



# *The Scheyvillian*

*Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee*

## **OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 2, 2017**

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

**A newsletter for all Scheyvillians**

The Victorian monthly lunches started some years ago when Brian Cooper got together a number of his 3/69 Classmates. Since then the lunches have grown to include any 'Scheyvillians' and the numbers have grown to between 15 and 20. Class 3/69, the 17<sup>th</sup> Graduating Class, were featured in the soldier's newspaper 'Army' of 15 January 1970:

**On page eight  
they're parading  
still**

**As we march  
into 1970, we  
take a last look  
at the end of the  
'69 scene**



THE one-thousandth National Service officer to be commissioned from the Officer Training Unit since it was established at Scheyville, NSW, in April 1965, graduated last month.

He is 2Lt. Bruce Stanley Youl, pictured below right.

Reviewing Officer for the parade was Maj.-Gen. C. M. I. Pearson, the Commander, 1 Div.

In charge of the officer cadets on parade was the BSM, SUO Peter O'Donnell, pictured right receiving the Sword of Honour from Maj.-Gen. Pearson.

He was top-rated among the 57 who graduated.

The Sword of Honour is the Military Board Prize for exemplary conduct and performance of duty.

Under-Officer Peter Charles Simpson received the Governor-General's Medal for graduating First in Class, the Staff Prize for the highest aggregate mark in tactics, the Mil-

tary Arts Prize, and the Drill Prize.

He is now serving as a 2Lt. in the Aviation Corps.

Upon the introduction of National Service training, the OTU was raised and produced its first class of junior officers on July 1, 1965.

Since the first group marched out there have been 17 graduations on completion of the course, of about five months' duration.

Altogether, 1043 officers have now graduated from OTU Scheyville.

A significant number have served in SVN, some of them being decorated for gallantry.

Almost a quarter of the OTU graduates have elected to take Regular Army commissions.



Many civilian organisations are keen to employ individual OTU graduates on completion of their two-year National Service.

One civilian company, Boral Ltd., has awarded a permanent prize for leadership, which was presented for the first time last month. The prize is a pair of high-quality binoculars for the cadet judged as having the best qualities of leadership.



**SUO Peter O'Donnell led the parade and was presented with the Sword of Honour.**

**UO Peter Simpson received the Governor-General's Medal for graduating first in the class, the Staff Prize for the highest aggregate marks in tactics, the Military Arts Prize and the Drill Prize. The Gordon Sharp Memorial and The Skills at Arms Prizes were presented to CSM John Reid.**

**The Sporting Award was presented to Fred Cook.**

**The Leadership Prize, a set of binoculars provided by the Boral Company, was presented for the first time to a Class 3/69 member, but there is no information available about the recipient's name.**

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2016/17:

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

**The Scheyvillian Editor:** Neil Leckie: Unit 3 / 519 Peel Street North, Black Hill, Vic, 3350.

## THE SCHEYVILLE TAPES

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

The Recordings are of:

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

The DVDs are available from The Editor at \$10 each incl P&H – or \$60 the set incl P&H!

**THE SCHEYVILLIAN NEXT EDITION DUE OUT December 2017:** It is planned to have Edition 3 of 2017 of *The Scheyvillian* in early December. Submissions need to be received by 12 November 2017. If you have any contributions: current stories (eg. Reunions, dinners or other get-togethers) or memorabilia stories, please email them to The Editor, The Scheyvillian, at [nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au](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/USB Stick with multiple photos. Photos should be in jpeg format and should preferably be labelled.



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

## THE SCHEYVILLE EXPERIENCE – REPRINTS AVAILABLE

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

The books can be purchased through the 'Q Store' on the OTU Website at \$25 per copy including postage. [www.otu.asn.au](http://www.otu.asn.au)

There only 20 copies left!

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (Graeme Chester, 2/67)

### Membership Database Details As At 12 Jul 2017

Number of Graduates	1880				
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	1995				
Number Financial	214				(476 end 2016/17)
Number Honorary	30				
Widows	8				
Number Deceased				178	
Number Unfinancial (Not Renewed)				1398	(1138 16/17)
Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact)				167	(166 16/17)
Totals	1880	1995	252 (514 end 2016/17)	1743	(1481 16/17)
Percentages:	Of the names on database 12.6% are financial/honorary/widow.				
	Of the names on the database 8.9% are deceased.				
	Of the names on the database 70.1% are unfinancial (not renewed)				
	Of the names on the database 8.4% are unfinancial (do not contact)				

The figures above represent how the financial membership of the Association stand now (renewals are out) and at the end of 2016/17. With **514** financial members we were slightly down on the **530** of 2015/16 but it is pleasing to see that we are keeping our financial membership above the **500** mark. We are hopeful that this will continue as our members begin to retire from work and enjoy the activities and reunions, that the Association supports, to reacquire themselves with their classmates of many years ago.

Membership Renewal for 2017/18 is currently under way and the initial response has been better than previous years with **397** financial members as at the end of July. However, if you have been somewhat tardy, please dig the renewal notice out of your inbox and make our Treasurer smile by paying up by **31 Aug 2017**. A Membership Renewal form is attached to this newsletter or, should you wish, you could renew using PayPal via our website.

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

Regarding the website, did you know you can update your Profile Page in our database? Simply go into **Profile** on the Home Page and update your information. Don't forget to click on the **'Update'** button (bottom left of page) to ensure the database is changed. Keeping our database updated and accurate will greatly assist classes when organising future reunions, particularly as a lot of us are coming up to our 50<sup>th</sup>.

If something has happened to change your mind about membership of the OTU Association we would be interested to know. Just send me an email at [graeheath1@bigpond.com](mailto:graeheath1@bigpond.com) and I will remove your details from our membership database.

### WEBSITE - REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS & MEMORABILIA: MORE NEEDED

We are always looking for more photographs for the 'galleries' on the Website, particularly from Classes 3/67 & 4/67, 4/68, 4/69, 2/70, 1/71 & 3/71 and all Nasho classes of 1972.

Scheyvillians are encouraged to look at the Website and see what is held and check if you have anything that may compliment what is there. There is a provision for comments to be made on any photograph on the Website. If you have photos, please send them either in 'jpeg' scan format or if you do not have scanning capability send the hard copies 'Registered Post' to The Editor (address on Page 2).

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

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

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

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

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

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



## RECENT NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 3/72 National Reunion, Melbourne (Peter Lloyd)

Members of 3/72 and their partners enjoyed a catch-up over the ANZAC weekend in Melbourne. A core of the revelers at the WA reunion from 2014 was joined by some welcome fresh blood for a successful and happy few days.

The home town contingent of Alan & Kerry Grant, Grant & Sandy Anderson and Peter & Bernie Lloyd were joined by WA organisers Chris & Annie Richardson, Mick & Sue Waters from Albury, John & Jan Murray, David & Mary Morgan, Bill Laing and Roger Tiller from over the border, and Sunshine Staters Kim & Jan Turner and Andre & Margot Legosz. It's sad that we've lost our mate John Robinson from the group, and while she considered joining us, Bev decided it wasn't possible.

Notable regretful absentees due to heavy local commitments were Hugh McLernon, Dick Adams (ANZAC Day duties in Sydney) and Mark Honey while Ian Hendrick was a late withdrawal on veterinary advice (his dog, not him). They were missed, but will be expected to atone next time.

On the Saturday evening we enjoyed a casual welcoming cocktail party at the Lloyds, a few joining us after the football. Age mightn't have wearied us, but with a heavy schedule ahead the evening came to a sensible conclusion, probably due to the influence of our partners.

On the advice of the local OTU executive we convened for a tour of the Shrine on Sunday morning, which proved such an attraction several returned the following day to complete their inspection of the extensive displays. It's a very moving experience. From there we boarded a bus for the trip to Denistoun, the Andersons beautiful property overlooking Davey's Bay at Mt Eliza. They put on a stunning luncheon for 20 on a superb afternoon memorable for the quality of catering and beverages, high level of bonhomie, and occasional spontaneous song! We were grateful for the bus for the return trip, an inspired plan by Al Grant.

Monday was a rest day, several returned to the Shrine and took in some of Melbourne's attractions including the Botanical Gardens, as we prepared to go over the top at the March on Tuesday. We were invited to join the OTU contingent, led by Robin Hunt, and managed to avoid the forecast showers. Perhaps it was the lack of a nearby band, but there was much changing of step!



Again at the invitation of the OTU executive we joined them for the afternoon at Heroes, the Toorak Services Club. We found it a very comfortable, low-key venue perfect for the occasion - footy on the TV and a well-stocked bar. We supplemented the meagre rations with over a case of one of Coonawarra's finest reds and many beers, and it was late in the afternoon when we withdrew, many battles won and outrageous lies told.

You're all wondering who was BOG (3 votes). It can only go to Mick Waters, 2 weeks after a second knee reconstruction and on crutches, who

not only attended every activity but the march, but insisted on standing for almost the entire time, to his wife's horror, and his own detriment!

It was another very successful reunion, and much credit and thanks must go to our significant others. I'm always amazed at the camaraderie felt between blokes from disparate backgrounds thrown together in the hurly-burly of Scheyville, and we must have married very well, as our partners seem to be imbued with the same spirit to tolerate, and even join our infrequent celebrations.

The Queensland contingent has committed to organising another get-together, probably in the last half of 2019, with the view of a 50 year reunion back in Sydney in 2022. It would be great if a few of this year's absentees could swell our ranks seeing it will not occur around ANZAC Day. My thanks to Frank, Robin and Ray from the Victorian executive for their help with our preparations for this most successful reunion!

### **Class 1/71 Reunion, Cairns 15 – 19 May 2017 (Ian Kuhl)**

It was time for Queensland to host our class reunion, the previous one was in Melbourne in 2014. The committee of Hugh Begbie, John Robertson, Roger Mychajlyk, Ian Kuhl led by Rod Bathe selected Cairns ahead of all of the great venues Queensland has to offer.

The choice of Cairns offered great tourist activities for classmates and their partners. Another positive for Cairns is the friendliness of the venue staff and the exceptional support offered by the Mayor of Cairns, Bob Manning, himself is a Scheyville graduate (2/68). The event kicked off with a meet and greet at the Shangri La Cairns which was the accommodation location chosen by most and also the venue for the Class dinner.

The following morning saw most of the reunion attendees board the Green Island Rocket for a trip to the island to do a bit of fish/coral/turtle/bird watching either above the water in the glass bottom boat or below using a snorkel. Captain Roger ensured all returned by lunch time. In the afternoon The Cairns Regional Council organised a tour of the world renowned Botanical Gardens with some rare tropical plants and very knowledgeable guides. This was followed by a Mayoral Reception at the Tanks Art Gallery within the gardens. It was a great social event at which were other Scheyville graduates and staff and also local Defence representatives.



Thursday morning the class paraded at the Cairns RSL Cenotaph where Hugh Begbie gave a very thought provoking homily challenging us to look at ourselves. The event was followed by a healthy breakfast at the RSL. The

evening saw John Robertson host the Reunion Dinner. The event started with entertainment by Andrea Mullins an exceptional singer who brought the group to life. Throughout dinner the class was entertained by a slide show of photographs from our days at Scheyville and from each of our subsequent reunions (Canberra, Devonport, Freemantle and Melbourne). The Dinner Guest of Honour was Bob Manning who entertained the dinner guests with his experiences of Scheyville and provided some insight into how he believed his Scheyville experience shaped his life.

A farewell breakfast on the last day rounded up the event for most. The Western Australian contingent took the opportunity to travel to Townsville on the Bus (provided by the Townsville RSL) driven by Rod Bathe. The Townsville leg was filled with sightseeing and social meals. The group also had a visit to Lavarack Barracks, Australia's largest defence facility. We thank Brigadier Chris Field who provided Major Mick Gallegos as a guide. Mick did a formal brief on the Brigade and its activities including its work in ensuring the families of service people are part of the system.

Now we are looking forward to the Sydney in 2019.

**OTU CLASS 1/67 – 50 YEAR REUNION** 2785698, 2Lt Peter Benson (Ret'd) on behalf of all 14 "committee" members. It all began about 51 years ago when most of us won the lottery that put us in the Army for two years. Some decided that was not enough & signed on for further terms.

Our reunion started with a simple email wishing graduates Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our enlistment, which commenced at the end of January 1967. One of my groomsmen & fellow graduate, Col Burg replied "What are you doing about a reunion"? Talk about "volunteering"! Mid-February 1967, we were introduced to OTU Scheyville & *five months* later many of us somehow graduated on 13th July 1967. Coincidentally, it took about *five months* to organise our reunion in Canberra on 13th July 2017. Talk about planning! The hardest part was contacting 97 graduates (+ 3 who started 1/67 & completed 2/67) using old email addresses, phone numbers & postal addresses. The saddest part was in identifying that 12 of our number had passed away in the intervening 50 years, including two in the previous months – Neil Weekes & Ian Sinnott.

The central part of our reunion was in honouring the memory of Dave Paterson, who was killed in Vietnam on 20th March 1971. Dave had only been married a year or so to Christine and had a six month old daughter, Sarah. We were so pleased to be able to contact them both & invited them to attend the reunion. Four other family members also attended, including two grand-daughters.

Fourteen graduates Australia-wide offered to assist in organising the reunion but it was more practical to meet with four NSW based members – Andrew Marr, John Carroll, David Longhurst & myself. We were able to call on three ACT based members to organise local activities – John Herlihy, Bruce Mason & Mike Buick. We also coerced Dan Huon (name tags) & Alan Storen (histories) to assist. Thanks to all. The main activities were:

- Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial ("AWM"), during which wreaths were laid in memory of Dave by his grand-daughters & myself on behalf of OTU.
- Wall of Remembrance – poppies placed near Dave's inscription.
- Tour of the Vietnam Section of AWM, led by guest speaker, Ashley Ekins, AWM Historian. John Neervoort also assisted as a co-opted tour guide to note his personal experience in Vietnam.
- Formal dinner in the Anzac Hall of the AWM – 55 attendees, including 28 graduates.
- Tour of Royal Military College ("RMC") Duntroon (see below).
- Lunch at Royal Canberra Golf Club.

Many emails have been received from graduates expressing their personal feelings about the reunion. Two in particular, are worth extracting as follows:

1. Dan Huon – "I found the Duntroon visit illuminating and interesting – particularly as some of our OTU emblems were evident – over the RMC bar and the Roll of Honour Board in the cadet mess with Peter Bysouth on it.....Lt Col. John Bullen (Ret'd) our tour guide was firmly locating all officer training into one strand – we





are not forgotten. Which made me dig up some interesting statistics which highlight our value and significance to the Army expansion: they could not have done it without us.

In the period 1965 – Dec. 1973 (OTU opening & closure) officer graduates from OTU totaled 1,871 or 52% of total graduates 3,623 from OTU, OCS Portsea & RMC (summary of detailed table not quoted).

2. Peter Bysouth – “...it must be said that being in the ‘Great Hall’ with the memorabilia was a great capstone to a great weekend. Having our son (RMC 95 Class) and daughter-in-law (RMC 96 Class) along for the tour of Duntroon was a special privilege. To Dave Paterson and all our other compatriots – RIP good soldiers, you will not be forgotten.”

Peter also quoted from his son, Michael – “We had a tour of RMC today with Dad as he had his 50 year reunion for OTU Scheyville last night..... Nice to have a family of three Officer Training graduates to share the moment together this morning...”

We all look forward to celebrating our 60 year reunion in 2027, when most of us will be in our ninth decade of great lives, formed on the basis of just 22 weeks at Scheyville in 1967.

Table 1 at the AWM Dinner:  
Glenn & Jill Evans, Ashley Ekins  
(AWM) Christine Alomes and Sarah  
Hollier, David & Robyn Longhurst and  
Andrew & Carolyn Marr



### **National Council, Melbourne 12 July 2017**



The National Council holds its monthly meetings on an as required basis on the Second Wednesday of the month. This year the National Council was held at the time of the July National Committee Meeting.

Webmaster Ian Kelly and Secretary Bernie Gleeson setup the meeting in at the Toorak Services (Heroes) Club, the usual venue for the National Committee Meeting. Although there were some technical glitches with the Skype set-up, the State Chapter Representatives were saved from having to travel to Melbourne for the Council Meeting. The states were represented by Doug Oliver, 4/71 (Queensland), Gary McKay, 2/68 (NSW), Winston Bucknall, 2/68 (ACT), Dennis Townsend, 2/70 and Ray Williams, 2/71

(Tasmania), Gary Vial, 3/69 (SA) and Frank LeFaucheur, 1/71 (WA). The majority of the National/Victorian Committee Members were also present.

The National Council allows the opportunity for the National Committee and the State Representatives to report on their activities for the past year and share their experiences with the other chapters. This information can then be relayed to the Chapter Members.

## **UPCOMING NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Annual General Meeting, 13 September 2017**

In conjunction with the September National Committee Meeting, the AGM for the OTU Association will be held at the Toorak Service (Heroes) Club on Wednesday 13 September 2017 at 4pm. An email will be sent to all members prior to the AGM requesting their attendance or their Proxies.

### **Reunions:**

#### **2/67 National Reunion 7/8 October 2017**

Having graduated on 8 October 1967 Class 2/67 are holding their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion over the weekend of 7/8 October 2017, Saturday sees participants undertaking their own activities with informal dinner at Olim's Bar and Bistro at the Mercure Hotel. The main activity on Sunday 8 October with visit to AWM and the Last Post Ceremony at 5pm for our classmate Terry Langlands. This will be followed by a dinner, again at the Mercure Hotel, with a Guest Speaker from the AWM. For further information contact 2/67 Class Orderly, David Gray on [buka5555@bigpond.com](mailto:buka5555@bigpond.com).

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

Class 2/69 will hold their Annual Reunion based on the Novotel Barossa Valley Resort. Early bookings are essential. Contact Bill Watson to register your attendance. (02)6281-7271, Fax (02)6260-5886, Mobile (0411) 481 613 [bill1223@gmail.com](mailto:bill1223@gmail.com) with a cc to Mick Hart [mhart@clearlyhoare.com.au](mailto:mhart@clearlyhoare.com.au) The weekend begins on Friday night with a BBQ and drinks around the pool at the resort. Saturday night will see a dinner at the resort and Sunday lunch will be at FINO Seppeltsfield. For those staying on Sunday night, a group dinner can be organised. Accommodation is to be booked directly with the Novotel Barossa Valley Resort.

#### **OCS/OTU 1/72 Reunion, 15 October 2017** Contact Mike Prain [pepperprain1@bigpond.com](mailto:pepperprain1@bigpond.com)

OCS/OTU Class 1/72 is celebrating 45 years since their 'Scheyville Experience' with a Reunion Dinner at Bob Deer's Tweed River Motel, Murwillumbah, NSW, (SW from Tweed Heads) on the 15 October 2017. Accommodation is available at the Motel at 'mate's rates'! The Murwillumbah area offers a wide range of activities for those wishing to make an extended weekend of their visit to the Tweed Valley.

These including:

- Climbing Mt Warning - sensational for those that have the interest and physical ability.
- Visiting the Glow worms at the Natural Bridge, Numinbah Valley
- A river cruise - either by operator or Bob may have a 'BBQ boat' available for up to 10 pax.
- The local Art Gallery - well worth a look.
- Golf at Royal Murwillumbah.
- Activities at RSL Club. (Bob has a little influence he says).
- Bowls or any other activity at Condong Bowling Club. (Bob also has influence).

#### **3/71 National Reunion, Adelaide 24 – 26 November 2017**

Class 3/71 will hold a Reunion in Adelaide over the weekend of 24 - 26 November 2017. Early bookings are essential. Contact Geoff Houghton with your attendance and accommodation needs.

0418 813 138 or [geoff@ghtransport.com.au](mailto:geoff@ghtransport.com.au)

Apart from Class 3/71 members, activities over this weekend are open to any who undertook 'The Scheyville Experience'.

The weekend will commence with a dinner at the Naval and Military Club on Friday night, a bus tour through the Adelaide Hills to Handorf on Saturday and a morning tour of historic 'Carrick Hill' followed by a BBQ Lunch on Sunday.

#### **WngO: OCS/OTU 2/72 Reunion, Canberra, December 2018** Rudi Poldoja [rudipoldoja@hotmail.com](mailto:rudipoldoja@hotmail.com)

In the past the class 2/72 has had 10<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Reunions along with a 42<sup>nd</sup> reunion in 2015 combined with their 'Seniors' of 1/72. To mark the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their Mid 1973 Graduation, Class OCS/OTU 2/72 is planning a Canberra Reunion under the co-ordination of Graham Lacey. Initial planning is to have a mid-week reunion to co-incide with the December RMC Graduation plus a visit to the OCS/OTU Archives (at the RMC Museum, which should be re-opened by then), the AWM and some local touring.



## **VIETNAM VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES**

For those travelling interstate in mid-August the following Vietnam Veterans Day activities are being held in the major cities:

### **Adelaide, Friday 18 August 2017**

The RAR A will hold a service at its Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground, on the 18 August 2017 at 11.00 a.m. The Northern Suburbs Sub-branch will hold a service at Montague Farm, Henderson Ave Pooraka also at 11.00 am. The suburb of Pooraka has some streets named after soldiers killed in SVN.

### **Brisbane, Friday 18 August 2017**

The Brisbane Vietnam Veterans Service begins with a march stepping off from Reddacliffe Place, off George St, at 10.40 am. The service will commence at 11.00 am at ANZAC Square and conclude at noon.

### **Townsville, Friday 18 August 2017**

The Townsville service will be held on Friday 18 August at the ANZAC Park. Assemble at 1645 hours for the 1700 hours Service. After the service meet at the Townsville RSL.

### **Canberra**

Email requests for information to VVAA went unanswered and unable to find anything on the internet for the ACT Branch VVAA Vietnam Veterans Day by the publication cut-off day!

### **Hobart, Friday 18 August 2017**

Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Service, Friday 18 August 2017 at the Hobart Cenotaph, Queens Domain. The Laying of Wreaths will commence at 11.45am and the service will commence at 12 noon. Following the service lunch will be served at the Claremont RSL at 1 Bilton Street, Claremont at 1.00pm.

### **Launceston, Friday 18 August 2017**

The Launceston service will be held at noon on Friday 18 August 2017 at the Launceston Cenotaph in Paterson Street. Following the service there will be a Civic Reception at the Launceston RSL.

### **Melbourne, Friday 18 August 2017**

The day commences with a gathering for a Gun-fire Breakfast at 0930 hrs at the northern end of Shrine Precinct. From 1045 hrs Invited Guests including the Victorian Premier The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP and Minister for Veterans The Hon John Eren MP arrive. At 1100 hrs the Marchers step off from northern end of Shrine Precinct. At 1120 hrs a welcome by VVAA Victorian State President Mr Bob Elworthy AM. This is followed by an address by Victorian Premier The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP and an address by Ms Dot Angell, SEATO Nurses Vietnam. This is followed by a Wreath Laying ceremony and a closing prayer. Unit reunions will follow. Contact your unit association for details.

### **Perth, Sunday 13 August 2017 – Kings Park**

Assemble on the eastern side of the lake at 1030 hrs for a 1045 Step-off to the Memorial. All non-marchers are requested to be in location by 1040 hours. The service will commence at 1100 hours and follow our standard format with only official wreath layers being called forward as part of the service. All others are asked to lay their tributes during the poppy laying with the Vietnam Veterans.

### **Sydney, Friday 18 August 2017**

The Sydney Vietnam Veterans Service will be held on 18 August at the Cenotaph in Martin Place. Assembly is at 10.50 am for an 11.00 am service. After service activities will be by Unit Association.

Ed Note: The "Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia Inc" website has been designed with two purposes in mind. The first, to provide information of special or current interest to Australian Vietnam veterans. The second, to provide for students of all ages, historical context, information about Australia's involvement in the war, Australian units, servicemen and servicewomen.

“Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living.”

## BATTALION OF OFFICER CADETS STRUCTURE PROJECT (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

In The Scheyvillian 1 of 2017 I was able to present a table that gave a figure of how many Cadets commenced Scheyville (2,589) and therefore what the Pass Rate was (70%). Since then some further information has come to hand increasing the March-In number to 2,598 (69%). There may be a further small change to this number should more detail come to hand for the few classes that have so far not provide definitive information (ie March-In photographs or other supporting paperwork).

**It is no good holding information for the association if no-one ever sees it**, so the next project is to determine if a complete set of 'Battalion of Officer Cadet Structures' can be found.

So far I have the structures of:

1/65 Guidance Officers and Cadets

Fathers & Sons (Includes Cadet postings for BHQ, Companies and Platoons)

1/65 & 2/65	2/65 & 1/66	2/66 & 3/66	3/66 & 4/66	4/66 & 1/67
2/68 & 3/68	4/69 & 1/70	4/70 & 1/71	2/71 & 3/71	
3/72 & 4/72 – 3/72 Seniors only)				

The BOC structure was available as an Annex to the OTU GENERAL INSTRUCTION FOR BOC.

If you are holding a copy of your class's Battalion of Officer Cadets Structure could you please forward a copy to The Editor.

Part of the Class 4/66 – Class 1/67 BOC Structure is shown on the following page:.

ANNEX H TO OTU GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOC							
ALLOCATIONS OF OFFICER CADETS TO SECTIONS							
BATTALION HEADQUARTERS							
	Father	Son	Sect		Father	Son	Sect
BSM	SJO Murphy						
BQMS	UO Ralph						
PMC	UO Beesley	{ Hunter	1				
		{ Sinnott	6				
		{ Storen	7				
Ord Room Sgt	Sgt Shepherd	{ Watt	1				
		{ Kainerder	7				
Ord Room Cpl	Cpl Cleland	{ Watson	4				
		{ Price	6				
COMPANY HEADQUARTERS							
A Coy				B Coy			
	Father	Son	Sect		Father	Son	Sect
CSM	UO Symons	Penn	5	CSM	UO Robinson		
		Burford	6				
CQMS	Col/Sgt Ellison	Clarke	5	CQMS	Col/Sgt Bleakley	Partridge	2
		Dick	5				
Ord Room Cpl	Cpl Hellyer	Perrott	1	Ord Room Cpl	Russell		
		Moody	3				

**From the front page article, for Class 3/69 we know the following:**

**BHQ:**

BSM O'Donnell BQMS Simpson PMC Callinan RD Sgt Brimelow RD Cpl ?

**A Coy:** CSM Reid CQMS Not stated O Rm Cpl ?

**B Coy:** CSM McCarthy CQMS Kelly O Rm Cpl ?

**C Coy:** CSM Omerod CQMS Greening O Rm Cpl ?

**D Coy:** CSM Cooper CQMS Walsh O Rm Cpl ?

**Pl Sgts:** Beddison Burgh Cannon Gleeson Keys McGrath

Davies & Youl (D Coy)

**If you have any information on which platoon the Sergeants were in, who were the Corporals and who were the Fathers and Sons, please contact the Editor. Some-one must have a copy of the required Annex.**

### **Graduates, Repeats and Non-Graduates: Another story.** Michael Hewitt-Gleeson 3/67

During the recent exercise on determining the number of Cadets who commenced Scheyville many interesting tales were told about those who became 'Non-Graduates'. There were many Cadets who did not graduate but didn't actually fail the course. Michael Hewitt-Gleeson was one. Michael wrote:

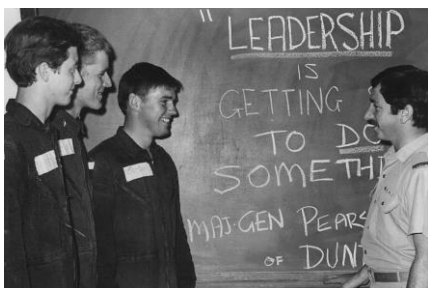
One of the biggest opportunities to multiply your business by ten, in my experience, is to X10 your training investment, especially in the use of daily training to get measurable results. Whatever you train every day will get the best results. If you use daily personal training in customer service, you will get measurable results in customer service. If you use daily personal training in innovation, you will get measurable results in innovation. If you use daily personal training in profit strategies, you will get measurable results in profit strategies.

In my view, the standards of profit strategies, innovation and customer service in Australian companies are way below the potential abilities of Australian employees working in these areas. In my experience, it is because so little attention is given to daily training in these skills. So, it was as a member of the Battalion of Officer Cadets that I had first experienced the magic of daily training. I was a class member of 3/67 and then I was given the 'opportunity' to repeat as a class member of 4/67. At that time, I coped with the disappointment of not graduating with 3/67 by explaining to myself, "well, at least this means the Army is investing another half million dollars in my training" which was apparently true. I returned to Scheyville for an additional 77 days and nights of training.

Then another disappointment. I didn't graduate with 4/67 either. A few days before graduation, after a Commandant's interview, I was dismissed from the Battalion and 'marched out' of Scheyville suddenly one day. This was as a result of an encounter with the Chief Instructor who gave me an order about my corps selection, which I considered to be outside his prerogative, and which I therefore refused to obey. This was very tactless of me and, no doubt, I should have thought up a more lateral solution to the problem. However, I didn't think it through and so I never attained the rank of Second Lieutenant.

After a year in Viet Nam my two years in the Army were up so I decided to serve the additional three years of my National Service obligation in the Royal Australian Air Force. There I gained the commission for which I felt I had been trained. Instead of the Army rank of Second Lieutenant I attained the equivalent air force rank of Pilot Officer. This solution was a lateral one and I served five years in the RAAF Reserve as a Chief Instructor until relocating to New York in 1974.

One day, in January 1973, I arranged to take my Squadron on a tour of Puckapunyal as an 'inter- service excursion'. Because of my Army training my nickname in the RAAF was 'Private Parts'. I was proud of how well the Army played such excellent hosts to my bunch of 'blue orchids' and everyone had a fine time on that day. However, the clandestine reason for my visit to 2 RTB was to 'pay my respects' to its commander, Lt Col Maizey, my nemesis at Scheyville, and to show off my RAAF shoulder stripes to the



one man whom I believed must have despised me so. Introducing myself to his adjutant as, "Flying Officer Gleeson, one of his boys from Scheyville", I relished this moment and imagined him getting quite annoyed at seeing me, maybe even refusing to give me an audience. I could hear his adjutant make the announcement in the next room but to my astonishment I heard him boom out, "Gleeson! Yes, I remember him! Always with a smile on his face."

He jumped up and came rushing out of his office with a great welcome, warm handshakes and a genuine show of pride on seeing my RAAF commission. At that meeting, Stan Maizey told me about the coming Final Graduation Parade and insisted that I attend as his guest. I did go and our reconciliation was completed over a drink in the Officers Mess at Scheyville. It was a very happy ending the next morning, Wednesday, 18th April 1973, when Stan and I stood side by side – in khaki and in blue – and witnessed, for that one last historic time, the BSM command: "The Battalion of Officer Cadets will advance in Review Order. By the centre ... quick ... march!!"



## ANZAC DAY ACTIVITIES

**New South Wales** (Dick Adams, 3/72):

On a fine Sydney morning, 36 OTU graduates marched in the Sydney ANZAC Day March. Andrew Fraser (2/70) captured the group stitching the old hamstrings prior to the March; as well as the group proudly marching down Elizabeth Street, towards Hyde Park.

Following the March, another successful luncheon was held at the NSW Masonic Club, where 48 graduates and guests enjoyed a two-course lunch and drinks; followed by an ANZAC memorial service at 3pm.



### Queensland - Brisbane:

Twenty three Scheyvillians marched, or in the case of Stan Maizey was pushed (he wouldn't miss the day) by his grand-daughter Courtney, in the Brisbane ANZAC Day March. After the march the 14 members and partners retired to the 'ogg's Breath Cafe, where many a good story, some true, some embellished, was told during the chat over lunch.

**Darlington (Queensland) Community:** This is the text former CI of OTU Dick Flint delivered to the Darlington Community on ANZAC Day. Dick said that there were plenty of old sweats there who commented. A few arguments, some wanted more info so I gave a bibliography for them to chase up. Fifteen minutes does not do the campaign justice. There are many details glossed over and lots of side stories of unit successes and individual deeds seldom noted even in Dispatches. The overriding factor about the battles is that there were dull generals in Cairo who never even visited the battle front yet made surprising demands and impossible missions. The principle difficulty was water maintenance for the horses and men. Added too were the extremes of heat and dust storms. Communications were basic and info and orders got lost. It was a tough war that got very little publicity because Billy Hughes wanted to preserve national morale. If 'Banjo' Paterson's communiques had ever got printed, recruiting would have dried up.

THIS IS THE DAY THAT WE PAY TRIBUTE TO EVERYBODY WHO CONTRIBUTED TO ANY WAR OR CONFLICT. WE HONOUR THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY AT HOME OR ABROAD IN ALL OF OUR SERVICES AND THOSE WHO TEND THE INCAPACITATED. WE SPECIALLY REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED OF WAR OPERATIONS

Today I am going to do something different. We have heard about and seen the dreadful results of the disaster of the raid on Gallipoli and heard many stories of Belgium and France. We will never stop grieving for the lost: we will at the same time be proud of the achievements of our services. But what happened after Gallipoli? Were there any things more in the war other than the war in France? What would you say if I said that Gallipoli was only round one in a continuing conflict in the Middle East? What would you say if I said there were many other things happening at the same time and before that period? What about this: In 1916, after Gallipoli did you know that the Royal Navy shelled Dublin to help operations to quell the Irish rebellion? Did you know that the USA was at war with Mexico and you guessed it was about migration. I wonder if Donald Trump knew about that? Before that in 1914, an IEF force from Bombay sailed in many ships up the Persian Gulf and landed to advance up both the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to protect the Anglo/Persian Oil Coy. Of course, India was British then wasn't it? This was about the same time the ANZAC were sailing over the Indian Ocean to Cairo. Not much media about any of that and they had four years of war there.

Why did we have a battle in Gallipoli anyway? Well it was mainly about OIL. When Winston Spencer Churchill became the First Lord of the admiralty he decided to convert the Royal Navy from coal to oil. There was none in England, none in Europe, but we had it in Persia, well Mesopotamia anyway. Churchill had to keep it. Germany wanted to have it too. Russia wasn't so interested since it sat on an ocean of oil and didn't know it, but wanted access through the Bosphorus so that they could world trade like the rest of Europe. The Bosphorus was the critical point. Everybody wanted to control this strait and that's what the conflict in the Middle East was all about. Germany had sent General Liman von Sanders into Turkey in 1911 to restore and organise a thoroughly disorganised Turkish Army after its war with Russia. WW1 broke out before 'Winny' could get going and when he was promoted to the War Cabinet, he pleaded to the War Office to give him a force he needed for him to capture Ankara. War Minister, Lord Kitchener and the BEF Commander in Chief, Field Marshal Haig blocked every move he made. In chorus, they shouted to him that there was a war on in France and no men could be spared. They said that since he was the Navy Minister he should do his planned operations using battleships; after all, Britain was famous for gun boat diplomacy. Two failed naval sallies early in 1915 left the problem still unsolved. Kitchener did concede that if 'Winnipeg' pressed the case for Allied dominance of the Bosphorus then he could use some of the Colonial Armies. That's when we came into it. I will not elaborate on the fateful raid on Gallipoli. We know all that. But this is where the happenings occurring after it becomes interesting. Particularly now since this is where all the current conflict is today.

The war raged in Europe and most of us know of the battles and the dreadful waste of life and limb there, but historians have not recorded much about a war in Palestine to any great extent. Recently several books have emerged. 1916 was a critical year there. In 1916 again, the Turks, having recovered easily from Gallipoli swept over to Persia and went down the Palestine coast intending to capture Cairo. The British Commander was aware of this threat and constantly reminded Lord Kitchener that there would be a crisis if the Suez Canal was lost. All the British Colonies would be separated from the Mother Country and thus denied giving support to the war in France.

The ANZAC survivors concentrated in Cairo where the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions were reorganised. Two more Divisions (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>) were raised with reinforcements from Australia and New Zealand. This formation was named the 2<sup>nd</sup> ANZAC and eventually left Egypt to join with the Allied Forces in France. Light Horse Regiment survivors, not strictly part of ANZAC; together with reinforcements also from Australia and NZ formed the Desert Mounted Corps and were commanded by Lt Gen Harry Chauvel. His corps had two divisions, one called the ANZAC Mounted Division including the Kiwis and the other was an all Australian Light Horse Division. ANZAC was now a word and not just a size of a formation. The troopers were mounted on horses and camels. Some new books question the comparisons between horse and camel and the general myth that camels were superior has been challenged. Our horses were called 'Walers', bred in Western NSW and Queensland, and were used to working with sheep for long periods without water equaling the camel capacity but the big difference was that horses would work at night while camel would refuse to budge and as a result were mainly used to bring up supplies and evacuate wounded. The arguments continue.

Major T E Laurence, the 'Laurence of Arabia' legend was thought by some to be a double agent with his loyalty only sometimes leaning to the British. This is now revealed as untrue. He lived among the Arabs and was dressed like them. He seldom visited the British Headquarters. His intelligence reports however reached Cairo saying that a large army was slowly moving through what is now Syria and Lebanon. All appearances were that it was well trained, properly organised and administratively supported for long range operations. In comparison, the British were under trained, understrength and ill prepared. The British faced defeat. But with a Herculean effort, quick progress was made and troops were hastily sent east to occupy Romani. As another aside, you all know 'Banjo' Paterson, don't you? 'Waltzing Matilda' and 'The Man from Snowy River' fame? Did you know he was commander of a remount company with the rank of Major and he and his men broke and trained 800 horses enough for two regiments and after that they kept going for some of the years later. Without him the force may not have been ready so quickly. He had wanted to be a War Correspondent but he was a bit outspoken and rubbed the generals up the wrong way. He did however send articles to the Sydney newspapers causing some excitement in

AHQ. His writings were too accurate, factual and told the real story. They were never printed. Contact with the Turks occurred in late 1916 north of Romani and an excruciating withdrawal occurred towards the canal. It was like another Gallipoli. In fact, you might admit it was the same war. This was 'Round Two'. Turks against ANZACs again! Interestingly the battle began on 23 April 1916 two days short of the anniversary of the first ANZAC Day. The Light Horse bravely resisted with heavy casualties until Cairo sent artillery not used in Gallipoli. In the Turkish final push to capture Romani, the air burst shells wiped out the Turk machine gunners and the horses overran the enemy causing the Turks to flee. German General Kresselstein was defeated. You could say it was a second ANZAC Day, the war correspondents forgot to mention it, and they should have, because it was retribution. The men of Light Horse were overjoyed. It was revenge for their defeat at The Nek. On 17 August 1916, the Turkish Army out-ran its supply of water and melted into the desert.

Laurence moved swiftly bribing the Arabs to harass the Turks. There was little love lost between them anyway. The Light Horse moved to Magdhaba and overcoming the rigors of the desert, the extremes of heat, fatigue, great difficulty in securing water supply and continuing resistance. They moved on to Gaza. In all there were six engagements to get there and it took two hard years to capture it. The balding 54-year-old General Allenby was the commander of all the Forces there. He now had 34,000 horsemen that now included British Cavalry. The force was about 70% ANZAC. The next target was Beersheba and this was to be a combined horse and infantry operation. It went badly at first since our old enemy from Gallipoli, General von Sanders was commanding. When the day wore on things became desperate. The city had to be taken because it had water wells and the force had only enough water for that night. Chauvel ordered the Light Horse to act like cavalry and over-run the defences. 'Chips' Rafferty would have been proud except it was only 1,800 men not the 40,000 in his film who made the final charge but they did it, attacking the trenches with fixed bayonets carried like lances. For a few hours, it was a pitched battle but then the Turks surrendered in droves. Then it was a long way North. Hard riding and long days with the Turks just in front! Indications were noted that Turkish resistance was waning. It was now the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1918 and our force was advancing on Damascus to take the city with 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse leading. Chauvel used them deliberately much to TE Laurence's disgust because he had done a deal with the Arabs for them to be seen to take the city so they could even up a few scores of their own. In the battle, Von Sanders escaped just in front of the advance. He was never seen again. An Armistice was signed by an Australian named Major Olden who rode up to the city hall where many Arab dignitaries had assembled. They were led by one Emir named 'Said' who was the man the Turks had made nominal governor. When it was done, Major Olden turned to one of his lieutenants and said, "I hope you are impressed, we have just joined an illustrious list of notables who captured this city including Egypt's Rameses, Greek Alexander and France's Napoleon." Be proud. So, this part of the World War 1 was won. Light Horse Men rode the long ride over to the Bosphorus and across to Gallipoli to bury dead and collected memorabilia to take home. Their memories were particularly poignant. Sadly, only a few of the original ANZAC were there.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THESE ARE SOME MORE MEMORIES TO SHARE ON THIS ANZAC DAY. NOW WE CAN REGARD GALLIPOLI A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY. THE FACT IS THAT IN THE END WE WON THAT WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT GALLIPOLI WAS ONLY ROUND ONE. THAT IS SOMETHING MORE TO REMEMBER. AND 'WINNY' GOT HIS OIL.

Thank you.

### **South Australia** (Gary Vial, 3/69)

Sadly a much reduced contingent this year as many of the 'retirees' seem to be travelling overseas. Marchers were Tim (son of Paul) Dewar; Paul Dewar (2/72); David Jervis (2/69); Geoff Williams (2/70); Phil Verco (4/71) and Trevor Ranford (2/72). Gary Vial (3/69) is out of shot.

After they had marched with their serving units, Don Stewart (1/65 & DS), John Carney (3/66-4/66) and Craig Steel (1/70) joined us partway through, swelling the numbers somewhat.





The ABC who televised the march gave us our best coverage to date which is available on iView -

<http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/anzac-day-march-adelaide/FA1639S001S00#playing>.

Our bit starts at 1.48:29 and commentary ends 1.49:05

ANZAC Day 2017 is a particularly poignant day for Gary Vial. On this day in 1917, 100 years ago, his paternal grandfather, William John Vial (right) was so badly wounded near Ploegsteert Wood, Belgium that he lost one leg and had restricted use of the other. He bore the pain and restrictions it placed on him stoically for the rest of his life. He returned to Australia, married and founded a successful upholstery business. He just 'got on with it'



### **Victoria** (Frank Miller, 4/67)

Under threatening clouds the Victorian OTU contingent gathered in Flinders Street for an 1120 hours departure. Unlike previous occasions we marched off a few minutes early - only to halt in Swanston Street to catch up time. It was during this pause (dictated by the March organisers) that one or two stragglers were duly able to take their places in our ranks. This year were fortunate indeed to be joined by eleven 3/72 members who were in Melbourne for their class reunion.



Led by Robin Hunt (3/69) our body of forty one strode proudly behind the Scheyville Banner to the Shrine of Remembrance where the official salute was taken.

Changes of step were a little more frequent than usual as we had no band within hearing to provide a beat. None the less we acquitted ourselves well. Fortunately, too, the rain held off.

After falling out some headed off to the football whilst the majority took the No.8 Tram to the Toorak Services (Heroes) Club. There, joined by some of the ladies, we enjoyed lunch, a few wines and fine fellowship. It was a fitting end to Australia's special day.

### **Western Australia**

ANZAC Day in Perth saw a small group of members representing the WA Chapter. They assembled at an over-patronised Rigby's Tavern at the western end of St Georges Terrace Perth, the usual RSL Club being closed due to demolition & re-building with the funds they have been able to retain.

### **Port Vila** (Paul de Launay, 3/69)

Paul attended a Dawn Service at the old WW1 French Memorial overlooking the harbour in Port Vila. The weather was fine and the service was well attended with the President and Acting Prime Minister of Vanuatu attending. Australian Naval Officers and the NZ Army Representatives attended as well as the French Ambassador. There was also a large expat community and locals attending.



The service was sponsored by the NZ and Australian High Commissions here and there was a gunfire breakfast at the Warwick Le Legon Resort. The lady in the photo with me is Jodie Clark an ex Australian WO1 who is here working in logistics at the Vanuatu Department of Agriculture.

### **In the USA** (Frank Shellabear, 2/66)

Frank has lived in the US for over 30 years, currently living about 40km North of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. Each ANZAC Day Frank, along with his French sheepdog Kasee, holds his own Dawn Service. This year at 0623 hrs Frank turned on his big screen TV and showed a photograph of an Australian War Memorial (right). He read all five stanzas of 'Lest We Forget' followed by a two-minute silence. He then played two tracks from 'Macca's Sunday Best': Track 13 – The Last Gallipoli Veteran, and Track 14 – The Last Post/Waltzing Matilda. He read the second stanza from 'The Fallen' They shall grow not old ..... Next came Lee Kernaghan & Crew 'He's One of Us ....' Frank's Dawn Service was completed with coffee and breakfast. Now this is dedication!



Frank Shellabear was born in Subiaco, WA, on 23 April 1945. He completed his secondary schooling at Governor Stirling Senior High School, Midland, WA and attended the PMG Telecommunications Technical School from 1961 – 1965 working as a Telecommunications Technician in 1966 before he was called up for NS. After commencing Recruit Training at 2RTB Puckapunyal on 24 April 1966 he commenced Officer Training at OTU on 6 May 1966. On 30 September 1966 Frank graduated into the RASigs Corps and was posted as a Statistics Officer at the Directorate of Signals at AHQ. On 15 February 1968 Frank was posted to 123 Signals Squadron in Perth. On discharge from NS Frank was transferred to the CMF, promoted to T/Lieutenant and immediately posted on Full-Time Duty to 123 Sigs Sqn. Frank was promoted to Lieutenant on 20 April 1969. He completed his FTD on 31 January 1970 and served about one more year in the CMF.

### **ANZAC Day, Cowes.** Year 12 Student Cameron Tran (via Graeme Chester, 2/67)

EVERYONE here has some form of connection to the Anzacs, whether you have a family member, a friend, a relative, or maybe just that you are Australian. We are able to gather today because they had the courage and selflessness to fight so many years ago. I could talk about the mateship and heroism of the Anzacs... but what I could tell you would be superficial... I don't know what it is like to stand on the frontlines, to hear bullets fly past my face, or have dirt thrown into my eyes from explosive shells. I don't know what it is to experience war. And it is thanks to the thousands of Anzacs and the participants of subsequent wars, that myself, and many Australians have never had to.

Today is a day of respect and reflection. For those with close connections to the legacy of the Anzacs you reflect on how your life and family was changed because of war. However, personally I don't have a direct connection to them. When I was younger, each year Newhaven College would hold an Anzac Day ceremony, and each year during a minute of silence I would contemplate. I didn't know what to think. War had seemingly no effect on my way of life. As the years passed I began to realize, standing among everyone in silence, that was the gift I was given. I can go to school, talk to friends and go home to a family that loves me each day. I have the greatest respect for the Anzacs and what they gave us. Initially Anzac day marked the date of the Australian and New Zealand troops arrival in Gallipoli. But over the years it has also served to commemorate those who lost their lives in military and peacekeeping operations involving Australia. Thousands of brave young men and women gave their lives for Australia and for that we acknowledge them, so that their legacy is not forgotten.

Despite World War I being a 'war to end all wars', conflicts still persist to this day. Somewhere, right now, someone is fighting for what they believe. I am afraid. My entire life, war has been a distant concept, something we study in books but don't really comprehend. Looking outwards to all the countries fighting with each other, and the tension building between them. For the first time instead of just an abstract concept, war is something real, something tangible and that frightens me.

Through formal schooling I have received countless opportunities. Opportunities that many young conscripts never had. And I am thankful and want to show my respect, for without them, it may not have been possible.

I am Australian, and my parents are Australian, but my father was not born in Australia. Previously I told you that I didn't have a direct connection to the Anzacs. My family were not part of the army. However, war is not just about fighting. My father was born in Vietnam. He and his family spent the majority of his childhood in the south. But one day he had to leave. He left his childhood home, his friends and his way of life. In a boat with his family he left for a new life and became a refugee.

War is not just about fighting. When I was younger before bed each night he would tell me stories. Among these stories was a recollection of Australian soldiers. And I could tell he had nothing but respect for the men and women who fought to protect his home. Today is a day when we can pay our respects to those who made a decision not for themselves but for the future. It is a day when we can reflect on their choices and how they have shaped Australia, and it is a chance for us to be grateful for what they have given us.

When I reflect, I will think of my life so far, and I will remember those who made a sacrifice so I didn't have to. That is what Anzac Day means to me.

### **Townsville Bulletin**

On 27 April 2017 Ross Eastgate wrote a piece in The Townsville Bulletin in response to politician Pauline Hanson sending an ANZAC Day Card to every RSL Sub-branch President, which he described as 'simply crass political opportunism'. His article can be seen at:

<http://targetsdown.blogspot.com.au/2017/04/crass-anzac-delivery.html>

Alistair Pope (4/66) took to the opportunity to respond to Ross pointing out that this was not the first time a politician has used ANZAC Day to score political points. No doubt there will be others who will follow. Alistair also directs us to an article in The Spectator on the future of the R&SL. Worth a read!

<https://spectator.com.au/2016/10/malcolms-coup-inspires/>

Alistair and Maria spend several months a year in Vung Tau. He has written a couple of good articles on living in Vietnam. If you would like to read them please email Alistair. If you are considering a holiday in Vietnam it would be worth looking at their apartment at:

<https://www.airbnb.com.au/rooms/10276965?preview=&sug=51>

### **STATE ACTIVITIES:**

#### **ACT CHAPTER**

The Mid-year Commissioning Ceremony, which included the presentation of Graduation Certificates and Commissions, was held in the RMC Duntroon Fitness Centre on Monday 26 June 17 at 11.00 am.

Mike Buick (1/67) represented the OTU Association and the ACT Chapter at the ceremony and presented the Scheyville Prize for the 'Most Improved in Leadership Skills and Ethics' to Anastasia Terziman who graduated into RASigs.





## **NSW CHAPTER** (Gary McKay 2/68)

The NSW Chapter conducts a monthly lunch - usually at the Athenian Restaurant in Barrack Street in the Sydney CBD (close to the Wynyard train station so everyone can use their Senior's cards) and numbers vary between 20 to 25. The atmosphere is cordial (and plenty of that is consumed), and the conversation vary from lucid to incoherent (again depending on the time after lunch). The majority of those attending are from within the Greater Sydney area but a few dedicated souls travel from the regional centres of Newcastle, the Blue Mountains and the South Coast. The fare is naturally Greek and the Athenian specialises in slow cooked shoulder of lamb. Cold Greek beer and hearty Australian reds wash down the fare and a good time is had by all. There are no images available because: a. I always forget to take a photo, and b. several of those present do not wish to be identified! The lunch is usually held in the second week of the month, although this varies depending on whether or not I remember to send out the Warning Order.

## **QUEENSLAND CHAPTER**

The Queensland Chapter holds monthly lunches with an attendance between 10 – 15 of its 50 Active members. The chapter supports VITEA as its Youth Leadership Project with a donation of \$2,000 in 2017. VITEA's Vision is to turn trouble youth from negative behaviour to life embracing behaviour and to become leaders of good citizenship, through programs in the bush. Three days are spent hiking, team building and learning some bush-craft. The next three days has some autonomy introduced with the planning and execution of an overnight expedition over a major mountain to underpin leadership and achievement in facing challenges. The last three days see resilience training, goal setting and introduction to rites of passage placed around a 24 hour solo. The course concludes with a formal dinner.

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

The Tasmanian Chapter lunch group met on Friday 12 May for our second of our quarterly lunches planned for this year. The venue was the newly refurbished Rosevears Hotel/Motel complex situated about a ten minute drive North of Launceston CBD. An idyllic setting on the banks of the Tamar River, a somewhat stunning view to complement any meal.

Although the numbers were small in attendance, the compact group had a great lunch and 'managed' to wash it down with selections from the adjacent Cellar Room.

Unfortunately a few late withdrawals, that were unavoidable, did not detract from yet another successful get together. Those that attended were: James Reade (1/71), Ross Robbins (2/69), Ian & Jean Howard (1/69), Ray & Pam Williams (2/71) and Lorraine Luff.

Apologies were received from: Peter Williams and Gavan Connell (1/71), Peter Bysouth (1/67), Peter Dalkin (B1/67), Mary and Ross Mace (1/67) and Anne and Dennis Townsend ((2/70). For those that stayed overnight in the onsite cabins had the opportunity to watch the 'night racing of submarines up and down the Tamar River!' – Let it not be said that the wine had an influence in all this!

Our next planned lunch has been organised by Ian Howard and it will be held at Etties' restaurant in Hobart (100 Elizabeth Street) on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017, 1200 for 1230hs for those that are or maybe deciding to attend.

## **VICTORIAN CHAPTER**

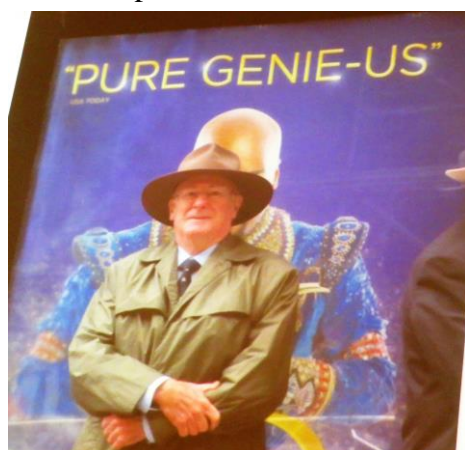
### **Annual Dinner, 23 June 2017**

In 2016 the Victorian Chapter Annual Dinner was moved to the ANZAC Day weekend to allow the Class 1/70 Reunion, being held in Melbourne at that time, to join in. Accordingly, around one hundred and ten attended. This year, with the dinner back to a more usual June date, and so many members now retired and becoming 'grey nomads', numbers were naturally down. However, seventy (just eight less than the non-1/70 attendees last year) hearty souls braved the Melbourne winter and gathered at the William Angliss College for the 2017 dinner.

Led again by MC Ray Andrews (1/70) the assembled throng was not disappointed. The College's students once more excelled in their presentation of Hors d'Oeuvres and drinks prior to the meal, the presentation of the meal itself and the table service. Victorian and National Chairman Frank Miller (4/67) gave a stirring presentation and also thanked the students and the Victorian members involved in the organisation of the evening. (Next Page: one of Ray's humorous photographs – Frank Miller, 4/67)

As is his usual method, Ray invited a number of attendees to the microphone and, with his methodical questioning technique, drew out of them some information that left the diners more informed about their fellow Scheyvillians. These included Barry Miechel (4/69) RAE, John 'Hondo' Gratton (3/69) AAAvn/RAAOC and first-timer Hans Van Wilgenburg (1/72) RAE – see later article.

Despite the colder weather the annual raffle still raised a healthy \$910 for the Victorian Chapter Youth Leadership Fund.



Prizes and winners were:

A 1-hour sail on the good ship 'Enterprise' presented by Ian Watkins (2/70) - Ian Kelly (2/67)

Two Chocolate Hampers from Frank Miller (4/67) - Heather Chester & Kate Watkins

\$100 Book Voucher from Mick Stone (1/68) of Camberwell Books – Graeme Chester (2/67)

A bottle of St Hallett's 'Old Block Shiraz' from Peter Matters (2/70) – Wayne Bruce (2/70)

Two small Farm Garden Ornaments from Allan McCallum (3/70) - Brian Cooper (3/69) & Denise Pels

A bottle of Cutty Sark Scotch and a bottle of Brown Brothers King Valley Prosecco from Frank Miller (4/67) – Ian McEwan (4/70)

With our aging membership (mostly retired and now able to take winter holidays) the Victorian Chapter Committee will be moving the dinner to a different time so as not to disappoint those who seek the warmer weather in the middle of the year.

### Monthly Lunches

The lunches are held at 1230 hours on the second Wednesday of the month. The attendance is usually in the order of 15 – 18. Many a tall tale and true are told and some good food and wine are guaranteed. Please advise Brian Cooper (3/69) of your attendance no later than the Monday before on 0418 373 874 or [bctcooper@gmail.com](mailto:bctcooper@gmail.com)

**WEST AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER** (via Frank LeFaucheu, 1/71 & David Ward, 2/66)

**Quarterly Lunch Friday 5 May 2017** (Andrew Martindale, 1/72)

In line with established tradition there was a quarterly gathering of our former officers (most of them also gentlemen) at the Romany Restaurant in Northbridge, to partake of a fine lunch, drinks, good fellowship and dubious storytelling. On parade were the following: Bernie Houston (1/65), Bill Hewitt and Dave Ward (2/66), Frank Shellabear (2/66 - in Perth on a visit from his home in the USA), Bruce Thorpe (3/66), John Barnes (2/67), Glenn Williams (3/67), Howard Sattler (3/68), David Harley and Graham Mathieson (1/70), Dave Macoboy and Steve McDonald (2/70), Ben Blake (4/70), , Phillip (Pip) Edwards and Frank LeFaucheu (1/71) and Barry Cooke (3/71), Andrew Martindale (1/72) and Ken Waller (2/72).

During the course of conversation it was revealed that three of the members present at the lunch had served as Signals Corps officers after graduation from Scheyville. Bill Hewitt (2/66) was initially posted to Melbourne, followed by a posting to Papua New Guinea. By complete coincidence, he was replaced 12 months later by OTU graduate John Barnes (2/67), but they did not meet until much later in life. Barry Cooke (3/71) remained in Australia for his service in Sigs, and related some insights into his adventures.

**Bill Hewitt's (2/66):** "My first month after Scheyville was spent at RA School of Signals at Balcombe, Victoria, on the Mornington Peninsula. I suppose I learned something about signals but my strongest memory is of a "field exercise with picnic lunch" which turned out to be a five course meal laid out under the trees on trestle tables with white linen tablecloths, silver cutlery, crystal wine glasses and waiter service. Something of a shock after OTU!



I then reported for duty at 127 Signals Squadron in the leafy Melbourne suburb of Ivanhoe. This unit was responsible for designing signals equipment and installations, and was staffed by a kindly bunch of long-serving technical 'boffins', all Captains and Warrant Officers, headed by a Major Bodger, an impressive and cheerful man who had come up through the ranks (it took me several weeks to stop addressing the WOs as "Sir").

There was nothing much for me to do.

I lived in Watsonia (now Simpson) Barracks not far from Ivanhoe. Quite simply, this was one of the most idyllic periods of my life. Several of my best OTU mates were also there and we lived life to the full – a batman to attend to our rooms, great meals, nightly billiards and wonderful bar service. My parents lived a short distance away and their tennis court was well used on weekends by me and my new Army mates.

The Barracks periodically held 'Balls' for the Officers, who were required to attend in Winter Dress Uniform. On arriving to pick up my date on one of these occasions, I was told off for failing to tell her it was a fancy dress party! There were numerous young ladies employed in the various signals facilities at Watsonia. They were supposed to be off limits - but they all looked so attractive in their crisp WRAAC uniforms.

All good things come to an end, sometimes replaced by even better things, as it turned out for me. In July 1967 I was transferred to Papua New Guinea Detachment (PNG Det), 127 Signals Squadron, based in Murray Barracks, Port Moresby. This was my first time overseas and I loved it. Port Moresby and PNG in general were quite safe at that time. PNG Det 127 Sigs Squadron was involved in setting up signals facilities for the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment (RPIR) at their various barracks around PNG – Taurama (Port Moresby), Igam (Lae), Moem (Wewak) and Vanimo. The unit was headed by a Duntroon-trained Captain and staffed by NCOs and ORs who all knew their jobs well and didn't need me. To keep occupied, I did the unit's routine administration, but had plenty of time for sport (sailing, water polo, pistol shooting), sightseeing with my girlfriend in my old Peugeot, joining in RPIR exercises (a 7-day patrol over the Kokoda Track for its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and 2 weeks in the very isolated Southern Highlands on a road-mapping survey with the Intelligence Officer), and taking leave to see more of PNG (Mt Albert Edward, Fane Mission, Trobriand Islands, Rabaul, the Central Highlands and the Sepik River area). Each of these would be worthy of a separate article.

It was then time to return to Watsonia Barracks, get discharged in April 1968 and return to my job as a Geophysicist at BHP in the Minerals Exploration Department, working all over Australia and many other countries, which included 4 years based in Port Moresby with my family."

**John Barnes (2/67)** *had been working at AWA (Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd) as an undergraduate, and upon his graduation was required to report for National Service.*

"There I was at AWA, working on two fairly significant HF Transmitters, one for the Army and one for what was then OTC (Overseas Telecommunications Commission). The Army one was always causing problems. Plucked out after my final exams and on a bus to Pucka. Three weeks of what-you-get, being asked to fix the CO's intercom (which wasn't fixable), then off to Scheyville after the well-known "impossible-to-solve" tests."



*John duly graduated with the 2/67 Class and, like Bill Hewitt, was posted to 127 Signals Squadron, Ivanhoe. The Unit answered to the Directorate of Signals, as it was known in those days, and was responsible for installing the Army's Radio Communications Network, and all of the security that went with it.*

"I later got word from a couple of my civilian mates that, while I was at Scheyville, ASIO had been poking around, asking them fairly detailed questions about my history and friendships. Candidates for 127 Sig Sqn were given quite a bit of extra background checking.

Upon marching into the Squadron I was told I was taking over from 2Lt Bill Hewitt who was returning from PNG, but some clever clogs told my OC that I hadn't undergone Corps Training yet! So off to Balcombe School of Sigs for a month before heading North. (I wasn't to meet Bill face to face until about 2009 when I sat next to him at one of my first OTU lunches at the Romany Restaurant; got chatting and found the connection. UN-BELIEVABLE!



My time in PNG was pretty easy actually, probably not as easy as Bill's time sounds, but still plenty of involvement with the Transmitting Station at Murray Barracks and the Receiving Station at Taurama where 1PIR was stationed. Barry Cooke could fill you in on a few goings-on while locals were playing with pretty serious signals passing through both stations that had nothing to do with them! Barry was with 6 Sig Regiment manning the Major Relay Station at what was then Watsonia Barracks in Melbourne's North, and copped much of the nonsense the PIR Operators got up to, especially during system testing times.

I took a troop North to install aerial fields at Lae, to be connected to the Igam Barracks Signals Centre. I was amazed at how quickly and easily my Riggers could build reliable aerials amongst the jungle growth typical in that area. I learned about the daily sunset game in the tropics of Toad-Golf, taught by the same fun-loving troop of Sigs Riggers, a bit like the Queensland Cane Toad Golf game, but not nearly as sophisticated!

Back to Melbourne in December 1968 to finish planning and then installing the first real Communications Facility at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville, early in 1969 when Lavarack was just coming together; it was not nearly as big as it is today. There were eight foot long Black Snakes in the Cyclone fencing, and the same silly behaviors from Riggers... always up to tricks, but amongst the most fearless soldiers you'll ever come across. A major lesson from Lavarack Officers' Mess... DO NOT get involved in pontoon at 5 cents a corner with Catholic Padres. You will lose!

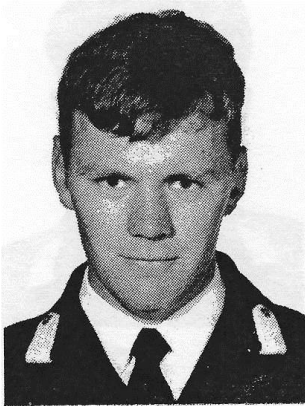
I then spent 3 months as Acting Station Commander at Diggers' Rest and Rockbank in Melbourne's outer Western suburbs, awaiting discharge in April 1969. Diggers' Rest was the major Transmitting Station, reaching out to Washington in one direction and London in the other. Rockbank was the site of the Receiving Station. Both sites have long since been decommissioned and the land given over to the sprawl of housing stretching West along the Calder Highway.

Finally, what do you think was in the wall of the Transmitter Room at Digger's Rest? The bloody Transmitter I had left behind at AWA two years before, still not working properly, so I had to fix it and its associated antenna after all! But thereby hangs another tale, maybe for another day!

I've stayed with electronics all my life since that time, one way or another, managing projects and companies for others and for myself, both at home and in some of the most remote and unfriendly parts of the world, trying to get communications facilities into the hands of those who don't have them."

**Barry Cooke (3/71): A review of my memorable, sensational career as Second Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals:** "Upon graduation from Scheyville I went straight to the Regimental

Officers Basic Course (ROBC), which at that stage was based at the Army School of Signals, Watsonia, VIC, (presently known as Defence School of Signals, Simpson Barracks).



There were two highlights for me, both involving a fellow Scheyvillian who had graduated midyear and was assigned to Signals Corps, but was serving as a Platoon Commander at perhaps Kapooka or Singleton. He had no interest in a future Army career and his CO had tried to get him out of the Signals Course, but the powers that be would have none of it, even though he had less than 6 months left to serve. His participation in the course consisted of growing his hair and reading books of dubious quality. When asked a question he would inevitably respond with “dunno”, or “I haven’t got a clue”. He had the staff absolutely stumped and after a while they simply avoided involving him.

A further highlight involved the same officer, who organized an ironman contest after a Dining-in Night. The contest consisted of drinking fatally-mixed drinks and eating foods of varying quality and freshness at stations around the mess. The only edible food was a cold pie, and milk that had been in the sun all day and was particularly revolting. Needless to say many participants were not well during the race and for some time after it. The contest was won by a large rugby-playing Major with the wonderful name of Stiffy Horn.

After ROBC I was posted to the (now demolished) 6 Signals Regiment, also at Watsonia (they made me change rooms despite being in the same Area). For their sins most newbies like me were posted as System Control Officers, which consisted of shift work (sometimes the “f” was omitted). The shifts were 3 days nightshift, 3 days dayshift, 3 days afternoon shift and three days off (most of the latter was spent catching up on broken sleep). I was one such officer. The Regiment was the Primary Relay Station for electronic messages, sort of an electronic post office for Australia; all signals into, out of, and within Australia went through the Station. My primary job was to look after quality control of circuits.

Unit policy was that, after 3 months in this role, newbies were paraded to the CO to express their desires for a new posting (a new lot of Scheyville graduates was due in and they had to serve their penance). The CO nearly fell off his chair when I said I wanted to stay on as System Control Officer. My rationale was that, firstly, I enjoyed the work of utilising the most up-to-date cypher and computer equipment; secondly, I enjoyed the crew I worked with and remain friends with a couple of them to this day (the Corporal on shift with me invited me to his wedding in Melbourne after I got out-which I duly attended), and thirdly, the prospect of being reassigned either as Transport Officer (I think the Regiment had about 5 vehicles plus trailers), or as Assistant Adjutant to some self-opinionated Captain did not appeal in the slightest to me. In my opinion the role of Assistant Adjutant was a particularly unattractive, dogs-body position. I therefore saved a number of newbies from what some perceived as purgatory by remaining on shift for the remainder of my time. I got some benefit in that the CO granted me an extra 10 days leave for arduous duties before discharge (at the end of the now 18 months NS!

Three years after leaving the Army and having completed training in psychology I was enticed into joining the Australian Army Psychology Corps CMF, where I served for about four years. I was then persuaded to transfer to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, where I served for a further 20 years. (Note: Barry finally retired from the Army on 1 Jan 2001 with the rank of Colonel – Ed).

In civilian life I worked as a Psychologist and retired about 10 years ago from full-time work as the Principal of a school for kids with disabilities. I am currently working on a casual basis as Psychologist for a company that provides psychology services for Defence Recruiting. How the wheel turns!”

## Support to TS Leeuwin

The STS Leeuwin II is Western Australia's very own tall ship, a unique three-masted 1850's barquentine. sail training ship designed in an 1850's barquentine style. The ship was launched in 1986. It is 55 metres long and 33 metres tall. It has 16 sails with a total of 810 m<sup>2</sup> of canvas.

Our Leeuwin's primary program is our Youth Explorer Voyages. A week-long opportunity for participants to sharpen their work-ready skills and enhance skills in communication, leadership and collaboration. The on-board voyage are designed to lift a student to the next level and ensure they are given the edge to enter the workplace with the best opportunities available to them. In addition to our Youth Development program, we run a range of specialised voyages and 3-hour sails. The Leeuwin Foundation is a trusted not-for-profit organisation based in Fremantle. Since 1986 we have welcomed more than 40,000 young people on board the STS Leeuwin II. The Leeuwin Foundation is funded through a combination of grants, corporate sponsorships and donations by organisations and the general public.



Ron Packer (1/71) is a Life Member of Leeuwin. At their office in B Shed, Victoria Quay, Fremantle on 12 June 2017 Ron was pleased to be able to hand over to Carol Shannon, CEO, Leeuwin Ocean Foundation, a cheque for \$2,000 on behalf of the WA Chapter OTU. The funds were raised as a result of small profits being made at the Quarterly Lunches over a number of years and National Youth Leadership Rebates. The Chapter also presented a further cheque for \$2,000 to the Legacy Fund of Perth for children of ex-servicemen's & women's families, at their annual camp for kids, Busselton,

Most of our group continues to meet socially, interacting with other family members, providing friendship & support for issues of health and family loss. Fellow class mates and Frank Le Faucheur are a driver of this behavior and show great leadership for the rest.

## Quarterly Lunch Friday 4 August 2017

A fine bunch of true gentlemen were on parade for the WA Chapter Quarterly Lunch at the Romany Restaurant in Northbridge, Perth with the usual good food, excellent wine and outstanding company. These events are convened by Frank LeFaucheur (1/71). The 17 old and bold who gathered to tell tall tales and true of the dim and distant past were:



Table 2 at right: (L-R): Dave Ward (2/66), Neville Gale (1/66), Turk Ellis (1/70), Bruce Thorpe (3/66), John Barnes (2/67), Dave Harley (1/70), Wayne Banks (1/70), Barry Cooke (3/71) and photographer Ron Packer (1/71).

Table 1 at left: (L-R):

Dave Atkinson (2/65), Bill Hewitt (2/66), Steve Pearson (3/69), Glenn Williams (3/67), Kevin McCarthy (1/70), Andrew Martindale (2/72), Pip Edwards (1/71) and Frank LeFaucheur (1/71).





## VALE:

### Peter Joseph O'Brien (4/70)



2796109 Peter Joseph O'Brien was born at Camperdown, NSW, on 4 June 1950. He completed his secondary education at Homebush High School, NSW. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman he was employed as an Assurance Clerk by the MLC Assurance Co. Ltd. On graduation from OTU Peter was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and posted to the Papua and New Guinea Training Depot, Goldie River. It is understood that Peter discharged from the Army at the end of his NS commitment.

Peter had been working at the Overseas Passenger Terminal in Sydney. It was reported to the OTU Association on 19 May by Ralph Bertinetti (1/67) that Peter was in respite at Greenwich Hospital, Sydney and not travelling too well. Peter passed away on 24 May 2017. Peter was a brother to Kevin, Colin (deceased) and Dennis (deceased), a beloved brother-in-law, a treasured uncle and great uncle to his family. Peter was cremated at a private service.

Published in The Sydney Morning Herald on May 27, 2017: Military service for our country, friend to many with a great sense of humour. Cruising home to be with Jesus.

In an email advising of Peter's passing Ralph said; 'I wanted to let you know that Peter O'Brien (4/70) passed away on the 24th May after a short illness. I'm sure he would want to wish everyone the very best and looks forward to seeing you all "back in the barracks one day".'

### Ian Reginald Sinnott (1/67)



1201166 Ian (Nino) Reginald Sinnott was born in Brisbane on 21 August 1946 and completed his secondary education at Harrington High School. Before entering the Army as an Air Cadet on 13 February 1967, Ian was a bank clerk - ledger keeper with the National Bank of Australasia. On graduation from OTU Ian was posted to 1 RTB Kapooka with the RAA Corps awaiting a Basic Flying Course at Point Cook. Ian commenced his flying training in June 1968 and in September was posted to 1 Aviation Regiment (Amberley) for Pilatus Porter training. After postings with 16 Aviation Squadron (Amberley) and 183 Independent

Recce Flt (PNG), Ian was next posted to 161 Independent Recce Flight in Vietnam from August 1970 to August 1971. Post-Vietnam Ian continued flying with the Army, becoming the Officer Commanding 173 General Support Squadron in 1979, until his retirement from the Army on 5 August 1984.



In early May Ian took delivery of an ultralight aircraft in Tasmania and flew the 'plane to southern NSW. On 15 May Ian took off from South Murwillumbah on the South Tweed River in his 'grasshopper' – named after its bright green colour. Ian and the 'plane went missing. Two days later Ian Sinnott's body and the wreck of his 'plane were found in Limpinwood, 25 kilometres west of where it took off. One report stated that a wing of the ultralight was missing from the wreck and had yet to be found.

Ian died what he loved doing – flying! He leaves behind his wife Carol, whom he married in 1969 while serving in PNG, two children and three grandchildren.

Former Army Aviation Mechanic Len Avery said he met Mr Sinnott during his 12-month stint as a fixed wing pilot in Vietnam in the early 1970s. He said Mr Sinnott was well-liked and highly regarded as a

pilot, was promoted to the rank of Major and at one time was in charge of his own squadron. "He became a very accomplished pilot." Avery said.

A celebration of Ian's Life was held at St Paul's Anglican Church in Palm Beach on 31 May 2017. Along with a number of other Scheyvillians Ralph Bertinetti (1/67) was in Brisbane on a pre-planned business trip and was able to attend Ian's service. 'It was a very moving and well attended Military funeral with RSL honours. Retired Brigadier Bill Mellor gave a wonderful address covering Ian's service career'.

## FEATURES:

### **What Scheyvillians Did: How I was Shot While Flying my Helicopter.** (Peter Spoor, 1/65)

The following article was located on the 161 Indep Recce Flt Website:

<http://www.161recceflt.org.au/161Reccelections>

On the 18th March 1968, my rostered task for the morning was an early morning sortie. The area of interest was the coast south of the Long Green then to Xuyen Moc and back via the highway to Dat Do and Nui Dat. It was planned that a passenger, our Sergeant medic, I think, would accompany me to act as an observer. I do remember that he liked to fly and had acted as observer on many flights. On this particular morning, at the last minute, he elected to not fly. The other item of note was that



helicopter A1-394 was fitted with a 'borrowed' twin M-60 machine gun kit, from the US Army. This was a proper kit built for the US Army H-13 Sioux scout helicopter. It consisted of two machine guns, one on each side, mounted on the skid cross tubes. The guns could be controlled in elevation, gas cocked and electrically fired. The kit had been with the flight for some time and had been used by most of us on many occasions. The 'sight' was a china-graph pencil circle on the bubble. As was usual I left with full tanks of fuel, a factor for which I would later be grateful. I made the usual radio calls to Nui Dat Arty and headed off. All went well until, on a whim, after seeing nothing of interest on the coast I decided to turn North, to where a major route (76?) headed North from the Route (26) from Dat Do to Xuyen Moc, instead of going to Xuan Moc first.

As was the approved practice I was 'on the tree tops' as I approached the intersection of the highways. As soon as I flew over the open area bordering the highway I could see a group of armed men near the intersection. First thought was that they were a rough puff (Regional Forces / Popular Forces) patrol. A milli-second later I realised that they were VC and AK's were being pointed in my direction. But, having the M60's on the side gave me a very warm fuzzy feeling of good fire power, and overconfidence. I pulled the 'trigger' to fire the guns and absolutely nothing happened. A quick re-cock and still nothing, never did find out why the guns didn't fire.

My next thought was to get back over the trees and out of sight of the VC and use artillery. At times the Sioux was simply way too slow. We used to make jokes that the VC and NVA, when shooting at helicopters, were used to having to lead faster helicopters, therefore all the rounds should pass well in front of a Sioux. Not true! The first hit went through the useless Plessey UHF radio and one of the knobs flew off and hit me between my eye and the helmet. For a second I thought that was it. Other Rounds were hitting the aircraft and then I had the biggest kick in the 'leg' I had ever felt. Even when playing football. I decided I was in big trouble and needed a lot of help. Put out a 'Mayday' and got immediate responses. It was reported that I used lots of rude words but I cannot believe this. It is just not in my nature to @#\$\$%^& well swear.

The amount of support thrown into action when an aircraft was down or in trouble promoted the joke that if you went down there was a great danger of being hurt by falling debris from a midair caused by the number of aircraft and helicopters overhead, all trying to help the crew on the ground. The Vietnam

conflict has been described as a 'supporting arms' war. The number of times I picked up an Aussie digger who had been in the field for a couple of weeks for heat exhaustion, or worse, I thought that there could never be too much 'support' for the man on the ground. When it looked like I might become a 'man on the ground' all I wanted was lots of aircraft overhead!!

After I got over the trees, a quick look around showed everything appeared to be running OK so I headed off for Nui Dat. Paddy O'Brien joined me and followed me back giving me lots of reassurance. The Gunships were airborne from Nui Dat and either George Constable or Bernie Forrest, maybe both were shooting artillery and fighters were being diverted to overhead. There was not a lot of blood and almost no pain but my leg was still very numb. My comfort zone was growing every second.

Some of the shrapnel holes from the Plessey hit had put holes through the seat back area of the right seat. If the passenger had come on the flight he would have been badly hurt. I believe this was the second time this particular person had decided, at the last minute, not to fly. Both flights resulted in hits in the right seat area; both times he would have been badly hurt. Maybe ESP really occurs!!

The flight back was very anti-climactic. After a quick shutdown, no five minute run down this time. I got out of the helicopter and dumped all my stuff, M16, maps, helmet, pistol and chicken plate on the ground. A quick sniff of the air and I could smell fuel and a glance around showed the last of the fuel running out of a hole in the bottom of the left tank. Fortunately not the right tank which is over the turbocharger!! Glad I had those full tanks.

The RAAF Dust-off Huey arrived almost immediately to whisk me off to Vung Tau. The two memories of this flight are of fighting off the medic who wanted to stab me with this big needle of morphine and a discussion with the pilot, who I had gone through Point Cook with, (I don't remember who it was). His brief was to take me to Vampire Pad (the Oz hospital). But having been to a party in Vung Tau, at which there had been nurses from the USA hospital (22 Evac??), I had been impressed by the standard of nursing available at this hospital. In fairness I must admit I had not met any of the home grown Oz nurses. Anyway, I ended up at the American hospital and the Dust-off pilot had to do a "Please explain" how I had ended up there.

Never having been to hospital for anything important, this was quite an experience. Whizzed into the triage centre I was very quickly stripped and all my clothes thrown in a bin for burning. The triage Doc made his assessment and I was put into the queue. This 'kid' came in and told me he was the anaesthetist and asked if I had ever been under general anaesthetic before. When I said NO, he took great delight in telling me that I was going to enjoy it. His words were, "I have some really good shit here – you're going to love this and it is legal"! I can now see why people do drugs. I was 'floating', didn't have a problem in the world. It felt GOOD.

Anyway, eventually I woke up in the after op ward and, very wisely, they had the best looking nurses there. Unfortunately it wasn't long before I was kicked out of there into the general ward. After a few hours I was feeling pretty chirpy and in need of a pee. Rather than have a pee in a bottle I asked the Whitney Houston look-a-like nurse if I could go to the loo. She made me walk up and down for a while before I was given the blessing for the big trek to the dunny.

After having a successful pee and feeling pretty pleased with life I headed back to ward. I woke up in the Op room having my eyebrow sewn up and my little toe being put back into place. I had passed out – what an ANZAC!! Just looking around the ward was enough to make me realize that I was very lucky. The kid in the bed next to me had a row of staples from his chin to below his belly button. He had been hit by the Russian version of the .50 cal.

George Constable visited next day to see if I was in need of anything. Marvellous how a visit from a friend picks you up. After this I was taken back into surgery for the close up final op. I was offered a spinal block instead of general anaesthetic. The spiel was that I would be awake and alert during the op.



Actually 'the kid anaesthetist' gave me some more of that 'good shit' and I was certainly not alert or very much awake. What they did not tell me was that spinal blocks can, sometimes, have problems. For two very long days I could not lift my head off the pillow for the pain that this would cause. What a hangover!!

During this time I had a visit from the perpetually chirpy 'Father' - Bernie Forrest, full of news, joy, and sympathy for my hangover. Plus the occasional giggle at my expense. It would appear that my anatomically uneducated 'mates' had decided that I had been 'shot in the arse'. He asked me the question "were you standing up in the cockpit when you got shot"? I was totally taken aback and asked what the \*\*\*\*\* are you talking about. His explanation was the engineers had run wires through the in and out holes (I was told 19 hits) and the only logical round should have hit me in the side of the chest instead of the leg. I thought a mistake must have been made and forgot about it.

As for being shot in the arse!! Well, all I can say is that it has been scientifically and medically conclusively proven that it is far better to be shot in the leg, or arse if you wish, than the head.

Just after that Vampire Pad demanded my return. This was fine by me. With 'my hangover' the noise of 'happy to be going home' American soldiers was not fun anymore so I was happy to go and meet the Oz nurses. I think they are great. Even when one of them decided I had a collection of blood (can't spell haematoma) in the wound and stabbed me with about 10 inches of sharpened No 8 fencing wire. Apart from the initial 'hit' this was the only real pain I felt.

After a week or so in hospital I was sent back to Nui Dat on light duties. All my 'stuff' had been taken to the tent I shared with Bill Heron and dumped on my bed. I strapped on my pistol and went off to the 'Q' Store for new boots, the US hospital had tossed out my other ones, and to count socks, or something, as part of my 'light duties'.

After a couple of hours of industrious 'light duties', I realised that I had not checked my pistol to confirm there was no round in the chamber. When I tried to check it I was somewhat horrified to find that I could not move the action. After removing the magazine I fired the action into the weapon pit. No bang, so there had not been a round in the chamber. But I still could not move the action. For the rest of the afternoon all my 'mates' took great delight in telling me I had allowed the pistol to rust up and would be in 'deep poo' with the CSM for this.

By about 1700 we had adjourned to the bar and having decided that punching holes in a 'green can' and raising it too my mouth would fall within the realm of light duties, and the docs hadn't said I couldn't drink, I was happy to enjoy the first beer in a couple of weeks. Everybody that came along had attempted to move the action of my pistol, with absolutely not a fraction of movement. I was impressed by the number of pilots who had become legal experts and were taking great delight in describing what would happen at my court martial for a rusty weapon. None of which comforted me in the slightest.

At some stage in the 'session' the offending pistol was laying on the bar and while looking at it, no doubt searching for an inspirational story to get me out of trouble, I noticed that the barrel and action were bent. I flipped it over and there was a gouge in the action. Whenever an attempt to move the action was made this gouge would be covered by the hand.

This was the answer to the question of how I came to be hit where I had been rather than in the side of my chest as the wire through the bullet holes in the fuselage had indicated. A quick check of the holster also showed bullet damage. Apparently, when I hopped into the helicopter the pistol had flopped over the centre seat area and when the round came through the floor and seat, it hit the pistol and deflected into my leg rather than continuing into my chest. Better to be lucky than good. This explains why I have never won Lotto. I have used up a big portion of my luck!

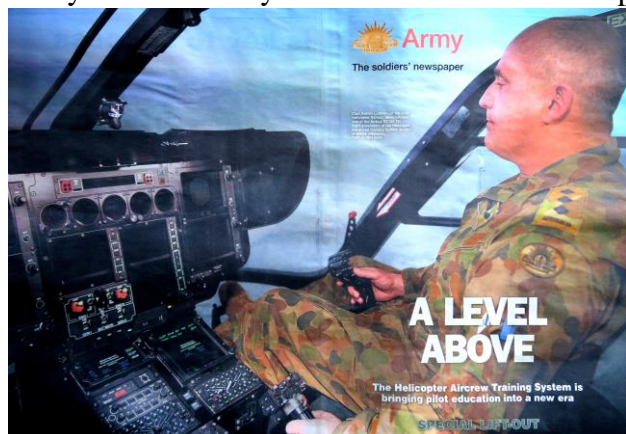
This is not the end of this little episode. In 2005 Glen Duus told me that Dave Shearer wanted to speak to me and gave me his number. A quick call and a few days later I was with Dave in Brisbane. After a 'catch up' on what had been happening in my life Dave said that he had something of mine. He took me down to a disgustingly clean and tidy workshop. A quick rummage in a box and Dave produced a damaged AK 47 armour piercing round.

When the engineers had wheeled the helicopter into the workshop Dave got the short straw to clean it up and get it back on line. While cleaning up the cockpit he found the projectile and kept it all those years.

### **Helicopter Aircrew Training System – The Next Generation Army Helicopter Pilots**

OTU Scheyville was set up at the commencement of National Service in 1965 to train National Service officers to the level of an Infantry Platoon Commander. At the same time the Army decided that all Army Pilots should be trained to the same level and from Class 1/65 all 'Air Cadets' would undertake the OTU Course before undertaking flying training. As best can be determined from Regimental Numbers and Corps Postings there were 137 Scheyvillians who became pilots. This included 79 Non-NS (or Ex-CMF Members) graduates. As best can be determined 45 Scheyvillians served in Vietnam with 161 Independent Recce Flight – some of these are listed with corps other than AAAvn.

Pilots, and those with an interest in aviation, will be interested to know that a new training system for helicopter pilots has been founded. The Australian Defence Force has built a \$474M 'Joint Helicopter School' at HMAS Albatross, near Nowra, NSW. The school will use the Helicopter Aircrew Training System, or HATS, and has 15 training helicopter and synthetic training devices. At this stage the five Army and four Navy Instructors are due to complete their training in July.



In meeting the ADFs needs of all aircrew training for Army and Navy, this world-leading modernized training solution has been developed in preparation for the first trainees due in 2018. The training will incorporate high-end simulation and virtual reality with actual flight time at the state-of-the-art facility.

The school, operating as 723 Squadron, will train 130 aircrew, including pilots, aviation warfare officers, aircrewmembers and sensor operators each year. Students will commence this training on completion of their fixed wing courses.

The Joint Helicopter School will use the twin-engine Airbus EC135, which will replace the 40 year-old Army Kiowa and 30 year-old Navy Squirrel. The EC135 is widely used by police, firefighting and ambulance services and for oil and gas work, as well as for corporate transport across the world. The EC135 are fitted with winches/hoists and a hook for underslung loads and can carry six people, although in the training role it will be limited to four people. During training an Instructor will sit in the left seat with the Trainee in the right seat. The EC135 is an electronic-age helicopter with digital displays and dual certified GPS navigation system, allowing flight in cloud with no requirement for ground-based navigation systems.



Following the Albatross training the students will progress to conversion training on operational helicopters such as the MH60R Seahawk, MRH90 Taipan, SA70A9 Black Hawk, ARH Tiger and CH47 Chinook.

**What Scheyvillians Do: (Don Moffatt AM, 1/66)**

Don has been awarded a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) in this year's Australia Day Honours



A Life Member of LifeFlight, Don Moffatt's passion for flying and devotion to helping the community were combined as a Board Member and Chairman of the Sunshine Coast Helicopter Rescue Service (SCHRS) for 15 years.

When SCHRS and CareFlight (now LifeFlight) merged in July 2013 Don was nominated Deputy Chairman and a Foundation Board Member.

A former Australian Army Helicopter Pilot and Instructor who did a Tour of Duty in Vietnam with the 161 (Independent)

Reconnaissance Flight from 29 April to 17 December 1968, Don's love of flying developed early.

After serving his country the Kingaroy boy entered business in 1972 and has been a successful property developer based on the Sunshine Coast ever since. His venture partners have included Kerry Packer and rugby league legend Norm Provan.

Don served as Chairman of Tourism Sunshine Coast for seven years and Board Member, and then Deputy Chairman of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club for 16 years.

**What Scheyvillians Do: (Brig Duncan Warren (Ret'd), 3/68)**

Duncan Warren (photo: Duncan being 'dunked' at OTU) was one of thirteen OTU Graduates who reached the rank of brigadier before retiring from the Army or Army Reserve. He spent time in 11 Battalion, RWAR as his first posting after joining the CMF on returning from SVN at the end of his NS commitment. Later the West Australian 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Battalions were reduced to Independent Rifle Companies. Duncan commanded 11 IRC and later (following amalgamation), 11/28 Battalion. On the centenary of the raising of 11 Battalion, 3 Brigade, 1 Division AIF, on 10 January 2015, Duncan was asked to give an address to the West Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) on the 'Great Pyramid Photograph'



Duncan Robert Warren was born in Perth on Christmas Day 1946. He completed his Secondary Education at Scotch College at Swanbourne in Perth. Before being called up he was employed as an Audit Clerk by Spry Walker and Company. Like most West Australians 5716170 Duncan Warren commenced his Recruit Training at 2 RTB Puckapunyal before commencing at OTU with Class 3/68. Fellow class members will remember Duncan as being the Cadet who was 'dunked' in the dam at Scheyville when on the end of the sling during helicopter familiarisation. Duncan served in Vietnam with 8 RAR and shortly after returning to Australia was discharged from NS.

"11 Battalion is famous among the AIF battalions as it is the battalion photographed standing on the Cheops Pyramid, a photograph that has caused great debate over many years, and a photograph whose myths have mainly been 'debunked'! During the sojourn of 11 Battalion in Egypt, the photograph was taken of the whole unit, with all the officers and men grouped on the massive stones of the Great Pyramid of Cheops. Owing to the remarkable clarity of the desert atmosphere, a very distinct picture was obtained and most of the troops are easily recognizable.



Those two sentences constitute the sum total that I could find in Legs-Eleven, the history of the 11 Battalion, AIF Force, in reference to this now famous photograph, and essentially the reason we are here today.

It is, of course, the 100th anniversary of the day on which 704 men of 11 Battalion were photographed on the Great Pyramid in Egypt prior to their involvement in the landing at Gallipoli. We owe a vote of thanks to the WA Genealogical Society (WAGS) for the tremendous amount of work that has gone into this project, and particularly the progress they have achieved in naming so many of those men in the photograph with the willing help of those soldiers' descendants.

The further in time we get from the original photo, the less chance there will be of completing the task. Regrettably I have seen hundreds of interesting photographs that lose their potential impact due to lack of names of the people within them. On behalf of the RSL I would like to thank Mr Chris Loudon, the Project Manager and Dr Graham Mahoney, the Event Manager and their respective teams for their hard work on this project.

The Australia of 1914 was very different from today. The population in 1914 was only 4.9 million, a little more than a fifth of our current population. Western Australia was more sparsely populated than most of the other states with only 326,000 non aboriginal inhabitants. The Model T Ford came onto the market in 1908 and continued through to 1927! The Wright Brothers gave us the first powered flight in 1903, and what was considered to be reliable flight wasn't achieved until three years later. The first students from the University of Western Australia graduated only weeks before Great Britain's declaration of war on 4 August 1914.

To illustrate a point for the youngsters here this morning, there was no equivalent of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Skype or Hangouts - the battalion sailed on the 2nd of November 1914, but didn't receive their first mail until Christmas Day!



I would now like to provide an outline of 11 Battalion (Colour Patch at left) from its inception to the time this well-known photograph. The outbreak of war caused great excitement. Enrolments opened on 11 August. The first quota of troops to be raised from WA was 1,400 men, and recruiting offices were opened in Perth, Fremantle and various country towns including Albany, Bunbury, Wagin, Northam, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton. All centres were rushed by volunteers who, following medical examinations, were entrained for Perth. Blackboy Hill Camp was officially opened on 17 August. This became 11 Battalion's home for the next 10 weeks as the men underwent their transition from civilians to soldiers.

The battalion was formed of eight rifle companies, representing roughly the four major divisions of the State. A and B Companies were drawn mainly from Perth, C and D from Fremantle and districts, E and F from the Goldfields and G and H Companies from the South West of the State. This had the effect of creating a constructive rivalry between the companies and greatly speeded up the process of welding these raw recruits into an efficient organisation, keen to learn and grasp all there was to be known. The Battalion History makes a very relevant point in relation to discipline, and it states: It has been frequently said that discipline was sometimes a bit lax; but if it is remembered that many of these men had been their own masters from a very early age and had been accustomed to work out their own destinies, often against heavy odds, and that they rightly held themselves the equals of any man, then, the wonder of it all is, that they voluntarily submitted to a discipline and to a routine, certain aspects of which appeared absolutely ridiculous and unnecessary to most of them. Right through to the end of the war and afterwards, the Australian had always a kind of tolerant contempt for the red tape that the Army insisted on; but having become a soldier, he played the game more out of the feeling of responsibility and mateship than from any fear of the penalties imposed for non-compliance with orders.

The training was constant and hard, and rumours of imminent embarkation persisted. Orders were received on 7 October to get all their kit ready, which they did in record time. Following roll call, they

marched off in a state of some excitement only to be bitterly disappointed when they turned into the familiar Helena Vale Racecourse to find that their troopship was in fact the grandstand. Needless to say the practice did not go well! The last few weeks of October saw a feeling of discontent and staleness pervade the camp. Letters from the camp were full of impatience and annoyance at the delay, as most were of the opinion that the war would be over by the time they arrived! As their history states, little they knew!

The battalion boarded their troopships in Fremantle on 31 October, but didn't actually sail until 2 November. Having survived a couple of incidents along the voyage, including HMAS Sydney departing the convoy to deal with the Emden, the battalion finally arrived at Alexandria on 5 December. Despite the fact that no leave was granted, it was reported that less than 200 of the 2,000 on board remained on the ship. However, nearly all were back on board prior to roll call next morning. They entrained for Cairo arriving at 1.30am, then moved out to their camp at Mena at the foot of the Great Pyramid. The Camp now consisted of over thirty thousand men, and once the camp had been organised, training steadily increased in tempo. Being winter, the weather was not unduly warm, but the loose sand made walking and marching very tiresome. At this stage the battalions were reorganised from eight to four companies, and their training took them out to the area known as Tiger's tooth, a high rocky escarpment about five miles out of camp.

As most here today will be only too aware, this project by the WAGS Society has tried to identify as many as possible of the 704 men of the 11 Battalion spread over the Great Pyramid. In order to do so they have set up a dedicated website where they have two copies of the photograph - one clean, the other with a grid superimposed and each person numbered. People have been encouraged to research their relatives and attempt to identify them in the photo. They have also been asked to register with the Society and provide information about their relative in the photo. To date 832 descendants have registered, constituting 264 groups.

While that is obviously well short of identifying every person in the photo, it is still a magnificent result! What is even more important to my mind is the fact that so much more is now known about those who have been identified, and their stories are now available on that dedicated website.

With the rest of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 11 Battalion landed on Gallipoli with the first wave on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915. The battalion lost 64 Killed in Action that day. 31 were Australian born. 15 were born in Victoria, 7 in NSW, 6 in South Australia, only 4 in WA and 1 in Tasmania. Of the remainder 20 were born in England, 8 in Scotland, and 1 each in Ireland, Malta and Brazil.

11 Battalion fought in Gallipoli, France and Belgium, and had over 9,000 men pass through its ranks. Total casualties were 3,539 all ranks - of those, 1,115 gave their lives. The Battalion was awarded 23 Battle Honours.

This WAGS Project to identify all the men in the Cheops photograph and today's Centenary Event were a fitting tribute to 11 Battalion. Anyone who had a relative who served in 11 Battalion AIF is encouraged to visit the WAGS Website. <https://membership.wags.org.au/news/740-together-100-years-apart-exhibition>

### **What Scheyvillians Do: Travel:** (Robin Hunt, 3/69)

As this newsletter was being written, Robin Hunt was completing a Western Front Battlefield Tour.

On 7 July 1917, a group of about 50 ex-pupils from two Geelong schools held a servicemen's dinner on the battlefield at Albert in Picardie, France. Exactly hundred years later, some of their descendants re-enacted that dinner on the same site at Albert, with the Same menu etc, Robin was privileged to attend that dinner and to tour the battlefields area with the group. Among other battlefield sites he visited Villers-Bretonneux Museum & school, VB National Memorial and Monash Centre works site, Albert Museum, Hamel, Pozieres, 1 Div Memorial, The Windmill, Corbie.



Robin also attended a special ceremony at Les Invalides Military Museum, Paris, on 5 July 2017. A Jewish survivor of the Nazi death camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen with the prisoner number 78651 tattooed on her arm, Simone Veil was a fervent European and fighter for civil liberties, and was elected president of the European Parliament in 1979. She died aged 89 on June 30 and was laid rest with her husband in the crypt of the Pantheon Mausoleum alongside other national icons including Emile Zola, Victor Hugo and Alexandre Dumas.

At a ceremony in the sun-drenched courtyard of the Les Invalides Military Museum in Paris, her two sons, prominent criminal affairs lawyers, and new President Emmanuel Macron delivered moving tributes to Veil's dogged defense of tolerance and the feminist cause.

Veil went on to make her mark in the male-dominated world of French politics by championing the legalization of abortion as health minister in the 1970s. Drill was spectacular with French equivalent of our Federation Guard, a substantial band, a choir, a Guard of Honour, Les Ancien Combattants with their banners and led by the new French President.

### What Scheyvillians Do: Support Friends of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade

Eric Chinner died at the Battle of Fromelles and was one of those identified from DNA. Andrew Guest (3/67) is a relative. In 1950s the 58<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalions served as CMF battalions and were amalgamated to form the 58<sup>th</sup>/32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Both battalions fought at Fromelles. In 1960 the 58<sup>th</sup>/32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was reconstituted as a company of the newly formed 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment (1 RVR).



On 19 July 2017 the 'Friends of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade' held their annual Fromelles Service at the 'Cobbers' statue in the SW corner of Melbourne's The Shrine of Remembrance grounds. Andrew recited The Ode and announced the name of the latest identified Fromelles Digger Private Thuillier Cardew, 54<sup>th</sup> Battalion, from NSW. Andrew also laid a floral tribute for Eric Chinner's 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Andrew asked Neil Leckie (3/68) to lay the floral tribute for the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Above: Andrew with MC Maria Baker of Friends of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade and the Shrine Guard

### What Scheyvillians Do: Serve until Retirement!

It may have reached the time where the last Scheyvillian has retired from The Army. The last Scheyvillian leaving the Army will end a period of service of covering 52 years at the moment.

**Anyone who is still serving???? Please advise The Editor!**

**Clive Badelow (4/69)** officially retired from the Army WEF 2359h on 8 June 2017 (his birthday being 9 June) when the second 5-year extension to his commission expired after 47 years and 280 days service in both the ARA (30 years) and ARES (17 years and 280 days). Put simply, he was quite prepared to be a 67 year old Colonel, but not a 68 year old one!

Clive's final appointment was at the ADF's Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies (CDSS) as Projects Director assisting the development and delivery of curriculum to the ADF's peak year-long Defence



Strategic Studies Course (DSSC). His last 21 years' service was exclusively in 'Joint' ADF appointments in both the commercial and education & training environments that also included a term in an Extra Regimental Appointment as Head of Corps for the RAAOC.

Clive said 'All good things must come to an end, and it's better to leave while you're still upright, alert and kicking goals'.

**Greg Todd (2/71)** served in the Army Reserve for 22 years after his NS, but transferred to the Standby List when life got in the way. About 8 years ago he ran into an old colleague in Pitt St, Sydney, who suggested that the system could use "grumpy old majors" to do the project work while all the ARA staff were busy overseas. Having been retrenched 5 times in the previous decade in the computer industry, he took up his suggestion and transferred back on to the active list and started working 3 days a week on Enhanced Self-Defence Capability at Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

When the Todd family moved to Canberra around 4 years ago Greg asked his Army Career Advisor for a job in Canberra. He asked if I had experience in Personnel and Greg, of course, lied and was posted into Personnel Branch of AHQ and started setting up the Gap Year Project. After handing that project over to the ARA staff to implement, he next started work on a new project to revise Army's Employment Category Management process. When the new process was enacted in September 2015, Greg shifted to a Secretariat role in Russell Offices. Some will be aware that CRA for Reservists is 65. Greg had two extensions of 2 1/2 years which made 30 June 2017 the end date of his Army Service!

**What Scheyvillians Do: Drive nice cars:** Ken Waller, 2/72 Frank LeFaucheur (1/71) found the following article in the West Australian on 8 July 2017. Ken's car is a 1973 Triumph TR6, 2.5 litre, a somewhat better car than his first: a 1965 Vauxhall Viva. Ken is definitely a Rev-head, having rallied a Torana XU1, a Datsun 1600, a Mark 1 Cortina, a Clubman Sports and a Mazda MX2 He currently races in historic races in a recently acquired 1970 Volvo 1425.

Ken's dream car is a Koenigsegg. Ken sat in one some years ago and instantly fell in love with the sensational looking



Spanish built car that was the fastest production car in the world in its day.



### **What Scheyvillians' Children Do: Christine Pope (Alistair Pope, 4/66)**

Alistair Pope (4/66) is one of a plethora of Scheyvillians whose children followed them into The Army.

Like all fathers we like to take pride in the achievements and service of our children, especially if they have followed you into a military career, as both of my daughters did. Christine particularly has had an exceptional operational career as the following shows.

In 2003, only four months after graduation from RMC Christine deployed to the Solomon Islands on Operation Anode with 87 Transport Troop, 26 Transport Squadron, 9<sup>th</sup> Force Support Battalion as the Transport Troop 2IC. As an aside, you know the Army is too small when her deployment was just after her sister, Lt. Katherine was just completing her own deployment there! For this deployment Christine

was awarded the Australian Service Medal (ASM) with Solomon Islands II Clasp and received a Commanding officer's Commendation (a certificate).

At a family Christmas dinner in 2004 she received a phone call to immediately report back to her unit for an individual deployment to Medan on Operation Sumatra Assist as part of Tsunami Relief efforts as the logistics watch keeper in the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters again being released from 9<sup>th</sup> Force Support Battalion. For this she was awarded the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM).



In 2006 Christine deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan as a Movements Officer where she supported the Special Operations Task Group. She also served in Kandahar, Afghanistan during this deployment, supporting the Rotary Wing Group. While she was serving with the 5<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment the unit was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) and as she was serving with them during this period she can also wear the Federation Star with this award. Her time in Afghanistan meant she was awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) with ICAT clasp (International Coalition Against Terrorism) and the NATO Non Article 5 Medal

with ISAF clasp (International Security Assistance Force).

In 2008 Christine deployed to Baghdad, Iraq as the J4 Movements Officer in the Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters, working for MAJGEN Michael Hindmarsh. For this deployment she was awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal and Iraq 2008 clasp to be worn on the AASM.

In 2012 it was back to Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan with the Special Operations Task Group as the Watch keeper and later the Operations Officer for Force Element Bravo (2 Commando Regiment). Task Force 66 were awarded the MUC for their continued operational service and again as she served with them during this period she wears the MUC with the Federation Star.

In 2016 Major Christine deployed to the Middle East as the Officer Commanding Force Support Element Four for which she was awarded the Overseas Service Medal (OSM).

### **Whatever Happened To:**

**Don McNaught, 4/69**, was conscripted into the Army as a National Serviceman in 1969. After graduating from the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, he served as a Platoon Commander with 6 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment for over two years. He decided to remain in the Army and was then accepted for Pilot Training with the RAAF at Point Cook in Victoria flying Winjeel aircraft, granted a permanent commission and transferred to Australian Army Aviation Corps. Initially he flew the Pilatus Porter on operations with 173 General Support Squadron out of Oakey Queensland before attending a Flying Instructor's Course at Central Flying School RAAF Base East Sale followed by a posting as an instructor at RAAF Base Point Cook.

He then returned to Oakey in 1980 and, after a year as Adjutant, 1 Aviation Regiment, was posted to 173 Squadron as Nomad Troop Commander and later became Second in Command of the Squadron. Promoted to Major in 1983 he was posted as Senior Instructor, Corps





Training Wing at the School of Army Aviation where he undertook Rotary Wing training. In 1985 he was appointed Officer Commanding 173 Squadron. Then a year at Command and Staff College Queenscliff was followed by two years as Senior Instructor Tactics Wing Land Warfare Centre Canungra. He resigned in 1989 to take up an appointment with British Aerospace in Riyadh Saudi Arabia where he supervised the Royal Saudi Air Force flight screening program for 7 years.

Upon returning to Australia he re-enlisted into the Army Reserve to fly Twin Otter aircraft for 173 Squadron out of Darwin. He was also employed part time by British Aerospace in Tamworth for flight screening of pilots for the Australian Defence Force and, when at home on the Gold Coast, flew commercially for Sea World Helicopters and Blackjet flying warbirds. He is now retired, resides on the Gold Coast and flies recreational sport aircraft.

### **Don's Bucket List:**

#### ***Fly a WW2 Spitfire:***

On 18 Jan this year I had the privilege and pleasure of flying a Mark IX Spitfire. MH367 was manufactured in July 1943 with a Merlin 61 engine and initially issued to No. 65 Squadron and flew its first operational mission acting as high cover and close escort to 36 Marauders bombing Abbeville Marshalling yards. Heavy and accurate flack was experienced. It flew 31 combat missions over Europe and is next recorded as being assigned to 229 Squadron on 3 Aug 1944 where it completed 28 combat missions including Operation Market Garden - "A Bridge Too Far". It was then transferred to 312 (Czech) Squadron where it completed 30 combat missions.

The last flight for MH367 was on 18 April 1945 escorting 822 Lancasters to Heligoland. One of those Lancasters was flown by Squadron Leader Clarrie Gardner DFC and Bar. He was a very dear friend of mine who I had the honour of taking for a flight in 2006 in a Nanchang CJ6 Warbird. Quite a coincidence! After the war MH367 was used as a training aircraft and refitted with a Rolls-Royce Merlin 63. It was damaged in a landing accident in 1948. In 2006 it was completely restored and converted to a two seat configuration and subsequently shipped to NZ where it was painted in the colour scheme & markings of the Spitfire flown in the North Africa campaign by NZ's highest scoring ace Sqn Ldr Colin Gray.



barrel rolls, loops, derry-turns and steep turns. For anyone who is interested check-out their website [www.warbirds.co.nz](http://www.warbirds.co.nz) They operate out of Ardmore Airfield near Auckland.

#### ***Fly a WW2 Kittyhawk:***

The next aircraft on the Bucket List was a P40 Kittyhawk. Doug Hamilton and his team at Wangaratta Airfield have recently restored a 1943 Curtiss P-40N-5-

I flew with Frank Parker, who had a similar background to myself as he was a RNZAF instructor before joining Air NZ. After departure we flew an air-ground attack run followed by 20 minutes of aerobatics. Frank did the take-off and landing (one can see very little on the ground from the rear cockpit because of the tail wheel configuration) and gave me the controls in the upper air. It was a delight to fly such a high performance fighter as I put the Spitfire through its paces including wing-overs, aileron rolls,





CU Warhawk that crashed west of Madang in Papua New Guinea on 14 Feb 1944 after an encounter with Japanese fighters. The aircraft was recovered in 2004 and flew again for the first time 72 years later. Powered by V12 Allison engine this is also a high performance fighter and was a delight to fly. On 16 May at Wangaratta I flew Doug's Kittyhawk with a similar profile to the Spitfire flight in NZ putting the aircraft through a series of full aerobatic sequences.

The website for a Kittyhawk flight at Wangaratta is [www.classicwarbirdflights.com.au](http://www.classicwarbirdflights.com.au)

### ***P-51 Mustang:***

Last but not least is on the Bucket List is a P51 Mustang. My aim is to complete the trilogy of high performance WW2 fighters in August when the P-51 based at Caboolture comes back on line after servicing.

### **Whatever Happened to: Hans Van Wilgenburg (1/72)**

Rob Youl (2/65) is well known in the Landcare field in Victoria. He has recently been collaborating with Catherine Wilgenburg on a Melbourne northern suburbs LandCare project. Rob was at the Van Wilgenburg's home when Catherine's husband Hans and Rob got talking and somehow the Army came up. Hans mentioned he'd been at Scheyville (Class 1/72). Rob burst forth on his own connection and he resolved then and there to get Catherine and Hans to an OTU-A activity. The Annual Victorian Dinner was perfect, especially as at the table were Carl Wood (also 1/72) and partner Margo Stork. Moreover, it turned out that there was another OTU connection as Hans and his son Michael had a great cruise last year on the OTU-A WA Chapter supported TS Leeuwin.

Johannes (Hans) Van Wilgenburg was born in Laren, the Netherlands, on 24 Nov 1948 arriving in Fremantle WA in February 1952. Hans completed his secondary schooling at Applecross Senior High and undertook further study at University of WA doing a Bachelor of Architecture.

Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman Hans was working as a Project Manager in Parapardoo, WA, with Head Wrightson Australia. Hans commenced officer training at OTU Scheyville with Class 1/72 on 12 February 1972. On leaving Scheyville Hans attended the RAE 59/72 Field Engineers Grade 1 Course at SME, Casula, topping the course and being awarded the shield by the Reviewing Officer Vietnam Veteran Colonel George Robert Mills, RAE, (D Engrs AHQ-C).



When NS was ended on the election of the Labor Government in December 1972, Hans decided to continue his National Service until he was discharged after 13 month's service on 28 February 1973.

Since ending his NS, Hans has worked with Max Felear Architect (1973),

travelled overland in a bus from Singapore to London (1975), started architectural practice in Perth (1976 -1984), been ordained as a Minister of Independent Church of Australia (1981), moved to Melbourne (1984), married Catherine Cherry, an artist (1984), worked for Hames Sharley Architects (1985 – 1995) and started his own Architectural Practice in Yarraville (1996 – current).

Right: Ray Andrews, MC for the Victorian 2017 Dinner, interviewing Hans Van Wilgenburg



In 2002 Hans and Catherine travelled to India and met Michael, aged 7, who joined the family as their adopted son. Michael has a mild intellectual disability. Hans is a volunteer swimming coach for Special Olympics Melbourne West (2012-current) and is a Qualified Psycho-dramatist (2015).

#### **TRAVEL NEWS (David Sabben, 1/65)**

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

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

#### **EMAILS TO THE EDITOR**

**From:** Frank Paton (2/70) **Sent:** 12 Jun 2017 **Subject:** Dick Flint

When I turned the page of Newsletter No.1 ( p 16 ) I immediately recognised the steely yet very humane visage of the great Dick Flint.

The report of his toast to OTU shows exactly why he was a wonderful CI and was and is a very perceptive human being. He always had complete authority, but like all good leaders he never needed to rely on intimidation. I was delighted that he is so well and enjoying participating in his OTU functions. Best wishes

**From:** Frank Paton (2/70) **Sent:** 26 April 2017 **Subject:** Western Front Tours

An OTU member recently contacted me having read my article about visiting the Southern Belgium part of the Western Front, including the Menin Gate (Scheyvillian Number 3 of 2015 pp 24-25 ). He had decided on a similar visit and was interested in more detail, especially about the excellent historian guide.

I had previously had no direct contact details for the guide – my tour was organised through Mat McLachlan Tours (I was referred to them by Dave Sabben's usual tour organiser). Mat's organisation did an excellent job and I recommend them, but if anybody wants to contact the historian direct, I now can provide his contact details: [www.battlefields.com.au](http://www.battlefields.com.au) Peter Smith Historian. 1300 880 340 02 9001 5150.

It's one of the best travels I've ever done and I encourage you to visit for at the very least 4 days. Best regards

**From:** Harry Neesham (1/65) **Sent:** 25 April 2017 **Subject:** Cross Country 1/65

Just to let you know I won the inaugural cross country - Col/Sgt H T Neesham. Unfortunately we did not get given our times but I am sure we were fast! Rob Toyer ran 2nd in that race.

**From:** Paul De Launay (3/69) **Sent:** 27 April 2017 **Subject:** ANZAC Day

As 20ish year olds, being conscripted into the military impacted on a number of levels. Discipline, fitness, functioning under pressure, new education subjects and socialisation with very wide range of people from walks of life unmet in our civilian days. All this against a backdrop of nightly news reports from Vietnam and a growing public disenchantment with the war. This forced our focus to shift from self (a normal preoccupation for young people) to wider issues.

For those of us who returned to civilian life after a brief period of military service, we were vilified as the physical presence of an increasingly unpopular political decision to commit ground forces to South Vietnam. For many, our response was to lock the experience away and ignore it.

We know now this reaction is extremely counter-productive and often causes social, behavioral and health problems. If we unlock the green steel trunk and leave the lid open I believe we all benefit.

**From:** Neil Curnow (2/68) **Sent:** 5 August 2017 **Subject:** Don Corey's Dad

RAT of Tobruk Bill Corey will join the special ranks of returned servicemen when he celebrates his 100th birthday on Monday. Mr Corey, who "only feels about 80", grew up in Tarlee in the state's lower Mid North and went off to war at age 22. He spent more than five years living on tinned food, but declares that he was "born lucky" and blessed with good health over the past century. "To live through those dust storms in the desert, the heat, moisture and rain in New Guinea and Borneo and to still be alive at 100 — I guess it is a bit remarkable," he said. "Since I've turned 90, I've had an unbelievable life because I've represented Australia back in Brunei, Singapore and Egypt."



# OTU ASSOCIATION

## 2017/18 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

<b>INVOICE</b> ABN 26 390 124 006		<b>Please return by 31 August 2017</b> Cheques payable to OTU Association	
MAIL TO: Treasurer OTU Association PO Box 540 BLACK ROCK VIC 3193  CONTACT: (03) 9533 1810 rayelder45@gmail.com		<b>Annual Subscription</b> July 2017 to June 2018 <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> \$ _____ \$ _____	

<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@clearhoare.com.au](mailto:mgriffin@clearhoare.com.au)  
 07 3230 5253 or Mick Hart [mhart@clearhoare.com.au](mailto:mhart@clearhoare.com.au)  
**Monthly Luncheons: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month**

**NSW:** Gary McKay (2/68) 0411 574 019 [garymckay@bigpond.com](mailto:garymckay@bigpond.com)  
**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)  
**Monthly Luncheons 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday @ Royal Canberra Golf Club**

**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 0414 702 905 [berjulgleson@bigpond.com](mailto:berjulgleson@bigpond.com)  
**Monthly Lunches, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** 0418 373 874 [bctcooper@gmail.com](mailto:bctcooper@gmail.com)

**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.

## Q STORE – Order through the Website

The Q Store holds the following stock:



2013 OTU National Reunion Badges \$5 incl P&H  
 OTU Collar Badges, OTU Lapel Badges either \$5 + \$4 P&H  
 OTU Ties \$25 + \$5 P&H  
 The book "The Scheyville Experience" (Donnelley) \$25 Inc P&H  
 The 1993 VHS Reunion Video \$10 incl P&H  
 The VHS 'Scheyville Experience' (Keyes)  
 The DVD 'Scheyville Experience' (Keyes) either \$10 Incl P&H  
 Window Stickers \$3 incl P&H

## LOST MEMORABILIA – OCS PLAQUE



There hasn't been any response about the missing plaque from The Scheyvillian 1 of 2017. If you have seen it, or know where it had been, please advise the Editor.

**Correction:** Mike Prain (O1/72) advised that the combined OCS and OTU Graduating Class Photo was used in The Scheyvillian 1 of 2017. The correct photo of OCS/OTU Graduates is shown at right. The names shown in 1 of 2017 are correct.



## The Back Page:



Left: Found in the OTU Collection with no details. Three young 2Lt's wearing the Infantry Corps Badges, along with a Vietnam Veteran wearing Armoured Corps Collar Badges.

**Names, date and place required please!**



Right: NSW Chapter marching on ANZAC Day.



Left: 3/72 Reunion: After Sunday Lunch at Grant and Sandy Anderson's lovely house at Mt Eliza, April 23, 2017. Back row from left Dave Morgan, Kim Turner, Grant Anderson, Bill Laing, Alan Grant & Andre Legosz  
Seated: Chris Richardson, Peter Lloyd, Mick Waters & John Murray

Right: Don Corey (2/68) with his father Rat of Tobruk William Corey.

Below: Class 1/67 Reunion Dinner at the AWM. Ernie & Doreen Bryon, Maureen & Robert Cronin, Jude and Alan Storen and David Paterson's granddaughters Erin & Kate.

Below Right: Queensland Chapter marching on ANZAC Day in Brisbane.

