



# *The Scheyvillian*

*Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee*

## **OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 2, 2016**

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

**A newsletter for all Scheyvillians**



**Seen under the gaze of 'Chloe' at Young & Jackson's Hotel in Melbourne on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April is Class 1/70 as a part of their Reunion over 22 – 25 April 2016**



Left: Peter Whitelaw (3/66), a Life Governor of The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, welcomes the Class 1/70 Reunion to The Shrine.

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

## REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORABILIA: MORE NEEDED

Still needed:

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

While the 'Scheyville Collection' of photographs continues to grow we still need photographs from Classes 3/67 & 4/67, 4/68, 4/69, 2/70, 1/71 & 3/71 and all Nasho classes of 1972.

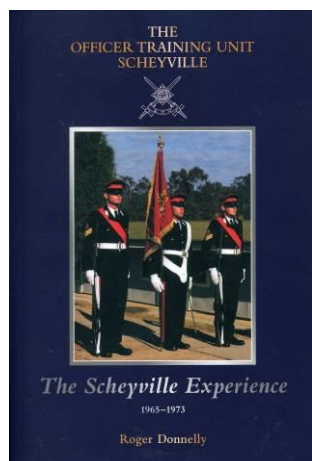
**A number of O1/72 and O2/72 photographs are now available after the combined Class Reunion in Jul 2015 have been added to the Website Gallery.**

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

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

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

**THE SCHEYVILLIAN NEXT EDITION DUE OUT December 2016:** It is planned to have Edition 3 of 2016 of *The Scheyvillian* in early December. Submissions need to be received by 15 November 2016. If you have any contributions: current stories (eg. Reunions, dinners or other get-togethers) or memorabilia stories, please email them to The Editor, The Scheyvillian, at [nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au) or post to Unit 3 / 519 Peel Street North, Black Hill, Vic, 3350. **Photographs should be sent separate to the articles.** If you have large file size photos, please send individual photos to [nkaleckie@hotmail.com](mailto:nkaleckie@hotmail.com) or send a disc with multiple photos. Photos should be in jpeg format and should preferably be labelled.



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

## 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](http://www.otu.asn.au) There only 40 copies left!

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

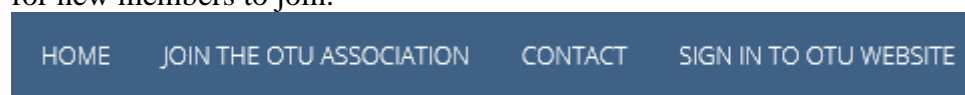
Since the publication of the last Scheyvillian, there have been several additions and alterations to the website. When the first website was created, it listed only those Scheyvillians who had monographs in the front section of the Blue (hardcover) Directory. As such, many graduates who appeared under the alphabetical and graduate number lists were absent from the website. The monographs were used to create the first and all subsequent iterations of the website database. Earlier this year, with the help of Peter Whitelaw and Graeme Chester, some 300 names were added to the Members List. While these list only name, regimental number, class, graduate number and corps to which the Scheyvillian was posted, it now means that for the first time, an electronic database of all graduates exists.

At the same time the programming was amended, so that Scheyville graduates who attended from the Sydney University Regiment (graduated with class 1/67), and OCS Portsea (Classes 1/72, 2/72, 1/73) are now listed as separate class groups, whereas before they were included with the Scheyville NS classes.

In total, there are now 1988 records comprising:

- 1804 Scheyville graduates;
- 11 graduates from Sydney University Regiment;
- 68 OCS Graduates;
- 29 Scheyvillians who did not graduate;
- 8 Widows of Scheyvillians; and
- 68 DS (only those who have had some contact with the Association).

**New:** The non-logged in menu bar now has a specific tab “Join The OTU Association” to make it easier for new members to join.

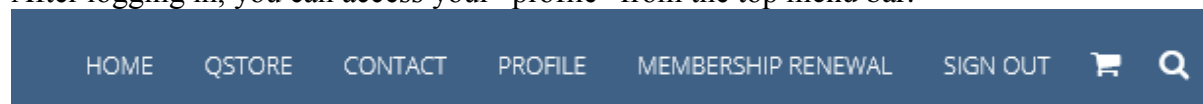


A new section has been added to the “Members” area which details Vietnam service, bravery awards and KIAs. Again, the details regarding service in Vietnam were incomplete on previous websites, and after requesting additions via e-mail, some 80 plus names have been added. This is not a data field that members can access, so if your name is missing, or you served with a Scheyvillian whose name is not listed, please provide the webmaster with the required additions.

**Membership:** When the new website was created we incorporated a membership plugin with the aim of automating much of the renewal process. This included the ability to have your annual subscription automatically renewed each year. While the system worked, it appeared to cause much confusion, and about one in three renewals made this way were subsequently cancelled, leaving the member unsure of his status. In addition, the system did not conform to the 30<sup>th</sup> June expiry date (essential for calculation of State rebates). For these reasons, it was decided to abandon the automatic renewal process, and now all memberships expire on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Of course you can pay as many years in advance as you wish, the system is able to handle multiple year memberships

### Some final reminders about the website:

After logging in, you can access your “profile” from the top menu bar.



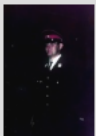
Here you can update your phone numbers, address or e-mail details. You can upload a mug shot or ‘avatar’ to appear next to your entry in the members list. You can also upload up to 10 photos of your choice, Scheyville era, Army service, family, or even the family dog if you wish. Remember that these can be viewed by any Scheyvillian who is logged in, so keep it nice! Just select the images from your computer files, and the program will automatically resize them.




Your personal Gallery

Click on "upload Photo" to load up images – maximum ten images.

Upload Photo



Military Arts Prize  
Class 3/68  
[Delete](#) [Edit](#)



Traveller not a  
tourist  
[Delete](#) [Edit](#)

Upload Photo

You can also elect to receive an email when any news item or obituary is posted on the website.

To receive these, you need to subscribe. The relevant area is at the bottom of the side menu found under any of the “Association” sub menus.

## Get an email when a new article is published

Financial members already receive an email when a new Scheyvillian is published. This covers obits, news etc.

Email Address

Subscribe

The aims when creating the new website were twofold.

Firstly, to create an area where Scheyvillians can access all relevant information about the Association, including Members lists, details of Events scheduled by state, photo gallery, archives of The Scheyvillian, and minutes of AGMs etc. So this should be the first place you look to answer queries or seek information.

The second aim was to create a permanent historical database about our unique piece of Australian military history that will eventually out live its members.

I think that the present website achieves these aims.

This will be my final report as webmaster. By the time this is published, I will have resigned, and handed over responsibility to Ian Kelly (2/67). Ian has extensive IT experience and I am sure will take the website to new and exciting levels. Ian can be contacted by e-mail: [webmaster@otu.asn.au](mailto:webmaster@otu.asn.au)

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (Graeme Chester, 2/67) At 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016 our FY15/16 membership was:

Number of Graduates	1880			
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	1988			
Number Financial		227		
Widows		8		
Number Honorary		25		
Number Deceased			163	
Number Unfinancial (Not Renewed)			1399	
Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact)			166	
Totals	1880	1988	260	1728

Of the names on database 13.1% are financial/honorary/widows.

Of the names on the database 8.2% are deceased.

Of the names on the database 70.3% are unfinancial (not renewed)

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

As at 30 Jun 2016 we had **530** financial members which is a significant increase upon the **491** we had at the end of last FY and is at a level not seen for a number of years. It appears that, as our members start to retire, they are attending class reunions and seeking out classmates with whom they shared a unique experience some 50 years ago.

Membership Renewal notices were sent out on 1 July and we are off and running for 2016/17. As at 13<sup>th</sup> July, **246** members have renewed their membership. A good start!

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.

If you wish to renew for 2016/17, a Membership Renewal form is attached to this newsletter or, should you wish, you could renew using PayPal via our website. Renewal by **31 August 16** would be appreciated.

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.

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

When you have changed address, can you please change your address on the Association Website [otu.asn.au](http://otu.asn.au) and advise the Membership Officer Graeme Chester (contact details are on Page 2). If you wish to continue to receive a 'hard copy' of The Scheyvillian you will also need to advise The Editor of your new address (contact details also on Page 2).

### **UPCOMING NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

#### **Last Post Ceremony at the AWM, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

Each evening, just before the closure of the AWM at 5pm, 'Last Post' Ceremony is held. Each ceremony focuses on an individual soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. This year on 18<sup>th</sup> August, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Gordon Sharp, the first OTU Graduate to be killed on active service, will be featured. Scheyvillians who can make the journey to Canberra for the event are encouraged to do so.

Fellow 1/65 Graduate John O'Halloran grew up and attended school with Gordon in Tamworth and subsequently served with him in 6 RAR. John has arranged for many of Gordon's family, schoolmates and longstanding friends to attend this ceremony.

The OTU Association also plans to be strongly represented. A special wreath will be laid on our behalf by Brigadier David Webster – another 1/65 graduate and Vietnam Veteran.

Commencing at 1650 hrs at the 'Pool of Reflection' in the War Memorial, the ceremony will take the form of an address by a senior military person followed by the laying of the wreaths then the playing of the Last Post. It is suggested that a lounge suit or 'reefer' jacket, along with all medals, be worn. As the area is exposed to the Canberra elements, appropriate coats and hats should also be taken.

Following the Ceremony there will be a get together for everybody in the Carlton Room at the Mercure Hotel (formerly Olims). Dr Brendan Nelson, CEO of the AWM, Brigadier Brewer, Commandant RMC and Maj Orgill, OC of RMC's Long Tan Company, have been invited. It will be a fitting way to remember Gordon and to catch up with his family, friends and other Scheyvillians.

Interstate visitors may wish to stay at the Mercure which is quite close to the War Memorial.

Mercure Hotel: Corner Limestone Avenue and Ainslie Avenue, Braddon, ACT 2612.

[stay@mercurecanberra.com.au](http://stay@mercurecanberra.com.au) Tel: (02) 6243 0000

**There are other activities in Canberra around this date shown in the Vietnam Veterans Day section later in this newsletter.**

**The 2/69 Reunion, Canberra, 14 – 16 October 2016 – 1/69 are also invited to participate:**

The next reunion of Class 2/69 will be held in Canberra over the weekend 14 – 16 October this year. The format, as at 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016, is:

Friday Lunch – location TBA (Own Cost)

Friday Evening – 5.00pm: Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial  
5.30pm Private Tour of the Centenary WW1 Exhibition  
6.30pm Pre-Dinner Drinks at Poppy's  
7.30pm Dinner at Poppy's

Saturday Evening – Dinner at Mercure Hotel

Sunday morning – Mixed Denomination Service at the RMC Chapel

Sunday Lunch – Cruise on Lake Burley Griffin

Sunday evening – Dinner at Mercure Hotel or other venues

Please register attendance at the Reunion with Bill Watson ([Bill1223@gmail.com](mailto:Bill1223@gmail.com))

Ph:(02)6281-7271, Fax (02)6260-5886, Mobile (0411) 481 613 **with a copy to**  
[mhart@clearyhoare.com.au](mailto:mhart@clearyhoare.com.au) ;

*Please book accommodation directly with the Hotel by calling or email Mercure Canberra Groups Supervisor and quoting "OTU 131016" (02) 6243 0000; or*  
[stay@mercurecanberra.com.au](mailto:stay@mercurecanberra.com.au).

All event costs are to be paid to Cleary Hoare Trust Account

C/- Cleary Hoare, PO Box 2684, Fortitude Valley BC, QLD, 4006.

If paying by EFT: Account Name: Cleary Hoare Trust Account  
BSB: 084 034 Account Number: 50 842 6133  
Reference: OTU1494 *add your surname*

**Accommodation:** To retain the "room block-out", we need direct bookings by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Please advise Bill Watson when you have booked your accommodation!

**Payment:** Event Costs are to be paid by 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016. Please advise Bill Watson by email (or note with cheque), what events have been paid for.

**Note:** Class 1/69, the senior class for Class 2/69, have been invited to attend. Class 1/69 members are asked to contact Dick Whitaker if they are attending!

## **RECENT NATIONAL EVENTS**

### **Class 1/70 Four-Day Reunion – ANZAC Weekend 2016 in Melbourne** (Ray Andrews)

Three years in the making, there was a class 1/70 re-union in Melbourne over the four days of ANZAC weekend 2016. A total of 68 people – Scheyvillians and their partners – came from all parts and hit Melbourne with a flourish for the four days of Friday 22 April 2016 to and including ANZAC Day Monday 25 April 2016. One item was on the agenda – having fun!

Fun it was. Firstly, a huge contingent from class 1/70 attended the Victorian Annual Mixed Dinner on the Friday night, and a few featured prominently in proceedings, all voluntarily, of course. Some were more aware in advance than others of their voluntary contributions. To single out just one, 3798125 “Angry” Jack Parker was interviewed by the MC and was clearly surprised to have had the pleasure. It became apparent that, over the decades, “Angry” Jack from RASigs has become less angry. These days he is considered to be “Jovial” Jack. Another very familiar face at the dinner was that of Tony Sonneveld, down for the re-union with his wife Viv from Sydney, where Tony has been fighting the ravages of prostate cancer since 2003. Tony is an Honorary Life Member of the OTU Association and holds an OAM, in significant part because of his services to non-destructive testing and to the community. “Jovial” Jack and Tony were in fine voice as they joined the whole throng of Scheyvillian men present for the first ever professional recording of the OTU song at the end of the dinner. The song was rendered with great

gusto and enthusiasm by the 80 or so all-male vocalists, mostly baritones, with the odd unidentifiable, and very balancing, soprano, thrown in. Professional Keith Webb, of Image Control, appeared to be praising us highly when he said that, in his thirty years of recording video and audio for movies, television shows and radio commercials; he has “never heard anything remotely like it”. Isn’t that something!

The next day was set aside for mini-group activities which included a live theatre performance ... not with Scheyvillians acting up, but real, professional talent on stage at one of Melbourne’s excellent theatres. Another OTU group enjoyed a different cultural event, an AFL game, while the rest gathered in small numbers and tested out several watering holes around Melbourne. No-one was arrested. No animals were used in any experiments. No children were frightened.

The Sunday, 24 April 2016, was extraordinary. It began with 3789562 Peter Roy Whitelaw, another Honorary Life Member of the OTU Association, who also is an Honorary Life Governor of the Shrine of Remembrance in St Kilda Road, giving us an introductory talk about the Shrine at the Shrine. This preceded nearly 70 of us, with OTU Association Committee Member Robin Hunt tagging along, deriving much from a tour of the Galleries of Remembrance at the Shrine. The Galleries are a collection of exhibits tracing our involvement in all the conflicts in which Victorians have served, honouring and explaining their service and sacrifice. This is a \$44M development in the under-croft of the Shrine, opened in time for the Centenary of ANZAC. While this tour may not have been fun – the objective of the re-union – it was certainly informative, and very emotionally involving on a completely different scale. Having served their country, as all Scheyvillians have, this may give us an even sharper understanding of what others have done for Australia since well before Federation when we see it presented in such a personal way as the Galleries do at the Shrine.



After the gripping tour of the Shrine, Class 1/70 adjourned for lunch at the historic Young & Jackson’s hotel on the corner of Flinders Street and Swanston Street, directly opposite the heritage Flinders Street station, an area of enormous military links. The hotel is on the route of the ANZAC Day march where many a former serviceman has given an accidental eyes-right to the hotel as he marched past on warmer ANZAC Days. The hotel houses the famous and very large painting of naked Chloe, so class 1/70 felt it their duty to toast her at the lunch ... and afterwards. Family members of deceased class 1/70 graduates joined the lunch from

interstate, which was thoroughly appreciated by all there. To say fun was had at the lunch would be an understatement, and the merriment continued into the late afternoon and evening. This was helpful as it served as preparatory limbering up and oiling of the joints for the march the next day.

Monday 25 April 2016, ANZAC Day, was the pinnacle of the four-day “mountain climb” in Melbourne or at least it felt to many as a mountain climb! The four days were tough, demanding, breathtaking and invigorating, with some splendid and unexpected views, all requiring re-hydration and rest. Class 1/70 was honoured by the OTU Association in requesting one of its number lead the ANZAC Day march by the OTU contingent. 2794172 Christopher J Madden AO held that honour and served yet again with distinction. It is an amazing and unique experience being on parade on ANZAC Day, anywhere in the world. However, few things would beat being in the OTU contingent with your fellow Scheyvillians in Melbourne as the march veers left from St Kilda Road. There, before you, is the inspiring yet daunting





view of the large Shrine of Remembrance in the distance, with fellow service men and women lined up ahead of you. The official party is ahead on the right, and the media's cameras are busily broadcasting the seemingly endless stream of lined-up veterans to a sizable and generally very admiring audience. The thousands of people lining the barricades are on both sides of the street, just touching distance from those marching, cheering the veterans, applauding them,

standing in mute support of them. They are young, middle aged and old spectators, sometimes wet and cold, every one of them seeming, at least for that brief time in history, to be a friend who somehow knows what each marcher did in his or her unique service of their country.

As if there wasn't enough fun already had, the annual post-march lunch was held with all Scheyvillians and their partners at the usual Melbourne venue, the "Heroes" in Toorak (at the Toorak Services Club). This heralded, in a "Last Post" sort of way, the end of the four days of the class 1/70 2016 international re-union.

Plans are now underway for more class 1/70 re-unions in the years ahead, probably in Sydney NSW and in Queensland for a start. It might be that we are getting older, but something is acting as a catalyst for action when it comes to re-uniting as a group of people who share something very special. Long may that continue!

### **National Council**

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 the OTU National Council was held at the 'Heroes' in Toorak in Melbourne. For the first time at a council meeting interstate chapters, except for NSW's John Bushell who included the council meeting in his travel plans, attended the meeting by using Skype. While there were a few minor technical glitches overall the use of technology simplified the travel needed for the meeting.



The Council, held annually, provides a forum whereby the Executive can bring the States and Territories up to date with the current situation pertaining to finance, membership, the "Scheyvillian", memorabilia, youth leadership, webmaster and future initiatives and directions. Likewise, the Executive can be made aware of how each Chapter is travelling and, most importantly, how it can help them in their plans.



## STATE ACTIVITIES:

### ACT CHAPTER

Clive Badelow (4/69) attended the Mid-Year RMC Graduation night on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016. He presented The Scheyville Award to Lt Simon Thompson who graduated to RAInf Corps. Simon's first posting will be as a Platoon Commander with 1RAR in Townsville.

The Mid-Year lunch was held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on a rare sunny day, Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> July. Members with partners included: Clive Badelow, Wal Hall, James Gilchrist, Brian Curren, Greg Todd, Brooke Thorpe, David Webster, Bruce Sellick, and Bill Watson. In addition, we had invited guest Jan Properjohn.

Although the primary objective of the lunch was the usual sharing of our companionship, the meeting also provided the opportunity to share details of and discuss our two major functions during the remainder of the year – the AWM Last Post Ceremony on 18<sup>th</sup> August and the 2/69 Reunion 14-16 October. (See later articles.)



### NSW CHAPTER (John Bushell 4/69, Phil Deare 4/71 & Steve Mayhew 2/72)



**ANZAC Day March and Lunch** Our intrepid marchers, around 30 in total, gathered at Curtin Place for the 2016 Sydney march. This was the inaugural ANZAC march route along Elizabeth Street as a result of the Sydney CBD light rail works on George Street. Our contingent stepped off and was ably led out front as usual by Dick Adams. During the march our respects were paid with an 'eyes left' command as we passed both the ANZAC Memorial located in Hyde Park and the war widows reserved viewing area.

As we reached the end of the march, nearing the dispersal point, our OTU contingent made a 'right wheel' at Liverpool Street instead of turning left. This was a master stroke from Dick Adams which allowed us to 'fall out' much closer to the NSW Masonic Club where we were attending our ANZAC luncheon and following service. A great lunch was had by all!

**Calendar of Events:** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, the Chapter meets at the Athenian Greek Restaurant in Barrack Street, Sydney. This venue is conveniently located, not far from the Wynyard train station. Members should begin to arrive at 1200 hours, for a 1230 start.

#### Other Activities:

The Last Post ceremony at the AWM on 18<sup>th</sup> August, where the sacrifice of Gordon Sharp (1/65) during the Battle of Long Tan is being remembered, should be well attended by NSW members.

The Battle for Australia commemoration Dining In Night will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September at the NSW Masonic Club in Castlereagh Street. The 2015 dinner was a great success and well attended by our Scheyvillians. It is hoped that this year, with a greater degree of advanced notice, there will be even stronger support. For those who haven't experienced it, the NSW Masonic Club is a most elegant venue, especially for a dinner, and has the bonus of offering reasonably priced accommodation on site.

Lastly, after a most successful 2015 Christmas lunch at the Kirribilli Club it is likely that we will revert to a harbour cruise format for this year's event on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2016.

**Other Matters:** This year's Queen's Birthday Australian Honours List included one of the NSW Chapter's real stalwarts. Mr Richard Stephen Adams, APM, RFD, was awarded the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division, for services to veterans and their families and to the community. Well done, and well deserved Dick!

## QUEENSLAND CHAPTER (Owen Williamson, 4/70)

- Monthly luncheons have continued successfully on the second Thursday of every month at Fridays Restaurant, Eagle Street, Brisbane. These traditional lunches were dwindling in numbers but over the last year have had resurgence in popularity with an average of 10 to 12 members each month.
- ANZAC Day March: Following considerable interest from the guys we had 18 members march as a group of proud former officers. Unfortunately we have had dwindling numbers coming to the after march buffet luncheon at the USC club due to their Corps commitments. We have therefore made the decision not to sponsor a luncheon next year.
- The Annual Black Tie Dinner was held at the United Services Club on 2<sup>th</sup> April 2016. We had 44 very keen starters including two of our Patrons Brigadier Dick Flint accompanied by Danae plus Brigadier Stan Maizey accompanied by his daughter Courtney Maizey - Baker. The night was a resounding success with grace said by Hugh Begbie (1/71) and a host of tall tales from Laurie Muller (1/65), Owen Williamson (4/70) and Michael Hart (2/69) on activities relating to OTU. Laurie spoke about Gordon Sharp (1/65), Owen Williamson spoke about his trip to Long Tan and Cambodia, whilst Michael spoke about our continued support for 'Vitae', who look after troubled youth.
- We propose to have a mixed luncheon in October for the men to bring their partners along to the traditional luncheon held at Fridays. This is in response to their requests to have a luncheon at the same time as the guys.
- Our finances are in good shape and we have \$3252.63 in the bank thanks to a very recent top up from the National Committee of \$1,090.00 for our return of subs. Once again, when we receive our allocation of state funds from the National Committee for Youth leadership we will make a donation to 'Vitae' who provide outward bound type courses.

## SA CHAPTER (Gary Vial, 3/69)

**OTU Formation Lunch:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April saw 16 Scheyvillians and partners at The Salopian Inn at McLaren Vale to celebrate the 51st Anniversary of the establishment of OTU. The next luncheon will be the Remembrance Day lunch on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November at a venue to be advised.



Rear: Barry Wilmot (1/71), Malcolm Nicole (1/70), Geoff Houghton (3/71) and Ken Wagnitz (2/71).  
3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Deirdre Wilmot, Lee Nicole, Annie Healey, Ashley Steel, Libby Vial, Michelle Wagnitz, Carmel & Don Fairweather (3/68)  
Kneeling: John Serakowski, (1/69), Craig Steel (1/70) and Trevor Ranford (2/72)  
Sitting: Gary Vial (3/69)

**ANZAC DAY:** An absolutely fabulous day for the march in Adelaide. Gary Vial and his father Allan Vial DFC, a 93 year old veteran of 64 operations with the elite RAF Bomber Command Path Finder Force in WW2, and his son Tom marched to the Dawn Service at Brighton. Then Gary went to Adelaide to march with OTU contingent. Sadly there were not as many as last year but once again a sterling effort by Don Stewart (1/65) who despite needing assistance from his walking stick (or should that be marching or pace stick) doubled back after marching with Legacy to join the contingent. It was quite a warm day, so the contingent retired to the Exeter Hotel in Rundle Street for some well-earned re-hydration.



## TASMANIAN CHAPTER (Ray Williams, 2/71)

At the last Tasmanian lunch, the 'Chapter photographer' left his camera home. He was awarded 'extras'! This time around the 'one doing the extras' managed to bring along the camera for this event. The lunch was held at the RYCT (Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania) and attended by good group of regulars. Unfortunately there were three late non-starters but the rest of us had a most enjoyable lunch.

A silent tribute was paid for David Taylor who most recently passed away. David was a regular attendee at most if not all of our lunches. We were also honoured by the attendance of Gavan Connell (1/71) who 'flew in from the US' just for the occasion! Now that is dedication. Lunching at the RYCT looks to have had an 'effect' on one of our attendees (see Back Page)!

Our next lunch will be held at noon on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, in the new Restaurant at the Penny Royal Development the Launceston. Penny Royal is on road to Trevallyn just before the Bridge.



Jo Chromey purchased the abandoned Penny Royal site a couple of years ago and has completely redeveloped it, but retained the gunpowder mill and has added some adventure attractions such as rock wall climbing and abseiling.

There is an Iron Horse Brewery bar next to the restaurant where they do beer tastings so thought we would meet there. They fire the cannons on the hour so we will feel at home!

## VICTORIAN CHAPTER

### Monthly Lunches

The monthly lunches are held at the RACV Club, 501 Bourke St, at 12.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month – the same day as the National Committee Meeting. The lunches attract 10 – 15 Scheyvillians with the basis being Class 3/69. Smart casual, positive thoughts and good jokes essential. Brian Cooper (3/69) remains the contact. Please advise Brian at least 2 days before the lunch of your attendance. 0418 373 874 or [bjcooper@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bjcooper@bigpond.net.au)

The May Lunch: Scheyvillians are everywhere as the 10 apologies for the May lunch show:  
Frank Paton (2/70) - Trekking the Larapinta Trail near Alice; Chris Coates (3/71) - travelling in Europe;  
Ian Kelly (2/67) lunching with General Jim Hughes, seniority prevails (47001 James Curnow Hughes: 3 RAR Korea 20 Jul 51 – 23 Jul 52, AHQ Visit to SVN 21 – 30 Jun 66 and 4 RAR SVN 11 May – 18 Dec 71)!  
Ray Elder (2/67) driving to Sydney with daughter who is starting a new position- what a father!  
Peter Whitelaw (3/66) - temporarily medically indisposed;  
Brian McCarthy (3/69) unable due to other commitments, probably retraining the Collingwood team  
Tim Fischer (3/66) - still in Europe having visited Monash's HQ etc;  
Tony Beddison (3/69) - having to work in Sydney for three days to pay taxes in order to support our retired members - and planning/threatening to retire soon;  
and Dick Flint who asked to be remembered to those who graduated from 3/69 to 2/70 when he was CI.

Those who attended were Alan Brimelow, Nick Callinan, Brian Cooper, Peter Don and Bernie Gleeson (all 3/69), Neil Leckie (3/68), Noel Osborne (4/66) and Ian Dennis (4/66 – 1/67, but that is another story!)





The July Victorian Monthly Lunch: Bernie Gleeson, Brian McCarthy, Brian Cooper (all 3/69), Frank Miller (4/67), Tony Trevethick (1/66), Peter Don, Robin Hunt (both 3/69), Neil Leckie (3/68), Roger Donnelley (author, The Scheyville Experience), Tim Fischer, Peter Whitelaw (both 3/66), Hondo Gratton and Alan Brimelow (both 3/69).

### Annual Tennis Day:



On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April the Victorian Chapter held its fifth annual tennis day. Scheyvillians, family and friends gathered at Melbourne's pristine Kooyong Tennis Club for a great afternoon's play. In balmy Melbourne Autumn weather the 'round robin' competition was fought out on superb

grass courts. As has always been the case, all players were winners with each receiving a prize of fine chocolate.

At end of the day we retired to the Tennis Club Bistro for refreshments and a convivial meal. It was another excellent afternoon and our sincere thanks go to Denise Cosgriff and Col Lindsay (2/67) for its organisation.

### Annual Dinner:



The Annual Dinner for the Victorian Chapter was moved forward to 22<sup>nd</sup> April this year so it could be combined with the 1/70 Reunion. This meant that the numbers, approaching 120, were slightly larger than normal. With Ray Andrews (1/70) as the MC and his wife Maggie running the computer, it was always going to be a well-planned and well-executed evening. The venue was, once again, the William Angliss Institute with the students using the evening as a part of their course. Special guests for the evening were one of the 'originals',



George Fisk from Class 1/65, and the ‘pocket dynamo’ and former National Chairman Tony Sonneveld who was down for his class reunion with Class 1/70.

Ray introduced the ‘birthday boys’ in National Chairman Frank Miller (4/67) and Amo Rizzuto (4/70) who’s birthdays were that day and Bernie Gleeson (3/69) who’s birthday was the next day (photo previous page).

Shortly after Frank was introduced to welcome all with usual polished ‘oration’. Little mention was made of Frank’s NS posting as OC 1 Mobile Petroleum Laboratory, however Frank has found a photograph of two OCs of 1 Mob Pet Lab together, Leigh Haymason (1/69) and Frank Miller (4/67)!

As usual Ray plucked one of the dinner guests from the floor for an interview. This year it was ‘Angry Jack’ Parker from Class 1/70. These days ‘Angry Jack’ is better described as ‘Jovial Jack’.

The annual raffle was held with money raised going to the Youth Leadership Fund. Prizes were:  
 A family ticket for the schooner Enterprise donated by Ian Watson (2/70),  
 A ten year old Coizet XO Gold cognac donate by George Guimarra (1/70),  
 Two Cadbury chocolate baskets donated by Frank Miller (4/67),  
 A 1.125 bottle of Black Douglas whisky anonymously donated,  
 Two \$50 vouchers for fresh Tassal Salmon donate by Allan McCallum (3/70), and  
 A 2008 bottle of Geographe shiraz anonymously donated.  
 The raffle raised well over \$1,000 for Youth Leadership.

Toasts well made for ‘The Ladies’, Deceased Scheyville Comrades and the OTU. During this period we were entertained by Vince Berne (4/69) with a brilliant rendition of Danny Boy.

A special event occurred towards the end of the evening when Keith Webb, CEO of Image Control, a film and documentary company, recorded the evening’s rendition of the OTU Song. It is believed that this has never been attempted before. Details of where the song can be accessed will be advised in due course!

The evening closed with Frank Miller returning to thank all for attending and for the brilliant job done by Ray Andrews as the MC. He also wished Class 1/70 all the best for the rest of their reunion and looked forward to seeing many of them at the ANZAC Day Parade.

### **ANZAC Day (Frank Miller, 4/67)**

This year the largest contingent ever marched under the OTU Banner in Melbourne’s ANZAC Day pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance. Around seventy Scheyvillians, including a significant number from the Class 1/70 reunion, took part. Chris Madden (1/70) led the group. Although not quite to the high standard reached at Scheyville, a fine level of marching excellence was nonetheless displayed.

Following the salute at the Shrine the contingent fell out – again with pleasing precision. From there, after a short tram journey, and, joined by the ladies, we reconvened for luncheon and fellowship at the Toorak Services Club. A minor discrepancy between the numbers who ‘warned in’ and who actually attended meant a rushed call for several sandwich platters. Then followed a memorable afternoon of fellowship and social interaction – enhanced by the superb red wines on offer. The weather was great and it was a further opportunity for members of Class 1/70 to catch up with each other and with other Victorian Scheyvillians in general.

We are once more indebted to Ray Elder, firstly for instigating the Victorian Chapter’s participating in the March and secondly, for organising the “afters” – and the additional food. The march was a fitting commemoration for all those who had made the Supreme Sacrifice for the Nation. The afternoon was a fine celebration of “Scheyville Experience”.



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA (David Ward, 2/66 via Frank LeFaucheur, 1/71)

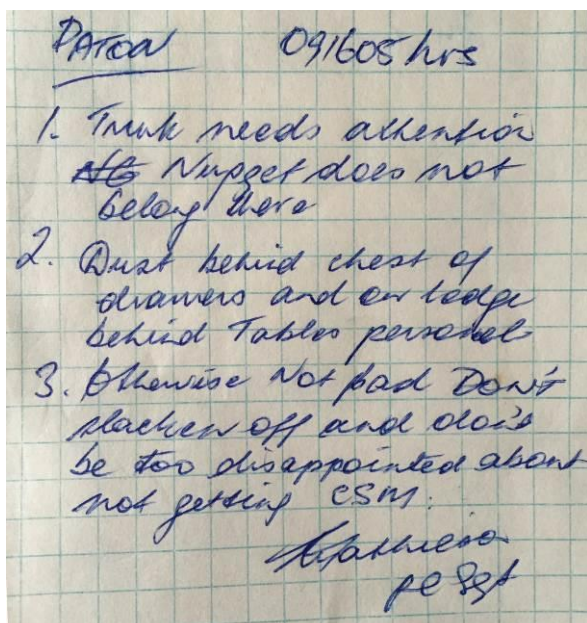
The WA Chapter, although small, remains active and cohesive. This is demonstrated by the members attending the quarterly lunches at 'The Romany' in Northbridge, along with the now annual South-West weekend in February each year. The latest lunch was held on 5<sup>th</sup> August and the last for this year will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> November. We have informal groups pursuing their joint interests, such as drinking at David Atkinson's winery and crewing his yacht, keen participants being Graham Mathieson (1/70), Bruce Thorpe (3/66). Chapter members also follow the artistic pursuits of Christine LeFaucheur. After a series of solo Shows Chris has "*joined the digital age*" and created her own website! [www.chrislefaucheur.com](http://www.chrislefaucheur.com)

The WA Chapter marched in the Perth ANZAC Day. The FUP was in St Georges Terrace, and the march moved east towards Adelaide Terrace, with an 'Eyes right' when they passed the Concert Hall. Next was a right wheel down Victoria Avenue into Langley Park. The photo shows the chapter marching in the parade with "Senior Man" Bernie Houston (1/65), supporting the banner on the left with the other "Senior Man" John O'Halloran (also 1/65) (not supporting the banner!) on the right. Others are (L – R): Glenn Longmire (1/72), Frank LeFaucheur



(1/71), Steve Merralls (3/70). Just visible beyond Glenn is Derek Ladyman (2/66). We were led by Andrew Martindale (1/72) with Dave Ward (2/66) 'keeping the step' - bit hard with different Bands back and front !! All conducted in "Western Front" drizzle but most subsequently retired to Below 43 for some quiet ales and lie-swapping - our Chairman David Ward (always the Infantry Officer in the field, with Batman) had arranged for his Batman (Lynley) to bring in his dry socks - whatta guy!!! Considering the weather it was a good turnout by the crowd again.

The Chapter also attends and marches in ANZAC Parades in Busselton and Albany, and there is continual contact between local OTU veterans and voluntary work by members such as Duncan Warren (3/68) participating in Legacy, the RSL and supporting servicemen based Trust Funds.



Speaking of West Australians, in particular Graham Mathieson (1/70), at the June Victorian Monthly Lunch Frank Paton (2/70) produced a hand-written note following a room inspection:

'I found this original today. Signed by a cadet in 1/70 class who was our platoon Sgt. - Mathieson. Must have been near end of my junior class 2/70 (probably July 1970 – Ed!). Haven't come across him since. Sounds like he had been pushing for me to be appointed CSM but lost out! I didn't know he was doing that! Best regards Frank Paton'



## VALE:

**David Christie 1/68** (Frank Miller 4/67, Mick Hart 2/69, Mick Stone 1/68, Neil Leckie 3/68)

3792686 David George Christie, born Chelsea, Vic, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1946. His early years were spent in the small hillside town of Belgrave in Melbourne's east after which the family moved closer to the city. David completed secondary education at Box Hill Grammar School. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman he was employed as a clerk in the Commonwealth Statisticians Office. David was selected for officer training at Scheyville after two weeks at 2RTB Puckapunyal, Victoria. Having played football for South Belgrave in the MDFA in the same competition as Upper Ferntree Gully's Mick Stone (also 1/68) it was known that David was a highly competitive person who would excel at almost every sport he played. He is particularly remembered for his inspiring performance in the cross country run. The trophy given for that event proudly bears his name. Whilst at OTU with David was appointed to the rank of Corporal. He received the Athletics Prize and on graduation on 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1968 was allocated to Royal Australian Infantry and posted 2 RAR at Enoggera.

David enjoyed the life there very much and elected to make a career in the army. Following an appointment as an instructor at JTC he joined the SAS Regiment in January 1973. With the continual and demanding personal challenge this involved, he had found his true vocation. To quote his son Ben in delivering his eulogy 'David just loved being in the Special Forces – the parachuting, the danger and the adrenalin'. Much of his career involved working with and, secondment to, elite units in the US army. He was well respected in his field of expertise.

David retired from the Regular Army in 1994. He transferred to the Army Reserve and retired from the Army on his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Most of his life thereafter was spent on North Stradbroke Island, Queensland where he ran the BP service station. He also put much of his time into working with disadvantaged young children – another strong fit where he could use his enthusiasm for adventure combined with his outstanding teaching and mentoring abilities. David passed away on 14 May in the Ramsay Private Hospital at Greenslopes in Brisbane, after a battle with cancer. His funeral was held at the Star of the Sea Church, Cleveland, Queensland on Monday 23 May. Well represented at the service were people from the SAS/Commando fraternities and Scheyvillians. We have lost a classmate and friend, a fine soldier and a man who was a credit to OTU. Our sincere condolences go to his family. RIP Dave Christie.

Dave Christie (below) and with Mick Stone(1/68) on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012



**Chris Topp 2/68** (Wal Hall, David Buckley, Bill Turner 2/68, Mandy Anderson and Neil Leckie 3/68)



Christopher Broughton Topp was born on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1946 at Bowral, NSW and completed his secondary education at Kings School, Parramatta, NSW. He attended the Australian National University and Graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1968. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman he was employed as a teacher by the Department of Education in NSW. Chris graduated with Class 2/68 on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1968 and was posted to the RAASC for Corps Training at the RAASC Centre.

Trish Topp advised the OTU Association through 2/68 Classmate Wal Hall that Chris had passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> June from Secondary Melanoma.

**Chevalier College Website posted:** “Chris Topp commenced teaching at Chevalier College on 31 January 1976. An extremely capable and inspiring teacher, Chris did not take long to earn the admiration and respect of his students and peers alike. These qualities and affections travelled with Chris for the entire 35 plus years in which he dedicated

himself to the ‘family’ of Chevalier College. This was exactly half of his life span. Chris was instrumental in introducing young people to the value of personal challenge through his work in Wilderness courses, Duke of Edinburgh programs and the love of all things literary, historical and geographical. His organisational skills combined with his amazing empathy for others made him the obvious choice for the role of Deputy Headmaster/Principal in 1993. Chris held this position until 2003 when he decided to return to his love of classroom teaching in a part-time capacity. Chris officially retired in 2010 but returned to the college in various consulting roles.

In 2013, after being approached by the MSC Provincial, Chris took up the role of Chairperson of the Chevalier College Board. Chris again excelled in this role. His intimate knowledge of the ‘Heart’ of the college meant that he was fully attuned to the strategic future and the ethos (essence) of the school and its place in the Southern Highlands. Chris continued in this role until his diagnosis of ill health in April 2015.

In November 2015, despite being very unwell, Chris was able to attend a gathering of the College Board where he was presented with the highest award of the college – The Esprit du Chevalier medal (the spirit of the knight). Over the years, Chris Topp taught, mentored and led more than 19,000 students, teachers and parents and community service personnel. He was active in his local community through volunteer work such as: Mt Gibraltar Landcare, Friends of Sturt, the Sturt Pottery, Films in the Southern Highlands; and in guiding local people on various bushwalks. He was loved, respected and highly valued by all with whom he came into contact.”

Chris had connections with several Scheyvillians including Classmates David Buckley through David’s wife and Barry Anderson who graduated with Class 3/68 through Barry’s wife Mandy who worked with Trish for about 20 years. David said: Not surprising that Chris took on the adventure training program. I heard that Trish used their new-born 1st child as a teaching aid to try to give her teenage male students some understanding of parenting & nurturing. Not bad for a couple of History teachers. Trish is a person who projects calmness & peace.

**From Bill Turner:** Sadly, I turned to the 1968 photograph of “Junior A Class” – twelfth intake of National Servicemen, which hangs on my office wall and noted that Chris sat next to me in that photograph taken in May 1968. Alphabetically, the latter part of the alphabet have to wait together for their “turn” at whatever and so a kind of “end of the alphabet” crew developed among the Topp-Turner-Wyman-Whiteford-Waldeck. I remember Chris in the short time that I knew him as an articulate athlete, a fair dinkum good mate. Vale Chris Topp.



**Mandy Anderson:** Chris' funeral was delayed until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016 to allow family to return from the UK. It was held at McGrath Hall, Chevalier College. The hall was filled almost to capacity as hundreds of friends of Chris and Trish from many contexts of Chris's life came to farewell a wonderful teacher and community and family member, and to share the loss that Trish and family were suffering. The coffin and the foyer of the hall were decorated with beautiful native flowers and proteas to reflect Chris's love of the wilderness. Many of Trish's teaching friends and colleagues were also in attendance. The music was led by an ensemble of fine voices. Tributes were delivered by members of the church, the college family, Scheyvillian Wal Hall, members of the local community LandCare group, ex-students, family and friends. Trish delivered a fitting and moving eulogy, with poise and eloquence about Chris's life, of the family and their life together, of his 35-year career at Chevalier, and of all of his many interests, most recently his love of pottery – faltering only when describing the final time as his illness began to take hold and the inevitable had to be accepted. Members of the congregation reminisced about their own part in Chris's life as a selection of wonderfully nostalgic slides was shown. Scheyvillians David Buckley, Winston Bucknell, Wal Hall, Dave Knaggs, John Marsden (all 2/68) and Barry Anderson (3/68), made up the OTU contingent in attendance.

## **VIETNAM ISSUES:**

### **Repatriation 2016 - Bring Them Home**

Report by the National RSL President Ken Foster. Debrief Winter 2016.

In 2013 the Northern Territory Branch of the V.V.A.A. put a submission to the National Council requesting support for a project to bring home the remains of Vietnam War dead that were buried in the Terendak Cemetery in Malaysia. This project was led by Bob Shewring. The National Council agreed to support the project and negotiations with government continued over the next year or so with the Prime Minister announcing the repatriation would go ahead in 2015. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 Bob Shewring and myself were privileged to witness two RAAF C17 Globemaster aircraft landed at RAAF Richmond with the remains of 33 members of our military family, the majority being Vietnam War dead. We were then both privileged, as official guests, to form up with the honour guard on the tarmac as the coffins were unloaded in a formal ramp ceremony.

As part of the official party, led by the official mourner, His Excellency the Governor General, we then moved into an aircraft hangar where every family had a designated and reserved space and the coffins had been placed for a period of private mourning and contemplation, we later re-joined the families for an official repatriation memorial service. Following the service the 33 coffins were each placed in a separate hearse and driven in convoy from Richmond to Parramatta. Nine of those returned were reinterred at the Australian War Graves Cemetery at Rookwood, Sydney NSW on the next day, 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The others will be reinterred over the next week or so in various areas of Australia as requested by families.

On the morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> June both Bob Shewring and myself attended the reburial of eight of those returning at the Australian War Graves, Garden of Remembrance at Rookwood Cemetery.

There remain in the cemetery in Terendak three Vietnam Veterans that the families did not want disturbed, it should be remembered that one of the key guidelines for the project that it was the decision of the families to bring them home, from day one the families wishes have been respected and we must continue to support those families that made the decision to leave the three at peace where they were. The attention to detail by the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs staff was, as we would expect, professional and dignified, no detail was left unattended, no cost spared and the personal attention to the comfort and feelings of the families was a credit to all those involved. The V.V.A.A. can be proud of the part we paid in this project, it adds additional meaning to our motto that in part is to "Honour the Dead" we have filled that obligation. Special recognition should be paid to the contribution of Bob Shewring and his supporters in the Northern Territory, without their vision and dogged determination to this project it may never have come to pass.



## **Re-internment of Alan Jellie, Class 3/67 (Neil Leckie, 3/68 and others)**

Alan Douglas Jellie was born on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1947 in Brisbane. He completed his secondary education at Kelvin Grove State High School. Alan had entered the RAAF and was a Trainee Pilot before transferring to the Army as an Aviation Cadet. On graduation from OTU he was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineers and posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment for further training. Alan transferred to AAAvn Corps and on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1969 was posted to 161 (Indep) Recce Flight.



Alan Jellie had been in Vietnam since 10<sup>th</sup> March 1969. He had recorded 800 plus hours flying Bell 47 G3B-1 Sioux helicopters. 161 (Indep) Recce Flight was just beginning to replace their old Cessnas 180s with the Swiss built Pilatus Porter. (Seen at left at Luscombe field, Nui Dat). The first three Porters arrived in Vietnam on 30<sup>th</sup> November and A14-686 was delivered to Nui Dat. The Porter had its first flights on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and that night while on its first night training flight in Vietnam it was shot down.



At about 2200 hrs on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1969, pilot Captain Barry Donald DSM with Sioux helicopter pilot 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Alan Jellie in the right hand seat were returning, after a night training mission, to Luscombe Airfield at Nui Dat. After taking ground fire the aircraft clipped the last row of rubber trees on the edge of the Binh Ba Rubber Plantation and crashed into a clear area. The aircraft caught fire and was destroyed. Both men died.

Captain Donald's body was repatriated back to Australia where he was laid to rest with a full military service at the Ipswich Cemetery, Queensland. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Jellie's body was taken to Malaysia where he was laid to rest at the Terendak Military Cemetery in Malacca with a full military service. Alan was the last of 24 Army personnel to be buried in the Terendak Military Cemetery.

In Peter Nolan's 2006 book 'Possums and Bird Dogs' Possum Master Graeme Hill-Smith said: 'I'd been wondering when we were going to have a casualty. The aircraft were being shot at. I remember that Alan Jellie took a round through his shirt a while before. It took the pen and pen-holder and it didn't injure him. Aircraft were being hit all the time but nobody was being injured, at least not significantly. And I knew that there was going to be a casualty at some stage. It was a bit of a surprise that it was in a Porter. I think the aircraft had probably flown that afternoon on its first test flight, and Barry Donald had taken it up to do some training. It was the first night-flying exercise. Anyway, he got mixed up in a bit of a firefight about ten miles north of the base and yes, it was very unfortunate. I went up the next day to have a look at the aircraft and there was no doubt about the hits. It was probably the equivalent of a Bren gun – an RPD I think they called it. I don't know what he was doing. There was a post about ten miles north, and as I said they had a firefight going on, and how he got mixed up in it or why I don't know. Perhaps he was going to bring them some assistance.'

In May 2015, Prime Minister Abbott announced that those NoK and descendants of those buried at the Terendak Military Cemetery who wish to have their loved ones repatriated home to Australia will take place under Operation "Bring Them Home". The repatriation and re-interment of those buried at Terendak was organised by the Australian War Graves and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

A formal Repatriation Ceremony (or Ramp Service) took place at Richmond Air Base on Thursday 2nd June. The War Graves Commission, through Alan's sister Christine Marks, advised that access to the RAAF Richmond Base to attend the ceremony was be limited to family members of those veterans being repatriated. Alan's mother Phyllis, father Max and brothers David and Peter are all deceased. Peter Jellie was a 27th Intake Army Apprentice, Fitter Maintenance and died on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1976. A sister Maxine lives in the United States whilst another sister Margaret is in a nursing home in Melbourne. Consequently,

Alan's sister Christine, her husband Andrew Marks and David's widow Helen attended the repatriation ceremony at RAAF Base Richmond.

Alan was taken to Adelaide where he was reinterned on 9<sup>th</sup> June with a full military service carried out at in the Centennial Park War Cemetery in Pasadena, Adelaide. The ceremony followed a service conducted by Reverend Bill Reddin, who served in 161 (Indep) Recce Flight in 1969-70 as a Radio Mech in one of the chapels at Centennial Park.

Scheyvillians who attended the service included 3/67 classmates Bob Ormston, Ray Graetz, Phil Haas, Geoff Longland, Steve Lewis (who opted out of the course after 3 months), John Gunn (1/65), John Sonneveld and Neil Curnow (both 2/68), Don Fairweather and Neil Leckie (3/68), Gary Vial (3/69), Craig Steel (1/70), Trevor Ranford (2/72) and Tim Dewar representing his father Paul Dewar (2/72).

Bob Ormston gave one of the Eulogies at the service:

'Alan and I were on the same course at Scheyville from May to December 1967. Alan was also the best man at my wedding in December that year, before I went to Papua New Guinea and he to flying training in Queensland. Because we're talking of events from 49 years ago, my memory of our six months together is sketchy. But I recall that we shared some coincidental connections. Five years before, Alan and I both went to Marion High School, just down the road. Five years after Scheyville, my wife Elizabeth and I moved into an Army Married Quarter in Rockhampton to find that the Jellie family had lived in the same house, when Alan's father Max was posted there in the late 1950s.

In between, the coincidences continued. When I was 16, I joined the SA Police Force. On the same 3 Year Cadet Course was Alan's older brother David. At my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party, Elizabeth introduced David to a girl from her work, and Helen, who is sitting before me, later became his wife and Alan's sister-in-law.

Two others from our police cadet course went into National Service and were on the same Scheyville course, my good friends Steve Lewis and Ray Graetz (both 3/67), who both served in Vietnam and are here today. Others from our Scheyville class here are Geoff Longland and Phil Haas. Several others have sent their apologies.

As my classmates would attest, our memory of Scheyville is also hazy because most days were a blur as the Army attempted in 22 weeks to turn civilians into infantry platoon commanders, destined for Vietnam. That perhaps was a key difference between three-quarters of the Nashos on the course, and Alan and about 15 others, who had volunteered for National Service to get into Army Aviation. Most of us 'normal' Nashos could not believe we'd had the misfortune to have our birthdays selected by lottery, let alone that anyone would actually volunteer to join the Army in order to fly.

In the event, Alan did very well at Scheyville, graduating in the top quarter of the course (11<sup>th</sup>). I also recall that our graduation was an absolute fizzer, as the Prime Minister at the time went missing off Portsea and the Government decreed that no celebrations were to be held in the official period of mourning. So instead of our planned Graduation Ball, we had a low-key get-together which had to end by 7pm. The irony, given that the Prime Minister was thought to have drowned, is that at the Vietnamese port of Vung Tau, where Australian soldiers could go for brief periods of R&R, the swimming pool was subsequently renamed – surely by someone from our class – officially becoming the Harold Holt Memorial Pool.

More broadly, I think everyone who knew Alan would remember him as a really nice guy. Sadly, I didn't hear of his death until weeks afterwards, not least because the government at the time gave little recognition to those killed in Vietnam, which contrasts significantly with those killed on operational service today. However, this is not the time for recriminations. Instead, I am pleased, as I am sure all of you would be, that Alan has finally returned home. May he Rest in Peace.

## Vietnam Veterans War Museum Visit (Tony Sonneveld, 1/70 and others)

As we are all aware our 'pocket dynamo' and former National Chairman Tony Sonneveld (1/70) has been fighting prostate cancer for many years. Despite his tremendous battle, Tony continues to be an inspiration to all who know him and continues to tick off his 'bucket list' items. Tony attended the combined Victorian/Class 1/70 dinner in Melbourne on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, where he received a rousing reception. He stayed for all the 1/70 reunion activities over the ANZAC Weekend, and was pushed in a wheelchair by John Parker in the ANZAC Day parade.

One of Tony's 'bucket list' items was the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island on Westernport Bay, Victoria. Tony was back in the air on 15<sup>th</sup> June and, after a long walk from the Jetstar dock at Terminal 4 was soon in the Car with Ray Elder (2/67) heading south east. Along the way the two picked up Angry Jack Parker, a 1/70 classmate of Tony. No longer 'angry' Jack and Sue Parker ferried Viv and Tony around Melbourne and pushed me around in the wheelchair during our recent reunion in Melbourne. Jack has never been to the Vietnam Museum on Phillip Island and was keen to join in.



During the organisation of the Phillip Island trip, Tony had been in touch with Danny McCrohan (see also Scheyvillian 4 of 2009). Dan is a CBC Parade school buddy of Tony's from 1959 and they have been the best of friends ever since. Danny was a Nasho and served as an APC Driver with 1<sup>st</sup> APC Squadron from 25<sup>th</sup> May 1966 until 16<sup>th</sup> January 1967 when he transferred to A Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment. His tour ended on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1967. (Left: John, Dan, Tony and Ray)

Dan drove the APC Command Vehicle into the "**Battle of Long Tan**" site the morning after the battle. Dan has spent years as a volunteer

construction worker at the Vietnam Museum and the Armoury is named in his honour. Dan organised a wheelchair for Tony when they reached the museum.

Dan invited Tony's brother John Sonneveld DFC along for the day. John lives at Tyabb and travelled with Dan to the island. John turned 72 in June and still flies the Channel 9 news helicopter in Melbourne.

On return home Tony sent the following email:

'How lucky were we with the weather on Wednesday compared with yesterday. I was astonished with how much they have packed into the Vietnam Museum on Phillip Island. I was also so proud for Danny that they showed him the respect for all the volunteer work he undertook over a 3 year period. Dan has come to Sydney many times to assist me with construction projects over the past 10-13 years. I have felt embarrassed for not visiting his museum before to admire his workmanship.

I appreciated the interest and support from John and Ray in making this trip possible, Thank You!! We must be the shortest group of Scheyvillians collected together in one location. It will be worth an article in the Newsletter.'

Angry Jack added: 'Yes, we were very lucky Tony and what a great day all around.

Special thanks to you Dan for all the work you have put into what is, not only a fantastic museum, but a wonderful tribute and memorial to all who served in Vietnam.



Also, thank you Ray for the driving there and back – much appreciated. The whole day left me reflecting on numerous aspects of our Scheyville and Army experiences, not least of which is the great friends we have and continue to make from those days. Look forward to catching up at the 'Heroes' on 21 July.'

Ray finished with: 'A super day on Wednesday for all of us and so happy that Tony had a great day—and got really stuck into a fantastic pie at our alfresco lunch (i.e., out in the sun on the footpath) at that swish San Remo establishment.

Great to meet the famous Danny McCrohan and finally to meet John Sonneveld and to have time to get to know John Parker on the way home. Sorry if I talk too much John.'

## **Vietnam Veteran Day Services:**

### **Adelaide:**

The RAR Association will hold a Service at its Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground, on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at 11:00 a.m. A light Lunch and Drinks will be available in the Mess following the Service.

### **Brisbane:**

Brisbane VV Day, meet 9.30am at Treasury Casino. March off at 10.40am arrive at ANZAC Square. Service starts at 11.00am. Followed by, nibbles at the Railway Hotel across the road from Cenotaph.

### **Canberra:**

Vietnam Veterans' program of events for August 16-19 including the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

*The ACT and Districts Vietnam Veterans have collaborated with the Federal and ACT Governments, Australian War Memorial (AWM), Ainslie Football Club and Southern Cross Club to honour Vietnam Veterans. On this 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan the Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day program of events for 16-19 August is listed below:*

**PROJECTIONS** (AWM): Continual images from the Vietnam War will be projected onto the various façades of the Australian War Memorial, which will include key theatres of the war and names and ages of the 521 KIAs from the Battle of Long Tan.

**HALL OF MEMORY** (AWM): Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 4pm, John Schumann singing "I was only 19" in Hall of Memory. Ref: [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au) for expressions of interest, attendance limited to 100.

**LAST POST CEREMONY** (AWM): Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 4.55 pm, the story of Private Ken Gant will be read; also "I was only 19", supported by Australia's Federation Guard.

**RECEPTION** at the Great Hall, Parliament House on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 6.30pm. The Australian Government will be issuing invitations to this event. If you wish to attend, an expression of interest is required stating name, address, email, phone contacts for each attendee. There are limited invitations available so get in early by emailing [vietvetsday@gmail.com](mailto:vietvetsday@gmail.com) with required details.

**VIETNAM VALE** (AWM): Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 5.30 am. The Memorial's Commemorative Area will open and the names of the 521 people on the Vietnam War Roll of Honour will be read. Visitors may like to place a poppy on the Roll of Honour.

**STAND-TO SERVICE** (AWM) Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 7 am. A "stand-to" Service will be held at the Stone of Remembrance in front of the Australian War Memorial.

**BREAKFAST in the PARK** at Reid Oval. Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 7.30am. Courtesy ACT Government and prepared by Lions Club.

**VIETNAM VETERANS' REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 10am at the Australian Vietnam Forces Memorial on ANZAC Parade-. Hosted by the ACT and Districts Vietnam Veterans. The service will include a flyover of familiar aircraft. Seats must be taken up by 9:30am ready for official arrivals.

**COMRARDRIE AFTERNOON** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 12.00pm at Ainslie Football Club. Food and drinks available. Check the update for details of this event on the website. [www.vvaa.org.au](http://www.vvaa.org.au)

**MUSIC by the LAKE**. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 12pm to 3pm on the lawns at Southern Cross Yacht Club. Wind down with the local band "Old 45" playing Vietnam era rock and roll music. Food and drinks available. Marquee will be available if weather is inclement.

**LAST POST CEREMONY.** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 4.55 pm at AWM. The Last Post Ceremony will feature the story of Lieutenant Gordon Sharp.

For updated information refer website: [www.vvaa.org.au](http://www.vvaa.org.au) or email [vietvetsday@gmail.com](mailto:vietvetsday@gmail.com).

**Hobart:**

Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Service for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan  
Thursday 18 August 2016 at the Hobart Cenotaph, Queens Domain

The Laying of Wreaths will commence at 11.45am

The service will commence at 12 noon.

Following the service you are invited to attend the Commemorative Luncheon at the Claremont RSL  
at 1 Bilton Street, Claremont at 1.00pm

**Melbourne:**

Vietnam Veterans Day 2016 will commence with a Gunfire Breakfast at 10 am behind the Police Memorial, St Kilda Road.

A Special Vietnam Veterans Day March and Service forming up at the Police Memorial at 10.30am on 18 August 2016 with a step-off.

The service will be at the Shrine of Remembrance Forecourt concluding at 12.15pm.

A 'Brew Truck' will be behind the flags at the conclusion of the service.

All are invited to Victoria's largest commemorative event to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and to pay their respects for the sacrifices of our Vietnam veterans and veterans of the Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (South Vietnam).

Enquiries Maurie Benson 0417 588 886 or [office@vvaavic.org.au](mailto:office@vvaavic.org.au)

**Perth:**

Vietnam Services - Kings Park

The Vietnam Veterans Association will hold its traditional annual march on

14<sup>th</sup> August 2016 from 11:00am to 1:00 pm at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Kings Park.

Several hundred veterans are expected with a sausage sizzle planned and entertainment by the Perth Army Band.

**Sydney:**

Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Service 18<sup>th</sup> August at The Cenotaph, Martin Place at 10.30am.

**Another Vietnam Issue:**

By the time National Service ended I had already spent three years in the Reserve with 22 RVR at Puckapunyal. My Army Reserve battalion was decimated when the Labor Government was elected in December 1972 as it was mostly made up of men undertaking six years (later five) of CMF service in lieu of 'going in the ballot'. The closure of NS happened between camps and plans for the next camp changed rapidly.

I have often wondered what it was like being at Scheyville in 1971 or 1972 knowing that you would not face being posted to Vietnam or what it was like being a Scheyville graduate serving when NS ended. A few people have spoken about those days, but no-one has written an article about it – yet!

Brian Cooper (3/69) was serving in Vietnam in 1971 when another great event for NS happened – the infantry was to be withdrawn (this was eighteen months before, as most people mistakenly claim, the Labor Government withdrew the troops from Vietnam). (Ed.)

**The Withdrawal from South Vietnam 1971-72 (Brian Cooper 3/69)**

I recently converted some videos to DVDs which included an interview with my platoon by 'This Day Tonight' that was filmed in Vietnam when the force reduction had been announced in August 1971. It brought back some memories that the Editor thought might be worth sharing.

I arrived in South Vietnam on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1971 as a Reinforcement Platoon Commander with 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Reinforcement Unit (1ARU). The unit was commanded by Major Les Peters (6 RAR first tour, 1 ARU 19 May 1971) and operated as a large Rifle Company with its own responsibility for a section of the perimeter of the Nui Dat base. Our neighbours on one side were the Jungle Warfare Training Centre (JWTC), where AATTV were involved in training local and regional forces and I think Engineers may have been on the other flank. Several National Service officers were on strength including Ross Heyde (3/67), Peter O'Donnell (3/69), Geoff Daly (4/69) and Bruce Coneybeare (2/70).

This was an exciting time for me, postings as a Platoon Commander at 2RTB, with SVN experienced NCOs, then to Infantry Centre as Platoon Commander in Battle Wing (Corps Training) with some excellent NCOs including Sergeant Billy Ward MM, Andy Downie, Greg Cooper and then to the Reinforcement Holding Unit, had cemented the OTU training. The Battle Efficiency (SVN prep) course at Canungra had further prepared me for the task ahead.

1ARU was a good unit, with plenty of operational tasks to expose the reinforcements, many NSM but also a good element of regular NCOs and soldiers who had stayed behind when their battalions had gone home. It was the first time I had experienced a combined Officers/SGTs Mess which was also a real benefit to a fresh 'Subbie'. Tasks included escorting US Self Propelled guns north to Long Khanh province following the welcome firepower demo for 4RAR, TAOR patrols, ambushing, back up tasks for the two battalions and the like. The good thing was that we were given full support: helicopter insertions, artillery (to danger close), APC transportation and the OC would oversee all insertions from a Bell Sioux helicopter.

Lt Peter Scaife ex UK (ex 1 ARU 1970, 2 RAR, 1 ARU 23 May 1971) had been there a while and had done some work in the province with advisors. He had gained a good understanding of the use of Intelligence from the Task Force. As a result, we gained a report from Int of any VC activity that had occurred in an AO we had been tasked to patrol, in and around the Nui Dinh hills at the time of the month over the previous year or so in the grid coordinates that we were patrolling. It showed that VC had been active in taxing local farmers in the area and we had some confidence that we would have some success. After a gunship and artillery supported helicopter insertion, we set out to patrol/ambush for 3-5 days., but after a successful insertion we were called back in on Day 2 to cover for one of the battalions as a large operation was being launched.

In June, I went on a 'recon' flight with 161 Recce and the pilot was Steve Pearson, a 3/69 classmate. We flew over an area of some quite clear track movement which Steve reported. As we flew over the jungle area we both had an eerie feeling and a couple of days later there was a big contact in that area as part of Operation Overlord (5-13 Jun). During this period I caught up with 3/69 Classmates Terry Walsh and Robin Hunt and Martin Cole who were both there with Artillery.

As an aside two Corporals I had worked with in 2RTB, both 1 RAR Vietnam Veterans, Stan Hanuszewicz (1 RAR 1965/66, C Sqn 1<sup>st</sup> Arm Regt Mar 1971) and Andrew Anderson (1 RAR 1965/66, Corporal C Sqn 1<sup>st</sup> Arm Regt Apr 1971) had both transferred from Infantry to Armour on the basis that "a foot of steel was better than a thin green shirt", and were back in Vietnam with 1 Arm Regt. They were both involved in the bunker fighting on Operation Hermit Park. Hanuszewicz's tank barrel was hit by an RPG and he had to fire a solid shot to clear the barrel and go on fighting and Anderson was quite badly injured during these operations, being awarded the MID. The 'foot of steel' may well have saved them on the day!

Against this backdrop, my OC gave me the chance to fill a spot in 3RAR, but advised me that he had been told 3RAR was to go home quite soon, with their tour cut short (25<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> October 1971). He offered to ensure that I gained further posting in country if I stayed with 1ARU- an offer I was pleased to accept. On 18<sup>th</sup> August 1971, Prime Minister McMahon formally announced most troops home by Christmas.



Over the next month or so we were given the confirmation about the force wind down and 3RAR's early departure. The TF Commander's aim was to keep the enemy away from our base. We continued to provide support to the battalions and actively patrolled our Area of Operations and it was then that 'This Day Tonight' visited Nui Dat to find out how the troops, especially National Servicemen, felt about still being on operations when things were winding down.

My platoon had been tasked with a 2-3 day ambush patrol and the OC attached the reporter and cameraman to us for the first km or so. The aim was to patrol out to the plantation area, harbour up and allow the reporter to interview NSM. Then we would escort back into the base before proceeding on the task.

All went well, TV coverage of the platoon deploying, filming of the harbour and then the Pl SGT introduced them to 3-4 NSM to interview. He then ran out of soldiers and suggested that they might like to interview me- not so pleased about that!

We were a minute or two into the interview, full cam gear etc when automatic fire rang out quite close by and mid interview I took off to the perimeter to find out what was going on- all on camera. Turns out that



two local RF friendlies from JWTC were ambushed on their motorbike on the road to Hoa Long, just a couple of hundred meters from our position. We secured the area, and then sent a small team to escort the news crew back to base, leaving the platoon to cover the clean-up. The various film clips captured the emotion of the soldiers, and I was pretty pleased that the overarching theme was, "we have a job to do", that it was a little exciting/concerning and that it was a chance to put all our training into action- while not necessarily wanting contact with the enemy.

An interesting situation here was that I was told that the report would go to air quite quickly and I was concerned that my wife and family might see it before I had a chance to try and call home to warn them that all was OK. As it turned out I managed to call a few days later on return to base just in time.

Throughout this time it's fair to say that the scaling down didn't adversely affect morale to my best recollection. There was still a job to do and the unit was kept busy with patrolling and escort type duties.

The OC kept his promise and after R&R in Australia I assumed command of the Defence and Employment (D&E) Platoon (Guard and Escort etc) in Saigon where we guarded the Embassy, Ambassador's Residence, the Sergeants Quarters and Soldiers hotel and carried out a range of escort duties. This was a fascinating posting and again because the HQAFV was still in full swing there was plenty to do and little thought of the withdrawal. I am sure however that the diggers continued with their countdown of days to go although individual departures were quite fluid.

D&E Platoon was a completely different experience with 24/7 responsibility for our Guarding duties, often involving driving the streets of Saigon at night, braving the 'White Mice' (SVN Military Police) to visit the various sites. In addition, there were always special tasks around the Free World Headquarters particularly in moving equipment and records etc for return to Australia.

We became involved in handing over Australian vehicles for shipment home and were tasked to go to Long Binh to collect replacement US Jeeps and trucks for use by AAAGV. We arrived at a huge transport compound to be handed a fleet of pretty dilapidated vehicles to drive back to Saigon and Vung

Tau. I had noticed an immaculate new looking, fully kitted out jeep with full US Insignia near the front office, during the handover. As I commanded the convoy back to Saigon, you can imagine my surprise to find the immaculate Jeep two vehicles behind me standing out like a sore thumb amongst the rest of the very used and tired vehicles. One of my enterprising lads had decided that we deserved better!

In early February 1972, at the transition to the Australian Army Assistance Group Vietnam I handed over Command to another OTU Graduate, Les Boag 4/68. We would both serve in 3RAR on RTA.

In hindsight it is interesting to reflect that the withdrawal process had little impact on our day to day lives. There was always plenty to do in Nui Dat or in Saigon, the operational tasks continued and additional tasks associated with handing over added to the variety. In Saigon, individual soldiers had RTA days to go rather than the whole unit so the trickle flow did not have an adverse effect on the unit. It was important though to keep the lads busy and alert as we understood the vulnerability that existed.

### **SBS AATTV Documentary: (Peter Morgan, 1/66)**

I watched the SBS documentary on the Australian Army Training Team in Vietnam (AATTV) with some interest, heightened by my having known some of the soldiers involved. WO2 Keith Payne (later VC (Fieldcraft) and Major Adrian Clunies-Ross (Minor Tactics) were both on the staff at OTU Scheyville, where they were part of a remarkable team turning out 2Lts in six months. Payne went to Vietnam after I knew him and Clunies-Ross had done his stint with the team before coming to OTU. With the frenetic pace at OTU, I didn't get to know them outside the training/teaching sessions.

Barry Petersen was a Major when I met him at the Reinforcement Wing at the Infantry Centre, Ingleburn before going to Vietnam. His remarkable story was written up in his book *Tiger Men*, which I can recommend. A couple of things I remember about Petersen: He was the PMC (President of the Mess Committee) at the Infantry Centre and his pleasant good nature gave no indication to me of the soldier that he was. I didn't know what an amazing person he was until I read his book.

One night at the Infantry Centre, I left the Officer's Mess early without getting permission from the senior officer, a Major who seemed to take some delight in making life tough for subalterns, and went back to my room and to bed. That Major usually refused a request to leave. After a while, another 2Lt knocked on my door and told me I'd been ordered back to the mess by the Major. So, back into uniform and off I go. As I walked Barry caught up with me. "You're off to the mess late tonight, Peter", he said. I told him why and added that I had an early start the next morning, taking diggers out for some training session. He told me to go back to bed, and he'd sort it out. I never heard anything from the first Major, and he left me alone after that.

Another time when I was on the phone to Bev when Barry came past. I told him I was talking to my fiancé and he took the time to say hello and have a bit of a chat.

I was in the mess when Captain Fazekas (not in the documentary) came into the mess. He'd just returned from his stint with the AATTV where he'd worked with the Montagnards as Petersen had. I'd never seen two men embrace as enthusiastically as they did, but their service on the Team had created a strong bond. Fazekas still wore the bracelets on his arm that the Montagnard had given him. Petersen still had just a couple that he wore. These men had become highly respected within and part of the Montagnard community, and the bracelets had great significance for them.

While not mentioned in the documentary, the RSM of 6RAR in Vietnam, George Chinn, was also a member of the training team. I didn't know that at the time - and it probably wouldn't have meant all that much to me - but that's four members of the most decorated unit of the Australian army with whom I had the honour of having contact.

Of the many things that the SBS documentary brought home to me, probably the most outstanding was how these men could go through war and retain decent and sensitive human values. And that is true of the Australian soldier. For that alone, the documentary is worth it.

While I'm waxing historical: Sometime in 1967, an Australian General visited Vietnam and called in at the C Company 6RAR Officers Mess. During his visit, having found I'd been at Scheyville, he told us that the entry to OTU at the beginning of '67 had set the highest ever education standard for the army. If you didn't have a degree, you didn't proceed with the selection for officer training. After six intakes, they knew they could get enough cadets from those with degrees. Some fifty years on, I might be mistaken, but I wonder if that can be confirmed? I think one of the third intake, beginning of 1966, had only a NSW Intermediate Certificate (third year high school).

The other thing about that meeting was that the General said he thought he had met me before. Not having met many Generals, I knew we hadn't, and said so. Later the Company 2IC told me my response was wrong. "If a General says he has met you before, you don't disagree. You suggest that it might have been at so-and-so." I might have missed that lesson at Scheyville.

Peter Morgan served with 1 ARU from 10<sup>th</sup> November to 14<sup>th</sup> December 1966 and then with 6 RAR until 14<sup>th</sup> June 1967.

### **FEATURES:**

**Awards:** A number of Scheyvillians received awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours List this year. Tony Sonneveld was quick off the mark to identify three of them:

Anthony Beddison AC, (3/69),  
Nick Callinan AO (3/69), and  
Dick Adams OAM, (3/72).

Tony was at school with Nick at CBC Parade, East Melbourne in the sixties. Nick lived in Puckapunyal Area Officers' Mess briefly when Tony was posted to Puckapunyal August 1970.

### **The Army Annual Lunch, 'Heroes' Toorak: The Modern Army - Org, Vehicles and Eqpt** (Brigadier David O'Brien via Brian Cooper, 3/69)

A splendid lunch was held at the 'Heroes' in May with the aim of bringing attendees up to date on the latest Army organization and personal equipment development. The presenters brought along a Bushmaster vehicle, two fully dressed mannequins with the latest individual clothing and equipment, and the latest version of the Austeyr with its various attachments. Some notes of interest:

#### **Organizational structure**

- The Army will have 3 x Multi-role Combat Brigades (MCB).
- Each MCB has its own Armoured Cavalry Regiment consisting of Tank Squadron, Cavalry Squadron and APC Squadron to establish habitual relationships.
- Ready Brigade concept 1<sup>st</sup> Ready, 2<sup>in</sup> In training and 3<sup>rd</sup> Regrouping on a 1/1/1 cycle.
- Parachute and special operations catered for separately.

#### **Equipment and Vehicles**

- Our Tank is the M1 A1 Abrams and is in the process of being integrated in Darwin, Townsville and Brisbane.
- The LAND 400 strategy is aimed at the future combined arms fighting capability and some \$10B has been allocated to include 225 Combat Recon vehicles to replace ASLAV and 450 armoured fighting vehicles to replace M113.
- The Land Rover is being replaced by the Mercedes G Wagon. MAN trucks to replace the Mack and Unimog will come in 5T, 10T and 15 T variants with approximately 35% of the fleet being armour protected. Cost around \$4.5B.



- Hawkeye is the new Armoured Command Vehicle (ACV) for COs and have been designed to withstand armor piercing rounds and IED- cost \$1.5B.
- There will be digitized communications Army-wide.
- An amphibious capability is being established around the Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) – looks like a jump-jet aircraft carrier.
- Unmanned aerial surveillance systems (Drones) are being introduced. The Nano version weighing 18 grams and with a range of 2.5 km is planned to be provided down to Section level.
- Other kit being introduced includes: 40 mm Direct Fire Support System, night-fighting equipment, Chemical/Bio/Nuclear Defence Equipment, Deployable Health, Counter Rocket/Artillery/Mortar, a Medium Howitzer and a replacement mortar.
- Bushmaster is designed to get a Section of troops with crew at speeds of up to 80 kph, comfortably to the battle. They can withstand IEDs very well.

#### **Soldier Combat Ensemble System** (what we would call clothing, webbing and personal kit)

- This has undergone significant modernization and repeated field trials to get it right.
- The aim is to treat the soldier as a weapons platform.
- There are to be three ‘tranches’ of 7500 sets each rolled out to each MCB. The first ‘tranche’ was rolled out in 2015 with the second being rolled out now.
- Five elements to this ensemble include Load Carrying Eqpt with some 40 discrete components/pouches, body armour, which have both Kevlar type front apron and ballistic plates (including a training version) given limited life of the ‘active’ version, high cut helmets, ‘in ear’ (not headphones) ear protection and communications, bone mike instead of boom that could get caught in obstacles/vegetation etc, and ballistic and laser protected glasses and goggles.
- Load carrying gear includes a **big** ‘Bergen’ style pack built onto a totally adjustable ‘plastic’ frame to suit all shapes and sizes.
- The cost of kitting out the individual soldier is now around \$15,000 each (compared to perhaps about \$500 in our time!!)

#### **AusSteyr EF88**

This newly upgraded and Lithgow developed weapon is quite impressive. This new version has a built in and easy to use front grip and converts to a bipod with a simple click. It has been modified so that it can use 5.56mm rounds from Australia, US and European sources. It comes in 7 role packs/configurations, and weighs in at about 4kg.

- Rifleman version has day sight and laser aiming and range-finding.
- Commander version has thermal imaging.
- Marksman version has bigger more solid bipod.
- There is an interchangeable grenade launcher variant.
- Image intensification is good to around 800 metres.
- Soldiers reliably hit targets at 600m with the Rifleman version!!
- This weapon is impressive to hold and shoot. Solid, easy to use and to switch sights etc, and well balanced.

#### **What Scheyvillians Do**

**‘He oughta be congratulated on his OTU learned bush skills’** (via Alan Brimelow 3/69)

For Tim Fischer (3/66) it must have been just like being back in the Colo-Putty training area!

Former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer is fit and well after being forced to spend the night in bushland near Dederang, in north-eastern Victoria. Mr Fischer went for a hike on Mount Jack on Tuesday afternoon and underestimated how long the return journey would take (and lost his glasses). He rang his family and let them know he had no choice but to stay put until he walked out to safety this morning.

Apart from a few scratches Mr Fischer is otherwise fine, after being caught with little to tide him over.

"One Akubra hat, one AA code coat and one apple from Stanley kept me going all night," he said. "So I salute the Stanley apples, the Akubra kept my head warm and all I could do was sit it out."

Mr Fischer apologised to police and emergency services who tried to find him and said he had learned his lesson. "These things happen 'tis done, a non, he quipped," he said. "(It was a) perfect storm in a teacup and I salute all involved with what ended up being an unnecessary because I was able to walk out safely." Mr Fischer apologised to police and emergency services who tried to find him and said he had learned his lesson. "These things happen," he said.

Mr Fischer said he was spotted by a helicopter crew but it was too difficult to get him out so he "just resumed plan A" which was to walk out.

### **Dr John Howe OAM (2/66)**

I recently accompanied our Governor-General (as Physician to the GG & the Official party) on an overseas visit to France and the Western Front for the ANZAC Day 2016 ceremony. I ran into Tim Fischer at Villers-Bretonneux the day before ANZAC Day. We had a photo together (John Howe 2/66 and Tim Fischer 3/66) and he encouraged me to write an article for our magazine.

On a bleak day, on the Western Front, two Scheyvillans (Tim Fischer, 3/66 and John Howe, 2/66), walked the floor of the Chateau de Bertangles (near Villers-Bretonneux). That day was the day before our Governor-General, HE General the Honorable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Rtd), delivered the dawn service address at the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux. This address was broadcast live back to Australia. The Chateau served as the Australian Corps HQ, during The Great War, from March 1918 until September 1918.

Australian troops arrived in France 100 years ago, 1916, to fight on The Western Front, many had just endured the campaign at Gallipoli. Almost 100 years ago, in 1918, our very own Commander of the Australian Corps, Lieutenant-General John Monash, paced this same floor as he made critical decisions for the great advance of the AIF against the Germans, on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918, at the Battle of Amiens. On this day, Monash and his troops defeated eight divisions of 200,000 German troops, in a well co-ordinated and sophisticated land battle. The Battle of Amiens saw the beginning of the Hundred Days Offensive which led directly to the armistice with Germany. From Bertangles Monash launched his final, and decisive, push in early September, on Mont St Quentin and Peronne.

On 12 August 1918, King George V arrived at the Chateau, and conferred a knighthood on this fine soldier and leader. This was the first time, in 200 years, that an investiture had taken place on the battlefield. It is of interest that the Unknown Soldier, who now rests at The Australian War Memorial in Canberra, was recovered from Adelaide Cemetery on this battlefield near Villers-Bretonneux. He represents the thousands of Australian troops who remain in graves, or are remembered on memorials, on The Western Front. The many cemeteries and memorials on The Western Front are a sobering reminder of the horrors of war and the enormous losses sustained by the AIF and the other Armies who fought on these battlefields.



On ANZAC Day we had a Victoria Cross recipient, Daniel Keighan (left), participate in the service by reading The Ode. While I was walking around the site, I came across the DVA tent. They were handing out crosses and asking people to put them on a grave. I took one and did that very thing. The one that I took was made by Zane from Eatons Hill State School. John contacted the school: 'The photo of Zane's cross placed on a grave of an unknown soldier. I hope this encourages him in the spirit of ANZAC. He is now a part of The Western Front! Well

done. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share this experience with Zane. My best wishes to Zane & others who made the crosses.’ Dr John Howe OAM

Helen Henrich, Deputy Principal, Eatons Hill State School responded to John’s email.

‘Our school is just delighted to hear from you and I am sure the student concerned will be very excited to know where his cross found its way to and that you took the time to let him know. I have printed the photos and part of your email to let Zane know the circumstances and final location of his cross and will contact his parents to let them know.



It is especially wonderful for students to know that their efforts can have an impact on someone else although they may never know just how and under what circumstances. It is very lucky for us that we now get to share this message with our whole school to remind us all about the power of thoughtfulness, actions of community spirit and kindness. Thank you again,

### **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO: Ray Williams (3/69) - not our Tasmanian Ray Williams (2/71)**

3796564 Ray Williams was born on 21 Mar 1947 in Beechworth, Victoria. He commenced his National Service with Intake 3/69 on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1969 and commenced Scheyville on 25<sup>th</sup> July. After completing the main exercise and returning to OTU he was advised that he had passed the course. The class was fitted for their uniforms by the tailors and given their Pips but then, some days later along with some other Cadets he was told that there was no position for the posting they requested and so they would not be graduating. Ray felt that this news was disappointing coming from the Commandant but that was how it was! The news left a very bad feeling with him that still affects him today, although almost 50 years down the track he doesn’t think so much now.



Post OTU Ray left Scheyville and spent some weeks at South Heads Barracks in Sydney, pondering what to do next. He was allowed to make that decision and decided to join the RAE and get some heavy plant training under his belt that may have enabled him to develop a bush farm back in the Latrobe Valley in Victoria post NS. Ray was sent to Milperra and undertook extensive Corps Training on bulldozers, scrapers (elevating and push types), graders, front-end loaders, cranes and a host of other equipment and trucks. That lasted for about 6 months.

While some Scheyville ‘drop-outs’ (as many who did not graduate were referred to) were offered Corporal Rank, Ray made it quite clear that he did not want rank as he wanted to do everything he could to experience as much of what a Sapper can do as possible.

In July 1970 Ray was told that he would be going to Vietnam and to prepare he had to complete jungle warfare training at the Kokoda Barracks at Canungra in SE Queensland. The training involved extensive and exhausting fitness preparation, mines, bombs, booby traps and weapons training, understanding of the North & South Vietnamese people and their life styles and warfare practices, also advised of the terrain via maps and mock displays.



Sapper Williams commenced his Vietnam service with 1 Field Squadron RAE on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1970. He was based at Nui Dat and was involved in various tactical roles of about 2 months duration:

1<sup>st</sup> – as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Scout to platoons from 4 RAR (he thinks) conducting ambushes around the Long Hai mountains.

2<sup>nd</sup> – as a Support Engineer with an APC Cavalry troop. Long trips out into the jungle conducting ambushes, laying protective mines around the ambush locations, providing defence capability at various Fire Support Bases including some on the sea-front close to the Long Hai Mountains.

3<sup>rd</sup> – as a front end loader/back hoe operator to support the artillery support bases in various provinces in Nui Dat, digging Command Post excavations and helping the diggers to cut out their foxholes.

4<sup>th</sup> – as dozer and carrier driver to support the Australian & NZ artillery bases in various provinces around Nui Dat, pushing up support base bund walls and flattening them when the troop moved on.

5<sup>th</sup> – as a mine clearing dozer driver in various villages in the provinces. Driving armour-plated Caterpillar D8 dozers to clear minefields surrounding the villages.

6<sup>th</sup> – as a land clearing dozer driver in the surrounding jungle. Armour plated D8 dozers were used to clear 200M wide tracts of land to limit enemy movement and allow infantry and air support patrols.

Ray returned to Australia on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1971. He spent a number of weeks again at South Head, Sydney. The time was mainly spent tripping into Sydney and exploring the South Head area. Following that he was then flown to Melbourne for discharge on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1971.

On his Army days Ray says he never experienced any “hard times” in Australia either while in the Army or after discharge. He did join the RSL for a few years but got very sick of the ‘gotta-be-on-the-booze’ attitude of so many of the members that he left and never returned.

Post NS Ray continued his Mechanical Engineering career with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria but left after 16 years and bought a motel in Horsham, Victoria. After 7 years running the motel and restaurant he sold up and moved to South Australia to participate in the new Collins Class Submarines build. As a Project Engineer he found that a highly motivating and ‘awesome’ experience, travelling interstate on a weekly basis to control the subcontractor manufacture and build of various parts such as the hull steelwork, frames and equipment seatings in NSW, the propellers in Perth, steel work in Victoria and many other components within SA. These submarines are now recognized by experts in the field as some of the best conventional subs in the world.

Ray believes that he cannot honestly say that Scheyville had any positive influence on his career or life post OTU and unfortunately, if anything the influences were negative. However, the RAE heavy equipment training allowed him to later hire bulldozers to build dams and clear trees on his property in Gormandale, Victoria, so that was a positive from NS.

Ray is now happily retired, living in Adelaide and caravanning Australia with all the other ‘Grey Nomads’. This year will feature a bucket list trip to the Top End and the most northern tip of Australia to add to his ‘Round Australia’, Mt Everest Base camp climb and Sky Diving experiences to name a few. Life is very good at this time and Ray is fortunate to be fit and healthy and have a loving wife and family (with 5 grand-children) and a mother of 97 years.

#### **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO: Geoff Fincher (1/68)**

Geoffrey Bruce Fincher was born in Melbourne on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1946. He completed his secondary schooling at Scotch College and attended Melbourne University where he graduated as Bachelor of Science in 1967. Whilst at OTU he was appointed Colour Sergeant and was awarded the Governor-General’s Prize for graduating 1<sup>st</sup> in the class. He was allocated to Infantry and posted to 1 PIR Port Moresby TPNG.

Now Emeritus Professor Geoff Fincher at the University of



Adelaide, Geoff has been made a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science along with another University of Adelaide researcher, reproductive immunologist Professor Sarah Robertson. Professor Fincher has studied the development of renewable biofuels as a replacement for fossil fuels. He said another of his interests was how the components of plant cell walls affected the nutritional worth of cereals.

"For example in wheat and rice the levels of some of these polysaccharides are much lower than they are in grains like barley and oats," he said. "So by shifting to barley and oats in particular, we can certainly quite easily enhance the intake of dietary fibre."

Professor Fincher said his research was also helping brewers remove unwanted contaminant by-products from their beer. "Brewers don't like to have hazes forming in their beer and they certainly don't like having filtration problems when they've got massive volumes they're trying to filter quickly," he said. "The idea is to make sure that the beer is of the quality that consumers accept."

Professor Fincher said the academy recognition was the ultimate honour for an Australian researcher.

### **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO: Robert (Bob) Manning (2/68)**

Robert Charles Manning was born in Cairns, Queensland, on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1945. He completed his secondary education at Cairns High School. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman Bob was employed as a Health Inspector with the Cairns City Council. While at OTU Bob reached the rank of Colour Sergeant as Company Quartermaster Sergeant. He graduated with Class 2/68 on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1968 and allocated to RAAMC (Admin & Tech) and posted as the Hygiene Officer at HQ North



Queensland. Bob extended his NS and on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1970 he was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Field Hospital in Vietnam as a Temporary Lieutenant. He left Vietnam on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1971.

Claire said: 'As a newly married couple, we did discuss what would happen if he was offered a posting (to Vietnam) and we agreed "No". Then, one day I received a phone call at the bank where I worked in Townsville and at the end of the call, we had agreed "OK". I was swayed by the fact that he was being posted to a Hospital and I considered it would be the safest place he could possibly be!!!!'

Bob discharged from the Army on completion of his extended NS. He has now been married to Claire for almost 47 years. They have a son Mark and a daughter Belinda and 2 grandchildren. Apart from gardening, interests these days centre on current affairs and also the watching of rugby league and cricket.

Bob has a Business Studies Degree from the University of Southern Queensland. His working career has included three years as an officer in the Australian Army including his ten month tour in Vietnam, 8 years as CEO of Longreach Shire Council, and almost 20 years as CEO of the Cairns Port Authority, the operator of the Cairns International Airport and Cairns Seaport. Bob also served for 18 months as General Manager of NQEA Australia Pty Ltd, a major engineering and ship building company, three years as CEO of Hermes Airports Limited (Cyprus) and was engaged in a number of consulting roles in Jordan, Korea, New Guinea and Australia.

From 1993-2000 he was a member of the Board of ACI-Pacific, (Airports Council International) and served as President from 1996-1998. He served on the World Governing Board of ACI from 1993-1998 and as Vice-President from 1997-1998. Bob has also served on a number of Boards including NQEA Australia Pty Ltd from 1992-1997, Tourism Tropical North Queensland Limited 1986-1997 and as Chairman from 1995-1997 and the Tourism Council of Australia from 1995-1999.

Bob has been heavily engaged in community based activities particularly with the Salvation Army and for a time was Chairman of Anglicare North Queensland Limited. On Australia Day 2002 he was awarded 'Cairns Citizen of the Year' for services to the community and on Australia Day 2004 he was awarded an Order of Australia 'for services to the community of the Cairns region through the development and promotion of the tourism, maritime and aviation industries'. In 2012 Bob was elected Mayor of Cairns and re-elected for a further 4 year term in March 2016.

### **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO: DNGs (Neil Leckie 3/68)**

All men who shared the Scheyville Experience, whether they be graduates, DNGs or Staff are entitled to members of the OTU-A. About one third of the Cadets at OTU did not graduate (DNG), but we only have 29 DNGs as members. Quite a few classes do not have March-In photographs or March-In lists, so how do we find the other DNGs? They may not be interested in joining the association, but we can only ask?

In 2008 Class 3/68 held its 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion at Scheyville. Roger Nation had a copy of the Block Syllabus that included a list of the names of the 84 original members of the class, along with the names of the 16 'Repeats' from Class 2/68. On 20<sup>th</sup> December, 52 of Intake 3/68 Graduated along with 12 of the 'Repeats', a total of 64 new 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants.

32 of Class 3/68 did not graduate, however 9 did take the 'Honours' course and graduated with Class 4/68. One of those, Peter Kilpatrick, remained in the Army, rose to the rank of Brigadier and retired from the Army in 2001. What happened to those who from Class 3/68 did not graduate? A check of the March-In list against the DVA Vietnam Nominal Roll shows that:

3794156, Joseph **Bankuti**, served in Vietnam as a Temporary Corporal with:

2<sup>nd</sup> Advanced Ordnance Depot (2 AOD) from 10 Apr 69 – 21 May 70.

Note: HQ 2 Company Ordnance Depot 1 Apr 66 - 15 Nov 67 was redesignated

2<sup>nd</sup> Advanced Ordnance Depot 16 Nov 67 - 12 Mar 72.

2789714, Allan Willson **Bath**, served as a Gunner with 1 Field Regiment from 28 Nov 69 – 1 Mar 1970

3793620, David William **Bellairs**, served with Allan Bath as a Gunner with 1 Field Regiment from 17 Nov 69 – 4 Feb 70 and with 4 Field Regiment from 5 Feb – 18 Jun 70.

5715996, Clive Montague **Bicknell**, served as a Trooper with 1 Forward Delivery Troop, RAAC, from 6 Aug 69 – 4 Jun 70

Note: A Detachment of 1<sup>st</sup> Forward Delivery Troop operated in Vietnam from Jan 68 to July 71.

2789841, Ian Thomas **Richardson**, served as a Temporary Corporal with the

1<sup>st</sup> Australian Reinforcement Unit from 30 Jul 69 – 1 Apr 70.

Of the rest, a few have been involved with the OTU Association in some way or another, but what happened to the others? We need a list of 'DNGs' so that we can follow up on this possible source of new members. I have commenced preparing a Database of DNGs and have information so far on Classes 1/65, 2/66, 3/66, 2/68, 3/68, 1/71, 2/71 and 4/72.

If you have copies of March-In lists for your class please scan it and email it to me. In addition, if you can remember the names of anyone in your class who became a DNG, please advise me! I would like to have this Database completed by Christmas!!!!

### **SCHEYVILLIANS TO THE FORE AT KAPOOKA IN 1969 (Neil Leckie 3/68)**

It is amazing what you find when looking for something, you always seem to find something else, in this case a newspaper article. I commenced my Army service of 7<sup>th</sup> February 1968. Like all Recruits I thought that my Section Corporal, Andy Burnett (RAAC), My Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant Tyers and my Platoon Commander, 2Lt Neels (RAA), must have been in the Army for a long time. Having had a deferment, but still not holding a Diploma (or Degree) I was not considered for the NS Officer Selection Panel. I completed my whole 10-week Recruit Course at 2 RTB Puckapunyal, but was told by one of the Corporals to put in for the next NS Officer Selection Panel. My memory is that Platoon Commanders weren't seen much by the Recruits in Intake 1/68 (or NS Intake 11). However, we all saw our Platoon



Commander one day at the Grenade Range when he drove his nice two-tone grey Sunbeam Talbot along the dirt track at the range and proceeded to pull the exhaust system of his car.

After completing my Recruit Course I got my preference and went to Armoured Corps, along with Normie Rowe. The first week was Orientation, then we got down to business with some doing driver training with the rest like me and including Normie, undertaking the signals component of the training. Normie was one of the boys, regularly kicking the football around during the breaks and cleaning the toilets etc on our regular Thursday barracks work night. All other nights were free with a radius of 100 km for local leave, which included the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

I applied to be on the next NS Officer Selection Panel and along with 4 or 5 others who had completed Recruit Training did the selection day and most of us were accepted. I don't recall who they were.

Fast forward to 1 RTB Kapooka, where I had been posted upon graduating from OTU, to part-way through 1969. I came home late one evening to find a two-tone grey Sunbeam Talbot in the Officers Mess Car Park. It was my former Platoon Commander, Mike Neels, car. Mike was still with RAA but had yet to be picked up for flying training. Mike moved into the room next to me. It turned out the Mike had only been commissioned in December 1967 (Class 3/67) and was almost as new to Recruit Training in February 1968 as his 15 Platoon, C Company, 2 RTB Recruits were in February 1968.

Along with fellow 3/68 Graduate Kevin Piper, Mike Neels and I played Aussie Rules for the Army team in 1969. The team beat the 1968 Premiers, East Wagga, by 12 points in the 1969 Grand Final, held at East Wagga's home ground, Gumley Oval. Army held East goal-less for the first quarter and a half and held on to win. Kevin Piper and Mike Neels played in defence and were mentioned in the match write-up as was Neil Leckie playing in the ruck. A season to remember and Scheyvillians playing a big part in that season!

Central Riverina  
Football League  
Senior Premiers  
1969 - Army

Rear: Neil Leckie  
fourth from right  
with Mike Neels  
third from right.

Centre: Kevin Piper  
second from right.



**Legacy: Are you interested in becoming a Legatee?** (Andrew Marr, 1/67)



The Chatswood Division of Sydney Legacy is looking for volunteers to join their team as Legatees. Legacy throughout Australia assists around 90,000 widows and partners and over 1,900 children and persons with a disability to cope when the veteran has given their life or health. If you are interested in becoming a Legatee either in the Chatswood Division or other areas in Sydney then contact can be made with Andrew Marr (Class 1/67) via email ([aggmarr@gmail.com](mailto:aggmarr@gmail.com)) or mobile (0414 221 091)

## HELP NEEDED – problem solved – not yet!

The Class 2/65 photograph shown is labelled as Graham Ackland in the centre. Graham has stated that it is not him. Ric Campbell and Les Myers (both 2/65), and Neil Leckie (3/68) have exchanged a number of emails about this photo. Les has spoken to the family of the late Robert Martin. His brother Stuart says 'That's him!' although there is some doubt with other family members. We have had further confirmation that our Mystery Man is not Robert Martin! Would Class 2/65 please have another look at this photograph and see if you can name Mystery Man!



## BOOK/MAGAZINE/WEBSITE REVIEWS

***We Band of Brothers*** by Brian McFarlane. (Geoff Jones, 3/70 via Peter Morgan, 1/66)

Brian McFarlane was OC C Coy and wrote a brilliant and massive tome which focuses on C Coy in Vietnam with 6RAR first tour. It has references to a number of OTU graduates including Class 1/65's Bob Toyer (same class as my wife, Bev, and Peter Morgan at Maclean High School) Gordon Sharp, and Dave Sabben. Page 176 gives a brief run-down on OTU.

***The Chalkies: Educating an army for independence***, by Darryl Dymock: Due out in August!

Between 1966 and 1972, some 300 National Servicemen, who had been school teachers before their call-up, were posted to the then Territory of Papua and New Guinea (TPNG) with the Royal Australian Army Educational Corps, for periods ranging from seven to seventeen months. These young men, most of whom had limited experience in classrooms, found themselves providing a general education to indigenous troops of the 3,000-strong Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR) in the years leading up to that country's self-government and independence. Based on survey responses from more than 70 of those Nashos, and against the background of political developments of the day, *The Chalkies: Educating an army for independence* presents their recollections and reflections some 50 years later on their experiences of the Army, the RAAEC and Papua New Guinea at that time.

Ordering information is available at: [www.nashospng.com](http://www.nashospng.com)

**Book Titles on the Bookshelf** (Robin Hunt, 3/69)

### Customs and Traditions in the Australian Army

For a long time, the only publications on this topic were Alf Festberg's three books:

- *Australian Army Insignia 1903-1966* (Military History society, 1967);
- *Hat Badges of the Australian Army 1948-1971* (Lithocraft 1972);
- *Australian Army Guidons and Colours* (Allara Pubs, 1972).

However, in recent times a number of authoritative books have been released and these include:

*Customs and Traditions of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery* by Christopher Jobson (Directorate of Artillery, 1997. Paperbound with 104 pp with many color & B&W photos and illustrations). Jobson, at the time he authored this booklet, was RSM, Ceremonial and Protocol at AHQ.

Jobson returned to authoring and produced *Looking Forward – Looking Back - Customs and Traditions of the Australian Army* (Big Sky Pubs. 2009. 234 pp, hardbound with many color illustrations. \$19.99). Jobson's last Army posting was as RSM Ceremonial at ADFA and, after his discharge, he was appointed Ceremonial Officer for the AWM in 1998 and, from there, he became Events Officer with the National Capital Authority in Canberra.

Phil Blackwell authored *Australian Army Unit Colour Patches 1987-2008* (Australian Army History Unit, 2008. Hardbound, 98 pp with many B&W and color photos and illustrations. \$12.99). He served in the ARA for 12 years before transferring to the DMO. He continues as an ARES officer with 8/7 RVR.



Then came Gordon Maitland's *Honors and Awards of the Army* (Playbill, 2014. Softcover, 248 pp with many B&W and color illustrations. \$35.99). Major General Maitland AO, OBE is the author and his last appointment was as Commander 2 Aust Div.

Lastly, there is the blockbuster *Preserving our Proud Heritage – The Customs and Traditions of the Australian Army* by Leslie Terren (Maj., ARES, Army History Unit) and Stephen Taubern (WO1, RACT Retd). (Big Sky Publishing with Aust Army History Unit. 2015. Hardbound in large format with 381 pp – almost a coffee table book. \$59.99). (This is Edition 1 and there are some omissions and corrections needed for Edition 2! – Ed.)

## EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

**From:** Dale Nankivell (2/68) **Sent:** 26<sup>th</sup> March 2016 **Subject:** Greg Wood playing International Cricket  
I just arrived in Sydney (from my home in Toronto) yesterday to visit my new grandson, Hudson. Jet lag has me awake at 3am reading the latest addition of The Scheyvillian.

Greg Woods is not the only ex-Scheyvillian who has participated in a serious international cricket match. I, Dale Nankivell, once played for Australia against the dreaded British. About 20 years ago, I was visiting Ottawa and got roped into the Australia side (representing the Australian High Commission) that played its annual cricket match against the lads from the British High Commission. The match was played on a beautiful oval inside the grounds of Rideau Hall, the Canadian Governor General's official residence. I must report, sadly, that I underperformed on the day (scoring 2 runs) and that the dastardly Poms won the game! Best regards, Dale

**From:** Tony Sonneveld (1/70) **Sent:** 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 **Subject:** Numberplates  
Ray Elder came to visit me in Sydney recently and he admired my **Hilux Rego plates "OTU 1/70"**, I got the idea from Dick Adams who displays **OTU 3/72 plates** on his newer Toyota LandCruiser. Thieves had the gall to steel my bull bar, spotlights and original number plate whilst I spent 6 hours working at my factory in Blacktown one Sunday in December 2014. Because my original **TERMI plate** was stolen a replacement plate could not be used for at least 6 months so I opted for **OTU 1/70**. I purchased the Hilux from Termimesh Sydney because I was running out of licence points driving a Commodore SSV 6 litre V8, it turned out that the insurance on the Hilux was not transferred so I had been driving around uninsured for 2.5 years. The cost of 2.5 years of insurance premiums plus excess was more than cost to replace the bull bar so I outlaid the cash and promptly re-insured the vehicle. I also installed an ALDI winch which was on sale for \$280.00 and everyone laughed at me. I had occasion to use the winch when we did an outback trip in the Victorian highlands last November and it worked perfectly, so who is laughing now!



**From:** David Sabben (1/65) **Sent:** 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 **Subject:** VetRide2016  
The VetRide2016 took us right past the front gates to Kapooka. Time for a quick nostalgia photo - back where it all began. Mind you, 51 years has done some damage to the physique, and the RSM might not like the beard, but a few seconds after the shot was taken, I was "on my bike", out of there! I wondered - the last time I drove out those gates, if I'd known what was ahead, would I have turned around and driven back...? Cheers, Dave.

**Note:** **VetRide** is an organization dedicated through cycling for the welfare of all service and ex-service personnel of the Australian Defence Forces. At the same time it provides something meaningful older



veterans can do for their younger compatriots, consistent with closely held values, given rise to in uniform. Our endeavours are supported widely by government agencies and by many organizations and people from all walks of life and we operate under the auspices of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Victorian Branch). Preference on the tours is given to service and ex-service personnel, however the event is open to any rider who would like to support our worthwhile cause.

(Right: A picture is worth a thousand words!)



The 2016 annual ride event, the Service and Sacrifice Tour left Seymour on 14<sup>th</sup> March and rode to Benalla, Albury, Wagga, Cootamundra, Yass and O'Connor (Canberra) with the final day seeing the tour end at Old Parliament House in Canberra on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**ANZAC's in Vietnam** As asked in The Scheyvillian 1 of 2016:



Does anyone know who these men are?

Geoff Jones (3/70) via Peter Morgan (1/66):

The photo was taken at Enoggera in 1966 prior to the unit's departure for Vietnam. They arrived in SVN on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1966. From left to right are:

Rodney Cox RTA 26 Oct 1966

Gordon Stafford RTA 7 Sep 1966

Neil 'Pop' Baker RTA 14 Jun 1967

Mark 'Scrub' Minell RTA 14 Jun 1967

and Graham Irvine RTA 14 Jun 1967

(all 8 Platoon, C Coy, 6 RAR, Peter Morgan's Platoon from 14<sup>th</sup> December 1966).

**Q STORE (Order through the Website)**



**For those who may have misplaced their 40<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Coming Soon – OTU Ties**



# OTU ASSOCIATION

## 2016/17 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

<b>INVOICE</b> ABN 26 390 124 006 MAIL TO: Treasurer OTU Association PO Box 540 BLACK ROCK VIC 3193 CONTACT: (03) 9533 1810 rayelder45@gmail.com		<b>Please return by NLT 31 August 2016</b> Cheques payable to OTU Association <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; border: none;"> <b>Annual Subscription</b>            July 2015 to June 2016  <b>Donation to Youth Leadership Development</b>            Total Cheque/Cash Enclosed  <i>(For Direct Debit payment see below and please remember to update our database or return this form so that your contact details can be confirmed)</i> </td> <td style="width: 30%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <b>\$50.00</b>             \$ _____             \$ _____         </td> </tr> </table>		<b>Annual Subscription</b> July 2015 to June 2016 <b>Donation to Youth Leadership Development</b> Total Cheque/Cash Enclosed <i>(For Direct Debit payment see below and please remember to update our database or return this form so that your contact details can be confirmed)</i>	<b>\$50.00</b>  \$ _____  \$ _____
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<b>MEMBERSHIP DETAILS UPDATE</b>					
<b>Personal Details:</b>		<b>I Have Retired</b> Yes / No			
Title/Rank:		<b>Work Details (If Applicable):</b>			
First Names:		Position:			
Last Name:		Organisation:			
Wife/Partner:		Industry:			
Address:		Address:			
Town/Suburb:		Town/Suburb:	Postcode:		
State:	Postcode:	Work Phone:			
Home Phone:		Work Fax:			
Personal Mobile:		Work Mobile:			
Personal Email:		Work Email:			
Personal Web Address:		Work Website:			
Class:		Any Comments:			
Corps:					
Regimental No:					
Awards:					
I am a new member: <input type="checkbox"/> I am a continuing member: <input type="checkbox"/>		I am no longer interested. Please delete me from the database: <input type="checkbox"/>			
		<i>(Please Indicate)</i>			
For Office Use:		You will need to know the following information to pay your Membership using Direct Debit: <b>Bank</b> – National, <b>BSB</b> – 083 298, <b>Account No.</b> 56-687-0611, <b>Reference</b> – Surname and/or Regt No.			

### Membership Drive

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

	NAME	CLASS	ADDRESS	EMAIL	PHONE NO
1					
2					
3					

## STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS:

**Queensland:** Owen Williamson (4/70) [olwilliamson@bigpond.com](mailto:olwilliamson@bigpond.com) or [WilliamsonO@AureconHatch.com](mailto:WilliamsonO@AureconHatch.com)  
Back-up: Melanie Griffin (Mick Hart's secretary) [mgriffin@clearyhoare.com.au](mailto:mgriffin@clearyhoare.com.au)  
07 3230 5253 or Mick Hart [mhart@clearyhoare.com.au](mailto:mhart@clearyhoare.com.au)  
**Monthly Luncheons: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month**

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

**ACT:** Wal Hall (2/68) 02 6288 5251 0418 659 010 [walhall@ozemail.com.au](mailto:walhall@ozemail.com.au)  
Winston Bucknall (2/68) 0408 492 405 [wmbsec@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wmbsec@bigpond.net.au)  
2016 activity dates – see ACT Report

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

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

**Victoria:** Frank Miller 0401 140 762 [millerfw@netspace.net.au](mailto:millerfw@netspace.net.au)  
Bernie Gleeson 0427 601 983 [berjungleeson@bigpond.com](mailto:berjungleeson@bigpond.com)  
**Monthly Lunches, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** [bjcooper@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bjcooper@bigpond.net.au)

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

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

**The back pages:**

**SA Chapter Members on ANZAC Day**







**Left: National Chairman Frank Miller (4/67) ‘wired for sound’ at the National Council Meeting, where Skype was used for the first time.**

**Right: The modern soldier as described in Brian Cooper’s article.**

**Below: Gary Vial and father Allan (93) on ANZAC Day**



**Above: The Victorian Chapter swelled by some of Class 1/70 at the Forecourt of**



**Above: At The Shrine of Remembrance Forecourt In Melbourne on ANZAC Day.**

**Below: The NSW Chapter prior to the ANZAC Day March in Sydney.**







**Left: Class 1/70 Reunion at Young & Jackson's**

**Below: Class 2/72 OCS - OTU Cadets Peter Morely and Arthur Nobes at Scheyville. Note the OCS badge.**



**Below left: Former National Chairman Tony Sonneveld (1/70) in skiing form. Described by Wayne Banks as at the 'express end' of skiing speed. Below right: Dr John Howe (2/66) at Villers Bretonneux on ANZAC Day.**



**Below left: Allan Pemberton (1/69) and Neil Leckie (3/68) at VC Corner Cemetery at the Centenary of the Battle of Fromelles. Below right: Who is the man on the right in Class 2/65?**

