



The Scheyvillian

Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee

OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 1, 2019

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

Scheyville lives on at Duntroon

The Royal Military College, Duntroon, is the repository for the history of all the officer training establishments in Australia. Not only does the newly revamped Australian Army Museum Duntroon hold memorabilia from Scheyville, Portsea and Georges Heights, but the Sergeants Mess also holds many pieces of OTU memorabilia. Duntroon has three ovals – Duntroon, Portsea and Scheyville and regular exercises are named Exercise Duntroon (completed at the Duntroon Oval), Exercise Portsea (completed at the Portsea Oval) and Exercise Scheyville (completed at the Scheyville Oval). There are also plans for Ex Georges Heights (former WRAAC Officer Training School).

In November 2018 a new activity, named Plan Scheyville, commenced. It entailed a 22 Week lead up (the same time as many Scheyville classes) for a Military Skills Team to prepare to partake in a Military Skills Competition at West Point in the USA, competing against around 50 of the world's best teams.

The OTU Association was asked to support Plan Scheyville by presenting each of the participants with an OTU Scheyville tie for wearing with their civilian clothing during the competition (12 – 19 April 2019).



The tie presentation was undertaken by three Scheyvillians Neil Leckie (3/68), Greg Monteith (2/67) and Paul Beerworth (1/71) at 'The Public' in Canberra on 3 April, just prior to the team's departure. The two female members of the team were each presented with a 65th Anniversary of the Raising of the WRAAC silk scarf by two Canberra based members of the WRAAC Association. The photos show the 'boys' wearing their OTU Ties and one of the 'girls' wearing a scarf. We wish them well in their endeavours and know that they will certainly look good in the civilian clothes!

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THE SCHEYVILLE TAPES – Still Available! A good watch!

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

The Recordings are of:

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

A Windsor Church Parade & Return to Scheyville (2 DVDs)

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

OTHER DVDs AVAILABLE

A must for all Reunion

Co-ordinators or even for Scheyvillians.

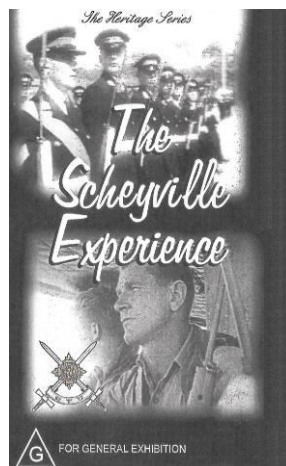
National Service Officer and the Don Keyes (4/69) produced 'The Scheyville Experience'

\$10 incl P&H

Also available from The Editor!



The NS Officer Recruitment Film shown to all Recruits in the first two weeks of the Recruit Training Course at
1 RTB Kapooka,
2 RTB Puckapunyal, or
3 TB Singleton.



THE SCHEYVILLE INTERVIEWS

Including:
Colonel Ian Geddes, first Commandant
WO1 Max Almond, RSM 1968 – 71
Tim Fischer (3/66)
Gary McKay (2/68)
John Sonneveld (2/68)
Vic Lampe (4/69)
Turk Ellis (1/70)
Tony Sonneveld (1/70) and more!



Transferred for the OTU Association
by
Redwood Entertainment, Ballarat

THE SCHEYVILLIAN NEXT EDITION

Due Out August 2019: It is planned to have Edition 2 of 2019 of *The Scheyvillian* in early August. Submissions need to be received by 15 July 2019. 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. **Preferably 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 are preferred in jpeg format and should be named.

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!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (Graeme Chester 2/67)

As at the **13 Mar 19**, a summary of our FY18/19 membership was:

Number of Graduates	1881			
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	2002			
Number Financial		524		
Widows		8		
Number Life Members		30		
Number Deceased			203	
Number Unfinancial (Not Renewed)			1059	
Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact)			178	
Totals	1881	2002	562	1440

Of the names on database 28.1% are financial/honorary/widows.

Of the names on the database 10.1% are deceased.

Of the names on the database 52.9% are unfinancial (not renewed)

Of the names on the database 8.9% are unfinancial (do not contact)

With **562** financial members we have surpassed the **539** we had at the end of last financial year. It is pleasing to see that we are keeping keep well above the **500** mark. Well done to the Class Orderlies who continue to dig new members out of the wood work for their 50th Reunions. For all those who have not come on board yet, if you are enjoying participating in the Association's activities, ie reunions, dinners, ANZAC Day etc, please support our efforts by becoming financial.

If you are uncertain whether or not you are financial, you can check via the website. Just enter the website and click on **Membership Renewal** on the Home Page and a statement will appear advising you whether you are financial or not. Should you wish to join, a Membership Renewal form is attached to this newsletter, or you could renew using PayPal via our website.

Regarding the website, **if any of your contact details change, please update your profile**. Simply go into **Profile** on the Home Page and update your information. Don't forget to click on the '**Update**' button (bottom left of page) to ensure the database is changed. Keeping our database updated and accurate will greatly assist classes when organising future reunions, particularly as a lot of us are coming up to our 50th Reunions.

If something has happened to change your mind about membership of the OTU Association we would be interested to know. Just send me an email at graheath1@bigpond.com and I will remove your details from our membership database.

WEBSITE - REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS & MEMORABILIA: MORE NEEDED

Please keep the photos and historical paperwork coming! We would still like more from Classes 3/67 & 4/67, 4/68 (not one photo apart from the March In and Graduation photos), 4/69, 2/70, 1/71 & 3/71 and all Nasho classes of 1972. Scheyvillians are encouraged to look at the Website and see what is held and check if you have anything that may compliment what is there. There is a provision for comments to be made on any photograph on the Website. If you have photos, please send them either in 'jpeg' scan format or if you do not have scanning capability send the hard copies 'Registered Post' to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is a lot of information available on the association's website, and this information continues to grow!

If you are currently Unfinancial please send your correct email address to me at webmaster@otu.asn.au so that you can receive updates and details about the planned 2020 OTU Reunion, as well as other invitations and relevant information.

Newsletters and emails distributed through the OTU website since the last Scheyvillian are:

The Monthly Lunch – Wed 10 April 2019	Victoria
Funeral Details for Ross McKeand (1/69)	National
Ladies Lunch – Fri 28 June 2019	Victoria
ANZAC DAY Invite	Victoria
ANZAC Day March 2019 – updated	Victoria
ANZAC Day March 2019	Victoria
14 th Annual Geddes Dinner – 28 March 2019 - Reminder	Victoria
The Monthly Lunch – 13 March 2019	Victoria
14 th Annual Geddes Dinner – 28 March 2019	Victoria
The Equally Famous February Lunch – Wed 13 Feb 2019	Victoria
2019 Geddes Dinner – Warning Order	Victoria
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FY 18/19 – REMINDER	National
The Famous New Year Lunch – Wed 9 Jan 2019	Victoria
2018 3 The Scheyvillian – Final Version	National
2018 3 The Scheyvillian	National
Big Camp Invite 2019	Victoria
Our Christmas Lunch – Wed 12 December 2018	Victoria
OTU Warning Order – 2020 Reunion	National
Monthly Lunch – 14 Nov 2018	Victoria
OTU Golf Day	Victoria
2/66 CLASS REUNION	National

The total numbers of valid email addresses are:

Victoria	265
National	1141

These numbers are steadily increasing, which makes this a very effective form of communication.

Both Financial and Unfinancial Members are sent these emails, so the various messages are being distributed to a wide audience.

New Photos on Class 1/65 Gallery on Website – Post Graduation John O'Halloran



Left: 2Lt John Sullivan, left, with 2Lt John O'Halloran in SVN.

Right: Pte Mick Birchell, left, and 2Lt John O'Halloran both from Tamworth in SVN.



WARNING ORDER – UPCOMING EVENT

OTU National Reunion 2020 Frank Miller (4/67), National Chairman, OTU Association.

A “Warning Order” was recently emailed to the full membership outlining a National Reunion to be held 16 – 18 October 2020. The event’s timing, location and format had been decided following the response to a questionnaire circulated earlier in the year.

The Windsor/ Hawkesbury area of New South Wales was chosen for the activities involved. An assessment has shown there to be sufficient accommodation and facilities in the vicinity to support the anticipated number of attendees.

The reunion is to comprise two functions – a National Mixed Dinner to be held at the Hawkesbury Race Club on 16 October 2020 and a Picnic BBQ lunch at the Scheyville site on 18 October.

Saturday 17 October has been set aside for class reunions.

Class coordinators are asked to consider planning for their 17 October activities. The reunion provides an excellent opportunity to schedule in any National Class gatherings that may have been on the drawing board for around that time of the year.

Costings for each of the functions have yet to be confirmed and will be made available when to hand. The National Executive has agreed to a generous subsidy for the reunion as it fits well within the Association’s Constitutional objectives.

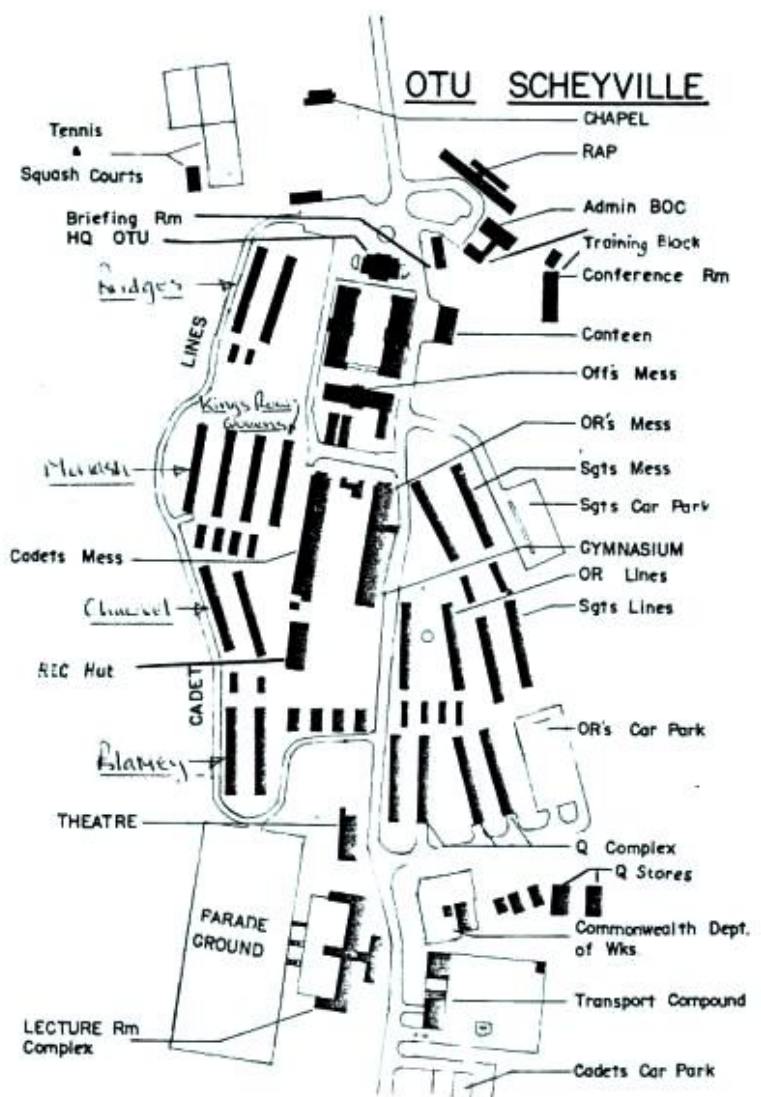
The present intention is that an on-line facility be created for bookings and payments through the OTU Website www.otu.asn.au.

Further details will be made available through email and on the Website in due course.



Above: A visit to Scheyville should be a part of everyone’s 2020 reunion plans!

Right: The 1965 layout of OTU.



RECENT NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

NSAA National Committee Meeting Frank Miller (4/67)

For a number of years our National Chairman, Frank Miller (4/67), has represented the OTU Association on the NSAA National Council. (The OTU Association is an affiliate member of the NSAA). He recently attended the National Council Meeting in Sydney. He reports:

Gents, I have just returned from the NSAA National Council Meeting in Sydney. There was a number of things of interest to us.

Firstly, as will be our situation some-time in the future, the NSAA will face a gentle decline with so many of their number coming from an age group older than ours. (Many are from the first National Service Scheme (1951 – 59)). Their managing of this will give an insight as to how we handle our eventual rundown as time progresses.

Secondly, it was mentioned the Government is to issue a new Veteran's Card and lapel pin. Both will be made available to people who have served at least one day of continuous full-time service (CFTS) in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). For those new to the DVA, applications for a Veteran's Card are currently available through the DVA portal, My Service. The purpose of the card and pin is to enable the community, businesses etc. to recognise and acknowledge those who have served in the defence of the nation. Further information can be found at www.dva.gov.au/veteran. (See page 22 - Gary Vial's article – Ed).

Thirdly, the NSAA has been part of a drive to have the Vietnam Star awarded to those who served in Vietnam for a minimum of ninety days rather than the present requirement for one hundred and eighty-one days. This is of significance to many National Servicemen who returned earlier when their two-year term in the Army was completed. As the medal was originally awarded by the government of Vietnam the future for this initiative is not altogether clear.

Fourthly, there is to be a celebration in Canberra of the tenth anniversary of the AWM's National Service Memorial's official opening in early September next year.

As an observation, many NSAA branches, as well as the National body, have been very successful in applying for, and receiving, financial grants towards different functions and activities. They are quite adept in seeking funds, not only from the DVA, but also from local councils and state government departments.

The point was again raised that Vietnam Veterans are eligible for a Gold Card once they turn seventy years of age. This has not received wide coverage from the DVA (see later article).

Unlike the OTU Association, the NSAA has a role of care in helping out, where possible, those National Servicemen who have fallen on hard times through illness, financial or other influences. Their focus on various claims for health problems from peoples' time in the services is one outcome. Another is giving members in need home-help, food vouchers and providing local transport when required.



Left: NSAA Memorial at the AWM.

Right: NSAA Badge.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Class 4/68 50th Anniversary of Graduation Reunion, Canberra 23 - 26 April 2019 Les Boag

Despite 4/68 being a very small class (36 graduates) with dwindled numbers still alive and in Australia, those class members who can are gathering in Canberra for the 50th Anniversary of their graduation on 24 April 1969. The following are the main events for the reunion:

23 April 2019 - Dinner in RMC Duntroon Officers' Mess small Traditional Dining Room. This will be the meet and greet event for the class and their spouses (limited seating in the small dining room).

24 April 2019 – AM Visit to Parliament House. Guided tour and meet with Senator MAJ GEN (Rtd) Jim Molan followed by lunch at Old parliament House.

– **Afternoon Visit to Australian War Memorial (AWM).** Guided tour for class and with other Canberra Region members participate in the Last Post Ceremony.

– **Evening Dinner in Mercure Hotel.** Dinner for class and other Canberra Region members and spouses.

25 April 2019 – Dawn Service. At AWM - No set arrangements

– **National ANZAC Day March.** This will be the first time OTU Scheyville has had a Group in the National March in Canberra and this is for both the class and all OTU Scheyvillians.

– **ANZAC Day lunch at Lotus Bay.** Following the conclusion of the march, this lunch is being held for class and Canberra region members in the Southern Cross Yacht Club Yarralumla verandah overlooking Lake Burley-Griffin.

26 April 2019 – AM and Lunch Sightseeing around Canberra. This will be for the class and include Telstra Tower, the National Museum and the National Art Gallery.

– **Afternoon Tour of RMC Duntroon.** This is a guided tour for the class and others who wish to join to see RMC and how the OTU history and traditions have been included and are now housed in RMC Duntroon.

– **Dinner at Vietnamese Restaurant.** The final reunion dinner in a private dining room.

Please contact Les Boag (les@boag.biz) if you yourself or with your spouse are interested in joining any of the activities. Les will be contacting each Canberra Region member to encourage those who can to join the first and possibly only ever OTU Scheyville contingent to march in the National ANZAC Day march and the lunch at the Yacht Club afterwards.

Class 2/66 '53 Years of Soldiering' Reunion, 6 May 2019 Peter Vincent

I have now booked the grand dining room at the Castlereagh Hotel for a dinner function on 6 May, 2019. To date I have received positive indication of 23 attendees, but am very hopeful of at least another 10 or more, so please let me know your intentions. To help you decide, and jog memories of old friends and colleagues, the following have indicated they will attend (most with partners):

Greg Arendsen, Geoff Eberhard, Tom Geczy, John Howe, Derek Ladyman, Ken Mathers, Barry Mole, Dennis Rutherford, Frank Shellabear, Bob Sutton, Dave Ward, Peter Weingott, Bob Wood.

Missing Graduates: Would anyone knowing the whereabouts and contact details of the following?

G P Adams, C G Andrews, A E Bates, D W Brown, C C Carroll, M R Eddy, W R Garton, B A Gorman, P M Hunter, N W Loveless, D W McKenzie, D B McPherson, B J Miller, D Morgan, R W Morrow, R K E Page, J N Perry, R A Rickard, T W Urwin, P J Vial.

If you know the contact details for any of the missing, or name is not on the attendance list please email Peter to indicate your attendance! peterzv@bigpond.com

At this stage costings are a little hazy, however the cost of the dinner night only at the Castlereagh will be approximately \$100 pp, which includes a 2-course meal and 3-hour drinks package. Accommodation plus any excursions will incur additional costs.

Former DS Tony Larnach-Jones, a well-known and well-versed speaker, has accepted the role of Guest Speaker. Peter also advised that Bryan Pannell, an Instructor and also as Adjutant at OTU - 1 February 1966 to 25 April 1968 – is having health problems.

Class 3/72 Reunion 16 – 19 September 2019 Evan Williams

Class 3/72 will hold a class reunion over the period 16 – 19 September 2019.

The venue is Twin Waters Maroochydore, Queensland.

Full details are on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/3of72Scheyville> or by contacting the organizing committee at email 3of72reunion2019@gmail.com

More information will be provided in The Scheyvillian 2 of 2019 in August!

Class 4/69 50th Anniversary of Graduation Reunion 14 - 17 October 2019 Kevin Dixon

To commemorate 50 years since their arrival at Scheyville on 17 October 1969, Class 4/69 have scheduled their reunion for 14, 15, 16 and 17 October 2019

The main event, a lunch at Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron has been booked for Tuesday 15 October 2019.

14 October (Monday) Travel to Sydney, Optional ad hoc casual dinner to be offered (Kirribilli Club tbc)

15 October (Tuesday) **Main Event lunch at The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron 12 noon to 4 pm**

16 October (Wednesday) Visit to OTU, now The Scheyville National Park HQ train/bus or car by 10.30 am. Lunch at the Windsor Golf Club Bistro at 1 pm

17 October (Thursday) Sydney Harbour morning sightseeing cruise. Return home at leisure

This commemorates **4/69 arrival** at OTU Scheyville, so others to whom it is relevant including those who arrived with us but left early or graduated later, or those who started earlier and graduated with us are most welcome to contact us.

Please contact Kevin Dixon – kevin.dixon@inet.net.au or mobile 0427 469 860, or Peter Krauklis – petercol3@gmail.com or mobile 0427 955 944.

Class 1/70 50th Anniversary of Graduation Reunion, Canberra, 23 – 25 April 2020 Bill Moss

Class 1/70 will hold its 50th Anniversary Reunion in Canberra 23 - 25 April 2020. As part of this reunion, the Australian War Memorial has confirmed that it will hold a Last Post Ceremony (LPC) on the evening of Friday 24 April to honour our Class member 2Lt Ian George Mathers, who was killed in action in Vietnam on 7 June 1971. Ian was the last Scheyville graduate to die in the conflict.

An invitation to attend the LPC is extended to all OTU Association members, especially to those former RAA comrades who served with or knew Ian. If you are aware of anyone who served with Ian or knew him through other connections but is not an OTU Association member, please extend this invitation to them.

For further information, please contact Reunion coordinator Bill Moss billmoss19@bigpond.com or 0438 601 761.

Right: Some of Class 1/70 on their way to be 'trained jungle killers!'

Does anyone from 1/70 know the names of these men in this Ray Andrews photo?



New Guinea Volunteer Rifles 80th Anniversary Commemorative Luncheon 7 September 2019

Alistair Pope (4/66)

Peter Rogers, DFC (3/66), along with his son Peter Junior, is an exceptionally active member of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-Members Association. I belong too, thanks to my 3-years in the PNGDF from 1975-78. Their newsletter, put out six times yearly, is known as Harim Tok Tok. Quite a few OTU graduates served in PNG, but not many have joined the PNGVR Association. Mal Robinson (4/66) was one active member. He died in 2011.

From Peter Rogers: On 4 September 1939, the Australian Government authorised the Administrator of New Guinea to form a defence force to be known as the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. On 8 September 1939, Lt Col. John Walstab, DSO, VD was instructed to raise the unit. The 80th anniversary of this historic event will be commemorated on Saturday 7th September 2019 at the NSAAQ Military Historical Precinct, Wacol. It is planned to commence the event at 9am for a 9.30 am Memorial Service in the Chapel, a couple of short informative talks about NGVR and the early part of the Pacific War followed by a mixed formal luncheon in Everyman's Building. Our Military Museum will be open for viewing by the attendees. Other informal events will be planned to provide entertainment for a weekend visit to Brisbane

for travelling members and friends.

At this stage of the planning timings and cost have not been finalised. Dress will be ANZAC Day dress.

To allow planning for this important anniversary to proceed we now require an indication as to what numbers can be expected. Replies are not definite at this stage but we need some indication.

PLEASE ADVISE: Peter Rogers (3/66):
Email phrogers@bigpoond.com Phone 0413 699 173

Left: Committee Member Peter Rogers DFC, Alistair Martin, Hon Warren Truss MP and Keith Payne VC at the dedication of the ANZAC Memorial, Poona, on 28 October 2011.



Left: Peter Rogers and some of A Class, OTU Class 3/66

VALE

Brian ‘Spike’ Boylson (1/68) Bill Turner (2/68) and Neil Leckie 3/68)

5715602 Brian James Boylson was born at Subiaco, WA, on 9 February 1945 and completed his secondary schooling at St Louis Jesuit School, WA. He attended the University of WA and graduated as a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) in 1965. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman he was employed as a Part-time Tutor by the University of WA. He enlisted in the Army on 7 February 1968 and commenced Recruit Training at 2 RTB Puckapunyal. He then commenced OTU with Class 1/68 on 23 February. Whilst at OTU, he was appointed to the rank of Corporal.

On graduating from OTU on 19 July he was allocated to the Royal Australian Ordnance Corps and posted to the Department of Manning, Army Headquarters, Canberra before being posted to 3 Ordnance at Albert Park.

Brian ended up serving at Albert Park Barracks (AKA Possum Park) alongside classmates Tony Adler (RAEME) and Richard Baird (RAAOC) as well as Bill Turner (2/68 - RAAOC). The four became great friends.

While still in the Army – Boylson, Alder and Turner played footy for Pyramid Hill in the North Central Victorian Country Football League where Boylson (according to Turner) should have won the B & F in the League, but as both Alder and Turner will say was not awarded because of ‘country critter jealousy’!

In 1970 Brian married Christine Lindsay, while later Tony married Catherine Jarvis, two South Australian Air Hostesses who once lived together in Melbourne. Turner was best man at Boylson’s wedding with Alder the first Groomsman.

Brian discharged from the Army at the end of his National Service. He was later awarded the Australian Defence Medal and the Anniversary of National Service Medal. Brian worked with Dennis and John Horgan at the Prindiville Group of Companies in Perth (tourism, hospitality and entertainment facilities and trading commodities – including steel). He then founded his own company Steelmet Pty Ltd. He worked on big contracts including the Indian Pacific Railway, which is all Boylson’s steel from India (Tata Steel) and a lot of pipelines up on the North West shelf (such as Woodside). He was a steel trader extraordinaire!

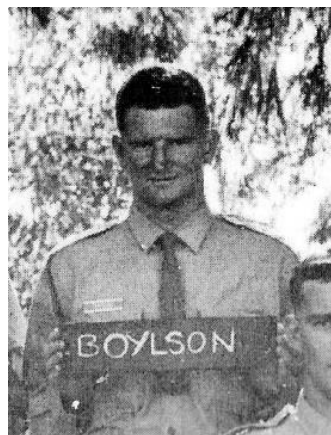
Alder, an Adelaidean, followed Boylson to Perth where Alder, a metallurgist, worked with BHP, eventually founding Alder taps – now the largest tap and bathroom fitting company in Australia.

Brian was a loving husband to Christine, a father to Justin, James, Peter, Benedict, David and Thomas. He was a father-in-law to Melissa, Anne Marie, Alana, Katherine and Nicola, and a grandfather to Jack, Sian, Annabelle, Paige, Patrick, Amelia, Samuel, Bailey, Sienna, Emerald, Jude, William, Willow and Max.

In recent years Brian was struck with Motor Neurone Disease. MND is a group of diseases in which these *neurones* fail to work normally. Muscles then gradually weaken and waste as *neurones* degenerate and die. **Brian** demonstrated courage and determination that has been a characteristic throughout his life. He passed away on 9 January 2019, aged 73. The pain and suffering are over.

Brian’s funeral was held at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Fremantle on Friday 18 January. The Church was packed with around 700 mourners with many Scheyville ties and badges were in evidence among them. The sound of the bagpipes proceeded eight pipers droning the “Lament”. They are followed by the six burly sons of Brian and Chris Boylson carrying Brian’s coffin to the footsteps of the altar. OTUs Bill Turner (2/68) delivered the initial eulogy, while Tony Alder (1/68) delivers the second eulogy. They were followed by five of Brian’s sons – mum Christine was proud of them. Like the Emu and the Kangaroo on Australia’s Coat of Arms “There is no backward step in any of them!” Many of the Boylson boys have military training! A Requiem Mass followed then the pipers returned.

The coffin was picked up by the six sons and to the rhythm of the pipes is carried to the Hearse, thence Karrakatta cemetery where Brian was interred with his Mother, Father and sister. The mourners adjourned to Steve's Bar, near the WA University, a former haunt of Brian's, where a great wake was held without cognisance of the expense. It was agreed among the mourners that Brian Boylson's funeral had been properly executed.



Ross Tyndall McKeand Di McKeand

Ross McKeand (right) was born in Sydney on 25 June 1945. He completed his secondary schooling at Sydney Technical High School and having deferred his National Service attended Sydney University graduating as a Bachelor of Laws in 1968, being admitted as a Solicitor in November 1968. Ross was employed as a solicitor with R. J. Pettiford Solicitors prior to entering the Army.

Unusually for a New South Welshman Ross commenced his Army service with the first intake in 1969 at 2 RTB Puckapunyal on 29 January 1969. Ross joined Class 1/69 at Scheyville on 14 February. Graduating on 17 July, Ross was allocated to the Australian Army Legal Corps and posted as a Legal Officer to Directorate of Legal Services, Army Headquarters as a Temporary Captain followed by a short time at Headquarters Eastern Command on 22 December until 3 February 1970 when was posted to 6 Task Force in HQ Southern Queensland Area, again as a Legal Officer.

On 13 May Ross was then posted to HQ Australian Forces Vietnam as a Legal Officer for a few days before being posted to HQ 1 ALSG Vung Tau. He appeared in many courts martial including an appearance as assistant prosecutor in a double murder trial. Having extended his National Service by a few months, Ross returned to Australia on 12 May 1971 and shortly after was discharged. Post National Service Ross continued working in the legal field. After 4 years working with a large London solicitor he was admitted to the NSW bar in 1979 and appointed a senior counsel in 2003. His principal Areas of Practice were building and construction law, commercial, equity and related aspects in trade practices, real property and industrial law, corporation's law; professional negligence (other than medical) and criminal law. His other professional appointments were as a Mediator and an Adjudicator for the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act (NSW).

Ross joined the Army Reserve in September 1977 and served as a Legal Officer at Headquarters, 2nd Military District, Headquarters Field Force Command and Director of Army Legal Services. He was appointed as a Judge Advocate and a Defence Force Magistrate in 1988. He retired on 1 March 1990 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During his post-NS years Ross forged a distinguished civilian career as a solicitor and became a barrister after he was admitted to the NSW Bar on 9th February 1979. He was appointed senior counsel on 1 October 2003. His legal career was stellar, forming a most unusual mix of military and civilian law, achieving excellence in both areas.

Ross was tragically killed on 26 March 2019 in a motorcycle accident near Forster. He is survived by his loving wife Diane McKeand, 3 step children Chloe, Brodie and Camilla Maxwell and his two daughters Elissa and Chloe McKeand. He loved playing the guitar, taking photos of his family and of his cats. He will be missed. Ross was privately cremated and on Friday 5th April at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Terrigal there was a celebration of Ross's life. The photo shows Ken Grant (1/69), Di McKeand and Dick Whitaker (also 1/69) who were among the large gathering of mourners.



John Michael Hogan: John's death was reported in The Scheyvillian 3 of 2018. His partner Lyn Pegler sent further information on John's post-NS life. Lyn believed that John divorced in 1982 and she first met him in 1983 when he was the 'Sports Master'. 'He was very fit at this time. He had given up playing rugby league and was sailing with the Capricorn Cruising Yacht Club. He kept up his interest in football by training and managing schoolboy teams. He was on the board of several local sports clubs. He was presented with the Australian Sports Medal for his contribution to sport in our area. After meeting me he developed new interests as I am the least sporty person. He became interested in restoring colonial furniture, gardening, bird watching and travel. We travelled extensively, often looking up and having some success with family history searches.

It was after a rather long holiday in Europe and Ireland in 2002 that he was first found to have heart problems. He resigned from the Sports Master position and taught in the classroom. Teaching was everything to him and when he was forced to retire at the end of 2008, he became severely depressed. I retired in 2009 and we had other trips away to try and help. We went to France and visited all the first and Second World War sites. I enjoyed this trip but found it very tiring.

He joined the National Serviceman's Association over twenty years ago and was a Sub-Branch President up until his passing. He kept up an interest in this group and we attended many conferences with them. We went to Canberra for the Anniversary of National Service. This was highlight for him. He enjoyed living at his beach house at Emu Park. He would sit and watch all the wild birds that fed on the native trees he has planted years before. His mobility was not good and he had several falls when I was not down there with him. I preferred living in Rocky but we would spend time between our town houses.

From last Christmas he was unable to drive or live by himself. I looked after him at home in Rocky between frequent visits to hospital. He passed away in the Mater Hospital in Rocky on 2 October 2018. He was laid to rest in the Emu Park Cemetery. John is survived by his two daughters, Melissa and Patricia but sadly no grandchildren, also by myself and my two sons Derek and Nicholas, also no grandchildren.'

Desmond William McKenzie

Des McKenzie was born in Victoria on 15 March 1945. He commenced National Service on 20 April 1966 and OTU with Class 2/66 on 6 May 1966. While at OTU Des was appointed to the rank of Sergeant with 5 Platoon, B Company. He graduated on 30 September 1966 and was allocated to RAASC. After attending Corps Training at the RAASC Center, Puckapunyal, Des was posted as OC 104 Transport Platoon. On completion of his National Service Des discharged from the Army. In sport Des returned to Aussie Rules Football and in seasons 1968 and 1969 played 16 Senior games for the Richmond Football Club. He was considered a fearless competitor. Des passed away on 30 May 2016.



FEATURES:

Scheyville alive with the sound of bands and marching soldiers!

The OTU Association had a support request for the March Out of the New South Wales Army Cadet Course on the Parade Ground at Scheyville on 19 January 2019. Captain Roger McPherson, ADF Liaison Officer, HQ NSW Australian Army Cadets Brigade from Holsworthy, realizing the significance to the Army that Scheyville provided in the Vietnam era, asked if the association would support the March Out by providing four copies of *The Scheyville Experience* to be used as prizes. Unfortunately, the association was 'out of stock' of the book, but a quick 'Google' search found that Amazon held four copies of the book. The books were ordered with a promised delivery of Friday night. Naturally that didn't happen! However, a Plan B had been hatched. The Editor sent scans of the front and rear covers and the side and 'mock-up' covers were made and books were presented – with the promise that the real books would be provided within a couple of days – and they were.

Each Cadet was handed a pamphlet on the history of OTU Scheyville prepared by Captain McPherson with input from the association.

The Hawkesbury Gazette of 23 January 2019 gave a full-page report on the event.

'HUNDREDS of Army Cadets have taken part in an historic parade at grounds that served to train soldiers for Vietnam half a century ago. About 230 Australian Army Cadets from the 1/19 Promotion Courses took part in the March-out Parade at the (former) Scheyville Officer Training Unit (OTU) grounds at Scheyville National Park on Saturday, January 19. The OTU was opened in April 1965 and the unit grounds at Scheyville National Park served as the training camp for army officers heading to Vietnam until 1973.'

The Cadets – some carrying innocuous rifles and swords – were the first in many years to parade on the grounds, and family and friends turned out in force to support them. "A unit's Parade Ground holds a very significant and special place within military traditions. It is the place where many of the ceremonial customs of the army are performed," a Defence statement said. "As well, it is a special training ground where the unit trains its members in drill, discipline, dress and bearing. The Graduation Parade demonstrates a great deal of symbolism, including ceremonial uniforms, marching in formations designed to display extremely high standards for drill and discipline, as well as to demonstrate to the Reviewing Officer and other guests the unit's high regard for its banner, strength of arms, and its unity." Among those present on the historic day were Commander of the NSW Australian Army Cadets Brigade, Colonel Anthony Brennan, Chief Instructor Major (AAC) David Taylor, and special guest was Wing Commander Stephen Monypenny. Reviewing Officer for the parade was Lieutenant Colonel (AAC) Max Neil, OAM.'

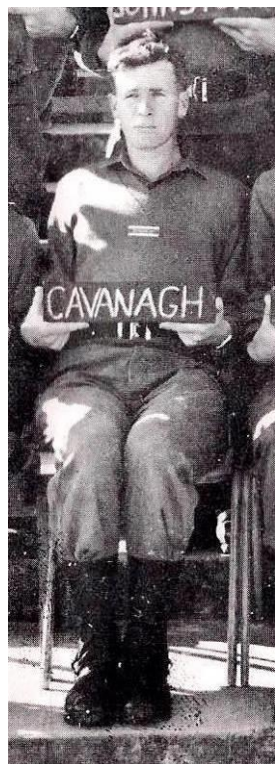


The Association plans to support further Cadet March Out Parades held at Scheyville.

A Nasho and an Air Cadet A response by Phil Cavanagh (3/72)

I just read the note in the latest Scheyvillian re Denis Dixon – “one graduate who was both a National Serviceman and an Air Cadet”. Actually, he wasn’t the only one! I was called up in the 4/70 National Service intake, and almost, but not quite, ‘made the final cut’ for the 4/70 class at OTU Scheyville. After six months at 3TB Singleton, I applied to attend a selection panel for SASR. The Regiment took National Servicemen from 3/70 and 4/70 intakes, on the conditions that (1) they extended their National Service to complete a Vietnam tour – in my case, an additional nine months – and (2) successfully completed the Basic SAS Training Course (aka the ‘Cadre Course’) and the Basic Parachutist Course.

28 members of the 4/70 intake (out of about 110 applicants) were selected, and 24 of them (myself included) passed the two courses. They were then posted to 3 Sqn. After that I completed the SAS Regimental Signaller Course and the Recondo Course. 3 Sqn was ‘working up’ for its 1971-72 Vietnam tour, which didn’t eventuate – 2 Sqn wasn’t replaced when it left Vietnam in December 1971. 3 Sqn did all of the work-up, including the final pre-Vietnam exercise in Papua New Guinea in November 1971, but were told mid-exercise that they were not going to Vietnam. As a result, there was no requirement for my National Service to be extended. In January 1972, my Troop Commander suggested that I consider applying for an Air Cadet position, which I subsequently did. I attended a selection panel in Perth. As nothing had been heard about the result, my discharge from National Service proceeded, and I was discharged in Brisbane in late March 1972.



About a month after I was discharged, a letter arrived, forwarded from SASR via Northern Command Personnel Depot to my parents’ address, addressed to Trooper Cavanagh. The letter advised me that my application had been successful, and that I would be informed by my unit as to the arrangements for me to attend the 2/72 class at OTU Scheyville (which, by that time, had already commenced). I contacted the writer, to inform him that I was no longer Trooper, but now Mr Cavanagh; that I no longer had a unit; quoted my Discharge Authority and date; and asked what would happen next? Many shemozzles later, I was re-enlisted, and ‘parked’ at 9 RAR (as, of all things, the DPBI storeman in QM Pl, Admin Coy – and a ‘making up the numbers’ member of the 9 RAR golf team which won the 1972 6 Task Force Golf Tournament). I finally arrived at Scheyville to commence with 3/72 class.



[9 RAR postscript: In 1975, I was a Platoon Commander in Depot Coy, Infantry Centre. At a function in the Officers Mess to introduce the new Commandant, ‘The Big E’, who was succeeding ‘Mao Tse’ Townsend, then-Colonel Essex-Clark remarked to me that he was sure he’d seen me somewhere before. I replied that three years earlier, on my last full day in 9 RAR where he was the CO, I had been rostered as the Battalion Headquarters ‘Runner’.]

Best parts of Scheyville:

CQMS Bridges Company in my senior term;

The sheer and continuous challenge that was ‘The Scheyville Experience’;

My introduction to orienteering;

Does anyone remember Saturday night “Fire Mission Champagne” and the mirror ball above the dance floor at the Windsor RSL?;

Completing ‘Long Stomp’ at the end of the final field exercise (although, I could do without the middle-of-the-night hallucinations);

The exuberant insanity of the last morning Extra Drill Parade;

My junior term National Serviceman ‘father’ coming to do an initial check of my room and finding everything laid out correctly (I checked room and wardrobe layout BEFORE unpacking), the RAR badge

on my slouch hat and SASR parachutist wings on my uniform sleeves – then going next door to his other ‘son’, the diminutive former and future Gunner, Bill Norton (OCS 2/72), finding the same layout, the RAA badge on his slouch hat and the unfaded marks on his shirt sleeves where his Bombardier stripes had been. His comment: “I’m not going to be doing many Extra Drill Parades for you two!”; and Bill Norton doing a Sunday night ‘burn out’ / ‘doughnut’ on the Parade Ground before practicing his escape and evasion skills to get from the cadets’ car park back to Blamey Company lines.

Worst part of Scheyville:

In the first classes in each of Navigation and Radio, being told to stand by (ex-SASR) instructors, and my class-mates being told that any ‘after hours’ questions should be addressed to me, as a former ‘gun navigator’ SAS Trooper and a qualified morse and voice signaller.

After that: Graduated to AAAvn, failed 17 Army Pilots Course at RAAF Point Cook, corps transferred to RAInf and posted to 4 RAR. ‘Pulled the pin’ in December 1987 and retired from the Australian Public Service in May 2015.

So – more than one; I wonder if there were any others?

RIP Tiger Man: Barry Petersen Sydney Morning Herald via Alistair Pope (4/66)

Barry Petersen was an Australian Army Captain who led top secret CIA operations in the highlands during the Vietnam War until, like Marlon Brando’s character Colonel Kurtz in the movie *Apocalypse Now*, he got too close to the natives and the CIA wanted him out, dead or alive.

Petersen was sent to Vietnam on 27 Aug 1963 as part of the elite Australian Army Training Team Vietnam to train the South Vietnamese Army in tackling guerrilla tactics used by Viet Cong insurgents. He would serve there for more than 2 years, returning to Australia on 14 Oct 1965.

Like most of the AATTV, Petersen had served in the Malayan Emergency, training Malays to counter the guerrilla tactics of the communists. His easy rapport with the Malays was noticed and he was seconded to the CIA to set up and lead a militia of highland Montagnard natives to fight the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army coming down the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Petersen got on well with the Montagnard, particularly the Rade tribe who lived around the highland city of Ban Me Thuot. He learnt their language, honoured their customs and traditions, including drinking the potent rice wine. He paid them well with CIA money and armed them with CIA-supplied guns. Even though he was operating alone in the mountains, Petersen was so successful that within a year he had more than 1,000 Montagnard militia fighters using the same guerrilla tactics as the Viet Cong – ambush the enemy, hit hard and disappear into the jungle.

The communists learnt to go around Petersen’s territory rather than take him on. They put a price on Petersen’s head, but his militia kept a close guard on him. He was extremely popular with his men. They declared the Australian officer a demi-god and showered him with honoured brass armbands denoting him a tribal chief.

At his home he kept a pet sun bear and a baby leopard he’d been given by one of his men. Petersen’s militia became known as the Tiger Men because of the striped jungle camouflage uniforms he’d obtained from the CIA warehouse. He had snarling tiger head badges made for their berets to make the various Montagnard tribes in his units feel united.

But after two years in the highlands with the Montagnard tribesmen, Petersen’s relations with the CIA soured. Some CIA agents thought Petersen was becoming too successful and getting too close to the Montagnard. The Montagnard had been suppressed and abused by the Vietnamese for hundreds of years,

and South Vietnamese Generals feared a well-armed and trained Montagnard militia could rise up against them.



Under orders to leave, the Montagnards gave him a remarkable tribal farewell ceremony. He dressed in tribal clothing, wore dozens of brass armbands and reclined to accept gifts like a chief.

Petersen was awarded a Military Cross during his time with the AATTV.

He returned to Vietnam as a Major from 29 April 1970 until 1 June 1971 as OC C Company, 2 RAR. During this tour he was 'Mentioned in Dispatches'.

Arthur Barry Petersen ("never call me Arthur"), born in Sarina, Queensland, on 8 February 1935

died in Bangkok on February 28, aged 84, after a long battle with cancer he believed was caused by Agent Orange. He always felt most comfortable in Asia and settled in Bangkok where he established a firm that assisted foreign businesses to set up in Thailand. Petersen never married but regarded the staff of his Bangkok firm as his family. He is survived by two sisters.

Former governor-general and one-time commander of the elite SAS unit, Major-General Michael Jeffery, said for a documentary: "Barry Petersen was one of the very best of the Australian military profession because he took on such a difficult and unique task."

The full article can be seen at:

<https://amp.smh.com.au/national/barry-petersen-man-of-mystery-and-australia-s-colonel-kurtz-20190305-p511u1.html>

'I was only 19!' Radio National By Mike Williams for program The Real Thing. Updated 11 Nov 2016, 3:55pm

Neil Leckie (3/68) wrote: As a Nasho who did all of his Recruit Training at 2 RTB Puckapunyal before attending Scheyville, I have always thought that there were a few factual errors in the song 'I was only 19!' I asked a good mate, Bill Akell, a Regular Army soldier who was the Admin Coy Net Signaller for D Company 6 RAR at the Battle of Long Tan what the song was about. Bill said that the song was about Frankie Hunt, a member of 6 RAR who stood on a mine. **Frankie was 19!** Bill said: 'When I went back to Vietnam in 2016 with (1/65) David Sabben's tour for the 50th Anniversary of Long Tan we actually visited the site where Frank stood on the mine. The group gathered around as David gave a brief on the incident then our Vietnamese guide played the song 'I was only 19!' A few tears especially from the ladies present.'



Redgum's John Schumann was the right age to fight in Vietnam, but his number didn't come up. He never forgot how close he came, and when those who did fight returned, he paid attention to their struggles. "They were fundamentally altered," he said. "I started to think about what it would be like to come back from a very unpopular war and not be welcomed home."

Schumann decided to write a song about Australia's involvement in Vietnam, but he didn't write fiction.

One night, Schumann's girlfriend Denise, also known as 'Denny' (in the song), brought her older brother Mick Storen to a Redgum performance. "I remember being told that **Mick** had been to Vietnam (**Recruit**

Training at 2 RTB Puckapunyal and 6 RAR second Tour 8 May 69 – 12 May 70) and had been involved in an awful mine incident," Schumann said. "I also knew that he didn't talk about it to his family."

After the gig they went out for a few drinks. "I was probably flying on adrenalin and I just remember plucking up my courage and asking if he would talk to me about what happened," he said. "To my surprise, he said that he would."



Schumann and Storen spent a few hours with the veteran's photos, a tape recorder and a couple of beers. Later, on tour, as his bandmates used their new 'Walkmans' to listen to music, Schumann played the tapes back. Back at home, he woke up one day, walked into his North Carlton backyard with a coffee, a pad and a biro, and wrote the words. "It's as simple and as complicated as that," he said. But Storen had only agreed to share his Vietnam war experiences on the basis that he could hear the song first.

The approval: Schumann told Storen the song was ready at a family function. He pulled out his guitar and started to sing. After the intimate performance, the room was silent. "He looked at me," Schumann said, "he didn't say anything. He just stared at me. "By this stage I'm pretty

sure Denny and I were engaged and I'm thinking: this guy's going to be my brother in-law and I've really trodden in it." But when Storen was finally able to speak, his decision was made. "It was just incredible," Schumann said.

Storen's story had made the song real. There was one thing Storen wasn't happy about, though. In the original lyrics Schumann wrote: "Tommy kicked the mine." The name was made up, and Storen, who didn't know any 'Tommy', thought the line was weak. "I didn't really understand why," said Schumann. "For me names were immaterial, it was the story. But it was important to Mick."



Who kicked the mine? A real Australian soldier did step on a mine on July 20, 1969, though. That soldier was Storen's skipper, Peter Hines (Lt 6 RAR), who died the day after the incident. "Peter" suited the rhythm of the song but Storen didn't want the name used out of respect for Hines's wife and child. So they went through the names of those in Storen's platoon. They hit "Frank": Frank Hunt had been badly wounded in the same mine incident.

A few months later Schumann was passing through Hunt's home town of Bega on the south coast of NSW. "I have to say Frank was not all that keen on opening the door to a long-haired, left-wing pinko," said Schumann. Schumann got out his guitar and Hunt's reaction was the same as Storen's. "He wanted to hear it again and again until I begged him to allow me to play it into a cassette so I could stop playing it."

After the song's release Hunt helped Schumann promote the song. "Obviously they had some pretty deep and meaningful conversations, otherwise he would not have come out with a ripper of a song like that," said Hunt.

Welcome home: On 3 October 1987, 25,000 Vietnam Veterans marched through the streets of Sydney in a belated 'Welcome Home Parade'. It was four years after the release of 'I was only 19' and 15 years after Australia's involvement in the Vietnam war ended. After the march, Schumann played 'I was only 19' at a concert in the Domain. Frank Hunt was beside him, on stage in his wheelchair. Friends jumped on the stage to hug Hunt as men in the audience cried and embraced each other.

"Very few Australian songwriters get to write anything that's had the lasting effect of 'I was only 19'," Schumann said. "But it's a great responsibility. You know in all the important ways it's owned by the people about whom I wrote it. "I have to be very careful and guard its integrity. It's a hymn."



Hear the song on **YOUTUBE:** [Redgum - I Was Only 19](#)

Danger Close, The Battle of Long Tan

Frank Miller (4/67) was sent a cutting from 'The Sunday Mail' of 17 March 2019.

Dave Sabben (1/65) advised: The Commanders have been advised and been invited to the preview screening in Maroochydore on 24 March to see the film – after not having been consulted in its scripting or story preparation...! We guess they want us to see it to get first feedback and – hopefully for them – to have the Commanders "buy in" to the film and therefore assist in their marketing and promotion on expected release in August.

Some of the Long Tan vets in the area did visit the sets while filming and met some of the actors but I (in Victoria) was not able to take advantage of that activity. Di and I fly up there this Friday for the screening on Sunday. And, yes, we're thriving down here, having stopped the Long Tan Trek Tours. so it's back to "retirement" (and *lovin'* it...!)

Sunday Mail 17032019

Battle of Long Tan nearly here

QUEENSLAND- filmed war flick *Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan* will hit Australian screens on August 8.

Transmission Films will release the Aussie film, shot on the Gold Coast and near Kingaroy, and is in the early stages of planning the release, including plans for possible local premieres.

Directed by **Kriv Stenders**, of *Red Dog* and *Australia Day*, the film stars **Travis Fimmel**, **Luke Bracey**, **Richard Roxburgh** and **Daniel Webber** and chronicles the real-life heroics of Australian and New Zealand soldiers in the pivotal battle in the Vietnam War in 1966. Brisbane actor **Lincoln**



Lewis (pictured far top right as part of the 12th platoon in the film), who plays Private Kevin Graham, told Confidential: "We are hanging out to see a clip. We have seen the raw stuff and it looks absolutely incredible," he said.

"It's going to be amazing. Even when we were watching it getting shot it sort of blows you away."

Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) Awarded for Coral-Balmoral

Bruce Thorpe (3/66) advises that the UCG has been awarded to 1 AFT (Forward) and the units under its command at the Battle of Coral-Balmoral, but not without a struggle!

The Unit Citation has only been issued twice in the past 50 years. This one to the 1 ATF (Forward) which included my troop in A Squadron 3rd Cav Regt. and one to the SAS in Afghanistan some 8 years ago - at this time of son-in-law Troy Simmond's involvement - so it is likely that we are the only father-in-law and son-in-law to have been included in a similar citation.

This award was not given to the whole of the Australian Task Force - only to the detachment that was present at the fire bases known as Coral and Balmoral. This includes 2/66's David Ward's unit (3 RAR).

The Battle of Coral-Balmoral was fought from 12 May to 6 June 1968. The Governor-General has signed a Unit Citation for Gallantry for the 1st Australian Task Force (Forward). This unit included:

Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force (Forward)
1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment
C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment
12th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers Detachments
in direct support of and located with 1st Australian Task Force (Forward)

Giles Waterman (1/71) added: I am aware that Defence's blanket policy is NO retrospective awards e.g. Monash. Fortunately, The Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal is independent and can make recommendations to the Minister contrary to the Defence position.

"The Tribunal had to decide whether to accept Defence's position that the award should not be made retrospectively, or to determine if the grounds for the award were sufficient and recommend that the Minister approve the award (despite Defence's objection). This is not the first time that Defence has been overruled. " ...'

Search: <https://armouredadvocates.wordpress.com> / Scroll down to the entry titled 'Unit Gallantry Citation: Coral-Balmoral.'

OTU and NS Statistics Neil Leckie (3/68)

In Edition 3 of 2018 I mentioned some NS Statistics. Further statistics have been interpolated from the data held. In the first two years of NS the Army expanded by 8,000 NS men each year. Based on infantry platoon numbers of that era (1 officer to 33 ORs) there needed to be 3% of NS men trained as officers. 3% of 8,000 is 240 officers per year, and after the first two years there was a turnover of 240 NS officers and 7,760 soldiers each year.

Including Air Cadets, the figures show that OTU produced enough officers each year to cover that turnover!!!! Interesting! However, every sub-unit where graduates were posted was not based on the 1 to 33 ratio.

Graduates per year:

1965/66	250	1966/67	260	1967/68	249
1968/69	227	1969/70	255	1970/71	252
1971/72	248	1972/73 (2 classes)	62	Average	240 per year.



Returning to Bandiana in early 1979, my next appointment was as an instructor on Officer Training Wing (OTW) at the RAAOC Centre. My long association with the unit had begun. I was only at the RAAOC Centre for 12 months when I was reposted and temporarily promoted to Major to yet another staff appointment at HQ LOG COMD. Two years later, in 1983, I was selected to attend Army Command and Staff College (ACSC) at Fort Queenscliff before being posted to my first Field Force appointment as SO2 PERS on HQ 1st Division (HQ 1DIV). So, as a substantive 'psc' Major with 14 years of service, I was finally initiated into the ways of the Land Army—not the most desirable career development sequence.

Following my HQ 1DIV posting, I returned to the RAAOC Centre, this time as the Senior Instructor (SI) OTW and later as Doctrine Officer/2IC before promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and a six-month posting in early 1987 to attend the Logistic Executive Development Course (LEDC) at the US Army's Logistic Management College (ALMC) at Fort Lee, Virginia. Attending LEDC was a bitter/sweet experience because my posting was deliberately reduced by one week to less than 6 months to avoid having to pay for my family to accompany me. I paid for them and our accommodation out of my own pocket. I was not even allowed to cash in my Business Class air ticket, and so my family flew Economy Class while I was seated up front.

However, I and my family, were looked after magnificently by both the Aussie team on the LEDC staff as well as several American friends we made along the way. We wanted for nothing! While acquitting my allowances on return to Australia, I was advised that the rule had been changed and that I was to be reimbursed the considerable personal expenditure I'd incurred ... a \$10,000 forced saving!

Returning to Australia, I was posted as the SO1 PERS in Director General of Supply (DGSUP) responsible for the career management of up to 3,000 RAAOC Officers, WOs, SNCOs and Other Ranks (OR) - an appointment that gave me great satisfaction and one now performed by Army's Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA) and Directorate of Officer Career Management (DOCM). But, the RAAOC Centre was never far away, returning in 1990 as Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor (CO/CI) before selection to attend Joint Services Staff College (JSSC) in 1992. This was to prove the genesis for my future 'joint' career as my next posting was as the SO1 LOG in Defence Central. Promotion to Colonel followed in 1994 with another posting to HQ LOGCOMD, this time, as the Colonel Equipment (COLEQUIP), but on an unaccompanied basis as our children were in Years 10 and Year 8 respectively and happily settled in their ACT school. One of my last tasks was to relocate my equipment directorate back down St Kilda Road to new accommodation in Victoria Barracks whence my commissioned career started some 25 years before.

Two years family separation for service reasons ensured my keenness to return to the ACT and so, in 1996, I reluctantly accepted a posting to Defence's Commercial Support Program (CSP) - at that time not considered a career enhancing move.

CSP was introduced in 1981 to make greater use of civilian infrastructure and national resources where feasible, practical and cost-effective to do so. An ANAO audit report revealed that, overall, CSP contributed to greater cost effectiveness of supplying Defence support by lowering costs.

With my experienced staff and with guidance from the CDF, General John (J.S) Baker (1957), the ADF was slowly reshaped via what was termed the "blunt to front shunt", in effect, inverting the ADF's extant 40:60 'teeth-to-tail' ratio enabling the ADF to meet its future operational commitments. Some 29 years after graduating as a young 'nasho' officer, in 1998, I was proudly appointed RAAOC Head of Corps (HOC), in a newly configured Extra Regimental capacity. Then in 1999, I was posted into the One Star

DGCSP appointment, but fell foul of the prevailing ADF One Star manpower cap, unable to secure promotion.

From my DGCSP perch, I noted how the Army had changed in the preceding 29 years. From a conscript/volunteer mix of about 44,000 engaged in a regional conflict in South Vietnam it had become an all-volunteer permanent force of about 25,000 that was about to make a major commitment to East Timor and all that would follow.

So, in 2000, after 30(+) years' Regular Army service, I resigned to take up a commercial appointment, transferring to the Inactive Reserve. My subsequent 18 months working in industry chasing Defence contracts in East Timor in support of Army came to a sudden sad end with my resigning to care for my terminally ill elderly mother who passed away soon after.

Meanwhile, Defence had sought my help to redevelop Defence's contract with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) at the Australian Defence Academy (ADFA) and so I commenced my Reserve service in August 2001. Insisting on a jointly signed tasking directive from the CDF and Defence Secretary (SECDEF), I eventually achieved a successful outcome, but only after 27 months due to a series of in-house contractual obstacles and ministerial delays.

As DGCSP, I'd experienced instances of deliberate bureaucratic inertia to directed strategic change management initiatives and learned some useful counteracting tactics. Showing a copy of my jointly signed CDF/SECDEF tasking directive along with an invitation to receive a personal interview (with either or both signatories) was sufficient to achieve compliance.

All my 16 years Reserve service was spent in the joint education and training environment in either the Directorate of Education and Training (DETD) or within the Australian Defence College (ADC) construct. I found working in the joint environment both stimulating, if occasionally frustrating. Stimulating, as I was working to the ADF's supportive peak body, the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC); frustrating, as on occasions, conflicting entrenched opinions translated into deliberate acts of dalliance and obfuscation that had to be overcome.

I decided to end my Reserve service in June 2017 having completed my last 12-month engagement and allowing my commission to lapse on my 68th birthday. Looking back over my 46(+) years' service, I wouldn't change a thing. I've drawn enormous satisfaction, pride and enjoyment serving my chosen country, gathered a wide range of experiences with many fond memories and, most importantly, made lifelong friends and mates, both in and out of the Army. Throughout, I've been supported by my 'rock', my wife Jan and our now grown-up family. As I'm told that I may be the last serving National Serviceman of my generation, I know that I'd do it all again ... in a heartbeat!



Left: a Class 4/69
Church Parade in
Windsor.

The Website and Missing Members Rob Youl (2/65)

I occasionally run through parts of the OTUA website, as I guess we all do. This time I noticed one of my class is missing any information. From the Nasho Nominal Roll I found:

http://nashonomroll.org/f_nominalroll2.asp?ServiceNumber=&LastName=&service=2&search=true&Page=10

Service Record	
Name	Murphy , Michael John
Service	Army
Service Number	1731407
Registration Number	Q.73830
Rank	2nd Lieutenant
Date of Birth	06 06 1945
Place of Birth	Brisbane Qld
Date of Intake	29/9/1965
NS Training	1 R T B & OTU Scheyville
Follow Up Training	4 R A R Tarendeek Malaysia
Basic Training	Kapooka NSW
Next of Kin at time of Service	Mr Murphy
Operational Service	Malacca S-E Asia
Medals	ASM S/E Asia / ADM / ANSM
Contact	

Does anyone know anything about Michael John Murphy?

From the Database: Michael John Murphy, born 6 June 45, enlisted 29 September 65, commenced OTU 15 October 65. Graduate Number 82, Class 2/65. Graduated 8 April 66, allocated to RAInf. Posting on Graduation not known, posted to 4 RAR 17 August 66. Discharged post-NS 28 September 65.

The Nasho Nominal Roll states that he served at Terendak Camp. However, his official date for posting to 4 RAR wasn't until 17 August. One would assume that he must have provided those details!

For members information: From 'Digger History': 'In October 1965, 4 RAR joined 28 COMWEL Independent Brigade Group at Terendak Camp in Malaysia. Training was intensified immediately as the unit was placed on a short notice to move to Sarawak. While training, the Battalion had platoons and companies on varying degrees of alert in case if Indonesian incursions across the Malacca Straits onto the Malay Peninsula (this was the original reason given for reintroducing NS!!) In April 1966, the battalion was deployed to the Bau District. Battalion HQ was located at Cambrai Camp.

Three of the rifle companies occupied bases at Gumbang, Stass and Bokah. The remaining rifle company was held as a reserve at Old Bau Camp. Documents captured by C Company, under Major K.J. McGhee, in a June 15 contact with an Indonesian Army infiltration group proved of great importance to operations in Sarawak and to political maneuvers during the closing stages of confrontation. An important facet of the Borneo tour was the unit's hearts and minds campaign. Aid, in the form of construction, supply, employment and medical treatment, was given to local villages.

At the conclusion of "Confrontation" in early September the bases occupied by 4 RAR were handed over to 3 Royal Malay Regiment. By 10 September 1966, 4 RAR was completely relocated to Malacca. On 11 November 1966, Lieutenant Colonel D.S. Thomson, MC handed over command of 4 RAR to Lieutenant Colonel C.H.A. East, MBE. The unit continued to participate in its role as part of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. During this period the percentage of National Serviceman in

the battalion increased, as a large number of regular soldiers returned early to Australia to then go as reinforcements to Vietnam.

Lt Col East instituted a civic action scheme which was extremely successful. Initially the battalion adopted a Malay village, where it applied the Malay custom of "mutual assistance". During September and October 1967 4RAR returned to Australia and settled at Enoggera Barracks, Brisbane, where on 9 January 1968, Lt Col L.R. Greville replaced Lt Col East as Commanding Officer. The battalion was reduced by one rifle company for its ANZAC role in Vietnam, where it was to take over two New Zealand companies.'

Note: Lt Col CHA East became Col East and took over 1 RTB Kapooka from 16 January 1968 to 2 August 1970. Many Scheyville Graduates served as Platoon Commanders under 'CHA CHA' East at Kapooka.

Gold Card for Vietnam Veterans

Some members may not be aware that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Gold Card is available to those who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1973 and have reached the age of seventy years. For further advice Google DVA Gold Card Availability or contact the DVA.

Defence Card Scheme to boost discounts for Veterans Announced Via Gary Vial (3/69)

Retired Navy, Army and Air Force personnel will be given lapel pins and veterans' cards as part of a new government package to greater recognise their services. The unique pins coincide with new legislation put before Federal Parliament in February ensure greater respect for veterans and their families. They will be offered up to 10 per cent off their groceries, airfares, petrol and electricity bills with Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant introduced by Veterans Affairs Minister Darren Chester.

About 500,000 veterans — many of whom have fought in combat in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor — will be placed on a registry and receive the new Veterans' Card, which will entitle them to a discount of between 5 to 10 per at major stores.

"The covenant, card and lapel pin will allow the community - whether they are employers, businesses, community groups, veteran or sporting organisations - the opportunity to recognise the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our nation," Mr Chester said.

The move comes after News Corp Australia launched the 'ThanksForServing' campaign - supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the RSL, Legacy, TV and sports stars and some of our leading Defence heroes such as Victoria Cross recipients Daniel Keighran and Keith Payne.

The campaign urges Australians to acknowledge the service to the country of all military veterans, past and present. Mr Chester said it was a project he had been working on with ex-service organisations since becoming the minister almost 12 months ago. "I have consulted extensively with the ex-service community on the development of this Bill, including discussions with our Five Eyes counterparts in the United Kingdom who have put in place similar measures," he said.



ANZAC DAY 2019

Adelaide

Same form-up as last year on the northern side of Grenfell Street, almost opposite the RAA but closer to the IBIS Hotel. Suggest be there no later than 10.15am for an anticipated step-off around 10.30am. It would be great if we could put on a 'maximum effort' this year. If you are unable to march at least join us for refreshments afterwards at the Exeter Hotel, 246 Rundle Street. It too is a long-lived establishment having been established in 1851, and incredibly was until recently, Krug champagne's biggest account in Australia and famous for serving same in the unique to Adelaide 'butcher' glasses.

Brisbane

The next function for the Queensland Chapter will be the ANZAC Day March and luncheon. For the march the FUP will be position 85, George & Mary Streets at 1040 hrs and afterwards at the Pig'n'Whistle for lunch.

Canberra

Class 4/68 is holding its 50th Anniversary of Graduation over the ANZAC Day Weekend in Canberra. The class will be marching on ANZAC Day there, the first time OTU Scheyville has had a Group in the National March in Canberra. The march is for both Class 4/68 and all OTU Scheyvillians in Canberra on ANZAC Day.

Melbourne (Herald Sun 24 March 2019)

This year's Melbourne ANZAC Day March will start a half-hour earlier to reduce the break between the Dawn Service and the parade. It will start on Princes Bridge at 8.30am, heading down St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance. The change also allows for more marchers to be seen on television broadcast before coverage switches to Turkey for the Dawn Service at Gallipoli at 1.30pm. The morning assembly of military units will continue to Swanston St despite Metro station works at City Square and next to Young and Jacksons. Metro tunnel works near the new station being built at the Domain interchange will not affect the march route down St Kilda Rd. The new station will be called ANZAC Station and will be a major train/tram interchange.

Melbourne ANZAC Day Details

Dress: Suit/Jacket and tie - preferably the OTU tie if possible.

Medals: Please wear all medals you have been awarded.

Assembly: Assemble on the South side of Flinders Street at the Western side of Swanston Street (just outside the station) at 0900 hours for a 0915 march off. The assembly time margin is to cover the eventuality of an earlier start – last year's left 12 minutes before the nominated time. RSL Marshals will direct you to the precise location. Our contingent will be behind the National Servicemen's Association.

After the March: We will once again be having get together after the march. This will be held at the RACV Carbine Room, RACV Club, 501 Bourke St, Melbourne. (Tel 9944 8888). Tram No. 58, caught in St. Kilda Road, will carry marchers from the Shrine to the Club.

With the start being earlier than last year we can convene in the entry floor coffee lounge beforehand. An excellent lunch with a range of tasty finger food will be provided at a subsidised \$20.00 per head. Drinks will be available at very reasonable prices. Ladies are most welcome indeed.

For catering purposes we ask that you advise your (and your partner's) intended attendance for this function by 20 April. The march presents a great opportunity for our Association and we would urge all who can do so to participate. Please let your OTU Classmates who shared 'The Scheyville Experience' know of this. They would be most welcome. If you will be marching and will, or will not, be attending the luncheon, please advise: Brian Cooper bctcooper@gmail.com or 0418 373 874.

Perth

ANZAC DAY order of march: Location Army, Section H, Band City of Perth Brass Band.

Following the WRAAC!!!!

0900 hours start, our group about 0930 hours.

Dispersing Langley Park near the sausage sizzle for a chat & a chew.

Sydney

Time: The OTU contingent in the 2019 Sydney ANZAC March will assemble at the intersection of Phillip and Hunter Streets, Sydney, from 10am. Whilst it is anticipated that we will step off about 10.45am, it is likely that, due to the large numbers of contingents, we may not step off until around 11am.

Dress for the March is suit or jacket, slacks, OTU tie and full-size medals and decorations. No baseball caps, berets or any item of military headwear.

Lunch: Once again, we will be having our ANZAC Lunch at the NSW Masonic Club at 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. The cost is \$65.00 per head, which includes two courses and a glass of beer or wine. We welcome partners and family members. However, our space is limited to 50 persons.

RSVP: Invitation emails have been sent to all members of the NSW Chapter; however, we would welcome any other Association members who may be in town to join us. Acceptances for the ANZAC Lunch close at COB on Wednesday 10th April 2019. Contact Dick Adams (3/72) on 0408 266 805 or at dickadams372@gmail.com

STATE ACTIVITIES:

ACT Chapter

Passing of the Baton in the ACT Les Boag (4/68)

After over 20 years of being the Coordinator for the Canberra Region OTU Scheyvillians and OTU Scheyville representative in the ACT, Wal Hall (2/68) has handed over the reins. The Scheyvillians in the Canberra Region (within 2 hours drive of Canberra) are extremely grateful for the wonderful job Wal has done, greatly assisted by Anne, over such a long time.

Les Boag (4/68) has taken over the general coordination of events for the Canberra Region and Bruce Selleck (2/70) has taken over the coordination of the lunches for this year. Bill Watson (2/69) continues to safely manage the regional funds, well supported by Winston Bucknell (2/68) and John Herlihy (1/67).

Monthly Lunches Les Boag (4/68)

Bruce has planned the monthly lunches be held on the 3rd Thursday of the Month (Feb to Oct) and our Ladies Christmas Lunch in late November (tentatively 28 Nov 19). ACT has held two successful lunches so far this year at the Royal Canberra Gold Club (RCGC). The past timings have continued, 1200 for 1230 start. A reminder of the RCGC dress code of collared shirt and jacket/tie optional (no denim) and the Clubhouse rule of being a "mobile free area". The next lunch will be on Thursday 18 April 2019. Please ensure you contact Bruce and let him know a week ahead if you wish to attend, so that seating can be arranged with RCGC. Interstate visitors are most welcome.

Australian Army Museum Duntroon (RMC MUSEUM) Wal Hall (2/68)

Representatives from RMC, OCS Portsea, WRAAC OCS along with Wal Hall of the OTU Association attended the re-opening of the revamped RMC Duntroon Museum, now known as the Australian Army Museum Duntroon, on 5 December 2018. The items on display are housed in the Bridges Library building on the upper terraces overlooking the Parade Ground (north side).

The collection is displayed in themes across the various institutions rather than featuring individual training establishments (Drill & Ceremonial, Leadership and Learning, Sport and PT, Cadet Life, Field Training). There are brief histories of each institution, medals for the dux of various courses, registers of graduates and the like. As such, Scheyville is well represented.

In his remarks the Chief of Army indicated that the collection may expand to embrace the training of officers at OCTUs and University Regiments.

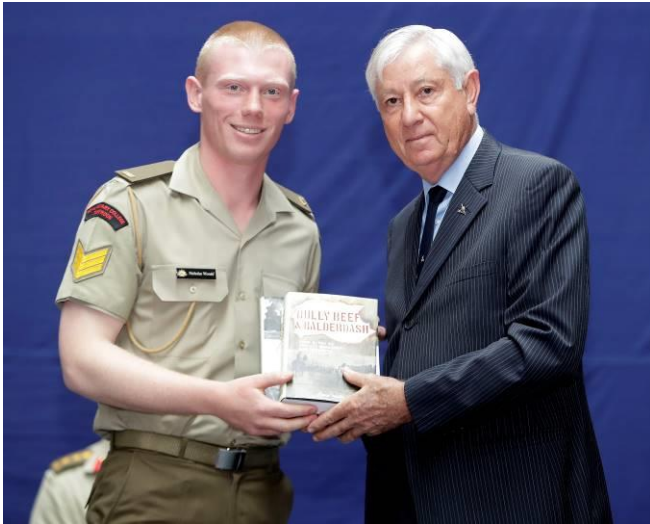
The items are displayed in modern glass and chrome cases. I understand the display cases donated by the OTU Association some years ago have been redeployed for use in another area of Duntroon.

I would recommend that Scheyvillians visit the museum whenever in Canberra. Contact the Curator.

The OTU National Executive contact for the the museum staff is now The Editor.

If you feel that you have some items that would fit any of the display categories mentioned earlier, please contact the Curator, Paul Mitrovich at Paul.Mitrovich1@defence.gov.au – Ed.

RMC Graduation Wal Hall (2/68)



The Scheyville Prize winner from the December 2018 RMC Duntroon Graduating Class held on 10 December 2018 was Sergeant Nicholas Woods. Following specialist Corps Training Nicholas will assume command of a platoon in the Darwin-based Military Police Company. ACT Chapter Chairman Wal Hall (2/68) presented Nicholas with the prize, two books, one of which was 'Bully Beef and Balderdash'.

The Graduation Parade was held the following day.

NSW Chapter Gary McKay (2/68) and Phil Paddison (2/70)

The NSW Chapter has now held two well-attended lunches at The Crown Hotel in Elizabeth Street in the Sydney CBD, The Crown being our new 'forward operating base'. The April lunch will be the ANAZC Day luncheon that Dick Adams is running. As Gary McKay is in Europe in May and June, Phil Paddison will be running a lunch in Newcastle on Friday 17 May. The day chosen is a Friday to allow for an overnight (or weekend) stay to enable members, family and friends to explore Newcastle and the nearby Hunter Valley. A reminder that there may be an election on the Saturday and you may need to arrange a Postal Vote before you attend the weekend! The June lunch will be run by John Marsden with details to follow once his recon is completed.

Queensland Chapter Geoff Daly (4/69)

The Queensland Chapter held their Annual Black-Tie Dinner at the United Service Club on Saturday 30 March 2019 and 38 souls were in attendance, resplendent in their stepping out gear. Our guest speaker, Gary McKay MC and his lovely bride, Margot, delighted us with their company and Gary gave a splendid toast to OTU Scheyville.

After 25 years we have moved our monthly lunches from Fridays Restaurant and our first lunch at the Pig'n'Whistle was a great success. The food, service and pricing were excellent and we look forward to the next 25 years there! Monthly Luncheons are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Sue Burman (Allan, 2/68), Carmel Daly (Geoff, 4/69), Margot McKay (Gary, 2/68), Leigh Goode (Warwick, 2/68)



South Australian Chapter Gary Vial (3/69)

Foundation Day Lunch 1 April 2019: You need no further proof that we are into the 'grey nomad' zone than the fact that we had 12 apologies for people who were 'away'. However, Bob (3/67) Ormston & Elizabeth, Trevor (2/72) Ranford, Phil (4/71) Verco & Claire and Gary (3/69) Vial & Libby celebrated the anniversary at the iconic 'Maid and Magpie' that has been operating since 1848.

Youth Leadership: With financial help from there Tasmanian Chapter, we have once again donated \$1,650 to 'Operation Flinders' which is sufficient to put one young person 'at risk' through the course. A very worthwhile cause. Details of the program are available at - <https://operationflinders.org.au>

CITATION Future Functions:

Put in your diary lunches to be held on - Tuesday 9 July, Wednesday 11 September and Monday 11 November. Venues tba through our email network!

Tasmanian Chapter Ian Howard (1/69)

A Tasmanian group of twelve including partners undertook a different type of get together on 15 March to kick off 2019. We boarded to high speed catamaran at the new floating Brooke St Pier in Hobart for the 40 km cruise to The Peppermint Bay Restaurant on the shore of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. Beside the entertaining company highlights of the outward voyage included stops at The Alum Cliffs, Blackmans Bay Blowhole, a large Atlantic Salmon farm and finally a sea eagle and nest.

The restaurant sits on Peppermint Bay Point with panoramic views across the Channel to Bruny Island. A five-course meal highlighting Tasmanian produce and wine was a culinary expedition. We returned to Hobart via the Iron Pot Light at the head of the Derwent renowned as a way point for the annual Sydney to Hobart yacht race. A very successful event to start our Tasmanian year."

Right:
Seated at
Peppermint
Bay
Restaurant:
Vivienne
McRoberts,
Anne
Townsend,
Jean Howard,
Lorraine Luff,
Noel
McRoberts,
Ray & Pam
Williams
(2/71), James



Reid, Peter Dalken, Paul Ferguson and Dennis Townsend (2/70)

Victorian Chapter

Monthly Lunches Brian Cooper, (3/69)

We had 29 acceptances but two dropped off late in the piece, but Alistair Pope brought along a guest so some 28 sat down for a three course Festive Meal. Our two tables had pride of place in the RACV Bistro and we were well served by young Kevin who has looked after us on a number of occasions and other help. We were particularly pleased to welcome Tim Fischer (3/66) fresh from hospital but looking and sounding robust and cheerful, and the Author of The Scheyville Experience, Roger Donnelly.

Our list included: Alan Brimelow, Tony Beddison, Nick Callinan, Bernie Gleeson, Robin Hunt, Peter Don and myself from 3/69, Tony Trevethick (1/65), Ian Dennis (3/66), John Churchill, Ian Kelly and



Colin Lindsay (2/67), Andrew Guest and Brock Thompson (3/67), Frank Miller (4/67), Mick Stone (1/68), Dave Lewis (2/68), Graham Riches (4/69), Owen Morgan (1/70), Frank Paton (2/70), Peter Hateley (2/71), Chris Coates (3/71) and Carl Wood (1/72). First timers included Collin Johnston (2/70) and Alistair Pope (4/66) was able to join us for the first time in some years.

We were missing some regulars with Neil Leckie (3/68) being in Brisbane, Hondo Gratton (3/69) overseas working, Noel Osborne (4/66) otherwise engaged and Brian McCarthy (3/69) also missing in action. Our numbers were bolstered later in the day though with Adrian Lombardo (1/65), Peter Whitelaw (3/66) and Ray Elder (2/67) joining us for a drink after lunch.

An excellent menu was complemented by good wine and Nick Callinan kindly ‘shouted’ dessert in the form of Christmas pudding or cheesecake. This delightful event was capped off with a surprising but welcome discounted bill which left everyone with a smile.

Ladies Lunch 28 June 2019 The Victorian Chapter Lunch Coordinator, Brian Cooper has booked the private dining room at RACV Club for Friday 28 June for a proposed Ladies Lunch. Up to 40 people can attend, and the cost will be \$55 per head plus drinks.

As we are assessing the level of interest before confirming the booking can you please respond to Brian with your likelihood of attendance. bctcooper@gmail.com or 0418 373 874

Lord and Lady Somers Camps 2019 Frank Miller (4/67).

This year the Association sponsored a total of fifteen young men and women, aged sixteen to seventeen, to the respective Lord and Lady Somers Camps. Of these, five were in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Healesville and two the Rotary Club of Fitzroy. In addition, monies were provided to fund eleven volunteer staff – “slushies” – who had attended as “groupers” a year ago. Again, Scheyvillian members were invited as guests to see both camps in action. It is always fascinating to see the dedication with which the youngsters participate in the different team games and exercises – in particular in the way they get together to help those who may not be quite as athletic as the others. That it gives them a worthwhile self-awareness is beyond doubt. Furthermore, the leadership and team work learned in the camps will prove invaluable in their future lives.



The association is grateful for the substantial financial contribution made this year by the New South Wales Chapter from their Youth Leadership funds. Photo: Lord Somers Camp and Power House CEO, Tim Ryan, with OTU Association Chairman, Frank Miller (4/67).

The Geddes Dinner Neil Leckie (3/68)

This year was the 14th running of the Geddes Dinner, an annual event organized by Ray Elder (2/67). This year's Guest Speaker was our own Lt Col Alistair Pope, psc, CM (Retired) and his subject was The Rise and Fall of ISIS Armour. Alistair captivated the near 50 people in attendance with a Powerpoint Presentation and many anecdotes about the situation and some of the personnel involved in the conflict. Some interesting points include facts such as there being 30 – 40,000 Jihadists from outside the region, England actually supplying the almost 500 Toyota HiLux utilities, the defeat by ISI of 5 – 6 Divisions of Iraqi Soldiers and the capture of over 250 tanks (fortunately ISIS did not know how to effectively use them). He also spoke of the 'Rules of Engagement' that prevented the allied forces from effectively destroying ISIS eg there must be leaflets dropped advising of

upcoming attacks and there must be no 'collateral damage'.

See sketch next page.



Left: Victorian Chairman Frank Miller (4/67) and right Guest Speaker Alistair Pope (4/66).



By way of introduction, the following is the introduction of Alistair's talk: 'Understanding the Maze'.

Following their unilaterally declared victory over various rebel forces in Iraq in 2007, the USA began withdrawing its deployed combat forces and commenced the process of reconstituting the Iraqi Army. The withdrawal was a politically driven decision based on the U.S. Presidential electoral cycle rather than on any military or intelligence assessment. Al-Qaeda and other opposition forces had been badly mauled, but they had not been eradicated. However, this decision was probably politically essential, though from a practical military point of view the withdrawal was opposed by many senior military commanders as being both premature and contrary to the situational evidence. Nonetheless, the withdrawal went ahead

and was completed by 2011 in time for the next U.S. Presidential race. By 2012, only about 4,400 U.S. soldiers remained in Iraq in training and support roles.

Concurrently with this Iraqi strategy a stated objective of the USA and its European allies was the military defeat and removal from power of President Bashar Al-Assad and the ruling Baathist Party in Syria. The fall of Assad was considered to be a logical outcome of the misnamed 'Arab Spring' movement. This was an entirely misguided objective created by the narrow perspective of Western political analysts' intent on imposing democracy on a tribally based country that had no experience of what that meant. The alternative rulers supported by the West would most likely be far worse and more murderous than any excesses perpetrated by the Assad regime.

Thus, cross-alliances, cross-purposes and mutually exclusive objectives were supported by the USA (and its allies) out of both expediency and a failure to understand the extremely Byzantine politics of the region. Bizarrely, this meant that U.S. troops (plus other clandestine operations conducted by the CIA) were both fighting rebel and terrorist groups in one area while supporting, supplying and training members of those same groups in another. The overriding focus on removing Al-Assad resulted in the USA both supporting its bitter enemy, Al-Qaeda, its brutal ISIS affiliate and other equally ruthless and barbaric 'moderate' terrorist groups depending on whether or not they were fighting Assad today. The political situation across the region (and North Africa) defies any rational analysis and precludes the implementation of any consistently realistic policies.

The full talk, yet to be published, can be obtained from Alistair. Alsitair.pope45@bigpond.com

Western Australian Chapter David Ward (2/66)

Our group continues to meet for lunch at the Sorrento James Street, Northbridge. The next is Friday the 3rd of May at 1300. Several lunches ago we agreed to sponsor the attendees conditional on becoming or being a financial member. We plan to do that again and hopefully boost membership represented by WA graduates.

Prior to the lunch we march on ANZAC Day anticipating a small squad & supporters, being a Thursday. A reasonable number of WA based 2/66 will be attending their reunion in Sydney, Monday 6 May.

Classmate Ken Jones has risen from the verge of extinction and rounded up fellow fossils.

The likely attendees include Mike Eddy, Michael Darby, Frank Shellabear, Bill Hewitt, Derek Ladyman, Ken Jones and myself. Frank is flying in from the USA via Perth then Sydney. It seems the pull of the Scheyville experience is very strong.

We are to attend the Sorrento lunch on the Friday, fly to Sydney on Saturday, prepare on Sunday & present for a Scheyville trip on the Monday. In a way replicating our Call-up, the flying to Puckapunyal, then transfer to Scheyville. Apparently, we marched in on a Monday, 53 years to the day.

Fellowship will be at the Castlereagh Hotel in Sydney on the Monday night with reflections from former DS Tony Larnach-Jones.

WA South-West Weekend Away - Busselton/Margaret River 1 – 3 Feb 2019 Jay McDaniell (3/69)

From Friday 1 February to Sunday 3 February 2019, Busselton residents Jay and Maureen McDaniell, Ken and CJ Waller and David and Elaine Eyres, hosted 8 other OTU couples for a weekend of fun, food and wine – and even a bit of exercise for some.

Frank and Chris LeFaucheur, Steve and Janie Pearson, Ron and Philippa Packer, John and Jill Barnes, Steve and Mindy McDonald, Glenn and Jannie Williams, David and Jan Harley and David and Bev Atkinson and the hosts enjoyed the seaside surroundings, sun and strong breezes over the three days of fellowship and exploration.

The traditional quarterly lunch, normally held in Perth's Northbridge district was held at the Equinox Restaurant situated on the beach and adjacent to Busselton's famous mile long (1.4km) historic, wooden

jetty. A private room and 'interesting wines' accompanied the menu. That evening a BYO BBQ was held at the McDaniell residence in a tranquil outdoor setting.

Saturday was for free time to explore the Margaret River wine district or the local arts and crafts, but some opted for a windy sail on the bay or some strenuous tennis at the beachside club. That night saw the



group converge of the Amelia Park Lodge Restaurant for a degustation, three course meal featuring Amelia Park produce and wines in a private conservatory room.

Those who could endure the pace of this food filled weekend then met again on Sunday morning at the respectable hour of 10.00 for a French Brunch at the Breton Brasserie Café, run by Brittany couple Thibaut and Fanny who produce delicious crepes and coffee. And then it was over for another year as many contemplated the other reunions on offer in the future.

WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DID

Crossing the Nullarbor Frank Le, Frank S and J McD

Who has driven across the Nullarbor? I would suggest not many. A few WA Scheyvillians were bragging of their dirt road crossings.

Frank Shellabear (2/66) lives mostly in the US, but makes regular trips back to Australia. He is returning to Perth in time for the May WA Chapter lunch and says: 'Warn me in. I'll be Downunder. This trip I'll get a double fix. The (WA) Friday lunch & then the 2/66 re-union in Sydney. Have fun travelling the treeless plain. A bit of historical trivia for you. My first Nullarbor crossing (total 9) was in 1962. A group of Floreat SLSC (WA) members convoyed over to the Aussie Championships at Moana Beach, South Australia. At that time, there were 1300 miles of gravel road. We towed a surf boat behind a 1954 Dodge ute! Plus a 44 gallon drum of petrol, as there were a couple of stretches of 300+ miles between petrol stations.

Frank LeFaucheur (1/71) replied: 'I drove it in 1975 when there was 300 miles of dirt – I'm not sure we would have any members who did so before Frank Shellabear?! Being Surf Club guys (although, as a Scarborough boy, we didn't actually count Floreat as a beach!! – they probably also had an 18-gallon keg of beer!)

Frank S responded 'How did you know about the keg? It was a race - would the beer run out or would the ice for the Temprite melt first. I'll ignore the smart-arse comment about Floreat, but mate - you should have seen Moana. It made Coogee look like Waimea Bay.'

Jay McDaniell (3/69) added: 'In 1971, at the end of my NS, I returned to WA in my 1500 Mazda from Pucka via Adelaide – non-stop solo in 32 hours to the Sawyers Valley Pub after about 6 hours of hallucinations (cricket matches in English villages and the road heading up to the sky) en-route. 300 miles of dirt Ceduna to Eucla. Average speed 62mph. Top speed on dirt about 100 mph. Enjoyed power drifting through the gradual bends. Never went back!'

WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DO:

Interviewed for Video From John O'Halloran (1/65) and others. John O'Halloran is one of the originals, the tough guys who had no 'Fathers' as the rest of us knew them, our Senior Cadets! Their 'Fathers' were experienced older officers (surprisingly in many cases just a few years older than the Cadets) who knew the ropes of being in the Army. After graduation, 47 of the 76 Graduates from Class 1/65 (62%) served in Vietnam (the overall OTU class average was 20%). Gordon Sharp and Kerry Rinkin would not make it home. John O'Halloran did!



John was interviewed for an AWM Feature Video – 'In Their Words'.

John talks about being young and fearless (read inexperienced) and how a platoon must work together. In the video a couple of photos pop up. The first photo shows Mick Birchell, a long-time Tamworth friend of John. The next shows six 'Tamworth Boys' about to head off to this place called Vietnam. Most had never heard of it before being Called-up!

The boys were: Mick Birchell, a Nasho gunner in John's Platoon (KIA 17 February 1967 on Op Bribie), Bruce Kesterton (another Nasho) – wounded in action twice including once on Op Bribie, Cec Bayliss (Nasho) – bitten by a snake and became quite ill, Gordon Sharp (Nasho, KIA 18 August 1966 in the Battle of Long Tan), Stew Belford (the only Reg) and JP O'Halloran (Nasho) – awarded the MID on Op Bribie. The video is definitely worth a look!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXkLvC4BJ5g&feature=youtu.be>

Antony William (Tony) Larnach-Jones (Alistair Pope (4/66)

Tony Larnach-Jones was born in Paddington, NSW on 17 June 1938. He graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in December 1959 and allocated to Royal Australian Armoured Corps. He served a total of 20 years in the Australian Regular Army with postings throughout Australia and overseas in Malaya, Vietnam and Europe. He served in Tank & Cavalry regiments and Instructional and Staff appointments. Tony was a DS (Armour) at OTU in 1966/67. On resigning from the ARA he then served in the Army Reserve as CO 10 Medium Regiment, Geelong, and Chief Instructor, OCTU Melbourne.

After leaving the Army, he became involved in the arts as the director of an art gallery in Geelong and Melbourne. In 1984 he ceased self-employment to become the executive director of a research institute. After that in 1988 he entered the property industry mainly specializing in property leasing. Some appointments were: Executive Director -Vic, Building Owners & Managers Assn., LJ Hooker Vic. Director of Leasing – Commercial & Retail, National Property Director – Myer Grace Bros - 72 department stores, Director of a property consultancy – to David Jones (7 years), AMP, Macquarie Bank (Country Wide), Stockland and Ernst & Young (5 years).

Part time lecturer UTS in Property Management & Leases (2007 – 2013).

Tony married Mary O'Duffy in April 1965. They were divorced in June 1999. Tony has 5 children and 3 grandchildren and now lives in Sydney.

Tony is not a descendant of a Boer War veteran but is the great grandson of a Boxer Rebellion veteran. In January 2008 he was invited to become the chairman of the NSW Committee of the National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. He is now the Honorary Secretary of that Association.

In the Australia Day Awards 2019 **Tony was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)** in the General Division of the Order of Australia for service to community history.

BOOK REVIEWS

Australia's Vietnam: Myth vs History or Tears and cake with Vietnam War nashos By Mark Dapin 23 March 2019. Interviewing war veterans brought a son closer to his Nasho dad – and gave a better insight into those sent to fight. Part of an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on Mark's new book follows.

The Vietnam War is finally over for me. Not that I ever fought in Vietnam – I'm too young, too British and too left-wing – but I've written a history book, a novel and a PhD thesis about National Service, Australia and Vietnam. For this I've spent six years immersed in war stories, and I sometimes wonder if those years have been worth the pain. Because they were painful: not in the tramping-through-the-jungle sense, of course; not in the stepping-on-a-mine sense; not in the going-home-with-arm-blown-off-and-your-best-friend's-body-in-a-coffin sense. But in the mildly troublesome, if-that's-all-you've-got-to-complain-about-I'm-going-to-turn-up-the-telly sense. It was painful in the writer's sense, too. But I'll get back to that.

I didn't grow up in Australia. My dad, Gerry Dapin, was a National Serviceman in the British Army between 1949 and 1951. When I was a boy, he would tell me bedtime stories about his days as a cheery, diffident conscript. He died when I was relatively young, and the few memories he'd shared with me became unspeakably precious. After his funeral, I visited his second wife, and she gave me his hollow, inscrutable Service Record and a photo I had not seen of the grinning young soldier who would grow up to be my father. I asked her why my dad had enjoyed the army, why he liked being told what to do. "Because your father didn't know what to do," she offered.

My dad was an orphaned, illiterate factory worker by the time he was conscripted at the age of 18. He was posted to a logistical unit, where Instructors taught him how to drive a truck. During the Korean War, he was stationed in Nottingham and, briefly, Germany – although other wretched British conscripts were sent to fight in Korea. My dad was a garrulous tee-totaller, a politically conservative English Jew, and a mystery to me.

It was National Service that interested me as much as Vietnam. The first Regular Australian soldiers arrived in Vietnam in 1962. The first National Servicemen came in 1966. Australia left Vietnam in 1972, but there were still a few soldiers in the country until the middle of 1973. About 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, including nearly 42,000 Army Personnel. Of the army contingent, 15,381 were National Servicemen, chosen by birthday ballot for two years (later 18 months) of military service. The Department of Veterans' Affairs lists 521 fatal casualties, of whom 201 entered the Army as National Servicemen.

I interviewed about 160 people for my 2014 history book, *The Nashos' War*, the great majority of whom were National Servicemen who went to Vietnam. When I spoke to the veterans I was in dialogue with my dad. After *The Nashos' War*, I began work on *Jewish ANZACs*, a history of Jews in the Australian military that came out in 2017. I found my first Jewish interviewee, David Roubin, by chance, and my next, his younger brother Loris, through David. The elder Roubin reminded me of my dad. He even looked a bit like him and had served in the Ordnance Corps. David (unlike my dad) was a National Service officer, a Officer Training Unit Scheyville graduate from the first intake, who'd signed up with the Regular Army and made the military his life, eventually retiring as a Major in 1989.

From the beginning, I was interested in soldiers who did not fight, men who were stationed with the 1st Australian Logistic Support Group in Vietnam's Vung Tàu and who essentially performed civilian jobs in a garrison town in a war zone. In their lives, I could imagine my dad.

The remainder of the article can be read on:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/tears-and-cake-with-vietnam-war-nashos-20190319-p515f4.html>

Mark's new book, *Australia's Vietnam: Myth vs History* by Mark Dapin (NewSouth Books, \$33), is now out.

Vietnam, An Epic Tragedy 1945-1975 (An American biased book) Lawrence Applebee (3/66)

I've just finished reading Max Hastings seminal work. Of all those that I have read over the years, this work is by far the best. The conflict effected us all, in one way or another. I'd recommend it to all the 'Brothers' who might want to try to understand the international geo-politics of the era.

From the book cover: Vietnam became the Western world's most divisive modern conflict, precipitating a battlefield humiliation for France in 1954, then a vastly greater one for the United States in 1975. Max Hastings spent three years interviewing scores of participants on both sides, as well as researching a multitude of American and Vietnamese documents and memoirs, to create an epic narrative of an epic struggle. He portrays the set pieces of Dien Bien Phu, the 1968 Tet Offensive, the air blitz of North Vietnam, and much less familiar miniatures such as the bloodbath at Daido – where a US Marine battalion was almost wiped out – together with extraordinary recollections of Ho Chi Minh's warriors. Here are the vivid realities of strife amid jungle and paddies that killed two million people.

Many writers treat the war as a US tragedy, yet Hastings see it overwhelmingly as one for the Vietnamese people, of whom forty died for every American. US blunders and atrocities were matched by those committed by their enemies. While all the world has seen the image of a screaming, naked girl seared by napalm, it forgets countless eviscerations, beheadings and murders carried out by the communists. The people of both former Vietnams paid a bitter price for the Northerners' victory in privation and oppression. Here we are given testimony from Vietcong guerrillas, Southern paratroopers, Saigon bar girls and Hanoi students alongside that of infantrymen from South Dakota, Marines from North Carolina and Huey pilots from Arkansas.

No past volume has blended a political and military narrative of the entire conflict with heart-stopping personal experiences in the fashion that Hastings' readers know so well. The author suggests that neither side deserved to win this struggle and presents many lessons for the twenty-first century about the misuse of military might to confront intractable political and cultural challenges. In Vietnam, Hastings marshals testimony from warlords and peasants, statesmen and soldiers, to create an extraordinary record.

The Bulldog Track by Peter Phelps Alistair Pope (4/66)

Published 2018 by Hachette Australia, 276 pages

Prologue This is very much a family story spun around a major incident in the lives of those involved during the opening stages of WW2 in PNG. Therefore, it has an 'up close and personal' description of one family's life in the 1930's and at the other end of the scale it takes in how the Japanese invasion of New Guinea affected those living there at that time. The author describes the book as 'A grandson's story of an ordinary man's war and survival on the other Kokoda trail'. All very true, so it makes for light reading, but it should not be read as a historical account of the war.

Australian Family Life One of the themes that flips backwards and forwards throughout the book is the story of life for families in Sydney. Peter inserts the thoughts and attitudes of the civilians in Sydney to fill in the blanks, so some poetic license appears to creep in in places. When writing a family history this is not unusual. However, some 'facts' appear to be stretched. For instance, he mentions that his grandfather tried to enlist in the AIF in 1914 at the age of sixteen (Page 2 with his photograph in uniform on Page 166). However, 'his mother, Margaret, hauled him out of the recruiting office ...' – and quite right too! I have no quarrel with the veracity of this story, nor with those who chose not to enlist in the all-volunteer AIF in WWI, but if this happened as stated in 1914, then in 1916 he would not have needed parental consent for a second attempt to enlist. So, nice photo of grandad in a soldier's uniform, but he was never a soldier.

There are other impressions and quoted opinions of people expecting the Japanese to attack Sydney (which they did in a minor way), of the fear and the effect the war was having on the civilian populations. Good, light reading for the most part.

New Guinea and the Bulldog Track I have never traversed the Bulldog Track, but I have walked Kokoda, so although I cannot compare the two it seems gratuitous to add that the Bulldog Track was '*Longer, higher, steeper, wetter, colder and rougher than Kokoda.*' Curiously, the quote is attributed to Peter Ryan in the book (though I am fairly certain Ryan said no such thing) and then to Osmar White in the podcast I listened to. There is no attribution in Wikipedia. This is a game of 'mine is bigger than yours' I played in school, but rarely since. Anyway, who judged the Bulldog to be the more challenging? One was a track-men just traversed and the other was one many hundreds of men fought and died on in real battles along the Kokoda Track.

There is another small annoyance on Page 18 as Peter describes the discomfort of the furnace-like working conditions in Bulolo in which most days were muggy with a temperature range of 20°C - 30°C. Peter unhelpfully explains this is 86°F - 104°F. Actually, it is a very comfortable 68°F - 86°F, and quite idyllic. When the Japanese invaded and captured the coastal towns it was recognised that Bulolo and Wau were probable targets for occupation. Poor planning by the Government stranded over 200 miners when their transport planes were destroyed on the ground. The only way out was to cross the central mountain chain to the southern coast. Firstly, those volunteers fit enough were enlisted into the NGVR. They would remain behind and fight the Japanese, while the rest would make their way out via the Bulldog Track. Thus, it was the unwell and unfit who would make the arduous crossing.

Setting off in groups of twenty or so, they were led by their admirable native guides and carriers. They paced themselves, but as all tracks in PNG are hard and unforgiving the norm was that they were soon a permanent state of semi-exhaustion. One very sick man in their party died and was buried along the way. Although written in the style of a diary (with some short scraps included that were written at the time) it is hard to determine exactly how long the crossing took as dates are rare. As best I can determine the crossing took between 17-21 days. Once on the flatlands they then had to trek about 60 miles (96km) along the coast by canoe and walking. The author estimates their total journey took almost three months. This is quite possible as it appears they spent some time resting and recovering at a Missionary outpost on Yule Island.

Epilogue Tom Phelps made it home to Sydney after having been 'missing' for five months and got on with his life. It was certainly an epic journey and Peter Phelps is a good storyteller who has produced an enjoyable 'holiday' read that makes the most of their escape. After they were bombed at Bulolo the trek across the Bulldog Track involved no hair-raising close calls and no heroic actions. Just the hard slog of crossing inhospitable terrain that had been rarely seen by any Europeans before. The real heroes were those in the NGVR and the Brigades who spent the next two years fighting and defeating the Japanese invaders.

Small Wars, Far Away Places: The Genesis of the Modern World 1945-65

While we waited in the wings ... Rob Youl (2/65)

Small Wars, Far Away Places: The Genesis of the Modern World 1945-65. Michael Burleigh (Macmillan, London 2013). This readable, insightful book covers the period when Scheyville Cadets grew up: from when gruelling World War II ended and Dad came home, to the last phase of National Service in Australia, starting mid 1965 – our own induction to global affairs.

Burleigh covers Cold War hotspots, stirring childhood memories of tabloid press articles, radio bulletins, comics, newsreels (I watched Dien Bien Phu fall via Movietone), black and white television coverage, and, I reckon, seeing men returning from Korea.

Many citizens doubtless expected, prayed even, that World War II's conclusion signaled a long period of peace, especially with an active UN. The victors, large and small, would be rewarded. **Instead two bloody awful decades ensued, even tougher for civilians than combatants.** That Europe's colonies were anachronisms caused much of the conflict. The fearful further evolution of communism contributed hugely, and the American dilemma: the US had shed its colonial shackles in 1776, and thereby stood for independence (ignore its activities in Latin America and the Philippines), but its global business interests,

loyalties to France, Britain and Nationalist China, and plans for European reconstruction and stability also counted. In the background: nuclear bombs.

The first chapters cover complex political and military events in Japan, China, Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaya and Indonesia in the late 1940s. Ho Chi Minh, Chin Peng in Malaya and the Huks on Luzon deserved better, since they had fought the Japanese, as had the Chinese Communists, now under Mao. Burleigh covers dexterously the Korean, Malayan, Vietnam (French) and Philippines campaigns and Indonesian independence. The US had some success in the Philippines via innovative Colonel Edwin Lansdale and seasoned ambassador, Admiral Spruance. Malaya, stabilised under Gurney then Templer, was also important, not least as the baptism-under-fire of many early Scheyville NCO DS. China's 1958 shelling of the Taiwanese island, Quemoy, is briefly recounted.

Unsurprisingly, the Middle East was also fermenting, with Israel emerging, complex politics in Iraq and Iran (a 1953 CIA-MI6-led coup), a shaky monarchy in Egypt (farewell Farouk!) and colony-wide rebellion against France in Algeria – the bloodiest war of all? Then came Hungary, Suez (Britain, France and Israel vs Egypt) and Pakistan vs India in 1947-48, China's incursion into Himalayan India in 1962, and 1965's brief Indo-Pak skirmish across the Rann of Kutch.

By 1960, with Macmillan's 'winds of change' wafting over Africa, the colonial continent, France was creating its network of Francophone nations, although Sekou Touré went it alone in Guinea. Britain had fostered independent states such as Nigeria and Ghana in West Africa. However, East Africa, home of prosperous and romanticised British settlers, saw the Mau Mau emerge in Kenya, trouble in parts of the Central African Federation – eventually Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, and a quick handover and subsequent anarchy in the vast and harshly exploited Belgian Congo. Elsewhere Cuba was a challenge on America's doorstep and later abroad through its African legions, and the Kennedy administration was wrestling with South Vietnam.

Burleigh includes interesting detail and pithy comments on events and personalities in these troubled countries and covers parallel tensions around Europe that frequently claimed greater attention. Finally, there were astounding political currents in Moscow, Washington, London and Paris.

Whilst the book ends in 1965 – roughly when LBJ pledged all-out US support for South Vietnam – the wars did not. Concurrently, our generation of Nashos comes onstage.

Incidentally, who else employed conscripts? One French acquaintance's CV includes two years as a conscript gunner in Algeria; another was in Tjibouti. The USA had its draft, which Presidents Clinton, Bush and Trump all evaded. In 1987 on Leninakan railway station I saw Armenian youths en route to their stint in the USSR forces dressed in rags, because the class senior to you traditionally stole everything you had. Now, that's *bastardisation*! From 1947-63 two million British National Servicemen wore the colours, mostly khaki, across the globe. Some had officer training; many fought in Korea, Egypt, Cyprus, Malaya, Kenya, and possibly Palestine, Jordan, Aden, Sarawak and Indonesia. They would have unloaded Berlin Airlift coal, and absorbed radiation on Christmas Island. Some were in the SAS. Killed on active service: 395 men. (Apparently, current conscripting nations are: South Korea, North Korea, Eritrea, Switzerland, Brazil, Israel – three years for men, two for women, Syria, Georgia, Lithuania, Sweden, Turkey, Cyprus, Iran, Cuba, Ukraine, Greece, Norway, Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Burma, Egypt, Russia, Thailand and Guinea-Bissau. Google trawl – probably incomplete.)

And, the Portuguese were still to fully de-colonise. (Burleigh wrote this up but left it out.) India had marched into Goa in 1961; from then to 1999, Portugal gradually departed Cape Verde, Sao Tomé, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Mozambique, East Timor, all in the early 1970s and sometimes painfully, with Macau reverting to China in 1999. These processes, plus apartheid, dragged in South Africa, which had a conscript army, nearby parts of Zambia and what became Namibia. Don't forget the Falklands! What a tragic litany! A sequel is surely in mind for this veteran historian, whose classic work on Hitler is widely accessible.

Christmas Books: Ross Robbins (2/69) says that he was fortunate to be gifted a number of books last Christmas that may be of interest to others. Perhaps you were too?

I hope you won't think me presumptive, however, for all of us who demonstrate an active interest in such matters, I also hope you may find these books edifying.

Ross' books are:

"John Curtin's War", volumes I & II, by John Edwards. A very revealing treatise of Curtin's deep involvement in the lead up to and the subsequent conduct of events during WW II. As one may otherwise expect, It's not a political homily. It does, however, reveal the parlous state of Australia, as a nation, prior to America's intervention in 1942. It also reveals the loneliness that often accompanies leadership.

"Arnhem" by Antony Beevor. Not yet read, however, going by the quality and manner of this man's prose exhibited in his earlier books such as *"Stalingrad"*, *"Berlin – The Downfall 1944"*, *"D-Day: The Battle for Normandy"*, it should rate as highly. I particularly like the way in which Beevor reveals the progress of these major battles with a mix of facts concerning the tactical situation along with the personal revelations of the soldier on the ground. Fascinating!

EMAILS TO THE EDITOR (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

Peter Sheedy (1/65) was having trouble logging in to the OTU Website to pay his membership. Membership Officer Graeme Chester (2/67) and Editor Neil Leckie (3/68) were able to provide some reasons why:

Peter's Regimental Number registered in our OTU database was the number as shown in the 'Stud Book' listing of graduates and that is the number used when entering graduate's details on the website. Peter was one of 34 OTU Graduates who 'signed on' in Classes 1 & 2/65 and 1 & 3/66 and was given a new number! Peter responded:

From: Peter Sheedy (1/65) **Date:** 12 January 2019 **Subject:** Website Log In

The background to the change of number is that Don Stewart and I were serving in Malaya with 4RAR when our 2 years expired. We signed on in Singapore and Brigadier Sandy Pearson was the Commander at the time. His comment was that the Army had no precedent for us and we signed on for a an ARA commission, not a 5 year extension. This could explain the change of number. I am happy for my graduation army number to remain as it is.

Q STORE (Order through the Website)

40th Reunion Badge: \$5 per badge incl P&H (60)

Collar badges: \$5 Plus \$4 P & H (4)

Lapel Badges: \$5 Plus \$4 P&H (4 - more on order)

OTU Ties: \$25 plus \$5 P & H (New stock soon)

The Scheyville Experience DVD \$10 incl P&H (3)

1993 OTU Reunion VHS Tape \$10 incl P&H (1)





OTU ASSOCIATION

2019/20 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Website: www.otu.asn.au

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MAIL TO: Treasurer OTU Association PO Box 540 BLACK ROCK VIC 3193 CONTACT: (03) 9533 1810 rayelder45@gmail.com		Annual Subscription July 2019 to June 2020 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:	
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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 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: Geoff Daly (4/70) 0403 171 478 seagull@bigpond.com
Back-up: Melanie Griffin (Mick Hart's secretary) mgriffin@clearhoare.com.au
07 3230 5253 or Mick Hart mhart@clearhoare.com.au
Monthly Luncheons: 2nd Thursday of the month

NSW: Gary McKay (2/68) 0411 574 019 garymckay@bigpond.com
Monthly Luncheons 3rd Wednesday of the month

ACT: Les Boag (4/68) 0418 210 348 les@boag.biz
Monthly Lunches Bruce Selleck (2/70) 0407 163 108 bselleck@bigpond.net.au

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

Tasmania: Dennis Townsend (2/70) 0419 313 855 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 berjungleeson@bigpond.com
Monthly Lunches, 2nd Wednesday
Brian Cooper 0418 373 874 bctcooper@gmail.com
Annual Dinner 2019 will be 11 October at William Angliss.

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

Quarterly lunches on the first Friday of the month of February, May, August and November at The Sorrento, 158 James Street, Northbridge. Parade time is 1300 hr. Warning-in is required with bookings to be confirmed CofB on the Wednesday before via email to Frank LeFaucheur.

THE BACK PAGES:



March In photo?

It is not known if Classes 1/65 and 2/65 ever had March In photos taken. If they did, no-one has said that they have one! Is this as close as it gets?

Many emails later and we have settled on Doug Cribb (NSW), Bernie Houston (NSW), and David Roubin (Qld) being welcomed by the Commandant Colonel Ian Geddes.

Photo from Mark Dapin's book *Australia's Vietnam: Myth vs History*



John Marsden and Greg Woods along with the more casual Graham Von Hoff and Greg Woods at the Class 2/68 50th Reunion, 2018.



Below: West Australians at play. Busselton/Margaret River Weekend. February 2019.



Does anyone know the history behind this Barometer? It was possibly presented by the three RAAF Airfield Defence Pl Commanders Bleakley, Ellison and Ralph (4/66). It now sits in the Australian Army Museum Duntroon

Presented to
Officer Training Unit
Cadets Mess
By
The First Basic
Officer Course
May '67

The Graduation Parade photo below is also in the Museum at Duntroon.

Does any Class remember this photo?

