



The Scheyvillian

Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee

OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 3, 2017

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



Vale Max Almond:

Leslie Maxwell 'Max' Almond was born on 16 Mar 1926. He first joined the Army (CMF Full-time) at 16 years of age, but was discharged when it was found that he was under-age. He rejoined in 1944 and served in the AIF during WW2. Max served with the Artillery in Vietnam and after leave was posted to OTU in mid-1968. He served at OTU for three years. Max discharged from the Army in Mid-1975 with the rank of Captain. He died peacefully in WA on 8 August 2017. Max was pre-deceased by his wife Yvonne in May 2016.

See Vale inside!

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THE SCHEYVILLE TAPES

Last year the association received from Tony Sonneveld seventeen Video Tapes on Scheyville that were recorded for the NSW National Parks Service. They included a number of most interesting interviews. The tapes have been re-recorded onto 10 DVDs with the individual 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 April 2018: It is planned to have Edition 1 of 2018 of *The Scheyvillian* in early April. Submissions need to be received by 15 March 2018. If you have any contributions: current stories (eg. Reunions, dinners or other get-togethers) or memorabilia stories, please email them to The Editor, The Scheyvillian, at nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au or post to Unit 3 / 519 Peel Street North, Black Hill, Vic, 3350. **Photographs should be sent separate to the articles.** If you have large file size photos, please send individual photos to nkaleckie@hotmail.com or send a disc/USB Stick with multiple photos. Photos should be in jpeg format and should preferably be labelled.

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

THE SCHEYVILLE EXPERIENCE – REPRINTS AVAILABLE

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

The books can be purchased through the 'Q Store' on the OTU Website at \$25 per copy including postage. www.otu.asn.au

Get in quickly, there only a dozen copies left!



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (Graeme Chester, 2/67)

Membership Database Details as at 27 October 2017

Number of Graduates	1880				
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	1997				
Number Financial	442				(476 end 2016/17)
Number Honorary	30				
Widows	8				
Number Deceased				178	
Number Unfinancial (Not Renewed)				1169	(1138 16/17)
Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact)				170	(166 16/17)
Totals	1880	1997	480 (514 end 2016/17)	1517	(1481 16/17)
Percentages:	Of the names on database 24% are financial/honorary/widow.				
	Of the names on the database 8.9% are deceased.				
	Of the names on the database 59% are unfinancial (not renewed)				
	Of the names on the database 9% are unfinancial (do not contact)				

Membership numbers are similar as at the same time last year as at November 2016 as there were 474 financial members. Membership renewals slowed to a crawl in September but the Webmaster and myself sent out reminders in early October to those who had previously been financial and who had not renewed for 2017/18. That resulted in a bit of a 'flurry' which appears to have subsided over the last few days. A further reminder to 'unfinancials' will be sent in December in an attempt to get us over the 500 mark again this year.

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.



From 'The Scheyville Collection': the first Class (left) and the last class (right).

Names for the last class photo would be appreciated. See the Website Gallery for more photos –Ed.

RECENT NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

National AGM, Melbourne

The National AGM was held on 13 September 2017 at the Toorak Services Club. Eleven committee and association members attended. Committee Members received a considerable number of Proxies. The meeting took the usual meeting format with reports from the Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Officer, Editor/Memorabilia Officer, Webmaster and Quartermaster. This was followed by the State Chapter Reports with all seven Chapters furnishing reports. The election of Office Bearers then took place. The National Committee was returned for another year. The Chairman, Frank Miller (4/67) thanked all office bearers at both state and national level for their support during the last year and said he looked forward to working with them again and the association having another vibrant year.

Reunions:

2/67 National Reunion 7/8 October 2017 David Gray

No zimmer frames, wheelchairs or gophers were to be seen anywhere. A few walking sticks may have helped the balance of a few whose legs were a little challenged, however in general a high degree of mobility was exhibited by all of those who attended the Class 2/67 50th Anniversary held in Canberra on the weekend of 7/8 October 2017.

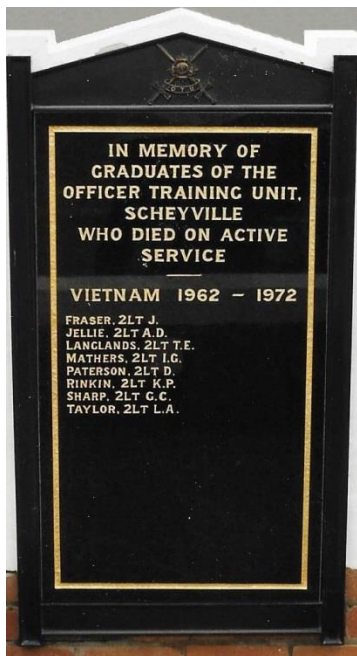
Ten short years ago Class 2/67 held a very successful reunion at Scheyville. I vowed and declared I would not fall for the trick of organising another reunion again! But about a year ago with a bit of prodding from some very persuasive class mates as well as a complete memory lapse about never volunteering for anything, I undertook the job of Class Orderly for the 50th. After about 850 emails and countless telephone calls, along with the fantastic 'on the ground' assistance from Terry Wesley-Smith and Greg Monteith, 50 Scheyvillians (including partners) paraded at the Mercure Hotel in Canberra on the Saturday afternoon to start what was to be a memorable and very enjoyable reunion.

The reunion began with a guided tour of RMC Duntroon brilliantly organised by Lt Col John Bullen (Retired). Most of the reunion had never set foot in that hallowed precinct before so it was a great eye opener to see where Cadets are turned into officers in a 12 month post-ADFA period or 18 months for Direct Entry Cadets without ADFA! It would not have been politically correct while there to boast that we did it in 6 months!

Duntroon facilities such as the Officers Mess, the Cadets Mess and the Chapel were included in the tour. Of great interest to all was the Museum which whilst it is still work in progress holds a lot of Scheyville memorabilia. The Cadets Mess Ante Room features photographs, replica medals and a brief history of officers killed in action including, of course, the eight Scheyvillians.



Left: (L to R) Pauline Lindsay, Terry Wesley-Smith, Colin Lindsay, Pam Wesley-Smith and Bob Cronin standing in front of the Duntroon Officer's Mess.



Left: The memorial for the eight Scheyville graduates killed in Vietnam and located at the RMC Parade Ground Flag Station



Right: The OTU Governor-General's Banner at the RMC Chapel

The second day of the reunion saw no casualties from the previous “own arrangements” night in the Mercure. Most attendees took the opportunity to visit the Australian War Memorial which for those who have never had the opportunity to visit is an absolute must for the bucket list. To do the AWM justice would need at least a couple of days. In particular the Vietnam section is very poignant and no doubt brought back many memories both good and not so good to those who served there.

The late afternoon was taken up with the Last Post Ceremony for 2Lt Terrance ‘Brindle’ Langlands. We were honoured that the AWM was able to dedicate the ceremony to Terry on that day, 50 years to the day since he, along with his 2/67 classmates, graduated from Scheyville. It was a very moving occasion with wreaths laid by Mick Woolan, MC on behalf of Class 2/67 and David and Amber Langlands, Terry’s nearest surviving relatives. David is Terry’s nephew and Amber (David’s daughter) is his great niece. We were fortunate to have the Last Post Ceremony reported in the Canberra Times the following day. This illustrated the strong interest in the ceremony.

From The Canberra Times (with amendments): When Second Lieutenant Terry Langlands wasn't drafted in the National Service ballot in 1965, he volunteered. When his platoon wasn't deployed to Vietnam, he asked to go with one that was.



The last post ceremony for Terrance Langlands at the National War Memorial. (L-R) Members of Langlands' Class: Ian Kelly, Greg Monteith, Mick Woolan, David Gray, Terry Wesley-Smith and Brian Scantlebury with Langlands' nephew David Langlands with his daughter Amber Langlands.
Photo: Rohan Thomson

For his classmates at the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville - who marked their 50th Graduation Anniversary this month - that is all you need to know about him. Second Lieutenant Langlands was killed in battle in Vietnam on 24 November 1968 after he tried to help a wounded soldier in his 1 RAR platoon.

No self-respecting reunion is complete without a formal parade. Ours was on the front steps of the Australian War Memorial.



“A Fine Body of Young Men”. Part of the 2/67 Reunion standing in front of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. (L to R) Ross Sillar, Peter Moody, Colin Lindsay, Peter Crook, Brian Scantlebury, John Barnes, Terry Wesley Smith, Lex Neville, David Harrison, Peter James, Bob Cronin, Vic Edwards, Max Roger, John Manks, John Neervoort, Graeme Chester, David Eyres, Greg Monteith, Neville Dickson, Lindsay Clay, John Churchill, Ian Paton, Tom Cootes, Ian Kelly, David Gray, John Lochore and Mick Woolan.

The Last Post Ceremony and official photographs can be viewed at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/australianwarmemorial>

The final hurrah of the reunion was the formal dinner at the Mercure. Drinks and canapes prior to the dinner saw everyone catching up on fond memories. Even Dave Chitty bestowed us with his presence arriving at the eleventh hour from the snowfields thus avoiding a couple of extras for his near late arrival! The Mercure provided a menu, dining room and service, which was as good as most of us ever enjoyed at formal dining in nights during our service.



Left: A memorable photo of the 2/67 50th anniversary dinner at the Canberra Mercure

Toasts to passed members (by Graeme Chester) and OTU (David Gray) started the night. Graeme Chester presented a framed photo of the Rugby Union trophy presented to Scheyville after Terry’s death to David and Amber Langlands. Unfortunately the trophy is “missing in action” and so it was considered fitting that the Langlands be the custodian of the original photo.



Right: Graeme Chester presenting the photograph of the Terry Langlands Rugby Union trophy to David and Amber Langlands



We were honoured to have Mr Ashley Ekins (Head, Military History Section at the Australian War Memorial) give a dinner address on the role of the National Service Officer in Vietnam. Ashley has been in that position at the AWM and is passionate about military history. His address was warmly received and he was formally thanked by Dave Chitty. A copy of his address is reproduced elsewhere in the Scheyvillian.

Left: Ashley Ekins speaking at the 2/67 Reunion Dinner

Will Class 2/67 have a 60th Anniversary reunion? I would like to think that this will be possible and that we will all be in a position to attend. To echo the saying often used by Classmate Graeme Chester:

Nil Bastardum Caborundum!

OCS 1/72 National 45th Year Reunion, Murwillumbah, 13 - 15 October 2017 (Mike Prain)

The OCS/OTU Class 1/72 held its 45th Year Reunion at Murwillumbah on the weekend of 14/15 October 2017. Although the numbers were down, those present had a great time and catching up with each other, for some after many years, was wonderful. The venue was Bob and Helga Deer's Tweed River Motel and a big thanks goes to them for their hospitality.



Left: 'Preparing' for the cruise! Paul Cotter, Anne Cotter, Helga Deer, Noel McRoberts, Graham Ferguson and Barb Prain (Pepper)

After gathering at Bob's and Helga's late on the Friday afternoon, we were ushered onto an unlikely form of water transport - the water was coming over the bow at one stage and the onboard navigation lights were wanting, but - for a very enjoyable evening plying the waters of the mighty Tweed River.

Fortunately, the rain held off. Bob's mate Fluffy (Ron) prepared the food and did the (BBQ) cooking onboard and afforded some entertainment, purely by virtue of his personality. With a name like 'Fluffy', he must have personality. Of course, we were suitably lubricated with an assortment of wine and beers. Saturday morning saw us doing our own thing after a satisfying breakfast provided by Fluffy and Helga. A number of us took in the Tweed Regional Gallery and its recreation of Margaret Olley's townhouse, painstakingly recreated in minute detail within the gallery. If you are up in the Northern Rivers, Murwillumbah in particular, you must visit the gallery; and it goes without saying that you must drop in on Bob and Helga.

The reunion dinner was held at the Motel itself with Fluffy, ably assisted by Helga, once again doing the catering. Bob was on drinks and table service. Discussion over dinner revisited many occurrences that we experienced whilst at Scheyville all those years ago and some staff members' ears could have been burning that night. The years have dulled individual memories, but collectively we could recall names, places and detail. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Left: Around the dinner table: our hostess Helga Deer, Gary van Ree, Richard Boyce, Mike Prain, Graham Ferguson, Noel McRoberts, Barb Prain, Paul Cotter, Anne Cotter and our host Bob Deer.

Sunday morning, with the rain coming down heavily, saw us all disperse north and south to return home or to

continue touring. I trust all got home safely; no news is good news. The plan is to reassemble again in five years for our 50th. Hopefully we will have more classmates in attendance!

2/69 National Reunion, Barossa Valley 13 – 15 October 2017 (David Jervis)

As Class 2/69 reunions were taking their toll on organisers and attendees it was decided (unilaterally by Mick Hart but without demur) to reduce the number of events and have longer rest periods. For this reason a quiet, rural idyll, South Australia's Barossa Valley, was chosen for this year's reunion from Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October 2018. Based at the picturesque Novotel Resort at Rowland Flat surrounded by over 150 wineries and 80 cellar doors, what could go wrong?

Alas, like a lot of good plans, this one did not survive the first contact, which was a 5 hour Thursday lunch at Melton's Winery for 13 early arrivals. Hosted by the colourful Charlie Melton and his charming wife Virginia this private lunch is quite well known but only held a few times a year for special guests (it is regularly attended by Mick and Trish Hart). We were joined by former infantry officer Lt Col (ret) Jack Gregg. Now a local rose and grape grower on his nearby Lawley Farm property he and his wife also run an acclaimed B&B operation. A Duntroon graduate, Jack seemed to enjoy our OTU anecdotes (at least, he listened politely). On returning to the Novotel full of good food and Melton's irresistible Rhone style Nine Popes shiraz grenache blend (and other beverages) we found another 8 people had arrived and were at a wine tasting in the hotel foyer. This made 21 for dinner that night in the Novotel restaurant. The bar closed late!



The next day when the reunion actually started the balance of the crew arrived bringing our numbers to 31. People had come by planes, trains (Indian Pacific) automobiles, ships (Spirit of Tasmania) and a caravan. John Hunter who now lives in Hua Hin in Thailand attended for the first time since the legendary 2002 Hong Kong reunion which he organized. Ladies and Gentlemen, start your livers!

For the next 3 days a determined attempt was made to drain the Barossa wine lake and a lot of sightseeing was done through the bottom of a glass. Still, who could have predicted 2/69 had so many wine buffs? There they were sniffing bouquets and sipping various Yalumba products at the poolside wine-tasting before dinner at the Novotel on Friday. This was organised by Bill Watson who has a connection to the area having attended nearby Roseworthy Agricultural College (special subject Oenology). The dinner was lively but uneventful although the bar did not close until 2.00 am.

Now for Saturday's rest day. I played golf with former Qantas Captains Gary Ryan and Lyn Williams at the excellent Tanunda Vines course next to the Novotel. Some went to the Farmers Market in Angaston and about 15 went on to the adjacent Vintners restaurant for a long lunch. Others drove to Maggie Beers Pheasant Farm, the German themed town of Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills, Tanunda, Nuriootpa and Lyndoch. Nuriootpa is the headquarters of Penfolds Wines, which has twice daily 'make your own blend' tours. Lyndoch is the home of the Barossa Chateau with its 9 hectare rose garden. In spring there are 30,000 rose bushes in bloom with a million flowers. All of the towns have lovely old stone buildings particularly churches and hotels.

"Well rested", we were ready for Saturday night's official dinner, which was in a private room at the Novotel (avoiding any travel which would have been dangerous). Speeches were given, Peter Don reprised his very amusing Seinfeld like stand-up routine and more wine was tasted. The show ended after 3.00 am.



At noon on Sunday (and far from rested) we were all on the bus for lunch at Fino restaurant at Seppeltsfield. On the way we drove through avenues of over 2,000 Canary Island date palms. Seppeltsfield is a magnificent winery complex of 19th century buildings (the imposing Seppelt family mausoleum is nearby). Owner, Warren Randall, has in partnership with Chinese interests built a Chateau Seppeltsfield in Minquan in Henan Province, China. This opened in May and

has been described as a "Disneyland for Wine Lovers".

Fino is one of S.A.'s most acclaimed restaurants and we spent a pleasant Sunday afternoon cellared in a private area entertained by more brilliant work by limerick laureate Paul Flanagan.

A few of us were fading a bit on arrival back at the Novotel and I had to go to bed at 6.00 pm. I'm reliably informed that most made it to dinner that night and the reunion formally ended about 11.00 pm. It must be said that although the reunion was not the gentle, relaxing affair promised it was most enjoyable indicating that although we are in our final overs we are still capable of playing a few shots.

Many thanks to Mick Hart and Bill Watson for organising the reunion and to the tolerant ladies who continue to care for and put up with us. Apart from the aforementioned those who attended were John and Denise Lowis, Gordon and Anne Dickens, Ian and Annette Paul, Carole Ryan, Rick Jarrett and Irene Jones, Judy Flanagan, Peter and Cher Wotton, Birute Don, Terry and Jocelyn Keogh, Ross Robins and Lady Jane, Grahame and Kay Charge, Lotte Monotti, Jennie Watson, David and Sophie Jervis.

Next year's reunion is in Brisbane and the year after the reunion is in Launceston.

Limericks from 2/69 Barossa Reunion 2017 Paul Flanagan

Reflecting on the group's progression from being fine military officers to old farts, more interested in eating and drinking than matters military, led one to question the ongoing appropriateness of the OTU badge.

*Tho not backward in popping a cork,
No more fighters, we eat, drink and talk.
So I'd like to suggest,
That the OTU Crest,
Dump the bayonets for a crossed knife and fork.*

On the raucous conduct of a highly animated Dave Jervis, during late night reflections on his many adventures at Scheyville.

*A man animated is Jervis,
When he tells of his military service.
With his passions ignited,
He becomes so excited
Even dogs in the street become nervous.*

Serial ladies' man, Lyn Williams was alleged to have entered the "pro-shop" at the local golf course under a misapprehension as to what kind of pro he was dealing with.

*Twas a saddening lapse in panache,
When Lyn offered the pro-shop girl cash.
She said "listen here squire,
This girl's not for hire" -
And you'd probably give me a rash!*

4/69 National Reunion, Coolangatta & Tweed Heads 26/27 August 2017 (Geoff Daly)

After a delayed start, the mighty 4/69 held another successful interim get-together at Coolangatta over the weekend of 26/27 August. The (in)formal dinner at Greenmount Beach Club/Tweed Heads & Coolangatta SLSC was preceded by an informal lunch at Bin 72 on The Strand at Coolangatta and followed by even more informal brunch at Rainbow Bay SLSC also in Coolangatta. A few stayers were still resolving world issues well into Sunday evening at Twin Towns Services Club, Tweed Heads.



Unremarkable, perhaps given the age of participants, but some of our number enjoyed sleeps in between each function.

Attendees at various times were Clive Badelow, Mike Banks and Libby, Vince Berne, Peter Blackwood, John Bushell and Denise, Geoff Daly and Carmel, Kevin Dixon, Mike Faulkner and Sandi, Geoff Gardiner and Mary, Ted Gretrix and Liz, Don Keyes and Melanie, Don McNaught and Liz, Barry Miechel, Terry O'Shea and Gillian, Graham Riches, Warwick Setttee and Trish. Unfortunately a notable absence was our Chief Instructor, Dick Flint, a late apology. Dick Marched-in to OTU Scheyville 2 days ahead of us other 4/69 arrivals and we would have enjoyed catching up with him again.

3/71 National Reunion, Adelaide 24 – 26 November 2017 Geoff Houghton

Sadly, some unexpected and late drop outs lowered our numbers to 26 for dinner at the Naval, Military & Airforce Club on Friday night. But we did have the pleasure of John den Dryver (2/71) and Phil Verco (4/71) and his wife Claire join us that night.

We had 13 of our original Graduates out of 26 known survivors and also Greg Rogers who was cut not too long before Graduation. I sincerely thank all who came including Senior and Junior class members and of course our lot of 3/71.



Above, L to R: David O'Reilly, Carolyn O'Reilly, Greg Rogers, Sarah Egan, Steve Fisher, Joanna Hickey, Alan Sparks, David Leggo, Ros Tucker, David Leggo, Marion Leggo, Geoff Houghton, Dick & Virginia Grove, Barry & Michelle Cooke, Marilyn Ralston, Sharon Brown, Steve McAlinden, Peter Ralston, Margaret Sparks, Alan Sparks, David Nomchong. Not pictured Mark Berry, Phil & Claire Verco, John den Dryver.



The Saturday program took us to the summit at Mount Lofty, Hahndorf for lunch at the German Arms.

Left: Lunch at the German Arms

Then it was onto Nepenthe Winery for a tasting.

Right: Wine Tasting at Nepenthe

Then there was the scenic drive back to Adelaide on the old Princess Highway stopping at the Bridgewater Mill and Eagle on the Hill. A free evening was planned to allow private catch ups.



Sunday took us to Carrick Hill a national treasure hidden in Adelaide, most visitors saw this as the highlight of the weekend and I think a must for interstate visitors.



To wind up the weekend we shared a beautiful lunch at the home of the O'Reillys and our sincere thanks for their efforts.

Our next reunion will be Perth in 2019 and I extend a warm welcome to one and all who have shared the Scheyville experience in any way to join us as that comes along! Updates will be provided through the Scheyvillian.

UPCOMING NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

WngO: OCS/OTU 2/72 Reunion, Canberra, December 2018 Rudi Poldoja rudipoldoja@hotmail.com

In the past the class 2/72 has had 10th, 30th and 40th Reunions along with a 42nd reunion in 2015 combined with their 'Seniors' of 1/72. To mark the 45th 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.

WngO: Class 1/70 Reunion, Brisbane, 23-25 April 2018

Monday 23 April: a 'Meet & Greet' in the morning and a Formal Dinner at Old Government House that night.

Tuesday 24 April: Optional Activities in the day and a Theatre Restaurant night with an exclusive production.

Wednesday 25 April: Dawn service (optional) & Breakfast (optional), Brisbane ANZAC Day March & lunch after



Right: A 'Sports' Day for Class 1/70

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. Since then some further information has come to hand increasing the March-In number to 2,598 (still 69% pass rate). 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).

I still need some paperwork from Class 1/66 to confirm the March-In number of the Intake. I am missing the March-In photo for C Class, and any names of Cadets who marched in with Class 1/66 and were not in the photographs. Alternatively a list of the names of Class 1/66 would be quite useful!

As in the last issue, 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 or worked out.

So far I have the structures of:

1/65 Guidance Officers and Cadets

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

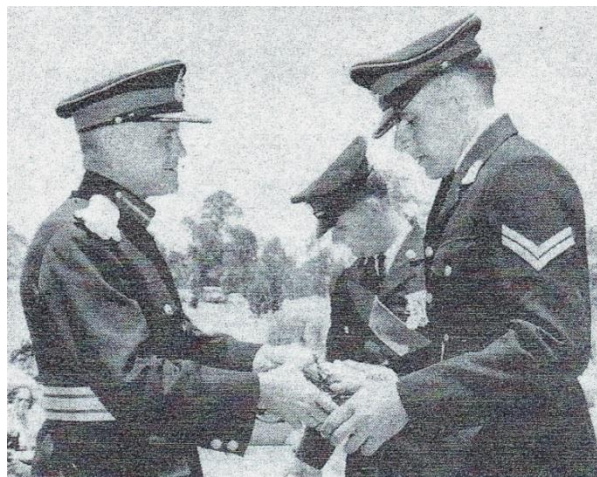
1/65 & 2/65	2/65 & 1/66	2/66 & 3/66	3/66 & 4/66	4/66 & 1/67
2/68 & 3/68	4/69 & 1/70	4/70 & 1/71	2/71 & 3/71	
3/72 & 4/72 – 3/72 Seniors only)				

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.

Feed-back from The Scheyvillian 2 of 2017: (more is needed from the classes **not** mentioned above)

Fred Cook (3/69): In response to your call for information on the appointments to 3/69 Senior Class ranks, I advise what I can recall. Bruce Youl (Graduate # 1000) was D Coy 8 Platoon Sergeant. Fred Cook was D Coy 8 Platoon Corporal (Graduate # 999).



Corporal Cook (left) was presented with a Sam Browne Belt for winning the Sportsman's Prize by the Commander of 1st Division Maj Gen Pearson. This posed a problem because, in anticipation of graduating and late in the Senior Class weeks before graduation, he had ordered a personal Sam Browne Belt from the Q store. **So now he had two!**

The Q store took the surplus belt back promising to send him the money (all of \$14, would you believe) when they sold it to someone else. They did and he got the money!! Fred still has Sam Browne belt, somewhere amongst his treasures!!

Right: Some of the 3/69 Graduates



STATE ACTIVITIES:

ACT CHAPTER

ACT Christmas Lunch (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

Thirty one members and guests attended the ACT Christmas Lunch at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Wednesday 29 November 2017. Wal Hall (2/68) welcomed all, including widows Trish Topp (Chris Topp, 2/68), Mandy Anderson (Barry Anderson, 3/68) and Marion Mitchell (Neil Mitchell, 2/72) along with the National Committee Representative and Scheyvillian Editor Neil Leckie (3/68). Wal also passed



on the apologies from a number of ACT Members who had other commitments and could not attend. These included David Knaggs (2/68) who was in Geneva with the World Health Organisation.



Bill Watson (2/69) (left) gave the toast to those who support us most in our OTU endeavours, our wives and partners.

Clive Badelow (4/69) (right) advised the attendees that the government had handed the OTU Association the



outstanding funds from the OTU RMC Duntroon Presentation Fund and that these funds were now available for the chapters to request assistance in funding their supported activities. The ACT Chapter supports the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) and has requested \$2,000 from these funds. The chapter is waiting to hear from National about how much it will provide.



With Mandy and Trish in attendance, Classes 2/68 and 3/68 made up a goodly proportion of the attendees. Left: Wal Hall, Wayne Mayo, Neil Leckie and Winston Bucknall.

Wal did a great job on the day considering he greeted all in attendance while his right foot was encased in a moon boot. Wal is an avid golfer and cricketer and had competed in the Australian Over-70s cricket championships. However, more recently he was participating in the Australian Over-60s championships and while batting played a lovely off-drive and immediately fell to the ground with a snapped Achilles tendon. Wal has some months of

rehabilitation in front of him before he 'returns to the crease' or the golf course. We wish Wal all the best for a full recovery.

NSW CHAPTER (Gary McKay, 2/68)

In the last quarter of 2017, the NSW Chapter has been very adventurous. Our monthly lunch at the Athenian was held in September but on 19 October a Navex was arranged and the attendees had to be very brave and find their way to Central Railway Station in Sydney, and then locate the correct platform that would take them about an hour south of the 'Big Smoke' to a seaside village called Scarborough. On this elevated site sits a pub that is about 100 years old and has the most stunning views of the ocean complete with passing whales, container ships and fishing trawlers. In all some 24 intrepid souls made the journey (no stragglers or MIA) and a great day was had on the lawn overlooking what is truly a tremendous vista. Unfortunately some classmates drank to excess but no names, no pack drill. Most people made it home unscathed.

Owing to the incredible amount of liver damage inflicted at Scarborough, it was agreed that we would not have a lunch in November and delay any further punishment to said livers until the Christmas Lunch at the Kirribili Club on 6 December.

Next year will see a return to the Athenian which has recently changed hands - but thankfully not chefs - before we venture probably sometime in the first half of the year to the Newcastle area to make sure the Hunter Valley wine industry is maintaining the correct standards.

Christmas Lunch (Neil Leckie, 2/68)

48 members and guests attended the NSW Chapter Christmas Lunch at the Kirribili Club, Milson's Point, overlooking Lavender Bay.

Chapter Chairman, Gary McKay (2/68) welcomed all making special references to the women who support our members and what good choices they had made in selecting their partners. After a good 30 minutes or so of catching up. The assembly sat down to a well presented and served main course. There is a saying that 'you learn something every day', and so it was on 6 December. Gary had said that there would be no speeches and he stuck to that promise, however, there was the need for Gary to say something mid-course. The small,



round orange-ish coloured vegetable that every second person was consuming (and obviously no knowing what they were eating) was a Heirloom Carrot. As we say in the military 'Well done that man!'



The lunchers met from noon and when the bar closed at 3.45 there were still a goodly number in attendance. As we are noticing in all chapters, with our increased freedom from work activities and ability to do the things now that we want to do rather than have to do, the NSW Chapter is going along quite nicely!

Chest Swelling Pride (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

At the dinner Dick Adams (3/72) recalled that Ray Elder (2/67) suggested that when visiting Scheyville for the 2013 National Reunion, all attendees should march onto the old Parade Ground in Class Order. Dick took on the suggestion as this would be the only time that every class could ever be represented on the Parade Ground at the one time. After that significant event, Ray contacted Dick and asked him if he could check the 'form-up' road to see if he could find some buttons from the area where Ray's class had formed up. Ray said that his classmates' chests swelled so much with pride at being back at Scheyville that their coat and some shirt buttons had popped off!

Dick duly organised a bottle of odd buttons from an Op-Shop and sent them to Ray saying that 2/67 should be able to find their missing buttons among them! Good one, Dick!

QUEENSLAND CHAPTER

Youth Leadership Support Owen Williamson and Michael Hart on behalf of Father John Butler –Vitae Inc. Queensland OTU Scheyville support for troubled *Youth* through donations to the Vitae Program. During the last ten years the Queensland chapter of the OTU Association has used its leadership funds to support the Queensland based charity Vitae who tries to bring troubled youth back onto the straight and narrow by taking them bush to learn bush craft, socialising and leadership skills. Our contact is Father John Butler with whom Michael Hart has had a long association. The Queensland Chapter is indebted to John and Michael for all their hard work over the years. The Qld. chapter made a donation of \$2,500 to Vitae at our recent November monthly luncheon. The following narrative explains the program that our heartfelt donations have supported in the spirit of giving something back to the Community. Vitae Ltd is a not for profit charity, established in 2002, which has been granted deductible gift recipient (DGR) status by the Australian Taxation Office. Vitae is a secular organisation, not controlled or sponsored by any Church or religious body. It is a registered company under the Corporations Act 2001. It is a company limited by guarantee. It is a public company governed by a Board which presently comprises six members.

Vitae was founded out of a concern that many Australian youths are being driven by their circumstances into becoming 'at risk' youths. They exhibit symptoms of anti-social behaviour, violence, crime, substance abuse and tendencies to suicide. Vitae assists 'at risk' youth to face and overcome their circumstances and thus grow to become good citizens. Vitae believes that to change behaviour there is a need to firstly change values. This is achieved by enabling youth to remove themselves from their 'at risk' environment and get into the Australian bush; and then be supported through a follow-up mentoring program. Vitae is the author of and funding source of this project, known as the Vitae Challenge. Vitae does not have paid staff – all monies raised are put towards the provision of the Vitae Challenge. Vitae is administered by a Board, none of whom receive remuneration for their talents. All legal, accounting, website design and IT support are provided pro bono. The Bush Phase is conducted by Adventure Alternatives who have paid staff. The Mateship Phase is fulfilled by volunteers.

The Vitae Challenge is designed for 10 male participants, typically between the ages of 11 and 13. The Challenge is conducted in 2 Phases.

The Bush Phase is conducted over 10 days (2 x 5 days) in the bush. Participants live in the bush and carry all that they need, being only resupplied with water and food.

The Mateship Phase is twelve months of mentoring by a male adult who contracts with the youth to be a Mate to him over that time. The Mate gives his time and resources freely.

The Bush Phase is designed to provide opportunity and skills for the youth to realise that the path upon which he is embarked is leading to a life of crime; and, whilst in the bush, he is guided, encouraged and equipped with the tools to make better decisions for his future.

The Mateship Phase is designed to provide the anti-dote to the 'at risk' environment to which the youth returns on completion of the Bush Phase. As most of these youths do not have a good male role model in their lives, the 'mate' provides that role model. The 'mate' also acts as encouragement to the youth to persevere in the good resolutions he makes during the Bush Phase.

Collectively the Bush Phase and the Mateship Phase are the Vitae Challenge and are designed to:

- a. address youth despair by providing 'at risk' participants with the tools to transit from adolescence to responsible adulthood;
- b. reduce anti-social behaviour, substance abuse, violence, crime and tendencies towards suicide;
- c. develop life skills, positive attitudes to study and work with the view to long term social and economic independence; and
- d. promote community safety and reduce the social and financial cost to society of insurance, policing and court appearances.

The Vitae Challenge has evolved over many years of providing assistance to youths who are struggling to make good decisions in their lives. It arises out of the knowledge that males do not respond to 'talking

therapies' and need physical activity to help them better their lives. It recognises the research which states that for change to happen youths need to remove themselves from their 'at risk' environment. It is based on the many studies (and indeed the innate knowledge of the general population) which recognise the advantages of 'wilderness therapy'.

The Bush Phases is conducted over 10 days. It is bush based and has 3 parts.

Part 1 is five days learning to live in the bush comfortably and to travel through it safely.

Part 2 involves challenging activities at various locations and culminates in climbing a mountain.

Part 3 involves the youths, by means of a 'solo' experience and using pre-prepared materials, making positive decisions about how they are going to better live their lives

The Mateship Phase commences at the end of the Bush Phase. Each youth is introduced to his 'mate', who is an adult male and a 'good bloke'; with a Queensland Government 'Blue Card'. These two spend about an hour together to contract with each other what contact they will have over the next 12 months so that the 'mate' may be able to support and assist the Youth in the next part of his life. The 'mates' commit to Vitae to give 4-6 hours per month to their youth. Vitae organises six activity based reunions (including 'Clean-Up Australia') during those 12 months for all Youths and their 'mates'.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER

Remembrance Day, 11 November 2017 (Gary Vial)

On Remembrance Day, the SA Chapter held its annual lunch this year acknowledging not only 11 November 1918, but also El Alamein - 23 October 1942, the Retaking of Kokoda - 02 November 1942 and the end of the 2nd battle for Passchendaele - 10 November 1917.

In the delightful hillside setting of Artwine cellar door amid grape vines just 30 mins from Adelaide and 5 mins from what was Woodside Barracks, which is still home to 16th Air Land Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, we enjoyed lunch and convivial company.

Craig Steel deserves special mention for his delivery of 'The Ode' at short notice without warning (this boy is officer material) and James & Raelene Young for driving three and a half hours down (and presumably back) from Renmark to attend. James also dazzled the crowd with a selection of magic tricks - a first for a luncheon !

Our next function is the Foundation Day Lunch on Sunday 1 April 2018 and then the ANZAC Day March on 25 April 2018 immediately followed by refreshments at 'The Exeter' in Rundle Street.



Left: (L-R)
Raelene Young,
Marg Williams,
James Young (4/71),
Angele Jones,
Trevor Ranford (2/72),
Don Fairweather (3/68),
Gary Vial (3/69),
Geoff Williams (2/70),
Craig Steel (1/70),
Libby Vial,
Graeme Jones (1/68)
(obscured),
Ash Steel,
Carmel Fairweather.

TASMANIAN CHAPTER (Ian Howard, 1/69)

The Tasmanian Chapter held its third lunch for the year at Etties Restaurant Hobart. Held in September numbers were down for various reasons including overseas travel, winter flu and one member busy establishing a whisky distillery.



As usual members and partners had many stories to tell of past glories and slowing bodies. Again this lunch underscored the benefits of OTU members continuing their friendships based on the Scheyville experience.

OTU Chapter at Etties Restaurant Hobart September 2017. Seated (L-R): Ross Robbins (2/69), Denis Townsend (2/70), Ray Williams(2/71), Jean Howard, Pam Williams, Lorraine Luff , Ian Howard (1/69) & Jane Robbins.

VICTORIAN CHAPTER

Victorian Chapter Golf Day (Frank Miller 4/67)

The twelfth Victorian Chapter Annual Golf Day was held at the Waverley Golf Club on Sunday, 8 October 2017. A strong field of twenty two players enjoyed the customary sandwich lunch before taking to the course. Despite the forecast for showers it turned out a fine, sunny – and a little windy – afternoon with the fairways and greens in near perfect condition. Once more, the competition was the Ambrose form of the game.

On finishing, players returned to the club house for prize giving and a few well deserved drinks. Team Echo (to retain the military nomenclature), comprising Gus Steegstra (3/70) and three of his friends, won the day. Team Foxtrot - Alan Brimelow and Brian McCarthy (3/69) and Allan Stevens and Ian McEwan (4/70) – were runners up. Mike Delves (1/65) and Brian McCarthy each won a nearest the pin prize with Gerry Pels (4/71) winning the longest drive on the 15th hole. First time participants included Warwick Walker (1/71) and Barry Miechel (4/69). That uniquely Scheyville form of camaraderie was well on display – particularly at the post play get together. It was a great day.

Victorian Chapter Lunches Under command of Brian Cooper, the 3/69 (plus others) continue to draw a good attendance. The September, October and November lunches averaged around 15.

We were fortunate to have an interstate guest, Geoff Gardiner, Class 4/69 who was visiting from Queensland, join us at the September lunch. Apologies for the September lunch were our globe-trotting bunch with Ray Elder (2/67) in Crete, Hondo Gratton (3/69) riding a motorcycle through Albania, Macedonia etc etc, Noel Osborne (4/66) at Lake Ohrid in Macedonia, Wayne Bruce (2/70) in Helsinki. Peter Whitelaw (66) and Neil Leckie (3/68) weren't quite so far away in Queensland! For simplicity, the National Committee Meeting was held in the Carbine Room at the RACV Club following the November lunch.



WEST AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER (Andrew Martindale, 1/72)

In keeping with long-standing tradition, WA Members gathered in near-record numbers for a quarterly luncheon in the Northbridge entertainment hub of Perth. Members present are pictured here enjoying the hospitality of staff at the Romany Restaurant, swapping general news, and yarns about their military service.

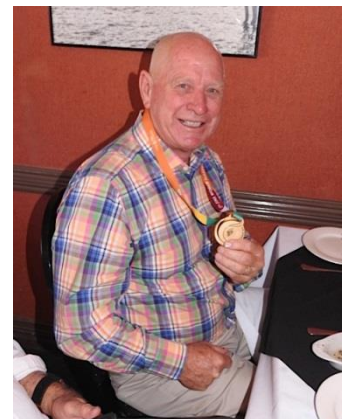
Right (L-R): David Eyres (2/67), Jay McDaniel (3/69), Steve Pearson (3/69), Richard Baird (1/68), David Ward (2/66), Barney McCallum (3/70), Bruce Thorpe (3/66), Joe Martin (3/68), Neville Gale (1/66) & Glenn Williams (3/67).



Attendees included: David Harley, Ken Waller, Jay McDaniel, Ben Blake, Andrew Martindale, Barney McCallum, David Eyres, David Ward, Glenn Longmire, Glenn Williams, Steve Pearson, Bruce Thorpe, Lawrie Stanley, David Macoboy, David Atkinson, Neville Gale, Bernie Houston, Elliot Nielsen, Richard Baird, Greg Elliott, Pip Edwards, John Barnes, Harry Neesham, John Forwood, Joe Martin, Ron Packer and self. (27).



Left (L-R): Elliott Nielson (1/67), John Barnes (2/67), Bernie Houston (1/65), David Harley (1/70), Dave Macoboy (2/70) & Glenn Longmire (1/72).



The yarns/anecdotes printed below are a few that came out during the course of the meal, and were volunteered for publication. In addition to those stories, it is pleasing to report a significant achievement by one of our Members from the first OTU intake: Harry Neesham (1/65) (pictured above right), arrived at the function proudly sporting a World Championship Gold Medal, recently awarded at the World Masters Water Polo Championships, Budapest, Hungary, 7-20 August 2017. Harry and members of the Perth Cockatoos water polo team won the 70 Division of the Masters, a very significant achievement for feisty and fit senior men. (The Neesham family has a very commendable reputation in many aspects of sporting achievement in WA, not least for its support, mentorship and coaching of fine water polo players, many of whom have competed at national, international and Olympic level). Well done That Man!

Steve Pearson (3/69) served as a pilot in Vietnam and related the following, which he finds amusing to this day: "I was assigned to a battalion (flying) for a particular day, which involved running around the Companies at the bequest of the boss, and assisting with air strikes, etc. Somewhere in the middle of the day there was a bit of action going on, and for some reason I had to fly back to the Fire Support Base to

grab the latest data for the mission. I landed and left the helicopter running, left the helmet on the seat, and sprinted for the HQ bunker. On the way I passed the boss of the Artillery Battery. He stopped me and enquired why I didn't salute. I rapidly gave him one and started off, when he made me aware that I didn't have a headdress. I did think of informing him that there was a small war going on, but as a lowly 2Lt, and he being a Major, I thought I would give that a miss and find a hat! After a quick sprint back to the helicopter and finding a bush hat, I ran back saluting (and also on the way back to HQ!). I think it was the only time over there that I ever saluted!"

Glenn Longmire (1/72) had the following, very topical, story: "I was posted to 9RAR after my OTU graduation in July 1972. The Battalion was on a major exercise early in November of that year, and we had been hassled by the "enemy" a fair bit, especially at night. Early on the first Tuesday of that month we had intelligence as to the location of the enemy camp and, having been trained well by the DS at OTU, I formulated a plan to take over the camp when they were most vulnerable.

So it happened that, during the running of 'The Melbourne Cup' that afternoon, my Platoon overran the camp with no opposition and captured most of the enemy, who were huddled around a radio. Their cries of "You bastards!" still ring in my ears every Melbourne Cup day!" (The 2017 Melbourne Cup was run 4 days after Glenn related this story- satisfaction all over again!)

I (A.M.) was also a Class 1/72 Officer Cadet, and remember a particularly amusing experience which stays with me because of the quick wit of one of my class members. The Senior B Class Orderly was marching our class to a lesson on campus one particular day, and as we passed the 'Bumpf' Room we encountered the BOC Chaplain, Capt Wellings. Wellings seemed quite old to us then, but he was probably in his early fifties. The Class Orderly duly ordered an "Eyes Right" and Wellings, grinning a Chaplain-like benevolent grin, snapped to attention and returned the salute, his hand and forearm whipping up and oscillating numerous times before coming to rest aside the brim of his cap. Once Wellings was out of earshot, one class member was heard to comment, "That's one waggle for every 10 years of service, lads!" Priceless!

2018 WA Chapter South – West Weekend, 2-4 February 2018

Next year's WA Chapter Weekend will be held at the Ferguson Valley, south-east of Bunbury, over the weekend 2 – 4 February 2018. The Draft Program commences for those who can make it down on Friday 2 February 2018 with a travel to the preferred accommodation at the Ferguson Valley Farmstay. A block booking has been made by Turk Ellis. Confirm your accommodation at: www.fergusonfarmstay.com.au There will be a BBQ from 1800 onwards at Turk & Sue's at 29 Joel Crt. Ferguson Valley. Confirm attendance on 0413 743 601

Saturday 3 February is a free day with activities such as visiting wineries, galleries, micro-breweries, bush walking, mountain-bike riding or relaxing in local lakes and dams.

From 1830-2200 there will be a dinner at the Hackersley Winery & Restaurant, Ferguson Rd, Ferguson' The organisers are negotiating a bus to collect & return from the Ferguson Farmstay.

Sunday 4 February will commence with breakfast at Evedon Park Bush Resort or Ferguson Farmstay. The weekend will end whenever you decide to leave!

Contact Turk Ellis to confirm your attendance on: turkcel88@gmail.com Turk advises that the Hackersley does not usually open at night, but he have been able to twist their arms for you. He is hoping to get 30 OTU people there that night. If OTU cannot make sufficient numbers, they will open up to the general public but still give OTU the preferred seating.

Personally, he hopes to continue living in this community (after the OTU group has left) and would prefer not to subject the locals to over-exuberant, ribald OTU graduates, in their dotage. He would specifically like a bit of moral support from the 1/70's in his midst. Each year they are outnumbered. It would be great to return the favour!

VALE:

Max Almond, RSM

Leslie Maxwell 'Max' Almond was born on 16 Mar 1926 in Newcastle. He first joined the Army (CMF Full Time Service) at 16 years of age, but was discharged when it was found that he was under-age. He rejoined in 1944 and served with the CMF, again on Full Time Service, and in the AIF during WW2. In 1952 Max joined the ARA. He transferred into 4 Field Regiment RAA on 24 June 1966 and served in Vietnam as a Temporary WO1 from 2 May 1967 – 16 April 1968. Max was posted to OTU on 16 July 1968. He served at OTU for three years before being posted to Headquarters Eastern Command on 4 November 1971.



Max discharged from the Army in 15 May 1975 with the rank of Captain. He died peacefully in WA on 8 August 2017. Max was pre-deceased by his wife Yvonne on 26 May 2016. They were married for almost 70 years. Their children were Cheryl, Vicki and Ross. They had 6 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Above: Yvonne and Max Almond as seen on 'The Scheyville Interviews' DVD.



Left: Max Almond at the 4 Field Regiment final parade at Nui Dat, South Vietnam.

Service & Service Numbers:

CMF (FTS – twice), AIF, CMF Twice, ARA 23 years.
N284029, N479217, NX178458, 2133940, 352243, 34284

Operational Service:

Borneo (3 tours), Ambon, Rabaul, Malaysia (3 tours) & Vietnam

Honours and Awards:

WW2: 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, War Medal 1939-45, Australia Service Medal 1939-45

Post WW2: Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps Malaysia and Vietnam

General Service Medal 1962 with Clasps Borneo and Malay Peninsula,

Vietnam Medal

Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps SW Pacific and PNG

Defence Force Service Medal, Australian Defence Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Pingat Jasa Malaysia

Comments by some West Australian Scheyvillians:

Frank LeFaucheur (1/71): I do know that WO1 Almond became Lt Almond as I bumped into him at Enoggera in early 1972. RIP a man who had 'influence' on many of us. Some of his putdowns were classic! Class 1/71 had Max ("Sir, to me!!") and Yvonne as our guests (courtesy of Peter Williams 845) at the 1/71 Reunion in Devonport, Tasmania - he spoke eloquently and 'reflected well' on "all of us" in the 'Scheyville days'. They both were quite touched to be remembered and held in such esteem - you may all recall that Yvonne worked in the "canteen shop" and I can recall her agreeing to buy me some undies when she next went shopping - us WA guys were a bit 'isolated' in the early days pre-leave at Scheyville!

Greg Elliott (4/70): He did have an influence! Always found him to very fair and with a good sense of humour , always up for a laugh!!

Alan Robson (1/70): He was a very fair man. I recall him shouting out one day when I was marching the class onto the Parade Ground "Robson, I am beginning to have bad dreams of you!" As someone hopeless at drill he was still very complimentary when I graduated with the Commandants Prize for the Cadet most determined to graduate.

Steve McDonald (2/70): I'm sorry to hear about RSM Almond's death – even now I wouldn't be bold enough to call him Max! He had a very deep understanding of how to manage men & I learned from his sound advice.

Frank Shellabear (2/66) – the other Frank. On the DVD Set "The Scheyville Interviews" there is a great interview with Max Almond & his wife Yvonne. In it, he references a 1968 meeting, in Vietnam, with Larry Moon (first OTU RSM). Within a few months Almond was the OTU RSM.

Note: Moon served in Vietnam with 2 RAR from 19 May 1967 – 13 Jun 1968. He had also served in Korea with 3 RAR from 28 September 1950 to 23 March 1951 – Ed.

And from Merv Michell (1/66): We had some exciting crosses, beginning when I was a newly graduated 2Lt doing the Basic Field Artillery course at North Head School of Artillery where he was RSM. Then following on to when he was RSM of 4 Field Regiment in Oz readying for SVN and to our time in SVN where we were in close contact in HQ Battery and I was Assistant Adjutant. We did have our differences but it was always in the best of spirit. I regret not finding the occasion for us to meet again and to relive those experiences. I think we would both have enjoyed a laugh.

Also from David Bradford, Former RMO 4 Field Regiment: He was always very good and helpful to me, a very raw and inexperienced RMO in the Regiment.

Note: The DVD sets referred to are available on demand, either as a set of as an individual DVD.

FEATURES:

What rank was the Commandant at Scheyville! (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

The membership of the association often talks about Brigadier Geddes, or Colonel Studdart, etc, but what rank was the posting for the Commandant of OTU Scheyville?

From the records I hold:

Ian **Geddes** was a **Colonel** when given the task of raising OTU. He was promoted Temporary Colonel on being posted to OTU on 4 January 1965 and Colonel on 1 July 1965. He left OTU on 23 December 1967 with the rank of Colonel. He was Temporary Brigadier on 1 December 68 and Brigadier on 14 July 1969.

'Kit' **Miles** was promoted to Colonel on 4 December 64 and posted to OTU on 24 December 1967 as a **Colonel**. He left OTU on 22 January 1969 as a Colonel. He was Temporary Brigadier on 3 February 1969 and Brigadier on 8 February 1969.

'Jack' **Studdart** was promoted to Colonel on 1 August 1967 and posted to OTU on 23 January 1969 as a **Colonel**. He left OTU on 1 May 1972 as a Colonel.

'Paddy' **Outridge** was promoted to Colonel on 15 June 1971 and posted to OTU on 6 March 1972 as a **Colonel**. When OTU closed on 30 Jun 1973 he could only have been a Colonel (time in rank too short to be promoted to Brigadier).

Many Scheyvillians assume that the Commandant must have been a Brigadier as we socialised with them later in life when they had been promoted to Brigadier and retired at that rank!

FSBs Coral & Balmoral Submission (David Ward, 2/66)

To the Members of the Defence Honors and Awards Appeals Tribunal - the inquiry into Unit recognition for service at the Battles of Fire Support Base Coral and Balmoral:

I suggest that most servicemen of the units that experienced the conflicts at FSB Coral & FSB Balmoral have allowed their memories of the days of 12 May to 6 June 1968 to wane, if not dissipate. I am one of those, however, recently I realised that the Senior Officers & NCO's of B Company 3RAR, that experienced Coral & Balmoral, have not survived.

Further, that I have knowledge of some of the events of 12 May to 6 June 1968 that may be pertinent. Belatedly, I put this submission to the Tribunal, acknowledging that it is beyond the closing date, in doing so request that the members exercise the Tribunal's discretion (if available), by considering the submission. Thank you.

Submission to the Defence Honors and Awards Appeals Tribunal on awarding unit citations for gallantry at the battles of Coral and Balmoral.

Prepared by platoon commander, 5 platoon, B Company, 3RAR, 1968, 5714428, David H. Ward.

The actions of the enemy, the North Vietnamese Army(NVA), that our company experienced, convinced me that the intentions of the NVA was to maximise casualties on the Australian Forces(ATF) at Coral & Balmoral. Further, the NVA actions were planned to impact the international media, the anti-Vietnam movement, so as to influence the then current Paris Peace talks between the Allies & the North Vietnamese Government.

The locations of Coral & Balmoral, north east of Saigon, were of little tactical significance & our presence was probably more of an annoyance to the local guerrilla forces.

They would have been unaware of our patrolling & ambushing techniques, the artillery support with air superiority. The briefings we received prior to embarkation, described our presence as being a blocking force to the retreating forces attacking Saigon.

For the local guerrilla forces that would have been inappropriate, however the commitment of two Infantry Battalions, two Artillery Batteries, Armored and Cavalry Squadron plus others was an indication to me that the presence of most of the Australian Task Force (1 ATF) was a significant show of strength.

Consequently the ATF attracted the attention of the NVA.

To support this proposition, we present the following facts:

1. B Company's fly in to the proposed LZ, secured by a US mobile infantry unit, was compromised by the early departure of the US Forces, due to their concern for their security whilst returning to base.
2. Whilst securing the LZ there were numerous enemy sightings, always out of effective small arms range.
3. The morning after the first attack of Coral, B Company observed NVA soldiers moving in the direction of Coral (west to east).
They were uniformed, well spaced, orderly, using camouflage and propping to the sound of approaching aircraft. At the moment of engaging Artillery we had counted 35 enemy passing thru, what would become, the killing ground.
A subsequent search of the 5 dead NVA soldiers disclosed weaponry, maps, codes, radio & provisions. Having disclosed our location, the Company harbored that night, in anticipation of an attack.
However, Coral was the enemies objective.
We listened in the early hours of that morning the second attack on Coral.
4. Having repelled the first attack at Balmoral, 3RAR tasked B Company to patrol beyond the clearings for enemy activity.
Our patrol located an injured unarmed enemy soldier.
Using our company interpreter, we determined that the prisoner was:
 - a. 16 years of age
 - b. recruited from Hanoi
 - c. received his training as he traveled by the Ho Chi Minh trail thru Laos & Cambodia
 - d. ran most of the way from the trail to nearby to effect an attack on the Australian Forces
 - e. his role during the attack was being a stretcher bearer
5. B Company, during patrolling of the area east of Balmoral, used USAF rockets on a nearby enemy staging camp, the subsequent search disclosed trenches, heavy machine gun positions land line communications, wide tracks for vehicle traffic, indicating a well resourced enemy, different to the guerrilla forces we experienced in Phuoc Tuy Province.

Besides their first attack on Coral, the NVA was attacking a well resourced and superior force (ATF) and the NVA incurred casualties that I believe an Australian commander would not accept of his own troops. The casualties the ATF incurred would have disappointed the NVA and its Government and this is a direct result of the soldiering at Coral and Balmoral, of which we are proud. The NVA objective did not secure a tactical advantage, other than the political one in Paris.

Missing:

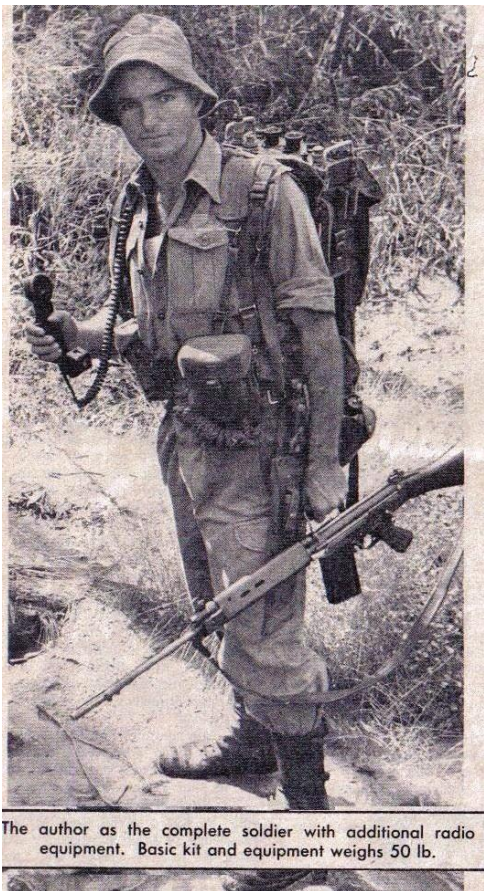
The OTU Association is looking to find out where Scheyvillians are if they are currently not on the Website or 'Do Not Contact List'.

One Scheyvillian whose whereabouts is not currently known is John Coulter, Class 1/69.

John Edward Coulter, was born on 21 November 1945 at Kyogle, NSW and completed his secondary schooling at Kyogle High School. Before entering the Army as an Air Cadet, Regimental Number 1202513, he was employed as a teacher by the NSW Department of Education at Moulamein, a small town between Balranald and Echuca. 'JC' entered OTU on 14 February 1969 with Class 1/69. He was known to be a good bloke and unsurprisingly for a NSW/Queensland cross a good rugby player. He graduated 31st in his class of 76 graduates on 17 July 1969 and was allotted to the Australian Army Aviation Corps. He was posted to 1 RTB, Kapooka, to await his flying training. He commenced BFTS on 29 Sep 1969 with No. 4 BFTS Course at 1 FTS Point Cook. He did not complete the course. By Mid-1970 JC was no longer in the Army.

JC's OTU classmates have described him as one of a kind, a generous, funny, abstract man who was dead straight. He was knowledgeable about the bush. On a hunting trip from Point Cook to his old haunts he caught an injured wedge tail eagle, which he put into rehab with a friend at Moulamein, and he also caught a brown snake which he kept in the top of his wardrobe at Point Cook. When he left the BFTS Course he released the brown outside the course's dormitory, although one classmate states there was more than one brown!

It is thought that JC became a mercenary air crewman with the Cambodian or Laotian air force. It is not known if he came back to Australia, took to the bush there or was Killed in Action.

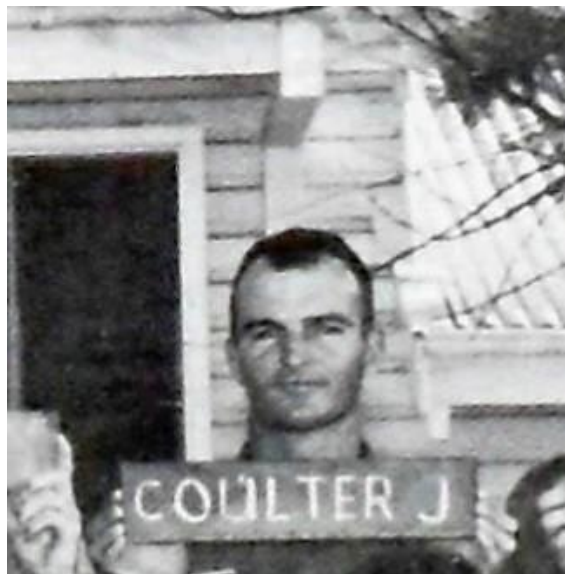


The author as the complete soldier with additional radio equipment. Basic kit and equipment weighs 50 lb.

If anyone has any knowledge of the whereabouts, or fate, of JC or as his classmates have referred to him 'Big Jesus' please let the Editor know!

The interest in JC has come about from being sent an article from the Sydney Mail Colour Magazine written by John Coulter on 11 October 1970.

Coulter concluded by stating: 'The character building, military based, executive training may be the best short course of its kind. Training cost per week is \$1,000 per man. Members of staff, incredible individuals, are driving, tough, realistic. The programme is an electric experience. The Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, NSW is a unique institution.'



Flashback - What did you do in the War, Dad? (Paul de Launay, 3/69)

‘What did you do in the war, dad?’ The question from my 17 year old daughter caught me off guard as we drove to Southport Park shops on a sunny Saturday morning. Reminiscences of my time as a soldier in the Vietnam War were generally limited to ANZAC Days. ‘Oh, I er.... drove a truck’ I replied, hoping the response was sufficiently boring to stifle further discussion.

‘Did you kill anybody?’ ‘No!’ ‘What was it like?’ she persisted. ‘War is a terrible waste of everything. It destroys people and things. You can see what is happening now in Syria.’ I tried to divert her attention to one of the current conflicts as we parked under the carpark shade sails.

‘Come on, let’s get the shopping, where’s the list?’ I said. ‘I’ve got it, were you scared?’ She persisted. ‘Yes, sometimes scared and sometimes bored.’ was my reply. ‘Were you a virgin?’ she said flatly. ‘What kind of question is that?’ I responded. ‘It was the title of a book or movie, *The Virgin Soldiers*, well, were you?’ ‘No, I wasn’t, I was 21 years old and I had a girlfriend’

‘Was that Christine?’ she said as we pushed a trolley through the turnstiles at Woolworths. My daughter had recently discovered some old photo albums with faded black and white pictures of my life in the 1960’s. ‘Yes’ I said selecting a bag of bread rolls. ‘Did you love her and how old was she when you went to the war?’ ‘Yes, I did and she was 19’ I said.

‘Why didn’t you marry her?’ she said picking up 2 litres of milk. ‘She died of a drug overdose while I was away. She was studying at Sydney Uni and got mixed up with the wrong crowd. I still have all her letters’. ‘That’s tragic, can I read them?’ ‘Do we need honey?’ I countered. ‘Dad!’ ‘Maybe when you’re older’ I said.

25 minutes later, with the shopping done we went into Goldstein’s for coffee. When this ritual began 10 years earlier my kids had party pies and flavoured milk. Now it was espresso for me and skinny laté for my half woman-half child.

‘C’mon Dad, I really want to know what the war was like for you’. ‘Ok, ok. I was conscripted but volunteered for Vietnam because I thought it would be an adventure. I went to Nui Dat, our forward operational base, and we lived in tents. I didn’t sleep much the first night because I was afraid enemy soldiers would creep into the tent and kill me. Well a few days later, I was talking to a bloke who had been there for months and he told me you had to know when to be worried and that would only come with experience.’

‘Gee dad, that’s pretty gross’ she said. ‘Well, he was right and after a while I slipped into the routine of my regular duty and some lighter moments like when someone would throw a smoke grenade into the toilet block and the spectators would photograph occupants escaping the acrid coloured smoke clutching half-mast pants.’

‘That’s really funny, go on!’ she said draining the last of her coffee. ‘I had been there almost a year when my replacement arrived. One day we were at my favourite roadside stall a few kilometres from the base having a fruit drink and I heard a noise in my Land Rover parked nearby. Instinct took over and I jumped up in time to see a child jump from the vehicle and take off with my mate’s transistor radio. I reached the road in a few bounds and called for him to stop or I would shoot as I raised the rifle to my shoulder.’

‘What happened, did you shoot him?’ She asked, her eyes as big as golf balls ‘The stall’s ‘Mama San’ was beside me in an instant saying not to shoot and she would return the radio tomorrow.’ The hair on my neck still bristled when I thought of that day. ‘So you see war brutalizes ordinary people and makes them do things they would never have dreamed of doing before being exposed to it. That’s what you are seeing on TV from the Middle East now. We should be working to stop wars and helping innocent people caught in them. Yeah?’ I said, pushing out of my chair. ‘Yeah’ she said, taking my arm as we wheeled the

trolley past the sushi bar and towards the exit. 'Better not tell mum, ok?' I said. 'Ok dad, but you have to let me read Christine's letters'.

Once Enemies, now Friends (Paul de Launay, 3/69, 5 August 2017)



A few weeks ago, I was working in Hawaii delivering some modules at a Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP) Course. One of the participants was a Colonel in the Vietnamese Army Medical Corps based in Hanoi. I spoke a few words of Vietnamese to him and he was polite about my pronunciation, although I don't think I was as good as he said. We had a photo taken together and he presented me with a commemorative medallion from his hospital. It was quite an emotional 'full circle' moment for me.

The Other Scheyvillians

Most people who are aware of OTU Scheyville think about the Nasho Officer Cadets, and sometimes the Army Air Cadets. Few know of the OCS/OTU Cadets. Even less know of the CMF Cadets who trained at OTU – The Other Scheyvillians! In the Book of Graduates the class is listed as B1/67.

Peter Dalkin, one of The Other Scheyvillians, says: By way of clarification, 'my SUR CMF group' was attached to Scheyville for training in December 1965/February 1966 (then back to University) and again January 1966/February 1967. Our 'Officer Training Course' was called SURVACTO which stood for 'Sydney University Regiment Vacation Training Organisation'. A fairly unimaginative title, but we came to be very proud of it.

Of the group of 33 Private Soldiers who started, about 20 completed Phase 1. Sixteen continued on to Phase 2, which started in December 1966, and finished circa February 1967. All 16 completed the course (one with a broken arm!) but due to various technicalities, only 10 were commissioned at that time, and were promoted Lt (P) with effect from 1 March 1967. I was one of the 10. There was no Parade (our shorter course didn't have time for such fineries) but we received our 'pips' at a function at the Mess at Scheyville. Interestingly, one of our class (Colin Dunston) would subsequently become a Brigadier.

I was not, therefore, a member of a Scheyville course, per se, although we were trained there and 'suffered' under the same instructors.

Our 'liaison officer' was Officer Cadet Brendan O'Brien (2/65) and our 'fathers', when we first went there, were members of 2/65. The pace was 'rigorous'!

On both attachments, I had the dubious distinction of having a room in 'the Country Club' (furthest accommodation wing from the parade ground). I became very fit indeed, and these days, one of my better skills is 'time management'. Looking back, I have huge respect for the Institution, and the Staff/Instructors who put it together. Who could ever forget WO 1 Larry Moon? !



My OTU Story, Part 1 (Frank Paton, 2/70) Part 2 will be in The Scheyvillian 1 of 2018.

I received my Call Up (Conscription) letter from the Government. None of my friends received a call up letter. One friend's birthday was very close to mine and I remember being slightly aggrieved that his date was not Called Up, but of course that was not at all rational. It was not a huge deal, because I knew I would be deferred until I had graduated and completed articles (law apprenticeship) – so it would be at least 4 years away. I was at that much later time called to do a medical test. I flew through all the tests except for hearing, as I didn't quite pick up one or two high pitched sounds. I sensed they thought I might be being difficult (which I wasn't) and I'm sure they repeated several sounds at random and I then heard them and passed the tests. As a teenager I had been a bit shy but gradually became quietly confident. That was very useful for Recruit Training in Puckapunyal & at OTU (Officer Training Unit).

Farewell My friends organised a farewell party on a Sunday a few days before I left work. Even though it was April, it was a sunny day and we were able to have most of the party out in their back garden. However, during the afternoon I noticed a "yard arm" hidden behind a door. I realised immediately that was going to be produced for me to skol. I thought to myself that would be ok – although I was not a huge drinker, I could manage to down drink and hold it pretty well. However, I was very surprised to see when it was produced (to much excitement by everyone) that it was filled not with beer, but with champagne. Also the champagne that they filled it with had been deliberately left warm. Not a pleasant experience, but I did get it down.

This was of course after several hours of social drinking. The effects did not kick in for some time – I think it was about twilight. Unfortunately this was only my second date with a great girl and she obviously witnessed me gradually decline. I had driven her to the party, but there was no way I was going to drive back, so she offered to drive. The only trouble was that I don't think she'd ever driven a manual car before and all I remember, while I was slumped in the front seat, was the constant crunching of gears!

I vaguely recall several friends saying as I left that I obviously wouldn't be able to work the next day and with bravado I stupidly said "Of course I will and I'll be there on time!" My new girlfriend delivered me home – I had moved back in with my parents, as I was going to be away from Melbourne for a long time and no doubt they were rather shocked at my condition. I went straight to bed and woke up the next morning not feeling too bad and was at work before 9 when one of my friends rang me at work to catch me out and got a big surprise that I was actually there!

When I left the firm to go to do Nasho I remember people were very concerned and sorry to see me go – one partner Don Cooper, who was a man of few words, simply said "Rather you than me."

A few days later I had to report to the barracks in Swan Street for the "March In ". My parents were more upset than I had expected, because I had not fully comprehended (being a callow youth) that my mother had lost 2 brothers in WW1 and other relatives had also suffered in WW1 and WW2 and the Vietnam War was raging, so it was natural that they were highly concerned.

I remember having to walk through a lot of shouting protesters – I really didn't need that at the time and wished they had chosen other places to demonstrate. It just made it much harder for the Conscripts, who were on edge enough without having to run the gauntlet of demonstrators being very aggressive.

I asked a Sergeant a question – and I was thinking to myself, that was bold. I got a straight, polite answer. There was no shouting at that stage. That even gave me a bit more confidence.

Puckapunyal We were put onto buses to be taken to Puckapunyal and it surprised me to see many Military Police (MPs) on motorbikes escorting the buses. But on reflection I could see that this was because of the demonstrators and no doubt a security assessment had been made that they might try to impede the buses either on Swan Street or en route to Puckapunyal.

We arrived in Puckapunyal in April and it was absolutely freezing! One of the first things was that we were given a standard printed postcard, on which we had to write our Next of Kin's name and the pre-printed words stated that we had arrived at Puckapunyal and were fine! I think there were a few lines at

the bottom of the card where we could add a note. I realised even at that stage that the cards would probably be read before they were posted, so I don't think anyone would have said anything very controversial. Apparently the cards were posted off and the Next of Kin received them a couple of days later to give them some reassurance.

In those first few days at Puckapunyal we worked very hard over long hours, but you were allowed a short time (maybe half an hour) just before the evening meal to go to the "dry canteen". It was different from the "wet canteen" because the dry canteen had no alcohol! I think you had to have completed several weeks training successfully before you were allowed to go to the wet canteen. I wasn't in Puckapunyal long enough to get to the "wet canteen".

We were constantly told by the NCOs that if we didn't perform, we would be "back-squadded to Kapooka"! (This was another Recruit Training Battalion in NSW.)



My platoon commander was 2Lt Brian Cooper. I was 6 foot 4 inches, but Brian was taller and more solid and looked very serious. After a few days a rumour went around that he was himself a recent OTU graduate – but we didn't believe it. However, it turned out to be true - he had in fact graduated from OTU only a few weeks earlier!

After a few days of learning about basic infantry equipment, using a live firing range, running 2 miles with backpacks at 5am, etc, etc, we were lined up one day on parade and were asked to indicate whether any of us wished to be considered for Officer Training at OTU Scheyville in the Blue Mountains, NSW. I think we had either to step forward or back if we volunteered! It just seemed like it was worthwhile pushing the envelope and having a go at OTU training, so I volunteered. The decision was made on the spot and it turned out to be a life changing decision.

OTU Selection Those who expressed interest were later taken to see a video about the type of training at OTU. It made it very clear that OTU was a pressure cooker atmosphere and the training would be far more intense than basic Recruit Training at Puckapunyal.

In later years I had a couple of times tried to give my own kids some concept of what training at OTU was like and then one day the OTU Association got hold of that Army video and made it available to members. I showed my kids and they were amazed and very interested. They could understand the challenges of the course much better after seeing the video.

In Puckapunyal after we'd seen the video, if we still wanted to proceed, we went through a full day of physical tests – there were projects like being given a few planks of wood, a couple of pieces of rope and you had to construct some structure to be able to get across a gully. A group of us would be given about one hour to get across the gully. We came to realise that the task was obviously impossible in the available time and the essence of it was not whether we got across the gully, but how we thought about it, planned strategically, interacted and most importantly, who were the leaders in the group and who were the ones who sat back.

If we got through that stage, we then went for psychological testing. Somehow I found my way through all these thickets and was selected for OTU Scheyville – slightly scary, but mainly adrenaline pumping.

The Corporals in our Recruit Training Platoon were like snappy dogs (with colourful language), but the Sergeant had a humane streak somewhere – when 2 or 3 of us were selected for OTU, he said he had rostered us off kitchen clean-up duties so we could spend the time preparing our kit ready for OTU. This was a great help.

We were told to be ready to leave Puckapunyal at 4am next morning to be flown to OTU. No one else in my hut had been selected, so I decided to change huts for one night where 2 – 3 Recruits had been selected, so that there was no chance of my missing the bus to the airport!

Induction and Training We were told only a day or so before we were shipped out that there was a chance to see our parents briefly at Mangalore Airport (near Puckapunyal) before our direct flight to Sydney. My parents drove up to Mangalore – they must have got up incredibly early to arrive at the Airport (about 1.5 hours' drive from Melbourne) by 5am – still pitch black. It was great to see each other, knowing we wouldn't clap eyes on each other for at least 3 months – they were proud that I was going, but again were sad.

The flight to Sydney was the last civilised situation we were in for a long time. We were bussed from Sydney Airport to Scheyville. We all vividly remember the shock of the arrival. All hell broke loose. There was much shouting and mayhem as we realised what we had to do – so much action, all day every day in double time. We went through a hundred different processes – the simplest of which was the shortest haircut you can imagine – the Sergeant Major said that anything above the top of the ears we could keep, everything below that was his!

We were rushed into a vast array of appointments for new uniforms, rifles, bayonets and a full new kit (having left all our Recruit stuff at Puckapunyal) as well as further medical checks, etc, etc, etc. For the first couple of weeks we had to jog (double-time) everywhere around Scheyville – if you were seen not jogging, there were punishments called Extra Drills (EDs) or Extra Training Parades (ETPs). These meant that you had to get up about an hour before everybody else (ie about 4.30am) and get into full ceremonial gear and report to the Parade Ground in the dark and freezing cold and have to do drill for the RSM for about half an hour and then get back to the lines (ie our row of fibro-cement rooms) and prepare for the normal day. We soon realised that one of the purposes of this punishment was that you had less sleep and people who had received punishments regularly became more and more tired and then that started to affect their performance during the day. This was deliberate to put people under pressure to see how they performed when they were tired.

Another aspect of this was that we were on the go and being closely scrutinised by many staff members called Directing Staff (DS) at all times from first parade at 6am (still dark and sometimes foggy) and then through about 5 classes and exercises during the morning, another four during the afternoon and then even night classes after dinner. Our working day finished about 9.30pm and lights out was 10.15pm, so we had only 1 - 2 hours during the whole day to get everything back in order (including cleaning all our gear) and study things we had been taught during the day and night. Even just getting everything back in order was a big ask, because boots would be muddy and very wet and they had to be cleaned and somehow dried overnight and then polished up magnificently the next morning before parade at 6am. The whole course was designed to see how we could cope with relentless pressure.

They had a father/son arrangement which was a bit like a mentor. I don't think I needed to seek any help from my father, Ray Andrews, but it was good to know he was there if necessary. The fathers were in the Senior Class, ie they had been at Scheyville for 3 months longer than we had been, so they were frantically busy looking after their own obligations, let alone having time to spend on their "sons". Ray Andrews has in recent years been an outstanding Master of Ceremonies at various functions and has a great sense of humour and as my workload has decreased by choice, it has been a pleasure seeing him a bit more often 50 years later! Ray tells me something I didn't recollect (Ray laughed when I told him I didn't recall it!). A classmate in the lines mentioned to Ray one day that I was atypically a bit down and he didn't want the DS to notice. Apparently Ray suggested to me to focus on the end result instead of being too distracted by day-to-day events on the way there and to look more enthusiastic and then I'd "fly through" the rest of OTU. Ray thought I took the advice to heart and said he took pride when years later I was elected President of the Law Institute. He said this successful introduction to mentoring had given him great heart to offer coaching to many others in his career.

Another person in the senior class was Peter Balfe – the PMC (President of Mess Committee) ie a high-ranked Cadet in our Senior Class. I had known him a little previously and he had some encouraging words in the first few days. Although I hardly saw him, I recall his generous, even though brief, support.

Fitness I think I was one of the few Cadets who put on weight. Everybody else seemed to lose weight. I was constantly hungry. I was burning an enormous amount of energy/fuel, so I needed to eat. I was always asking Cadets near me at dinner whether they really wanted that bread roll in front of them, so I was given the nick name "Fang".

I had trained for sport at a high level (eg Victoria Schoolboys squad), but I quickly realised at OTU that I had never been really properly fit. The coaches' idea of a warm up was to run a couple of laps of the ground and the only fitness building was actually playing intra-team matches. The first OTU cross-country (and the first 2 weeks generally) I found were very hard physically. I had never enjoyed cross-country running, but soon realised its just fitness. By the 2nd cross-country I could run much faster (13/90) and even enjoy the views of the Blue Mountains! In sport I had previously rolled my ankle a few times. After a couple of weeks of OTU training I never rolled my ankle again - strengthening!

What Scheyvillians Do: Travel

On tour in South America Frank Miller (4/67) met up with Matthew Cleland (1/67). Matt and Frank are shown below in the Peruvian city of Aeriquipa.



What Scheyvillians Did: Join the CMF

(Michael) John Sonneveld was born on 24 June 1944 and was too old to be called up. On 4 October 1965, while working in the Ballarat district as a Teacher, John joined the local CMF unit, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment (2 RVR). During his time with 2 RVR John was one of the team that marched from Ballarat to Clunes (approx. 35 km) on one day, then marched back to Ballarat the next day.

One of the organisers, a former SSgt with 2 RVR Alan Douglass, recalls: *"Over a beer in the mess one parade night Kevin Fiscalini and I decided that B Coy and the Battalion (2RVR) could do with some PR and the idea of a long distance march to Clunes and back in two days was formed. As "B Coy" was an infantry unit a march to Clunes and back was well worth the challenge and that we could prove that we were up to the challenge.*

We approached our Company Commander CAPT Don Edwards and requested his support for the LDM, he agreed to speak with our CO, LT COL Bert Fry who was hesitant of the distance but DB (as he was affectionately known) stood his ground and said that Douglass and Fiscalini would get a squad together and make it work.

At this point LT COL Fry put his head on the chopping block and assured Brigade HQ that the march would make it in two days without failure. Consent was given with a warning they were not to fail.

After a few months of hard training (most of it voluntary) to harden up and get the feet right, the decision was made that we were ready to go and a date was set with a lot of publicity with TV, paper and local radio giving support, our local radio station 3BA gave progress reports there and back.

A Scottish Band (much to the horror of Kevin) led us up Sturt Street with a large crowd greeting us as we struck out for Clunes taking eight hours, where we camped overnight and returned the next morning.

On the return, the band picked us up outside the showgrounds and led us back to the barracks with a large crowd of clapping and cheering spectators. At the barracks we were greeted by LT COL Fry and Officers and men of the Bn to congratulate the squad on their achievements, then off to the showers and the OR's mess for a few well-earned beers with the CO and Officers shouting several times."

The distance covered with weapons and equipment was 46 MILES (77.75 km) in 16 Hrs. Not a bad effort for the CMF.



Following the publicity, the Dutch community, who in Holland had a large following for long distance walking events, in conjunction with the Begonia Festival, became involved with a number of marches around the Ballarat district, with civilian groups as well as Defence Force members participating. This was known as The Ballarat Long Distance March and was coordinated for many years by another 2 RVR member, the late Major Jim Malone.

John Sonneveld left the CMF on 14 May 1968 with the rank of Corporal (left) and on 15 May was Cadet John Sonneveld at OTU Scheyville.



Above: John Sonneveld (2/68), fourth from the left, front file in Ballarat during the Clunes march

Whatever Happened To: Dr John Howe OAM (2/66)

"Not only am I still serving but, in April, I will be the oldest Active Reservist in the RAAF and probably ADF! After completing my 2 wonderful years as a 2LT in the RAAMC, I completed my medical degree at Sydney University - that's another story, especially how I was able to go back after failing 2 out of 3 years!! I joined the RAAF in 1970 and, after graduation, served with the RAAF until 1979. I left the ADF starting a General Practice in Canberra. In 2003, I was approached to serve on the RAAF Orions in the MEAO for 3 months. Following that stint, I became an Active Reservist and, in 2009, was asked to form the FE Cell - HS MGR, within DP-AF to look after RAAF Reservists. This has continued to the present day and I have been extended until my 74th birthday on 1 February 2019 with an option to extend.

I travel, as the Honorary Physician to the Governor-General, in my Reservist capacity, with Governor-Generals (first General Jeffries, then HE Quentin Bryce and now with HE, Sir Peter Cosgrove). I continue in a number of roles as a doctor, including, until recently, 13 trips to The Solomon Islands, as a contracted doctor, with Aspen Medical looking after the members of RAMSI. So, yes, I am still serving with no real end in sight. I am allocated 60 days per year for my duties so it is not a small commitment. It goes to show what a wonderful job Scheyville did on the likes of me with no real direction in life until I was "processed" by the Scheyville team. I still look after several of my instructors who have become my patients notably WO Norm Goldspink, who is alive and well in his late 80s!!

John's report on ANZAC Day 2016 was in The Scheyvillian 2 of 2016

Army Museum Duntroon (Major David Bucholtz, Museum Manager)

Although the museum remained closed during 2017 considerable progress has been made in the back office operation and planning for the main exhibition space. One small but significant item was a name change. It was considered that “Army Museum of Officer Training” was an overreach for as we all can attest officer training is a continuum. With this in mind, and using the Army Museum Network naming convention, “Army Museum Duntroon” was chosen.

Collection: The clothing collection has literally been frozen as part of the conservation process.

Regrettably, with the exception of a single blues cap with badge, there are no OTU items in the collection.

Advertisement 1 - if any Scheyvillian has badges, buttons, and any military item that they think may have a place in the museum collection then please contact us.

(Note: The Editor has presented his original ‘Reefer’ jacket and ‘skinny’ tie to the museum!)

Archive: A project to digitise the complete cadet record archive is underway with over 3,000 cadet training records already scanned. **Advertisement 2** - we do not hold any OTU cadet records, and few training manuals, timetables etc. Should any reader have a copy of their own they wish to share, or any training material they may have kept, and/or those of other colleges from their time as an instructor, then please make contact with us. Regrettably our complete collection of OTU can fit on a table as shown in the picture.

Exhibition Space: Being in a heritage listed building has slowed the pace of refurbishment but we have decided to push on regardless. Museum grade cabinets have been procured and banner size high resolution images funded. For the latter we are in the process of selecting images which best represent the themes around which the display will be developed. These being the constants for any Cadet - Learning (and Leadership), Fieldwork (Bush), Physical Training and Sport, Drill and Ceremonial, Community (and Mateship). **Advertisement 3** – we are always keen to receive images and video ... and really appreciate if they are captioned and/or have a story that goes with them.

So to the question most asked – “when will the museum be open?” Our target date is December 2018 for a soft opening. I say soft for its preferred that the main exhibition space is fully refurbished before any formal opening. We do though try and accommodate visit requests for individual and reunion tour groups and just need a little notice for both.

Advertisement 4 – if any reader of this article would like to become involved in the museum’s activities and operation then simply send me a note or give me a call. david.bucholtz@gmail.com

OTU – current collection:



Right: An unexpected reunion. David Bucholtz (OCS June 78) and his Junior Class Guidance Officer - Graeme Chester (OTU 2/67). Note the OTU flag in the background.



BOOK & ARTICLE REVIEWS

Software for your Brain: The Three Apps. Michael Hewitt-Gleeson, Head School of Thinking
Perhaps the smartest person I've met suggested recently that the best thing I could do was to learn How to improve my thinking. Software For Your Brain: The Three Apps (SFB 123) has made a Fundamental difference to my thinking ability. The book offers incredibly effective, yet simple tools That I have been able to apply to a range of situations. The tools are supported by a clear explanation of three fundamentally different types of thinking, the histories of those types of thinking, and how those types of thinking are ingrained.

"Fields of Memories": - published by the Powerhouse Museum & NSW Migration Heritage Centre 2006



Mick Stone (1/68) came across this pic in the booklet and thought that it maybe it is worth inclusion in The Scheyvillian. (they look like the faces of some OTU Cadets on Day 1 – Ed.

Meal time, Scheyville Training Farm c 1926.

These are "Dreadnought" boys from Britain - 5,595 of whom were trained there for 3 months between 1911 - 1939, before assignment to a farm - ie approx 3 times the number of OTU graduates - no pips for them on leaving - just a fairly miserable existence working at the bottom end of the ladder on a rural farm.

Quote: "They are advertising in the paper for boys to go to Australia - "Would you like to go to Australia ? "Would I?" I said "Oh Yes - open country and if I don't like it I can always come back home I thought. But I didn't realise the distance I was going away. I thought it was just like going camping somewhere and if I didn't like it I could just hop back home again."
(Henry Field, Dreadnought boy - 1926)

The origin of the Dreadnought scheme is quite bizarre, in that there was a Dreadnought Trust established in Sydney in 1909 to provide funds to purchase a "Dreadnought" Class battleship for the British Navy - as a contribution to Empire defence. However the Australian Government decided to establish an Australian Navy in 1910, making the purpose of the fund irrelevant. Drawing the longest bow possible, the £ 90,000 already raised was placed in a fund to bring British boys to Australia for training as rural workers.

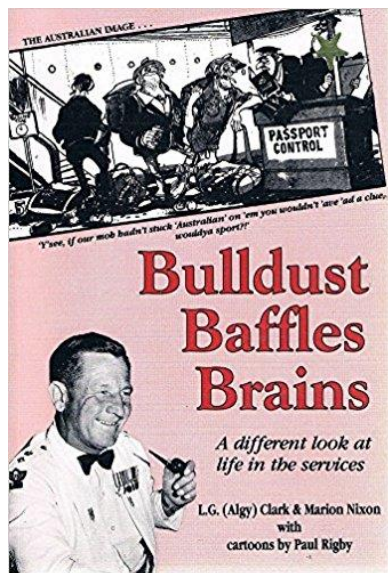
They say a picture is worth a 1000 words - well this photo does all that - all the human emotions from unhappiness to resignedness of their lot (plight?) is on display - with Kitchener moustache-bearing steward in the background perhaps presaging a more military use of the facility between 1965 - 73.

The daily routine for the boys had a similar timetable to OTU - work from 7:30 am to 5 pm clearing land, milking, ploughing, and preparing land for cultivation, with large 30 bed dormitories and lights off at 9:30 pm - the farm was self-sustaining and food was apparently adequate - although the evidence in the photo possibly belies this. Other reasons offered for the misery evident in the photo is the actual conditions of their job prospects on "graduation" - apparently far worse than conditions on the training farm - and of course the complete umbilical disconnection from kith and kin in the old country - no leave passes for them to go home to the family for the weekend.

Did anyone feel their ghosts at OTU Scheyville? They were probably there.

From Dave Lewis (2/68) Farm boys don't look that forlorn or malnourished to me Mick! Certainly no signs of obesity, but they would have worked 'em pretty hard. Suppose there would have been a few untimely on-site deaths over these years, due to illness & accident. Wonder where they buried if so? Can't recall any grave sites, but the ghosts you allude to may well have flitted amongst us?

Bulldust Baffles Brains: A Different Look at Life in the Services. L. G. Clarke (Peter Morgan, 1/66)
Those who attended OTU in the early days when Algy Clark was the CI seem to have a love-hate relation with him. Few would know that in 1992 he wrote a book on his service.



L.G. (Algy) Clark, Almost the Only Graduate in 1947

(This snippet is taken from L. G. Clark's & Marion Nixon book 'Bulldust Baffles Brains' 1992 Ed, p19.)

During my final year at Duntroon, the Queen's representative in Australia, the Governor General, was Sir William McKell, successor to the Duke of Gloucester. The appointment of McKell, formerly the Labor premier of New South Wales, was very controversial. Canberra as a society tended to be unimpressed.

Sir William McKell had two nubile teenage daughters who often accompanied Duntroon cadets to functions given by some of Canberra's society doyens. Sir William decided to reciprocate hospitality through holding a party at Government House for the Senior Class of Cadets at Duntroon, who of course were to attend with partners, his daughters included.

Government House staff were apparently unaware that Duntroon Cadets were not permitted to drink alcohol. The party got underway, which included the serving of copious amounts of alcohol. Naturally the Cadets were delighted, for, after all, they were merely accepting courteously the hospitality offered them by the Queen's (sic) representative. They partook freely. There was scarcely one young woman who was not returned home that night by a thoroughly inebriated escort. Hostile Canberra Matrons became even less impressed, both with the Governor General and the Cadets. The Governor General they could not touch; the Cadets were another matter. Out went a call, indeed a demand, that all Cadets of the Senior Class who attended be expelled immediately from Duntroon.

Now while my peers had been having a whale of a time that night, I had been Cadet Duty Officer and had had to remain on duty at Duntroon.

With interest I watched the developments. For a while it looked as though matriarchal influence would win. Wouldn't this make me the only graduate of the class, and wouldn't that mean I would have to graduate 'first'? This very thought began producing great delusions of grandeur, but very temporarily! Military hierarchy gave the matter a little more consideration; commonsense prevailed, everything simmered down, and all Cadets were graduated. Leaders for Korea and Vietnam were thus obtained; and so in 1947, as a newly commissioned officer, I too emerged from Duntroon full of enthusiasm to get on with my military career.

Kevin McCarthy (1/70) found these 2 articles while surfing the net and thought some of The Scheyvillian readers might find them interesting.

www.quarterlyessay.com.au/essay/2016/06/firing-line Firing Line-Australia's Path to War. James Brown

<http://insidestory.org.au/what-is-all-this-fighting-for> What's all this fighting for. Tom Frame & Al Palazzo

THE DUNTROON SOCIETY (Frank Miller, 4/67)

The OTU Association has recently been in discussion with the Duntroon Society. The Society is open to graduates from the Royal Military College, the Officer Cadet School, the Officer Training Unit and the Women's Royal Australian Army Officer Corps Officer Cadet School. At present the membership includes some thirty eight Scheyvillians.

In essence, the Duntroon Society is a body whereby people who have trained and subsequently served as officers in the Australian Army may keep in contact. It would be of particular interest to those Scheyvillians who signed on in the Permanent Army although, doubtless, many of our overall membership would find it of value. The Society has branches in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. A biannual newsletter is provided by email. Each branch holds occasional functions.

From 10th to 12th of April 2018, the Victorian branch will be hosting the Society's biannual reunion at Portsea. For all of us who remembered Scheyville this should be a bit of a trip down memory lane – the location and facilities may differ, but an insight into a centre with a similar purpose would be of fascination. Furthermore several of our number were on the OCS Directing Staff during their careers. The Portsea reunion is highly recommended. Full details and registration are available on www.duntroonportseareunion.info. Information about the society can be found at www.dunsoc.com. Membership does not involve fees and can be applied for at www.dunsoc.com/join. Scheyvillians are encouraged to join the Duntroon Society and would be made most welcome. It has much to offer.

TRAVEL NEWS (David Sabben, 1/65)

For those looking at a Vietnam Battlefields Tour, David's 2018 Vietnam tour dates are:

2018 Long Tan Trek Tour:

Walk the Long Tan battlefield and experience "in real time" all the significant events of the battle, on the locations where they actually happened, plus Nui Dat, Coral-Balmoral and other Australian battlefields.

South (Trek) Tour: Sat. 13 October to Friday 19 October 2018 - 7 days / 6 nights.

Check out the itinerary at: <http://www.sabben.com/longtantrek/images/2018TrekitinSOUTH.pdf>

The South Trek is immediately followed by:

The Decisive Battlefields of the three Viet Nam Wars;

This tour includes Da Nang, Hue, the DMZ, Khe Sanh, Hanoi and Dien Ben Phu.

North Tour: Friday 19 October to Sunday 4 November 2018 - 16 days / 15 nights.

Check the itinerary at: <http://www.sabben.com/longtantrek/images/2018DecisiveBFTNORTH.pdf>

EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

From: Paul de Launay, 3/69 **Sent:** 21 August 2017 **Subject:** Scheyvillian 1 of 2017

OTU Association (via Webmaster) Congratulations on another excellent edition of the Scheyvillian.

I read with interest the comments on the 'did not graduate' inmates. As one who DNG with 3/69, for me there are two sides to the Scheyville experience. The system, which pushed me further than I thought I was capable of, and the rejection which fell like a guillotine when I was told to leave in an hour.

Being part of Scheyville was the largest single impact on my life up to that time and I regard the experience overall as positive. I found my march out from OTU extremely distressing. At the time I was a few months into repeating the senior term and felt confident of graduating. I was posted as a private to RAASC and did Driver Training at Pucka. In order to avoid 'painting rocks white' and with time getting short, I volunteered to go on the 'Asian all expenses paid camping holiday' I had spent so much time preparing for, only to be told I had to extend my 2 years by another 6 months to fit in the one year tour. With equal proportions of 'I wonder what it is really like over there' and the looming prospect of death by boredom, I signed on the dotted line. Miraculously, I achieved an honourable discharge at the end of my service and am still working in my profession of Civil Engineer for the United Nations in conflict and disaster affected countries.

Looking back I am grateful for being a DNG, as had I become an 'ossifer', as the popular cartoon said, I may have stayed in the green machine and led a totally different life. I have drawn on my OTU training many times throughout my career and am sure I am a better person as a result of the experience. Summing up, I think the experience was the opportunity to learn and grow, the end result was just another doorway into the next experience.

Paul de Launay, Program Manager, Water Sector Recovery, Department of Water Resources, Vanuatu

Note: Paul attended an ANZAC Day Service at Port Vila, Vanuatu. His report was in The Scheyvillian 2 of 2017 – Ed.



OTU ASSOCIATION

2017/18 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Website: www.otu.asn.au

INVOICE ABN 26 390 124 006		Please return by 31 December 2017 Cheques payable to OTU Association	
MAIL TO: Treasurer OTU Association PO Box 540 BLACK ROCK VIC 3193 CONTACT: (03) 9533 1810 rayelder45@gmail.com		Annual Subscription July 2017 to June 2018 Donation to Youth Leadership Development Total Cheque/Cash Enclosed <i>(For Direct Debit payment see below and please remember to update our database or return this form so that your contact details can be confirmed)</i>	
		\$50.00 \$ _____ \$ _____	
MEMBERSHIP DETAILS UPDATE			
Personal Details:		I Have Retired Yes / No	
Title/Rank:		Work Details (If Applicable):	
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: Bank – National, BSB – 083 298, Account No. 56-687-0611, Reference – Surname and/or Regt No.	

Membership Drive

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

	NAME	CLASS	ADDRESS	EMAIL	PHONE NO
1					
2					
3					

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS:

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

NSW: Gary McKay (2/68) 0411 574 019 garymckay@bigpond.com
Monthly Luncheons 3rd Wednesday @ Greek Athenian Restaurant, in Barrack Street

ACT: Wal Hall (2/68) 02 6288 5251 0418 659 010 walhall@ozemail.com.au
Winston Bucknall (2/68) 0408 492 405 wmbsec@bigpond.net.au
Monthly Luncheons 3rd Friday @ Royal Canberra Golf Club

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

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

Victoria: Frank Miller 0401 140 762 millerfw@netspace.net.au
Bernie Gleeson 0414 702 905 berjulgleson@bigpond.com
Monthly Lunches, 2nd Wednesday 0418 373 874 bctcooper@gmail.com

WA: David Ward (2/66) State Chapter Chairman & Hon Treas 0417 927 146 david.ward@taxhut.com.au
Frank LeFaucheur (1/71) Lunch Co-ord. 0418 246 265 lefauche@iinet.net.au
Jay McDaniell (3/69): 0438 959 050 mcdaniell@ozemail.com.au

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

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 Incl 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

SPECIAL: MONASH FOR FIELD MARSHALL: The Jerilderie Proposition: The Jerilderie Shire Council, at its meeting of 27 October 2015, unanimously passed a resolution in support of posthumously promoting Sir John Monash one step in rank to Field Marshal. Mayor, Cr Ruth McRae, said today that Council was determined to see long overdue recognition for Monash, who was a student at the Jerilderie Primary School in the 1870s, and returned years later to successfully defend Jerilderie downstream irrigators against upstream block weirs. "As we work through the various important centenaries of WW 1, including the 100th Anniversary of Monash conducting the first in the field ANZAC Day service near the Suez Canal 25 April 1916, now is the time to make this symbolic vital gesture", Mayor McRae said. "Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's support is encouraging. Whilst he will want to consult further on both sides of the aisle on this, in August 2013 he stated categorically his support of the Jerilderie proposition" To quote PM Turnbull: I fully support the move of Tim Fischer and Josh Frydenberg and many others in the Parliament to have the great man posthumously appointed Field Marshal. The Jerilderie Proposition will be forwarded to the Prime Minister through local Federal Member for Farrer, the Hon Sussan Ley, MP for consideration and to help lay a firm base for consultations. The Jerilderie Proposition sprang from the book written by Tim Fischer titled "Maestro John Monash", launched in Jerilderie and Melbourne last year. When asked to comment, Tim Fischer said the Jerilderie Proposition was very timely and helped drive forward, from the bottom up, long overdue promotion of Monash, who had received zero awards from any Australian Government after 11 November 1918.

Along with Tim Fischer (3/66), Lindsay Clay (2/67) supports the proposal. He is a member of the Saluting Monash Council and wrote: "I'm a councillor on the Victorian branch of the Saluting Monash Council. This organization is headed by Tim Fischer (fellow OTU graduate) and its objective is to have the great man John Monash posthumously promoted to Field Marshal. You may have already heard Tim speak on this subject. The campaign is proceeding very well and we are hoping that the Prime Minister will make a positive announcement prior to or at the opening of the Sir John Monash Centre near Villers-Bretonneux next year. However there are some 'pockets of resistance' and in order to ensure success we need more letters of support. Some of the resistance is coming from sections of the military establishment. Am I surprised? Well a little, but then again Monash did get shafted by the "professional" officer class (ever happened to any of us?), and ignored for awards and decorations (ever happened to any of us?). We, as National Servicemen, may be able to understand more than most why he was so maltreated. We were similar to him, "citizen soldiers" and not Duntroon boys."

Lindsay is requesting that people write to the Prime Minister (and your own local member) supporting the Jerilderie Proposition. Letters should be emailed to Lindsay and he will put it in the system. That way the letters can be collated and presented to the Prime Minister in batches. He can then also be able to keep tabs of what is happening. lindsayclay@bigpond.com (Note that the OTU Association has sent a letter to the Prime Minister officially expressing its support for the Jerilderie Proposition).

Putting a different perspective on this proposal, Robin Hunt (3/69) has reviewed the book:
Monash & Chauvel – how Australia's two greatest generals changed the course of world history
 By Roland Perry. Allen & Unwin. 2017. Paperback with 567 pages. \$34.99

Recently, there have been a series of useful biographies published on Monash – not the least being OTU's *Maestro John Monash* by Tim Fischer. (I see that the boxed set of *John Monash – War Letters* and Monash's own *The Australian Victories in France in 1918* are on sale at the Book Grocer for \$10 for the pair). Whilst Monash's name has been well perpetuated – his eponyms include Monash University, the Monash City Council, a Medical Centre and the Monash Freeway – Chauvel's role in WW1 is less well known and thus his chances to be nominated for a posthumous promotion from full General to Field Marshall are diminished as a consequence. Alec Hill wrote his *Chauvel of the Light Horse* in 2009 (and which must have been a development from his book with the same title in 1978), otherwise there seems to have been little published on this Australian General who was, in fact, senior to Monash in that he was promoted to Major General (as a Divisional Commander) then to Lt General (as a Corps Commander) ahead of Monash on both occasions. Both were promoted to the rank of full General in 1929 (Monash on 11 November but it is not clear to me when Chauvel was so promoted in that year). I contend that Chauvel was the first serving Australian officer so promoted (as Monash had retired from active service by then).

Both generals "changed the course of history" and gave Australia a new identity but I wish that Perry had offered more here in the way of a formal comparison between the two generals and their styles of leadership. It is all there in a very easy-to-read book; it is just that there is no explicit conclusion (and I am not looking for the answer to the question "who was the better general?"). They had different commands, in different theatres and they had different overall commanders. What they had in common was the large number of Australians they had under their command (as well as foreign troops) and that they were both fighting Germans and both had additional experience of opposing the Ottomans ("Turkey" per se wasn't established until 1923) who fought under German guidance in Gallipoli and in Egypt (and Chauvel had further and extensive experience of them in the Middle East). One contention that Perry makes right at the end of his book is that **both** Monash and Chauvel should be posthumously promoted to Field Marshall.

STOP PRESS: Just received from Graeme Chester (2/67) was a copy of the letter written by the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Angus Campbell AO DSC. The letter commences with:

‘As the Chief of Army my singular and consuming responsibility is to create the most capable Army to serve the ADF in fighting and winning our nation’s wars. Recently, I have routinely seen and heard ill-founded comment regarding our Army and its people that has no basis in fact. The purpose of this letter is to give you the facts, so that when occasion arises you might correct misconceptions about our Army.

Regular Force	30,438
ADF Gap Year	245
Active Reserve Force	13,968
Continuous Full-time Service	385
Active	13,583
Standby Reserve	11,643
Total Force (1 Nov '17)	56,294

Our ‘Army community’ is even larger than shown above when the Army’s Australian Public Service (APS) workforce and the members of Australia’s best youth development programs, the Australian Army Cadets. There are 834 APS officers in the Army group, 1,096 Instructors and Officers of Cadets and 15,833 Cadets. This means out total ‘Army community’ comprises 74,057 Australians and, by extension, their families and friends.’

The separation rate for Army is about 10% and for the Army Reserve about 20% annually. The ARA has 13.5% female, the ARes has 14%, while the Gap Year comprises 33%. There are 126 females in Combat Arms in the ARA, 107 in the ARes and 9 in the Gap Year. 56% of the ARA are Australian (non-indigenous), 2.7% Australian (indigenous) with the ARes at 47% and 2.5% respectively. 46% of the ARA and 52% of the ARes are Christian while 51% and 45% state that they have no religion.

Lt Gen Campbell concluded ‘ Getting around the, visiting our people on operations, and feedback from my overseas counterparts, it is crystal clear to me that the Australian Army has never been a more capable, ready and lethal instrument of war. The facts in this update describe the constituent people element of an Australian Army with unprecedented capabilities. Our role as senior leaders is to maintain this position, and strengthen understanding of our people and the great work they do.’

THE BACK PAGES



Left: Victorian Golf day ‘afters’ Tony Trevethick and Mike Delves – both 1/65

Below: Gerry Pels (4/71) and brother Paul with first-timer at the Victorian Golf Day Warwick Walker (1/71)



Left: WA November Quarterly Lunch, (L-R): Greg Elliot (4/70), Ben Blake (4/70), Pip Edwards (1/71), Frank LeFaucheur (1/71), Harry Neesham (1/65), Ron Packer (1/71), Lawrie Stanley (1/71), John Forwood (1/71), David Atkinson (2/65) & Ken Waller (2/72)





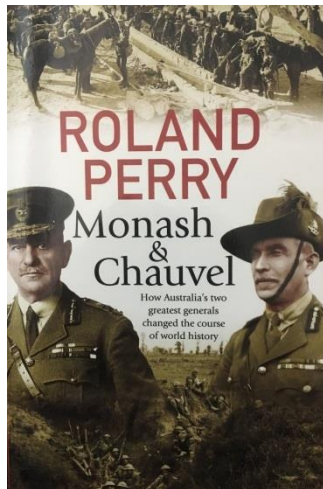
Left: NSW Christmas Lunch

Below: Vic October monthly lunch.



Left: Bill Watson (left) and friends at the 2/69 Reunion.

Below: 4 Army Pilot's Course, Point Cook 1969,
John Coulter (1/69) kneeling.



Left: Book Review
Monash &
Chauvel.
See page 38

Below left: HQ Battery Patrol, Op Paddington. Max Almond on the right



Below: 4/66 March On to their Grad Pde

