrange them into a military standard. Then by the miracle of Scheyville you left somewhat differently. You were lighter in weight, stronger in principles and had stuff in your head to do the job you were asked to do and now bound by a steel bond of mateship. You were made into a man who could do anything. I want to toast the transformation from a proven intelligent and confident man to a super-fast thinker, who can isolate fact from fiction and to see what has to be done now and not later, shelving the unimportant to the dust bin and above all how to get men to do things for you, your way. You are the men who made Scheyville and who I am proud to know.

That's the toast I want to make, a toast to the men of OTU. You are the real Scheyville men who said ; 'I can and I will' or was it **'don't let the bastards grind you down'**. Last but by no means least I would like to add to the toast, the beautiful ladies who had the incredible good judgement to choose a Scheyvillian as a mate.

Take a bow everybody. So let's do it. Please stand!

When we meet some festive day, although the hair is growing grey, with love and joy we feel our hearts a glow. Tell of victories nobly gained, hopeless struggles well maintained, shedding lustre on the name of OTU. Blue, red, blue, the call is sounding when the foemen hardest press in the thickest of the fight; and the victory is just in sight. Raise your glass to dear old OTU.

2/68 Reunion, Brisbane (Ross Wyman 2/68)

At the National Reunion in Sydney in April 2013 we (2/68) decided that we should make an effort to get together each year before the OTU Christmas luncheon in Brisbane. 2016 marked our 4th get-together for our 2/68 Mini-reunion at the United Services Club on the Wednesday night prior to the Thursday luncheon at Fridays Restaurant. Accompanied by our lovely ladies we solved the problems of the world after the first glass of wine...Hmm...Hmm...

"Officer Cadets" travelled from near and far. Neil Curnow & Linda from Adelaide, Alan Burman & Susie from the Gold Coast, Trevor Fuelling & Penny from Toowoomba, Warwick Goode & Leigh all the way from Kangaroo Point (about 3km away), and Irene & I from Laidley. It was great that Bill Turner & Bev from Melbourne joined us for the first time. We are not sure if Bill had any major problems getting through customs...Ha...Ha...



Alan has already booked our table for this year at the USC for the 13th December. So, if anyone from class 2/68 has a "space" in their calendar for December 2017 you are welcome to come and join us.

With the recent passing of Chris Topp, Andrew Hay and Barry Anderson you realize that we are not "21 and bullet proof" any more. (Make the most of what time we have - Ed!)

Class 2/68: Warwick Goode, Bill Turner, Alan Burman, Neil Curnow, Ross Wyman, Trevor Fuelling.

Revenge is Sweet and may take a long time in coming:

It is well known that Class 2/68 members had 'gongs' awarded (Gary McKay & John Sonneveld), but did you know that Bill Turner "picked up" an MID. It was presented this to him at the Class 2/68 December 2016 Mini-reunion. Make sure that you are standing to attention when you read this award !!! (Sorry Bill, but you must have earned this – Ed!)

Citation for award of "Mentioned-in-Despatches"

*to Officer Cadet **William Edmundo Paddy Turner** (aka: Turna)*

Officer Cadet Turner arrived at OTU Scheyville on 17th May 1968, and after a number of regimental and instructional lessons (including ETP's) he arrived at the final exercise in September 1968. Since arriving in the Colo/Putty area, Cadet Turner has commanded his section and his platoon with distinction. He has conducted successful operations against the enemy culminating in the "Battle of Weeney Creek" where his "diggers" followed him out of sheer bone-idle curiosity.

During this time, he conducted many well-planned ambushes which resulted in the elimination of at least ten of his own soldiers and some twenty enemy (easily identified wearing their black pyjamas) and the wounding of several directing staff (also easily identified wearing their white armbands). By the judicious handling of his command and the bold use of fire support supplied by Wyman and Curnow, he inflicted at least four casualties on the enemy and forced them to withdraw, abandoning equipment and documents (mostly Playboy magazines). The results he achieved by his careful planning, tact and leadership were outstanding - consequently the efficiency in combat of his fellow Officer Cadets has improved enormously.

On other social occasions, by skilful use of fire and movement at the Coogee Bay Hotel, Officer Cadet Turner has always displayed cool and resolute leadership of the highest order.

Given by my Hand and the Great Seal of Australia

On 10 October 1968

His X Mark

Signed by Captain "Yogi" Roderick (DS)

SA CHAPTER (Gary Vial, 3/69)

The annual Non-ANZAC Day activities for the SA Chapter are the Foundation Day lunch on or around the 1st April and the Remembrance Day lunch. Sadly this year the Foundation Day Lunch on Sunday 2 April did not eventuate as too many of our member had other commitments. The next function is the Remembrance Day lunch on Saturday 11 November at a location to be advised.

TASMANIAN CHAPTER (Ray Williams, 2/71)



The first of our quarterly lunches was held at Riversdale Estate Winery on Friday the 17 February 2017.

Attendance was excellent, especially with the addition of several members visiting from interstate. This was pleasing to see that they were able to make the lunch. Apart from our regulars our visitors were: John & Denise Bushell (4/69); Kevin & Sue Dixon (4/69) and Lawrie & Patsy.

A special welcome was extended to Lawson Ride (3/69) and his carer Pam, for making the effort to join us. Well done Lawson. The feedback from the group

was excellent and most commented on the fine food and wine(s) on offer, not to mention the 'million dollar view'.

Those in attendance: Peter Dalkin (SURVACTO), Anne & Dennis Townsend (2/70), Denise & John Bushell (4/69), Sue & Kevin Dixon (4/69), Lawrie & Patsy Williams (friends), Diane & James Reid (1/71), Lawson Ride (3/69) and carer Pam. Mary & Ross Mace (1/67), Chris & Peter Bysouth (1/67), Pam & Ray Williams (2/71) and Lorraine. A total of 20, which is one of the better attendances to date.

Apologies were received from: Jean Howard & Ian (1/69), Margaret & Peter Williams (1/71) and Jane & Ross Robbins (2/69). The next lunch is planned for Friday the 12 May 2017 in the Launceston area. Details of venue, etc to be advised closer to the date.

VICTORIAN CHAPTER

OTU was about drawing out from Cadets their ability to lead and giving them skills to put that leadership into action. The OTU Association supports a number of organisations that in themselves bring out the best in youth, just like Scheyville did for the young people of that era. Some of the organisations supported by the OTU-A are the Training Ship Leeuwin (WA), Operation Flinders (SA) and Lord and Lady Somers (Vic & NSW). This year the Association either fully or partly funded a total of eighteen young people to the Lord and Lady Somers Camp. There were eighteen "Groupers" – nine men at Lord Somers and nine ladies at Lady Somers camps. Of these seven were sponsored in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Healesville.



Photo: At the Lady Somers Camp (L to R) Bernie Gleeson and Peter Don (both 3/69) and Rob Youl (2/65) with 'Groupers' and a Staff Member.

Family Picnic at Healesville Sanctuary (Graeme Chester, 2/67)

On Sunday 19 March, the Victoria Chapter had a family day at the Healesville Sanctuary. Graeme Chester 2/67, who is a Volunteer Guide at the Sanctuary, organised the activity, even down to ordering a beautiful sunny day. Five Scheyvillian families enjoyed a pleasant walk in the natural setting of the Sanctuary and learnt a little bit about our fabulous flora and fauna and its use as Bush Tucker and Bush Medicine.

Frank Miller learnt more than he expected when his grandson explained to the group the contraceptive qualities of the Kangaroo Apple fruit. He had remembered what he had learnt when his school had visited the Sanctuary. Grandfather Frank was not sure whether to laugh or cry.

After viewing the 'Tales From Platypus Creek' and 'Spirits of the Sky' shows the group adjourned for lunch at one of the picnic areas by Badger Creek. Not surprisingly, on a warm day, the children found the creek to be enticing and enjoyable.

Following a leisurely lunch, the group then toured the rest of the Sanctuary learning more about its wonderful animals and birds until about mid-afternoon when the 'wilds' of Melbourne beckoned them home. A great family day was had by all.



Photo: The Millers, Scantleburys, Coates, Gleasons and Chesters at the Sanctuary.

Monthly Lunches

The Victoria Chapter monthly lunches continue to draw a crowd. Originally a get-together of Class 3/69 the lunches have grown to cover most classes and the December 2016 lunch saw almost twenty in attendance, including Fred Atkinson (2/69) for his first lunch, at the RACV Club in the city. The lunches are held at 1230 hours on the second Wednesday of the month. Please advise Brian Cooper (3/69) of you attendance no later than the Monday before on 0418 373 874 or bctcooper@gmail.com

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SITREP: OTU Southwest Weekend 3-5 February 2017 (Turk Ellis, 1/70)

On Friday 3 February, 14 Graduates (and their partners) representing 8 OTU intakes converged on Busselton WA from North and South for a weekend of fellowship, food and fun. Starting with a pleasant lunch at Equinox Restaurant (overlooking Geographe Bay and the famous Busselton Jetty - over a mile long), the usual "interesting bottles" were opened. Many partners



caught up with friends from other walks of life, which displays the diversity of the OTU influence. Whilst there were some ordinary wines (one was well over the hill), the outstanding wine to the palate of this scribe (and his country blonde), was 2/65s David Atkinson's 2003 Jane Brook "Family Reserve" Shiraz.

After lunch some took to relaxation, whilst the "20 year olds" hit various bars for a steady afternoon.

We all re-convened at 1800 to have a sunset cruise on 2/72 Ken Waller's beautiful "Major Tom". After a spread of canapes & nibbles, Ground Control advised that the wind was getting up, and as we drifted, all hands were called on deck to stop the collision with a buoy. It was noticeable that the "20 year olds" were not made of sterner stuff and two of the ladies were needed to assist. Returning to port with a good Nor-wester behind us, we were greeted by an array of Gourmet Pizzas described by host Jay as "the best pizza in Busselton". As the evening wore on the temperature dropped and although everyone fortified themselves internally, the fashionable outfits were soon covered with jumpers, rugs, parkas, towels etc. At a respectable hour (???), all departed with one mob of ten walking together in a night-time navigation exercise.

Saturday was a free day with attendees visiting friends, vineyards, museums etc. that proliferate the Busselton/Margaret River area. The "salties" of the group gathered for a sail, but, as is usual, they were back a little late getting home thus holding up the bus trip to Palmers Vineyard Restaurant. A very pleasant wine-tasting was provided by our hosts and great discussion ensued as to whether the Cab-Sav or Shiraz was the better.

Always up to a challenge four intrepid members sorted out the air-con and we sat down to a brilliant 3 course "choices" meal:

ENTRÉE: Ora King Salmon Shashimi,
OR Wagyu Beef Carpaccio MAIN:
Balinese Betutu Duck OR slow roasted
Babi Guling Pork Belly. By now
everyone knew everyone and table
settings were always moving, making it
"easy" for the wait-staff.



With desert finished (Vanilla bean Pannacotta with nougat chocolate balls, OR Chocolate 3 ways-mousse, crumble or shard), the ladies insisted that the OTU song be sung by the blokes. This upset many as they couldn't remember the words until a "younger" member googled it. With gusto we serenaded our partners (and the wait-staff) although the key was a little low. It was fantastic that Palmers provided a "silver Service" style top quality meal for 34 people in their function room. A very memorable night finished late into the evening.

Sunday was the day of departure but not to be out-done, breakfast was held at Sensations Café, again overlooking the water, where Eggs Benedict (the favourite of some) was not described as such so they missed out (eyes were not working at 1030). I won't name the four people who slept in and arrived at 1105. Just after midday we separated to the North & South, with some of the northern trippers (and Busselton's Ken & CJ in the TR6) stopping at Turk & Sue's place in the beautiful Ferguson Valley for a coffee, which also involved a couple of bottles of sparkle. It was later reported that 1/71s Pip and Wendy Edwards didn't return to Perth but visited another Valley resident and were forced to stay the night (Pip couldn't find a bed so slept in the back of someone's ute).

It was the first attendance by this scribe to this event and all I can say is that the OTU Spirit is still alive and well, and being shared with our partners. A huge vote of thanks to organisers 3/69s Jay and Maureen McDaniell, Ken & CJ., and David and Elaine for co-ordinating such a great event! ROLL ON NEXT YEAR. The next Quarterly Lunch at **The Romany – 5 May 2017**. Frank LeFaucheur lefauche@inet.net.au

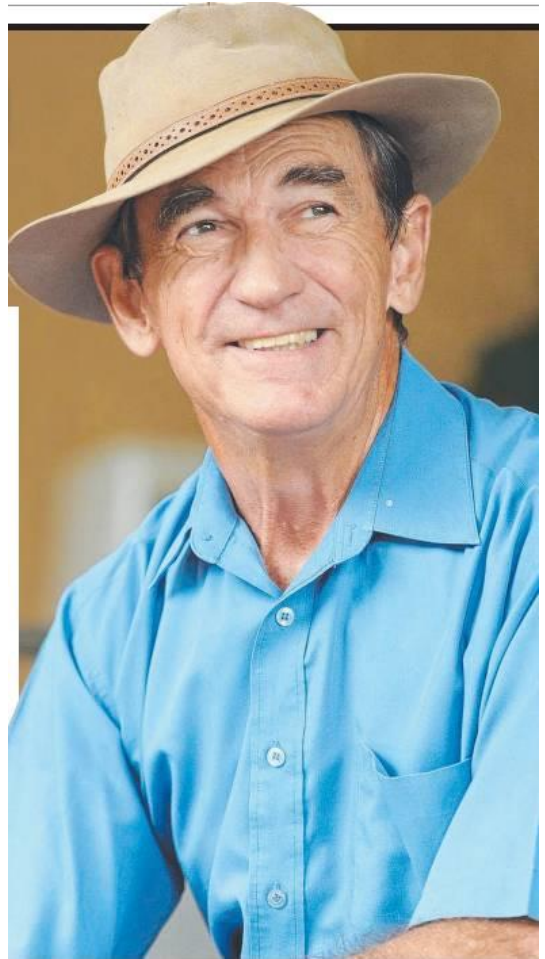
VALE: Brigadier Neil Harvey Weekes AM MC

Neil was born at Mackay in Queensland on 21 September 1945 and completed his secondary education at St Brendan's High School, Yeppoon. Before entering NS he was employed as a teacher in the Department of Education, Queensland. On Graduation with Class 1/67 Neil was posted to 1 RAR at Holsworthy. Neil lost his battle with a brain tumour and passed away in palliative care at Wesley Hospital, Brisbane on 6 March 2017. Gary McKay (2/68) was one of the Scheyvillians who attended Neil's funeral and reports:

I attended Neil's funeral as a colleague and a mate having worked closely with him at the RMC-Duntroon and later when Neil commanded Norforce and I was working in the 6th Brigade. It was my honour to also represent the NSW Chapter of the OTU Association at this sad, yet wonderful event.

Neil passed away as a result of a 7-month battle with brain cancer. His funeral was held at the St Michael's Catholic Church in Dorrington, Brisbane, which is not far from the Enoggera Army Base. Neil's funeral was to be a fully blown military funeral accompanied by a Catholic Mass and Communion. In attendance was an Honour Guard who also provided a Catafalque Party inside the church, the Australian Army Band, Brisbane and six Warrant Officer Class 2 Pallbearers from infantry units in Enoggera. Neil's casket was borne to the church on a guncarriage and then carried into the church by the Pallbearers accompanied by a Piper.

The church at Dorrington is quite large and it was packed full. I estimated about 500 people attended the funeral, and it was a true gathering of eagles. The Chief Mourner was Maj Gen Steve Porter AM Commander 2 Division who was a Cadet who Neil taught when he was the Senior Instructor Field Training at RMC. It was a very nice touch.



But the heavies didn't stop there; one of the eulogies was presented by the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove KA, MC who had served with Neil in 1 RAR when he himself was about to go to South Vietnam. Peter Cosgrove's eulogy was brilliant and summed up the military man, the officer, leader and professional that

Neil Weekes was. Neil's motto of 'lead, follow or get out of the way' personified his address. I said hello to Peter Cosgrove prior to the funeral, and his response to me was, 'a strong showing from the Scheyville guys, Gaz' in acknowledgement of at least 30 Scheyvillians I knew personally who were in attendance.

A second eulogy was given by LTCOL Ted Chitham, MC the President of the RAR Association, who gave a very moving acclamation of Neil's work as an advocate for veterans' rights – a talk that was totally unscripted, from the heart and not without humour. Understandably, there was a very large group

of former Army officers in attendance with Maj Gen John Connolly, Maj Gen Mick Keating and Brig Chris Appleton just to name a few. Many of Neil's former soldiers, of all ranks, including men who had come from Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, Darwin, Cairns, Sydney and all places in between, swelled the numbers. Some, like Scheyvillian Dave Mead, had returned to Australia from Thailand. It was tremendous farewell to Neil and a tribute to the sort of man that he was. May he rest in peace!

Award of the Military Cross to Neil Weekes:

In the Vietnam War, during the night of 12/ 13 May, a North Vietnamese force of approximately battalion strength attacked FSB Coral. Much of the Mortar P1 was overrun along with one gun of 102 Field Battery. Support in the form of helicopter gunships and 'Spooky' air fire support aircraft as well as the integral weapons enabled Coral to remain defended until first light when the enemy broke contact and withdrew. On 16 May 1968 the North Vietnamese began a heavy barrage of rocket-propelled grenades and mortar fire, concentrating on A Company 1 RAR, 1 ATF Headquarters, and the Forward Task Force Maintenance Area. The North Vietnamese launched a battalion-sized attack, which initially fell on A and B Companies. With the artillery and mortars concentrating on close defensive fire tasks, the assault was largely held at the perimeter, although they did succeed in over-running part of 3 Platoon, A Company. Commanded by Lieutenant Neil Weekes, the platoon had been hit heavily by indirect fire during the initial bombardment and had suffered several casualties. Concentrating on the gap created in the Australian perimeter, the North Vietnamese then assaulted with the support of 12.7 mm DShK heavy machine-guns. Ordering his men to fix bayonets, Weekes successfully reorganised the defences and called in close mortar fire to stabilise the position, resulting in heavy casualties among the assaulting force. He was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership in this battle.

1732646, 2Lt Neil Harvey Weekes, 3 Pl. A Coy, 1 RAR (17 March – 10 December 1968), Vietnam, 1962-1975. Military Cross: Commonwealth of Australia Gazette: 6 March 1969, Page 1397, position 8 London Gazette: 28 March 1969, Page 3365, position 7

Barry Anderson (2/68 & 3/68)

Barry was born in London on 9 June 1946. He completed his secondary education at Fairfield Boys High School in Sydney. Before commencing his NS on 1 May 1968, Barry was employed as an Assistant Engineer Australian Iron & Steel in Port Kembla. He graduated into RAEME with Class 3/68 and was posted to 301 Field Workshops at Bulimba in Brisbane. In late February Barry was diagnosed with Acute Leukemia and passed away on 6 March in Canberra.

At a Memorial Service for Barry at Broulee on 24 March his wife Mandy gave the following Tribute



Barry Anderson and I should never have met. After Harold Holt decided, from the security of his parliamentary office, that Australia would go "all the way with LBJ", Barry received his call-up papers to report to Wollongong Railway Station on 7th February 1968. The way he told the story - and remember that all of Barry's stories needed to be taken with a fair dash of salt - his mother came into his bedroom and said "Aren't you supposed to be going into the Army today?" He responded that he didn't feel like going into the Army that day, rolled over and went back to sleep. Consequently, wherever his Army orders took him for the next few months, he was greeted with

the words, "Anderson, where have you been? You're 3 months late!"

The significance of this story is that just a couple of weeks after that appointed date in February, Barry and I met at a party on 1st March. Clearly disappointed by Barry's non-appearance, the Army sent him a second invitation, with an added personal touch, the hand-written words "Or Else" at the bottom of the page. So he decided that it was time to take the plunge (I didn't want to use the metaphor "bite the bullet") and he marched in on the 1st of May. After a short time at Kapooka, he was selected for officer training at OTU Scheyville, and

by December of that year, I found myself in love with a handsome young lieutenant with a red sports car and I was in heaven.

March 1st became a very significant date for us, and it was this date rather than our wedding anniversary that we always celebrated. We bought our brand new red Peugeot 504 on 1st March 1974. (It is still in Barry's shed awaiting restoration). We signed up for our 7 acre patch of bush at Wilton on 1st March 1976. There we built our house over a period of many years, finally completing it so that it could be sold in 2003.

As you know, Barry and I have not lived together for the some years. I am not going into any gory details, but suffice to say that we separated in December 1998. I was absolutely shattered, but never ever considered myself blameless and lived with a lot of guilt. Just over three years later, he phoned me to say that he was moving in with his father in Woonona, and he invited me out to dinner. It was 1st March 2002. And thus began our second relationship.

On the 1st March this year, Barry was in the ICU at Canberra hospital. The nursing staff had got him out of bed that day and he had sat up and eaten his first meal since his chemo treatment consisting of actual food, not just fluid. It was just three different coloured piles of mash, but he said that he actually enjoyed it. He was talking, without needing very much breathing support, and planning his life once he got back to Bodalla, realising that it would be different, but it was still a life that he could relish. This was sadly also to be his final meal, because his breathing deteriorated once again – he had to be put into a comatose state, and he never recovered.

Barry and I have enjoyed wonderful times together. We have always loved our holidays, always enjoyed eating nice meals. We have spent time with our family and have worked together on each other's homes. Anyone who has seen the spectacular landscaping job that Barry did for me at Mystery Bay has been in awe of his skill.

Barry was an engineer when we first met, moving into teaching in the 1980's. There was almost nothing that he couldn't do. Barry always fixed everything for me. He would discuss a project with me, explaining what he planned to create or repair. I'd ask him just how he planned to do it and he would say "I haven't figured that out yet", and he would get out his paper, pens and drawing equipment, solve the problem and complete the project.

Just a couple of weeks ago, he phoned me from the hospital and asked me to bring him a pair of thick woolly socks. He had been shocked by how weak his leg muscles were when the nursing staff had stood him up. So he was going to cut the heels out of the socks, put the feet part over his feet, and hang bottles of water from the ankle section so that he could raise and lower the weight of the water to re-invigorate his muscles. He had done a similar thing years earlier when recovering from knee surgery, except that on those occasions he had used lead weights.

Since his retirement, which tragically lasted only 3 ½ years, we have enjoyed some wonderful holidays, in particular the European River cruise with Fran and brother Derek in 2015, travelling from Budapest to Amsterdam. This trip took us through 66 locks. Barry was fascinated by the technology involved in the construction and operation of the locks and he spent plenty of time explaining to me how they worked. (Being a claustrophobic, I found the lock experience quite confronting at first, but settled down a little after the first 20 or so.)

Also in 2015, we took the glorious Mark IV Jaguar to Tasmania for the Jaguar National Rally and post-rally tour. In fact today, we were meant to be at the 2017 National Rally in Port Stevens. One of the Jag club members commented in a recent email that many of them on the Tasmania tour pitied us for the discomfort that we must have been in, compared with their modern models. But Barry was never happier than when he was at the wheel of that car except perhaps when he was at the controls of a Cessna or CT4.

Last year we enjoyed a wonderful road-trip to Lightning Ridge. We loved exploring the more remote parts of the country. I always had my binoculars with me, and Barry, although not as dedicated as I am to

bird-watching, was an excellent spotter. We had another road trip planned for this year up to White Cliffs where he had visited a property named Reola a couple of times. This was while he was working as an aircraft maintenance engineer at Camden airport during the 1980's. The boys used to fly out to Reola to service the pastoralist's two aircraft, the Cessna in which he would fly his sons back and forth to the Kings School, and the Robinson helicopter which was used for mustering. (Coincidentally, my Dad had visited Reola in the 1950's when he renovated the homestead kitchen.)

Although I never shared Barry's enthusiasm for flying (unless it was in a 747 heading for London or Auckland), I was nevertheless a very enthusiastic groupie. I loved attending air shows with him, or watching our friends in their small planes doing circuits and bumps, or listening to "tall tales and true" at the end of the day's flying, commonly known in more recent times as "the flight of the old fellers." I listened attentively as Barry pointed out that this aircraft had a 4-blade propeller, that one had 5 blades, another had two counter-rotating sets of propellers, and I learnt why the tail rotor was important on a helicopter. He must have assumed that I didn't retain any of this information, because he would tell me the same stuff all over again at the next air show. If there had been a test at the end, I would have passed.

And it was the same with classic cars. I knew that the SS100 stood for Swallow Sidecar company, that the SS label was dropped after the war because of its association with the Gestapo. The company changed its name to Jaguar and produced a model called the Mk IV, even though there had never been any Mk 1's, 2's or 3's at that stage. You should know that the Mk 2 came into production in 1959, about 10 years after the Mk IV, and that there was no such thing as a Mk 1 really. It only came to be called that because it immediately preceded the Mk 2. You also need to know that Jaguar has never produced a model called the Mk 3. I think William Lyons had a very contrary streak about him.

During his time living with his father, Barry became his father's carer as Ted's health steadily deteriorated. And a more attentive and thoughtful carer you could not imagine. I know they had numerous rows, both being head-strong and having their fixed ideas about how everything should be done – but Barry dutifully pushed Ted in his wheel-chair up to the club on weekends so that Ted could donate his pension to the Woonona-Bulli RSL club's poker machines. I always felt that I would have had a wonderful carer in my dotage (whatever that means) because I never imagined that he would go first. In fact we had a deal, which he reminded me of in hospital – I had promised that I would go first because I could never cope with emptying his shed. Well guess what I have to look forward to.

If Barry hadn't hated Frank Sinatra so much, I would have played that song "My Way" today. Because he liked everything done his way. This included many of the things that I did, and this was the source of a good proportion of our arguments. From how to cook frozen peas, to how I should drive my car – especially how I should drive my car. But by not living together, we managed to avoid a great many conflicts, and it meant that we were always really happy to see each other.

Barry loved his little patch of bush at Bodalla. We so often sat on his deck eating a meal that he had prepared for us – he was becoming quite a chef, very happy in his kitchen which he was filling with more and more specialised gadgets – and we would admire the birds and get excited seeing a wallaby or a python. He even put his hand to doing a bit of gardening, something he never showed interest in before.

He had so many plans – all those cars – five in all – a kayak, a catamaran, a telescope for which he planned to build a special deck, all sorts of things to be restored. I used to tell him that he would need three lives to do all of the things that he planned to do.

I will miss listening to his plans. I will miss his hugs and his smile, and our very happy times together, his infinite generosity and his great capacity for love. I can't believe that he is gone. He was taken from us so suddenly, so unexpectedly and way too soon!

John Mangan (3/70) (2007, Geoff Davis 3/70 and Christine Mangan)

John Joseph Mangan was born in Melbourne, Victoria in April 1945 and completed his secondary education at Christian Brothers' College, East St Kilda, Victoria. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman, he was employed as a builder by E A Watts Pty Ltd. On graduation from OTU, he was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineers and posted to the School of Military Engineering (SME) for corps training.



While at Scheyville, in October 1970, John became engaged to Christine. Christine attended the 3/70 graduation in December, together with John's parents. John and Christine married in January 1971 and had a son and three daughters. He was a very devoted father and he became involved on fundraising committees at the children's secondary schools, helping to organise fetes and other functions.

At the conclusion of his Corps Training at SME, John was posted to 1RTB Kapooka as a platoon commander. He and Christine lived in Ashmont, Wagga Wagga, along with a group of other Army families. John enjoyed Kapooka and he left the Army in early 1972. John served in the CMF after Kapooka for about a year and then left due to increasing business commitments.

When discharged from the Army John, (Jack as he was known to Christine), resumed employment with the building company he had worked for prior to National Service. Within twelve months he formed his own Construction Company, Mapico Constructions, which he operated up to the time of his sudden death on 23 February 2007. He very much enjoyed the annual Easter camping trips to the Murray River each year with family and friends, and an occasional summer holiday in Sorrento. On these annual camping trips, Jack was renowned for his cooking prowess.

John and Chris attended the 2003 OTU National Reunion held in Sydney, and John joined his Classmates for their very successful reunion at The Little Frog on the Friday night. Christine said that Jack made the statement that aspects of his National Service were very beneficial to him in his everyday life.

FEATURES:

Luscombe Bowl (via Mick Stone, 1/68)



The history of the Luscombe Bowl, Nui Dat, South Vietnam, had never been recorded and its importance is almost forgotten. With the help of veterans all over Australia, Carolynne Burgess has been able to piece together the story of the Luscombe Bowl for the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour.

The main information area at the walk is a replica of the Luscombe Bowl and was completed in March 2011 as part of Stage One of the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour. The history of Luscombe Bowl can be found at: <http://www.vietnamvetstalk.org.au/index.php/theluscombebowl>

What Scheyvillians Did:

Cross-Country Run: Unless injured or ill, we all undertook a Cross-Country Run as a part of 'PT'. There was a trophy for the run, but many Classes do not feature on the list of winners. For the missing classes if you won the race, or knew who did, please let the Editor know! Timetables held show that Cross-country runs were held about a week before the Graduation Parade of each class.

**DONATED BY THE RIVERSTONE-SCHOLFIELDS R.S.L.
AND EX SERVICEMEN'S CLUB
MEMORIAL CLUB TO O.T.U. SCHEYVILLE**

1/67	U.O.	D. B. Coffey	27m	52sec
3/67	O.C.	J. R. Childs	29m	7sec
4/67	O.C.	D.G. Christie	27m	21sec
1/68	Cpl	D.G. Christie	29m	14sec
1/68	U.O.	A.D. Sullivan	27m	40sec
2/68		W.F. Beenke	20m	5sec
4/68	O.C.	D.E. Barton	19m	12sec
1/69	O.C.	P.W. Busby	20m	6sec
3/69	O.C.	F.W. Cook	20m	6sec
1/70	O.C.	M.L. Higgs	20m	10sec
4/70	Col.Sgt.	M.L. Piper		
1/71	Sgt.	D.H. Byrnes	19m	36sec
4/71	Cpl.	P.C. Moran	21m	18sec
1/72	O.C.	M. A. Gailey (2/72)		
2/72	O.C.	K.A. Shields (OCS)		

What Scheyvillians Do:

Lecture Series: The Western Front 1916-1918, Part 3 Medical History Seminar Series 2014 – 2016, Launceston General Hospital Historical Committee

Doctor Dan Huon (1/67) is the convener, and also a presenter, of the medical history series for the Launceston General Hospital Historical Committee. One of Dan's presentations begins with:

"The Great War for Civilisation", as the British Empire Victory Medal proclaimed, was a destructive event which eroded European imperial dominance across the world. There is always much more to discover about it. Here we focus on the surgical and anaesthetic innovations which were made under extreme duress, including blood transfusion, saline drips and other modes of treatment. The benefits of these hard-learned techniques were transferred to Australian hospitals during the 1920s and beyond.

Australian Imperial Force casualties: The Western Front, Gallipoli, and Palestine

KIA, DOW wounded in action

France 45, 033 114,220 (5 Divisions in action 1916)

Gallipoli 7,818 19,441 (2 Divisions in action 1915)

Palestine 973 3,351 (Light Horse)

The Western Front as the significant battleground for the AIF

75% of AIF KIA and DOW 1915-18 occurred on the Somme and Ypres sectors

84% of AIF Wounded in Action occurred in France (Somme) and Belgium (Ypres)

Total deaths while serving with the AIF **60,284**

Ratio of deaths to embarkations: approximately **1 death to 5 embarked**

The AIF was the only 'all volunteer' Army on the Western Front

If you would like to know more about Dan's work on the WW1 and the Medical Scene, please contact Dan on dan.huon@ths.tas.gov.au Dan will be happy to email you a PDF of his presentation.

Whatever Happened To:

In this edition's 'Whatever Happened to' we have four completely different stories:

An underage volunteer for NS graduate who served for twenty years; a Nasho graduate who served on in the Reserve for fourteen years; and a Non-Graduate who used his OTU experience both during his post-OTU service and in his post-NS life and a Nasho graduate who did his two years.

Five Minutes with 'Chips' Rafferty (1/68)

Red Gum's anti-war song about the Vietnam War 'I was only nineteen' starts with the words: Mum and Dad and Danny saw the passing out parade at Puckapunyal, and a well-known line states: God help me - I was only nineteen!

The truth of the matter is that the vast majority of nashos who 'passed out' from Recruit Training at 2 RTB Puckapunyal were twenty years of age or older. One of those who was nineteen is Ian Malcolm 'Chips' Rafferty (1/68). 'Chips' said that he always wanted to be a soldier, but by eighteen found himself as a Locomotive Trades Assistant and Trainee Plant Operator in the Pilbara. He filled in the Enlistment Papers for the ARA, but was asked 'what if you don't like it – why not volunteer for NS and see!' He waited until he was the required eighteen years and nine months and signed up for NS. He entered Puckapunyal a few days after his nineteenth birthday and became 5715583, a member of OTU Graduate 2Lt John Thurgood's second Recruit Platoon.



Despite all sorts of objections – too young, insufficient education level and (later) holding his fork in the wrong hand – and not actually applying for officer training, 'Chips' showed plenty of initiative during the Leadership Reaction Course and was selected for OTU. 'Chips' thought that being an officer would probably be alright – the pay was better and it would be easier to tell others to do something rather than being told so he went! He commenced with Class 4/67 on 27 October 1967. Unfortunately for 'Chips' a lactoses problem caused him to miss most of the Junior Term. Due to the small numbers in Class 4/67, in his Senior Term 'Chips' was given the rank of Corporal, however, having missed so much of the Junior Term he was asked to Repeat the Senior Term. In his 1/68 Senior Term 'Chips' was the Platoon Sergeant for 8 Platoon, C Company, located in one of the two huts nearest the Parade Ground. 8 Platoon was the Champion Platoon for that term!

On 19 July 1968 'Chips' graduated from OTU into his preferred Corps, Infantry, and was posted to 1 RTB Kapooka. There he met Cathy Craven.

The pair were married at Kapooka in 1970 prior to 'Chips' deploying to Vietnam with 2 RAR. They are still married and have two children and four grandchildren.

Post Kapooka 'Chips' served with the Defence Platoon at Canungra, 2 RAR in Australia and Vietnam, 6 RAR in Singapore, HQ 27 RSAR in Smithfield, the Army Apprentices School at Balcombe, 51 Independent Rifle Company in Cairns and HQ 3 Brigade in Townsville before retiring in 1986.

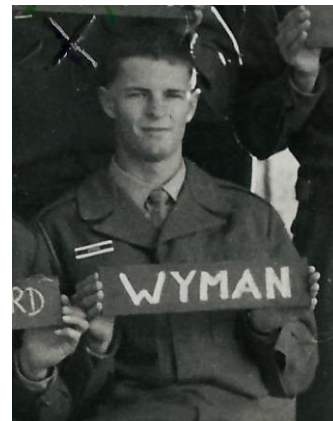
'Chips' and Cathy lived in the Daintree Area in North Queensland for some years before moving further south to Cooloolo Cove, east of Gympie, where they live today.

Ian is happy to hear from other Scheyvillians at chipsandcath1@bigpond.com

Five Minutes with Ross Wyman (2/68)

Ross Trevor Wyman was born in Brisbane in October 1947 and completed his secondary education at Brisbane Boys College. Before commencing his NS, Ross was a Bank Officer with the Commonwealth Banking Corporation. Ross commenced his NS at 3 TB Singleton in May 1968. In OTU Class 2/68 Ross joined Bill Turner as a 'Son' to 'Jack' Taylor of Class 1/68.

Ross graduated from OTU on 11 October 1968 and attended Corps Training at the RAASC Centre at Puckapunyal before being posted to 126 Supply Depot Platoon at Bandiana. The unit had a long serving, very efficient Platoon Sergeant (Len Beggs) who had everything running smoothly. The newly minted 2Lt asked his Platoon Sergeant why he was needed, with the reply of 'I need somebody to sign the paper work'!!! On completion of his NS Ross transferred to the CMF with Northern Command.



Back in 'civvie' street Ross returned to the Commonwealth Bank at Woolloongabba where he met Irene, the Manager's Secretary. They married in 1972 and have one daughter and now two grandchildren. He left the bank in 1971 and returned home to Laidley to work in the family business. The Wyman family had a connection with the Queensland town of Laidley with Ross' Great-Grandfather being the first Mayor of the town. Ross managed the family business, Wymans Pty Ltd, a retail fashion store, from 1971 until his retirement for health reasons, and thus the closure of the store, in June 2008. This was the end of an era as the shop was established in 1883.

Along the way, Ross continued with his CMF/Army Reserve service for another 16 years, and served with 2 Tpt Coy, 10 ST Colm at Enoggera, then Queensland Agricultural College (QAC) Training Unit at Lawes (Gatton College) from January 1971. As Platoon Commander, he was involved in Infantry Specialists training with Assault Pioneers, Signallers, Mortarmen and Driver Training. He also was Administration Officer/Adjutant, and on promotion to Captain an Instructor and then Training Officer. Promoted Major in 1981 and posted to 25 RQR in Toowoomba as Company Commander of B Company. In June 1981, he was the commander of 25 RQR's Sub-Unit training at LWC, Canungra (where all the hills go up and none go down).

He was posted back to QAC Trg Unit as Officer Commanding on 13 October 1982. The units posted strength in 1982 was 320. Ross completed his command after 3 1/2 years on 25 February 1986 and moved to the Retired List. QAC Training Unit is situated on the campus of the Queensland Agricultural College, a tertiary institution. It is a unique unit in that it is an infantry unit with a roll to train Infantry Specialists and to produce Officers for the Army Reserve. It has the proud history of commissioning 6 to 10 Officers each year. It is of note that the unit was upgraded to a Regiment in 1992 (RURQ: Regional Universities Regiment of Queensland). Ross received his Reserve Force Decoration (RFD) for his 15 years of service as an officer in May 1985.

Ross attends some of the Queensland OTU activities and always fronts up for the Annual Christmas Lunch, and has marched with OTU on ANZAC Day in Brisbane.

Five Minutes With Eric Blythe (2/70)

Eric Blythe (right, seen outside BHQ) commenced his NS as 1736407 on 20th April 1970 at 3 TB, Singleton, and by 8 May found himself at OTU. He went through the whole course, but found himself with a Commandant's Interview and the option of repeating the Senior Term. He didn't take up that option. Eric had qualifications in civil construction and was posted to a holding position at SME Casula. Early in 1971 he commenced his Corps Training and on completion was posted to 7 Field Squadron at Kelvin Grove in Brisbane, which was handy as Eric came from



Brisbane. He was seconded to 11 Supply Battalion at Coopers Plains where he was given the task of designing, prefabricating and constructing from the ground up water supply tank-stands (left) and other facilities for Camp Kerr, Tin Can Bay, Queensland. By Discharge from NS Eric held the rank of Temporary Corporal on Pay Group 21 (probably earning more than a 2Lt)!

Post NS Eric married Jennifer. They had two sons and later 5 grandchildren. For many years they lived in Salisbury, but recently moved into a Retirement Village in nearby Robertson, still close to their family. Eric has worked as a Civil Engineer around Australia, in the power industry and then the automotive industry with a connection to motor racing.

On ANZAC Days Eric marches with his brother-in-law Major John Goodwin (Ret'd). Like many non-Veterans, Eric found it difficult to go to his first march, but he believes we have to keep the remembrance of the soldiers and those affected by war, so it never is allowed to happen again.

Eric's biggest regret in his life is that he didn't accept the offer to Repeat at Scheyville and after that set his mind to never again give up on anything. He said he used his OTU learned skills to go back to university part time for 4 nights a week for six years to pursue a Degree in Engineering at QIT (now QUT). He said it was hard, with a house, wife and baby and extensions to do on the weekend, but he persevered and graduated in 1998. He stated that 'It was bloody taxing' and that he never saw an episode of MASH on night-time telly until the third re-run!!!! Eric has attended a number of Queensland lunches over the years.

A Few Minutes With Jamie Fisher 3/66



Class 3/66 saw the graduation of two Fishers: Tim Fischer, who went on to become the Leader of the National Party and Deputy Prime Minister in Federal Parliament and is well known to Scheyvillians, and Jamie Fisher, not so well known!

Jamie Fisher was born on 11 August 1945 and grew up on farms across Victoria but was recruited from near Casterton. He had left school at sixteen and was a professional wool classer and farmer before NS. The wool sheds and shearing teams of the great pastoral stations of the Western District of Victoria and NSW had been an early fascination for him. Jamie was called up as 3789177 with the third intake of 1966 – known to many as NS Intake 5, but to Scheyvillians as Class 3/66!

On graduation on 23 December 1966, Jamie was posted to Artillery and attended the School of Artillery at North Head in Sydney. There were many and good diversions at North Head, including Friday night happy hour and those at the nurses hostel just down the hill. He chose the Air Defence stream within artillery and performed sufficiently in the course in everything except aircraft recognition! Consequently, Jamie did not pass the overall course and 'for his sins' was posted to 1 RTB Kapooka as a Platoon Commander in March 1967 where he remained for the rest of the year.

Jamie's recollections of his time at Kapooka are only positive. He particularly enjoyed seeing soldiers come in; develop esprit de corps and faith in themselves, and to coalesce into a tight group, loyal to each other. Of the four platoons he trained, all performed amongst the leading platoons of the draft. His Extra Regimental Duties included being Messing Officer at the Officers Mess, Secretary and back pocket ruck of the premiership-winning Kapooka (Aussie Rules) Football Club, and secretary of the horse riding club, a function existing under the auspices of the then XO, Lieutenant Colonel Lucas MC.

The most harrowing incidents were conducting live grenade firing, and needing to count to five, and being paying officer for a large unit. He did that twice and found it difficult to balance each time! Those, together with negotiating with neighbouring football Clubs out of the Kapooka league to free Army personnel to play on Saturday and not on Sunday for the other team. It was the threat made to a committee of gnarled farmers that their boy would be on guard duty on Sunday if he did not play on Saturday that did the job. This coming from a brash twenty-one year old must have ruffled a few feathers.

Although 30 years his senior, the then RSM, WO1 Maurie Armstrong, an Aussie Rules supporter, and Jamie, became quite good friends. That found Jamie invited to the 'Snake Pit' for a 'few drinks' on occasions much to the surprise of the other 'Subbies' in the Officers Mess. However, the 'Snake Pit' was a place of great learning for a new 2Lt.

From January 1968 Jamie spent the rest of his NS with 111 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery at Woodside, just out of Adelaide. This location proved to be most useful as it was the closest Army Camp to his farm. The OC was Major David 'Banger' Harris, an OCS Graduate, while the other officers included Captain Malcolm Wilkinson who had been in the AATTV prior to the posting to 111 Battery.

During his time with 111 Battery, Jamie was part of a combined RAF, and RAAF exercise, as Acting BC in Darwin testing the air defence of the north of Australia and he spent the two weeks residing in the Mess at Larrakeyah Barracks –with one of the best views in the Army. While nights were comfortable, operating during the daytime (the RAAF didn't fly at night!) was somewhat different as their LAA Ops Centre was in a tin shed about 20 metres from the Darwin airport runway from which the F111 aircraft were operating, as well as all the international flights coming in on the NW approach to Australia.

With the rest of NS Intake 5, Jamie was discharged from NS on 12 Jul 1968. Jamie returned to the farm for the balance of the year then went back to school, matriculated and attended Monash Uni during the dangerous years when the radicals in the student body were targeting anyone from a service background.

Having found Sheran (nee Stokes) at the university, they married in 1973. Jamie graduated BEc, LLB in 1975, and then spent the next 40 years as a provincial general practitioner solicitor; first in Geelong, involving appearance work in all courts, later specialising for a few years in Tax, Business structures and Succession Planning. He spent time in Melbourne and then the Central-West of NSW.

Part of the life of a solicitor in Geelong, and a member of the Geelong Club, was coming in contact with members of the DS and students at the Command and Staff College at Queenscliff. For most of the twenty years spent in the law in Geelong, Jamie played golf with those DS and students and attended wonderful dining in nights at "The Fort" twice per year with the return event being hosted by the Geelong Club. As a consequence he became aware of the number of NS officers who went on to senior rank within the Army with a quiet vicarious pride.

There were only a few Scheyvillians around Geelong. Among them were David Collins (3/70) who ran a very successful real estate agency, and Ian Dobie (2/67) and Brock Thomson (3/67) who had a mutual interests in race horses and their own other very successful businesses and co-3/66er, Gerit Te Grotenhuis who started and developed a successful manufacturing business supplying the motor car manufacturers.

After twenty years as a partner in a law firm in Geelong, Jamie resigned and went out on his own account, in Melbourne, then later in the Central-West of NSW, at Nyngan, Cobar and Bourke. He had bought farming land at Nyngan and became the off-sider to his son, Simon, in sowing winter crops.

The farming was difficult by reason of a prolonged drought, but having hung up his shingle again in Nyngan, the Law was most interesting, attending to the problems of farmers and townspeople in remote areas. The logistical problems, extensive travel between offices and with a clientele from Dubbo to over the Queensland border, life was very different from a city practitioner. It involved litigation in Superior Courts in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane, as well as the lower courts of the Central-West. Serious crime, family law, commercial litigation involving trusts and deceased estates, were amongst Jamie's every day briefs. In the end, the Law, at its most fundamental level, is about crime in all its forms, and the liberty of the subject.

The rural environment suited Jamie particularly. The heritage of the bush and its characters, the history of the stations, their owners, and the vicissitudes they endured, merged into the patina of life enjoyed or endured in the present. The names, places and times of regularly commented upon events, like floods,

droughts, wool booms and busts, and the good and bad harvests, all regularly and readily recounted. The mystery of “The Overflow” (located 90 kms south of Nyngan) as ‘The Banjo’ wrote, and the role of the mythical ‘Clancy’ being part.

One of those larger than life characters was fellow Scheyvillian, Malcolm Robinson who, sadly, died a few years ago. His funeral in Bourke was magnificent and attended by several of his 4/66 class mates. Mal was a real outback boy with a sheep station 60 kms east of Engonia, right out in the spinifex country, 150 kms north east of Bourke. There was a memorable night after the Engonia picnics, in Mal’s shearers quarters with a number of his class, including David Taylor who had a difficult tour of VN, and sadly died recently as this magazine has recorded.

The saga of good and bad politicians, and how they added to or hindered the farmers and pastoralists, were the first ten minutes for every client through the door. The battles of the yeoman farmer being constrained from securing his future and the future of his family by clearing and developing his land.

Laws making farmers subject to immense financial penalties and potentially gaol, for engaging in farming practices which only ten years before were sponsored by income tax deductibility, were difficult to explain to ordinary families, who notwithstanding, and inexplicably, remained loyal to their traditional representatives, some of whom rather sardonically observed, at the time, that there was nowhere else for them to go. Clearly, these people shall be those who may be seen as the new recruits to populist representatives, who appear more understanding of their past marginalised position.

Having a legal office in Bourke resulted in a broader knowledge of the inland rivers, of the misconceived notion of the outback having been ruined by the European invaders, and the malaise of the indigenous inhabitants and their mixed successors, fused with the misguided altruism and incompetence, of successive governments of all persuasions, writ large on a day to day basis. The economies of the towns of Bourke and Warren were virtually destroyed by an ideological NSW State Labor government with the connivance of a Federal Coalition government, removing irrigation entitlements for the best part of 10 years and inspiring and mandating harsh land clearing legislation. The damage done to those communities is irreparable. The pejorative of the ‘whinging cocky’ was a hurtful taunt, which it shall take many generations to shuck off.

As is the lot of the country practitioner there is no avoiding the requests to be involved, by every local association, service club, or society to provide pro bono, the drawing of rules for yacht, racing, and pony clubs, to all manner of advice to local agricultural show committees, Rotary, community development committees, school councils and Local Land Boards, whilst advising for fee Shire Councils, schools, and local Livestock Health Authorities. To Jamie the experience of providing legal services to clients located in all states except Tasmania, was most satisfying.

The practise of the Law throws up many true characters, and attracts many scoundrels. Sometimes they are difficult to tell apart. The kindest most deserving clients he ever advised were in the remote areas, but also the most devilishly criminal.



Now retired, Jamie lives with his long-suffering wife of 43 years, in the King River Valley of Victoria, farming a few acres, and developing a ‘capability brown’ garden, attending to baby-sitting duties for his daughter Skye, a change management consultant for a bank head officed in Melbourne, whilst spending three months of every year back in the Central-West of NSW assisting his son, Simon in his cropping enterprise, by cooking for tractor drivers, and being the ‘gopher’.

Left: Mal Robinson (4/66) on left with Jamie Fisher (3/66) right. If you know the other people please advise the Editor.

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

Published by Melb University Academic via their “expresso machine” ie printed one-off on demand. (the output feels like any other paperback: properly bound, good definition in the illustrations and with a “slippery” cover but these are an indulgence at \$60 per volume (I got mine at a 50% off sale via MUP)

The AIF in Battle – How the Australian Imperial Force Fought 1914-1918. Jean Bou (Editor) 2016. Paper back 328 pp. Ten leading military historian outline how the inexperienced AIF soldiers and their leaders evolved from 1914 to 1918. The authors examine the change in infantry training, tactics, equipment and tactics; the role of the Light Horse, the development of Artillery and the emergence of the Flying Corps and the welding of these into a cohesive Army Corps.

Lest we Forget – Recounting Australian Casualties of the First World War. David Noonan 2014. Paperback 210 pp. The author mounts his argument that the casualty figures for the AIF were seriously wrong and that up to five times as many casualties were sustained (note: “casualty includes not only dead, but wounded, ill, injured, captured and missing). The author's approach has been via an exhaustive examination of over 12,000 individual soldiers’ records.

Australia and the Great War – Identity, Memory and Mythology. Walsh & Varnava (Editors) supported by 12 authors 2016. Paperback 274 pp. Via an examination of the development of the Red Cross organisation, we see “Imperial feminism” arising; via an examination of medical services at ANZAC Cove, we look at the emergence of Army Medical Services, the authors draw our attention to propaganda aspects of warfare; we read about the “1918 mystery airplane panic in Australia”; the war and the Irish; and the mythologisation of Mustafa Kemal. There is a chapter on “Remediating Gallipoli” through visual representation; a chapter on the influence of classical Greek on CEW Bean’s writings; and an (early) assessment of the current Great War Centenary celebrations.

There is an emerging list of biographies of prominent WW1 Army leaders - beyond those for “recognised” leaders such as French, Haigh, Birdwood, Monash, Elliott et al.

The Lionheart – Lt Gen Sir Talbot Hobbs by David Coombes. Aust Military History Publications 2007. Hardbound. 342 pp. Hobbs is an interesting AIF formation commander: he started WW1 as our Divisional Artillery Commander but ended the war as a Major General Commanding the 5th Division – possibly the only AIF General to change “trade”. After WW1, Hobbs succeeded Monash as Corps Commander of the AIF.

Such a Noble Man was He - The Story of Colonel AG Butler by Richard Hancock (Butler’s grandson). Presumably privately published (no publisher details, nor date but certainly later than 2012). Paperback 304 pp. \$19.95 from the Albany (WA) ANZAC Museum. Dr Butler was one of the first men ashore at ANZAC and stayed the course of the war – being awarded the DSO – the only medical officer so awarded. Post WW1, Butler wrote, not without controversy, the three blue-covered volumes on the 1AIF Medical history (and which became the companion volumes to Bean’s Official History). Written by a novice historian but well worth a read!

A Soldier’s Soldier – The Life of Lt Gen Sir Carl Jess by Ron Austin. Slouch Hat Publications 2001. Hardbound 240 pages. Albany ANZAC Museum (WA). \$19.95. Bendigo-born, Jess moved through the ranks of the Australian Army from Lieutenant to Brigadier General in ten years! He landed at Gallipoli as Staff Captain to then Col John Monash and later he served as CO of 7th Battalion in 1916-1917 (awarded a DSO and three MID’s for this). Jess led his battalion at Pozieres and he ended the war as Commander 10th Brigade. Post WW1, he held further appointments and ranks. (His son - John Jess MP - was instrumental in bringing about the second Royal Commission into the HMAS Voyager/Melbourne ship collision in 1964).

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.

Humour (Cameron Smith 2/65)

Cameron Smith was the Class Orderly for Class 2/65 and had to get the class to the Lecture Theatre and the class was tight for time. He suggested that the class 'double' to the theatre to ensure that they were not late and did not get any 'Extras'. On arrival at the theatre 'Algy' Clark spoke to the class and said something to the effect that as the class was so keen on running they could run a cross country that afternoon. Cam Smith was told that he, as the Class Orderly, would not be running as he would have the clipboard and would mark off the times for the run. 'Algy' had his own way of metering out 'Extras'!

Cameron was always known as 'Cam'. Con Scheinberg was known as 'Con'. WO2 Keith Payne, an original OTU Instructor, was a Fieldcraft Instructor. One day he said 'I am now going to talk about Cam and Con (Camouflage & Concealment) at which time Smith and Scheinberg (Cam and Con) both sprang to their feet and answered 'Sir!'. When performing at the Caloundra RSL a couple of years ago, with Keith Payne VC among the crowd, Cam Smith told the story. Keith Payne commented with a laugh that he remembered that incident.

THE SICK LIST

Members of Class 1/65 will be saddened to hear that one of their own is on the 'Sick List'. Bob Irvine is having some health issues. He is happy to talk with his 1/65 Classmates on 03 5156 4390

EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

Dr Michael Hewitt-Gleeson commenced OTU with Class 3/67. At a recent Victorian lunch Michael advised that although he did not graduate, he has used the knowledge gained from his time at OTU on a daily basis. Michael runs the 'School of Thinking' in Melbourne. <http://schoolofthinking.org/>



From: Michael Hewitt-Gleeson **Sent:** 11 Jan 2017 **Subject:** **The Vatican**

This message is about what I believe is *the biggest thing to have happened in the world in THINKING in 2016!*

I hope you'll find it valuable food for thought. Although I'm a cognitive scientist and an agnostic I'm also a *vaticanologist*, an observer of the Vatican. I suppose it's been a kind of intellectual hobby for over 50 years. However, if one is interested, professionally, in *thinking* then one is interested in its history and its origins. And, the origin of our *Greco-Roman Logic* comes to us from the Greeks ... via the Vatican. This means, for 800 years, the Vatican has been teaching *judgment*.

If Pope Francis has his say, the Vatican will now teach *discernment*. This is a very, very BIG transformational change in global thinking policy.

I believe it's enough to make Francis the greatest lateral thinker in the world. It is also enough for him to deserve the Nobel Peace Prize.

If he does nothing else during his pontificate but switch the Vatican *from judgment to discernment* then this will be enough to make him one of the greatest popes who ever lived.

I've been writing about this over the last year and have collected these articles into a short *iphonebook*—you can read it on your iPhone.

Thanks for your support and contact in the past and I'm sending you a preview of this book as a gift to get your 2017 thinking off to a great start. You can download the book here with my compliments ... <http://www.vaticanology.net/039-the-lateral-thinker-pope-francis-the-grey-pope/> Very best wishes for 2017

From: John Nicholson (2/65) **Sent:** 16 January 2017 **Subject:** Great Moments in Military History

I have just opened your email re 2/65. My memory of those 22 weeks is pretty hazy so I was not able to contribute as names and faces are a blur. I have better recollection of some staff as I seemed to spend a fair bit of time having my errors pointed out! On one occasion, I was Pl Cmdr and we were hacking our way through the Colo Putty bush and getting nowhere. I could see the writing on the wall. "OC Nicholson DNG" when a DS voice quietly sang in my ear "get out of the scrub to the secondary growth parley vous " By the third chorus, I got the message and sent the scout as suggested.

When I joined 2RAR in SVN, Bat Moon was the RSM and my Sgt was Taffy Burt a wonderful and respected DS from OTU who having been one of my mentors put his head in his hands saying in his Welsh lilt " my God now we've lost the war". His support was invaluable and I learned a lot from him.

My best memories of RSM Moon at OTU was him standing at the top of the steps above the parade ground the morning after his daughter was born totally ignoring his pink cannon and pink nappy on the flagpole until the parade finished when he thanked those responsible members of 1/65 who went on to graduate.

On our graduation night, he gathered us around and his parting words were: "there are three groups of 2/65 graduating tonight. one whose soldiers will follow because they trust and respect you; one because you wear the rank and no other reason; to my eternal regret the third and largest group whose soldiers will follow you anywhere out of sheer curiosity to see what you do next !!"

Hope these ramblings have been of some interest. Thanks for doing a good job and keeping me in the loop. I agree there should be recognition of the DNG. "There but for the luck of the draw we could have gone."

From: Kevin McCarthy (1/70) **Sent:** 28 January 2017 **Subject:** Political Correctness

G'day gents, can you imagine being a platoon commander, troop leader, company commander, squadron commander or commanding officer in today's Army?

"I say Private Smith, I'm sorry I meant to say Peter. Peter that man who has been shooting at you all day is actually a member of a minority group that we have identified as needing our help. Please stop shooting at him it might offend him. Please find something else to shoot at. You know diversity is the name of the game these days." "While you're at it please pass me a can of spam. Oh that's right we don't have spam anymore. Please pass me a can of bully beef and please ensure that it's halal." "Oh and by the way, that joke you told about Paddy the Irish bar keeper last night is just so not PC. So I'm sorry when we get back to base you will have to go and redo your social reengineering course"

From: Warren Thatcher, Rob Youl (2/65) **Sent:** 16 January 2017 **Subject:** OTU Project

I (Warren) have just about everything I had at the end. David (Beasley) and I went through it all not long ago when he became involved with the first class book. He has anything he thought might help. Including these allocation rolls, the syllabus and probably Standing Orders. I did at one stage give my brother some of the lesson and training notes I had from Scheyville, 1 RTB and the Infantry Centre . He was in the CMF until Gough saved him. I will check with him like me he hasn't moved far. We became partners when I was called up and he came home from school to run my farm. We were successful and purchased more land , not having sons we stayed as a farming partnership. We have always lived about eight km apart and still do in town. I look forward to their book as it cover everything except the anecdotes of latter class members. I must admit that I avoid military history books that have too much of this anecdotal stuff, it's no very reliable, just good yarns about things that may have happened to someone .

From: Alistair Pope (4/66) **Sent:** 14 December 2016 **Subject:** Another Book on Vietnam

David W Cameron Penguin, 2016 Paperback 392 pp RRP: \$35.00

Find a bookstore: David Cameron has succinctly encapsulated Australia's most memorable battle of the Vietnam War. This work comes in three parts: background, the battle and the aftermath. A thorough history of French Indochina from the 1850s to the days of President Diem in the South and Ho Chi Minh in the North, places in context the establishment of 1 Australian Task Force (1ATF) in Phuoc Tuy Province in March 1966.

From: Alistair Pope (4/66) **Sent:** 11 April 2017 **Subject:** My Agenda to Destroy Australia

The association's prolific author, Alistair Pope, has published his latest writing in Quadrant. He asks us to read the article and comment. <http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/qed/2017/04/agenda-destroy-australia/>

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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State:		Postcode:
Home Phone:		Work Phone:
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Personal Email:		Work Mobile:
Personal Web Address:		Work Email:
Class:		Work Website:
Corps:		Any Comments:
Regimental No:		
Awards:		
I am a new member: <input type="checkbox"/>		I am no longer interested.
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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					

Political Correctness Gone Mad? (Via Alistair Pope, 4/66)

The Scheyvillian is an apolitical newsletter, but sometimes there are items that must be published!

Australian-funded projects have removed “mateship” from the lexicon used in Papua New Guinea to describe the heroism of Diggers fighting the Japanese on the Kokoda Track, in what a prominent critic describes as politically correct revisionism to “demilitarise” the battleground’s history in the lead up to its 75th anniversary. According to former Australian Army major, Vietnam War veteran and NSW Liberal state MP Charlie Lynn, who for the past 25 years has run treks on the Kokoda Track, \$65 million of Australian taxpayers’ money has been directed through “a conga line of consultants” to green-leaning and

leftist development projects promoting Australian liberal values such as gender equity on the track. At the same time, he claims, bridges and toilets on the track have fallen into disrepair and Australian-sponsored aid projects such as schools have no desks and clinics no medicines.

The reinterpretation of the World War II campaign, during which Australian troops started to turn the tide against Japanese forces, has been carried out under the Department of the Environment and the Department of Foreign Affairs. “They are anti the military heritage of the trail,” Mr Lynn told *The Australian*, adding that he believed Australia’s Kokoda Track effort should have been under the charge of Veterans Affairs.

“Now, they are starting to subtly rewrite the history of the track.” Mr Lynn pointed to a departure from the four words traditionally used to sum up the Australian war effort on the track, a campaign waged with the assistance of PNG communities: **Courage, Endurance, Mateship, Sacrifice.**

Each of the four words is engraved on one of the four marble pillars in the war memorial established by the Howard government at Isurava, the site of a major battle in August 1942. “The power of that memorial is in the simplicity of the memorial and those four words,” Mr Lynn said.

By contrast, he observed, a set of new interpretative panels erected at Owers Corner at the entrance to the track drops the word “mateship”, and instead refers to “friendship”, which Mr Lynn said reflected a preference for gender neutrality.

One of the panels speaks of how “Australians, Papuans, and New Guineans served side-by-side in atrocious conditions”. “The Track has become a shrine to their courage, endurance and sacrifice,” the panel says. “It is an enduring reminder of the unity and friendship shared by the people of Papua New Guinea and Australia.”

Another section quotes a PNG man as having said “Friend ... I’ll walk with you” with regard to the help he provided to Australian soldiers. Mr Lynn claims the line was selected to mimic the fake social media campaign “I’ll ride with you” to combat supposed anti-Muslim sentiments after Sydney’s Lindt cafe siege.

A spokeswoman for Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the signs at Owers Conner were part of a project managed by the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority, funded by the Australian Environment Department. “The Foreign Minister had no role in the approval of the language used in the signs,” the spokeswoman said. “The word ‘friendship’ has been chosen as this is understood by Papua New Guineans. ‘Mateship’ is a uniquely Australian term and we will request both words are used as part of the new signage.” The spokeswoman said the “I’ll walk with you” line was simply a referral to the iconic image of the Kokoda campaign in which a blinded Australian soldier is being led by a Papua New Guinean, and had nothing to do with the “I’ll ride with you” campaign.

Mr Lynn said Australian authorities had employed Australian consultants at a cost of millions of dollars to undertake leftist social engineering projects such as a gender equity study of PNG women on the track, where more than 600 Australian fighting men were killed and 1680 wounded during the campaign.

Entitled A Gender Snapshot of the Kokoda Initiative, the 2014 study laments that “indigenous women and children, more than half the population are neither visible nor heard in most existing literature on Kokoda war history”. “Most accounts of the war on Kokoda are Australian and male, thus bringing a specific lens ... Women are hardly mentioned.”

Mr Lynn said rather than get PNG villagers to do the work on the track, Australians were being flown in. Ms Bishop’s spokeswoman said this project “twinning” PNG rangers with the Australians.

Mr Lynn claimed bureaucrats and consultants missed the point of what attracted Australians to Kokoda. “They don’t go up there to have a bloody environmental levitation, they are going there to walk in the footstep of the Diggers,” he said.

The result had been a decline of more than 50 per cent in the number of trekkers over the nine years since the Department of Environment took charge of the Kokoda project. Ms Bishop’s spokeswoman did not directly respond to Mr Lynn’s claims of a deterioration of facilities on the track, but said: “The Australian government is working with the Kokoda Track Authority to improve safety, including by upgrading roads, installing a weather station, improving the Kokoda airstrip and updating the VHF radio network along the track to improve communications.”

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@clearyhoare.com.au
07 3230 5253 or Mick Hart mhart@clearyhoare.com.au
Monthly Luncheons: 2nd Thursday of the month

NSW: Gary McKay (2/68) 0411 574 019 garymckay@bigpond.com
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 wnbsec@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 0414 702 905 berjulgleson@bigpond.com
Monthly Lunches, 2nd Wednesday 0418 373 874 bctcooper@gmail.com
Annual Dinner 2017 will be 23rd 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@iinet.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.

LOST MEMORABILIA – OCS PLAQUE

The wooden map of Australia with the OCS Badge on it was an OTU Cadets Mess plaque given to the mess by OCS Portsea and it hung above the entrance from the ante-room to the dining room. The plaque can be plainly seen on the Cadets Mess photo on Page 40. After the celebrations of the final Graduation Parade at OTU in 1973 the plaque was given to Michael Hewitt-Gleeson for safe-keeping.



Some years later Michael was invited by Alistair Pope to give a talk at an OTU-A function. It was a black tie re-union dinner in a reception centre at Melbourne's Alexandra Gardens. On that occasion, Michael handed-over the plaque to the OTU-A where it rightfully belongs.

Michael sent in the photograph of him handing over the OCS Plaque to Alistair Pope (4/66) at a dinner. Alistair is unaware of the location of the plaque now.

If anyone can advise on what happened to the plaque, please advise the Editor.

The Back Pages:



Left: NSAA Memorial in SA, 2017

Below: Recruit Frank Paton (2/70), May 1970, 2 RTB



Left: 2003 Reunion. At Scheyville:
3/68 Graduates Neil Leckie, Ray Escobar,
Barry Anderson, Paul Rees, Paul Meldrum,
Roger Nation, Ron Skeoch

Below right: Merv Michell's Class 1/66
photo of 'the cannon' – no longer pink!

Below: 4/67 Graduation Parade (numbers swelled by Junior Class)



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA NATIONAL SERVICE ACT 1951-1968

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

FULL NAME **JOHN ALFRED HUNT**

1. You must immediately sign this Certificate in the place indicated and keep it as evidence of your registration. You may be required to produce it to persons authorized under the Act.
2. The Certificate must not be altered or defaced.
3. If the details shown on this Certificate are incorrect, or if your place of living changes from that shown in your registered address you must advise the Registrar below within 30 days and return this Certificate to him as indicated on the other side of this Certificate.
4. If you lose this Certificate, or if it is destroyed or defaced, you must report the fact forthwith to the Registrar below or to the District Officer at any District Office of the Commonwealth Employment Service.

Registered Address **MR J. A. HUNT
18 GEORGE ST
LIVERPOOL NSW**

Registration Number **12535987** Issued by Registrar at **SYDNEY** BORN **110451** Date **03/02/71**

NS2 (REV.-7/69)

USUAL SIGNATURE of Registered Person

[Signature]

John Hunt – was a Nasho who served on. He was commissioned as a Probationary 2Lt prior to commencing OTU and graduated with OCS Class 1/73. On graduating John was promoted to Lt. John Littlewood (3/72) was a CMF commissioned 2Lt who also attended OTU and graduated again as a 2Lt.

Are there any others who were ‘commissioned’ twice?

Jon Bate’s Class 1/70 photograph of the Cadet’s Mess. Note the OCS Plaque above the Dining Room door.

