



# *The Scheyvillian*

*Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee*

## **OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 3, 2012**

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

**40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE CLOSING OF OTU!  
25 – 28 APRIL 2013, SYDNEY**

**THE OTU  
NATIONAL  
REUNION**



**Go to the website: [www.otu.asn.au](http://www.otu.asn.au)  
and use the link**

**or go to  
[www.otunationalreunion.com](http://www.otunationalreunion.com)**

**and register your attendance!**

Join the ranks of the NSW Chapter on ANZAC Day and make this the biggest ever OTU ANZAC Day March!



### **REUNION ACTIVITIES**

**ANZAC Day March in Sydney  
followed by lunch**

**Class Reunions on Friday**

**Reunion Dinner on Saturday**

**Church Parade & Service at  
Windsor on Sunday**

**Visit to Scheyville on Sunday**

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2012:

|                                 |              |              |                             |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| National Chairman: Frank Miller | 03 9561 3630 | 0401 140 762 | millerfw@netspace.net.au    |
| Deputy Chairman: Brian Cooper   | 03 9879 9485 | 0418 373 874 | bjcooper@bigpond.net.au     |
| Treasurer: Ray Elder            | 03 9533 1810 | 0412 354 170 | rayelder45@gmail.com        |
| Secretary: Bernie Gleeson       | 03 9004 3011 | 0427 601 983 | bandjgleeso@optusnet.com.au |
| Webmaster: Roger Nation         | 03 5241 3441 |              | nation@ncable.net.au        |
| Quartermaster: Wayne Bruce      | 03 9803 2094 | 0408 498 294 | waynebruce@stopline.com.au  |
| Membership: Graeme Chester      | 03 5962 5839 | 0412 165 420 | graeheath1@bigpond.com      |
| Memorabilia: Robin Hunt         | 03 9827 8073 | 0429 827 807 | rvmh@bigpond.net.au         |
| Scheyvillian: Neil Leckie       | 03 5333 1383 | 0400 573 802 | nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au   |

Large Photographs – if a lot please send on disc:

Individual photos - nkaleckie@hotmail.com

Committee Members:

|                   |              |              |                          |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Peter Don         | 03 9882 3786 | 0407 295 718 | peterdon@bigpond.net     |
| Brian Scantlebury | 03 5977 0279 | 0418 239 651 | brian@scantlebury.com.au |

**Postal Address: OTU National Committee, Box 207, Geelong, Vic, 3220**

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

## SCHEYVILLIAN DISTRIBUTION:

For all members who have a current email registered with the Secretary, a universal email is sent out when The Scheyvillian is posted on the Website. Members can read The Scheyvillian from the Website or download their own PDF copy. For those who have requested them, a hard-copy of The Scheyvillian is posted out. If you haven't already done so, please advise the Editor if you would like a hard copy.

## SCHEYVILLE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION – STILL GROWING:

The 'Scheyville Collection' of photographs continues to grow. But there are still some gaps. Recent photos received numerous photos from Classes 1/67 and 2/67 (thanks to John Neervort) and two March-in photographs from Class 4/68 from John Taylor.

**There are still no photographs of Portsea overflow classes.**

Scheyvillians are encouraged to look at the *photo galleries on the Website* and see what we have and what you might have to compliment what is there. If you have photos, please send them either in 'jpeg' scan format or send the hard copies if you do not have scanning capability. Please send the photographs 'Registered Post' to Neil Leckie at: 14 Doodts Road, Black Hill, Vic, 3350.

If you require your own copy of the 'Scheyville Collection' CD, please contact the Editor. Cost is \$10 posted, with a small profit going to our Youth Leadership Fund. Each copy of the collection is unique as it is 'burnt' with the latest additions on an 'as required' basis. **Please keep the photos coming!**

## MEMORABILIA – MORE RECEIVED, BUT MORE STILL NEEDED:

Many thanks to those members who have recently sent in their Class information! Like with the photographs, the collections continues to grow, but is still not complete. For Class reunions there has been a lot of information gathered, such as a CD of the OTU Regt marches, DVDs and even booklets produced for, or after, the event. Could the co-ordinators of Class Reunions or other events please ensure that copies of these items are sent to the Editor, The Scheyvillian, so that this memorabilia can be held centrally for the Association? Much of this material makes for good reading and can be used in future issues of The Scheyvillian.

We still need some copies (original or photocopy) of the Church Parade Brochure (CPB), the Graduation Parade Brochure (GPB), the Graduates Booklet (GB) – however, indications are that the GBs were not produced for 1965 and 1966 - and Invitations to any Church Parade (CPI) and Graduation Parade (GPI).

**Currently the Editor needs a copy of the following:**

|          |               |                       |          |
|----------|---------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 2/65 GPB | 3/67 CPB & GB | 4/67 GB - A good copy | 1/68 GPB |
| 4/68 CPB | 4/70 All      | 3/71 GPB              | 3/72 CPB |

### Registrations:

To date almost 500 people registered to attend one, or more, of the reunion events. It is now just 5 months until the National Reunion and, although the association has been receiving a steady flow of registrations for one or more events, the National Reunion Committee still needs to get your registrations so that they can confirm venues, caterers, logistics, etc. Whilst they do realise that some people need to organise their affairs and will leave their registrations until the last minute; she'll be right, mate! is really not an option. Please be warned – there will be cut-off dates for both registration and payment – and the Committee does not want anyone to miss out.

### Class Reunions:

Some classes have few registrations with three classes still without a single registration. Each class has at least one Class Co-ordinators (some have two). Individuals need to contact their Co-ordinator and ensure that your class has its own Friday function.

### Payment for functions:

The National Committee has allocated funds to support this reunion and this will support such activities as the buses to Windsor on Sunday 28 April. However, most functions need to be self-funded. Only 56% of those who have registered for activities have paid! Payment must be made as soon as possible!

Send your payments to the Treasurer Geoff Bennett (details on the Reunion Website) asap.

As with all 'Direct Deposit' payments, you must ensure that you include your details in the deposit; this will save the Treasurer a lot of time in trying to track down who the payments are from. (Note: In the past month, Geoff has had to track down a cash deposit made at a bank branch, with no identification at all; a Direct Deposit in which the only identification appeared to be a postcode; and two deposits from people who had not even registered!)

### ANZAC Day Activities:

There has been a great response to registrations to march in the ANZAC March and attend the ANZAC Luncheon - so good, in fact, that your Committee has had to find an alternate location to the Metro Hotel City Central. John Bushell has managed to secure The Grace Hotel and expand the capacity out to 250 persons. This gives us a total capacity of 370 persons – there are still only 29 places left for the ANZAC Luncheon. As indicated in the last newsletter, when we have reached our capacity of 370 (over two venues) we will cease registrations. However, this will be on a first registered (and paid up basis) – so, if you want your classmates to join you – get them to register and pay up – asap.

### Accommodation:

The accommodation venues arranged by the committee have not received many bookings from OTU-A members. If you haven't already organised bookings you need to do so quickly as accommodation in Sydney, on ANZAC week is at a premium - so get in quickly!

**The Final Parade:** Class 4/72, 18 April 1973.



Royal Australian Artillery Band.  
Reviewing Officer:  
Lt Gen Brogan (CGS)  
Guest: D/PM & Min for Defence  
Hon Lance Barnard.  
Commandant:  
Col Paddy Outridge.  
RSM:  
WO2 R. Boyce.

Question: Which Officer Cadet ,  
who graduated as a 2Lt with  
Class 4/72, already held the rank  
of Lt with the CMF?

Answer: John Robert Weiland

## CLASS COORDINATORS

| Class | Grads | Coordinator      | email                                                                                      |
|-------|-------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/65  | 76    | David Webster    | <a href="mailto:dwebster45@bigpond.com">dwebster45@bigpond.com</a>                         |
| 2/65  | 41    | Lance Parker     | <a href="mailto:lanpar@tpg.com.au">lanpar@tpg.com.au</a>                                   |
|       |       | Rob Youl         | <a href="mailto:robmyoul@gmail.com">robmyoul@gmail.com</a>                                 |
| 1/66  | 79    | Merv Michell     | <a href="mailto:mervynmichell@hotmail.com">mervynmichell@hotmail.com</a>                   |
| 2/66  | 54    | Geoff Bennett    | <a href="mailto:geoffbennett@optusnet.com.au">geoffbennett@optusnet.com.au</a>             |
|       |       | Tom Geczy        | <a href="mailto:tom.geczy@bigpond.com">tom.geczy@bigpond.com</a>                           |
| 3/66  | 56    | Peter Whitelaw   | <a href="mailto:peter@peterwhitelaw.com.au">peter@peterwhitelaw.com.au</a>                 |
| 4/66  | 42    | Noel Osborne     | <a href="mailto:neolfosborne@gmail.com">neolfosborne@gmail.com</a>                         |
| 1/67  | 97    | David Longhurst  | <a href="mailto:davidlonghurst@connexus.net.au">davidlonghurst@connexus.net.au</a>         |
| 2/67  | 65    | John Neervoort   | <a href="mailto:jbneervoort@yahoo.com.au">jbneervoort@yahoo.com.au</a>                     |
| 3/67  | 50    | Ross Tucker      | <a href="mailto:rosstucker@bigpond.com">rosstucker@bigpond.com</a>                         |
| 4/67  | 43    | Gerry Garard     | <a href="mailto:garardg@bigpond.com.au">garardg@bigpond.com.au</a>                         |
| 1/68  | 92    | Peter Clisdell   | <a href="mailto:prc@peterandhelen.com.au">prc@peterandhelen.com.au</a>                     |
|       |       | Chris Jocelyne   | <a href="mailto:info@apro.com.au">info@apro.com.au</a>                                     |
| 2/68  | 64    | Wal Hall         | <a href="mailto:walhall@ozemail.com.au">walhall@ozemail.com.au</a>                         |
|       |       | Neil Curnow      | <a href="mailto:Neil.Curnow@pelion.net.au">Neil.Curnow@pelion.net.au</a>                   |
| 3/68  | 64    | Paul Meldrum     | <a href="mailto:lizmeldrum@hotmail.com">lizmeldrum@hotmail.com</a>                         |
| 4/68  | 36    | Les Boag         | <a href="mailto:les@boag.biz">les@boag.biz</a>                                             |
| 1/69  | 76    | Richard Whitaker | <a href="mailto:weathersmart@optusnet.com.au">weathersmart@optusnet.com.au</a>             |
| 2/69  | 51    | Billy Watson     | <a href="mailto:bill1223@gmail.com">bill1223@gmail.com</a>                                 |
| 3/69  | 57    | Gary Vial        | <a href="mailto:garyvial@ctmc.com.au">garyvial@ctmc.com.au</a>                             |
| 4/69  | 32    | John Bushell     | <a href="mailto:Shoehorn57@live.com.au">Shoehorn57@live.com.au</a>                         |
| 1/70  | 92    | Ray Andrews      | <a href="mailto:Ray@AndrewsGroup.com.au">Ray@AndrewsGroup.com.au</a>                       |
| 2/70  | 74    | Wayne Bruce      | <a href="mailto:waynebruce@stopline.com.au">waynebruce@stopline.com.au</a>                 |
| 3/70  | 51    | Geoff Davis      | <a href="mailto:gbmld@powerup.com.au">gbmld@powerup.com.au</a>                             |
| 4/70  | 35    | Owen Williamson  | <a href="mailto:olwilliamson@bigpond.com">olwilliamson@bigpond.com</a>                     |
| 1/71  | 104   | Geoff Colless    | <a href="mailto:geoffrey_colless@tpg.com.au">geoffrey_colless@tpg.com.au</a>               |
| 2/71  | 62    | Peter Hateley    | <a href="mailto:pgh@foresightfinancialgroup.com.au">pgh@foresightfinancialgroup.com.au</a> |
|       |       | Paul Ford        | <a href="mailto:ford3nc@bigpond.com">ford3nc@bigpond.com</a>                               |
| 3/71  | 31    | David Nomchong   | <a href="mailto:nomchong@ozemail.com.au">nomchong@ozemail.com.au</a>                       |
|       |       | Geoff Houghton   | <a href="mailto:geoff@ghtransport.com.au">geoff@ghtransport.com.au</a>                     |
| 4/71  | 57    | Neil Turner      | <a href="mailto:neilturner@idx.com.au">neilturner@idx.com.au</a>                           |
| 1/72  | 82    | Stan Beaman      | <a href="mailto:lee_beaman@barker.nsw.edu.au">lee_beaman@barker.nsw.edu.au</a>             |
| 2/72  | 77    | Al Hirschell     | <a href="mailto:w.martin@bigpond.com.au">w.martin@bigpond.com.au</a>                       |
|       |       | Paul Irving      | <a href="mailto:paul.kaaren@gmail.com">paul.kaaren@gmail.com</a>                           |
| 3/72  | 39    | John Murray      | <a href="mailto:murray.johnwilliam@gmail.com">murray.johnwilliam@gmail.com</a>             |
|       |       | Dick Adams       | <a href="mailto:dickadams@ozemail.com.au">dickadams@ozemail.com.au</a>                     |
| 4/72  | 23    | Wayne Broun      | <a href="mailto:aapswayne@bigpond.com">aapswayne@bigpond.com</a>                           |
| B1/67 | 10    |                  |                                                                                            |
| O1/72 | 26    | Paul Cotter      | <a href="mailto:cotterfamily@aapt.net.au">cotterfamily@aapt.net.au</a>                     |
| O2/72 | 23    |                  |                                                                                            |
| O1/73 | 19    | Peter Feeney     | <a href="mailto:peter@toptalentasia.com">peter@toptalentasia.com</a>                       |

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Class Reunions

While there are still four months until the reunion, classes need to have the own reunions sorted out asap with the details to be placed on the reunion website and advised to The Editor, The Scheyvillian by the end of February for inclusion in The Scheyvillian 1 of 2013. As of cut-off for The Scheyvillian 3 of 2012 Class Reunion information is:

### 1/65 (Co-ordinator David Webster)

Still gathering names and location for a class reunion!

### 2/65 (Co-ordinator Lance Parker)

Insufficient responses at this time to warrant a separate class activity. May combine with 1/65.

**3/66 (Co-ordinator Peter Whitelaw)**

Class 3/66 are having a class luncheon at 12 noon Friday 26th April at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Coogee Beach.

**Bookings:** Contact Peter on [peter@peterwhitelaw.com.au](mailto:peter@peterwhitelaw.com.au)

**2/68 (Co-ordinator Wall Hall)**

Class 2/68 are having a class luncheon on Friday 26 April from 11.00 am – 3.00 pm on the Charter Boat Emerald Star on Sydney Harbour. Cost is \$35 per head for a BBQ lunch and dessert. Buy your drinks on board.

See [www.emeraldstar.com.au](http://www.emeraldstar.com.au)

**3/68 (Co-ordinator Paul Meldrum)**

Small numbers attending. As some are repeats they may join in with 2/68.

**1/69 (Co-ordinator Dick Whitaker)**

Class 1/69 are having a class luncheon at 12 noon Friday 26th April at noon at the Summit Revolving Restaurant in Market Street Sydney. So far 13 members have accepted and with partners that makes a lunch for 26. Hopefully some more bookings will come in before the day. \$60 per head for a two-course meal.

**Bookings:** Richard Whitaker [\[weathersmart@optusnet.com.au\]](mailto:weathersmart@optusnet.com.au)

**2/69 (Co-ordinator Bill Watson)**

Class 3/69 are having a class dinner on Friday evening 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at the Brisbane/Adelaide Rooms (“Parkside”) – Menzies Hotel; 3 Course Gala Dinner - \$109 pp. (includes 4 hours of beverages);

**Bookings:** Bill Watson [bill1223@gmail.com](mailto:bill1223@gmail.com)

**3/69 (Co-ordinator Gary Vial)**

Class 3/69 are having a class luncheon on the Captain Cook lunch cruise on Friday 26 April from 1200 (noon) until 1400 hours. This will be followed by a dinner at Caminetto Restaurant in the Rocks from 1900 hours. **Bookings:** Gary Vial [garyvial@ctmc.com.au](mailto:garyvial@ctmc.com.au)

**4/69 (Co-ordinator John Bushell)**

Class 4/69 are having a class luncheon on Friday 26 April at 12.00 (noon) for 12.30 pm at Dedes Restaurant, Sydney Rowers Club, Abbotsford. **Bookings:** John (Booka) Bushell [shoehorn57@live.com.au](mailto:shoehorn57@live.com.au)

**1/70 (Co-ordinator Ray Andrews with assistance from ‘Abbey’)**

Class 1/70 are having a class luncheon at the stunning Botanical Gardens Restaurant, almost dead centre within the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney city, behind the Sydney Opera House on Friday 26 April 2013 at 12.00 pm (noon) for 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm. The dress code is smart casual. A friendly, highly informal get-together over a few beverages and some good tucker for three hours. No speeches, skits or Scheyville songs planned at all.



The nearest railway stations are Circular Quay and Martin Place, with St James not that far away either. Partners are most welcome, with more than 50% of attendees at present bringing their +1.

**Bookings:** RSVP now via email to [ray@andrewsgroup.com.au](mailto:ray@andrewsgroup.com.au), and transfer payment to the bank account below as soon as possible for booking purposes, but no later than Friday 8 March 2013. Cost is \$55.00 per person for a two-course lunch.

Acc Name: Muir Walter Fitzgerald BSB: 014 240 Acc No: 280785163

**2/70 (Co-ordinator Wayne Bruce)**

Class 2/70 Class propose to hold a luncheon on Friday 26 April in or around North Sydney (location to be determined). Currently 56 of 75 persons have been located. Any individuals who have not been contacted should contact Wayne Bruce.

**Bookings:** [waynebruce@stoplevel.com.au](mailto:waynebruce@stoplevel.com.au) or 0408 498 294

**4/70 (Co-ordinator Owen Williamson)**

Please contact Owen Williamson on 0407 462 341 or email [olwilliamson@bigpond.com](mailto:olwilliamson@bigpond.com) for Class 4/70 Class Reunion venue and details for the Sydney 2013 National Reunion.

### **1/72 (Co-ordinators Stan Beaman & Tony Fullagar**

Class 1/72 are having a class dinner on Friday 26 April at 6.00 pm at the ISC Room, Royal Automobile Club of Australia, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

**Bookings:** Stan Beaman [Lee\\_Beaman@barker.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Lee_Beaman@barker.nsw.edu.au) or Tony Fullagar [Ljf1@primus.com.au](mailto:Ljf1@primus.com.au)

### **3/72 (Co-ordinator Dick Adams)** Details of the function are on the National Reunion website.

Class 3/72 are having a class reunion lunch on Friday 26 April at the *Lord Nelson Hotel*, 19 Kent Street, The Rocks at 12 pm (noon) for 12.30pm. Members to choose and pay from the menu.

At the conclusion of lunch, for those who are interested, the group will move on to the *Hero of Waterloo Hotel*, 81 Lower Fort Street, The Rocks (about 2.30pm) – for a cleansing ale and a tour of the cellars.

From *The Hero*, for those who are interested (and still standing), the group will move on to the Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre, 110 Cumberland Street, The Rocks.

**Bookings:** Dick Adams [\[dickadams@ozemail.com.au\]](mailto:dickadams@ozemail.com.au) , John Murray [murray.johnwilliam@gmail.com](mailto:murray.johnwilliam@gmail.com) or David Morgan [davidmorgan26@gmail.com](mailto:davidmorgan26@gmail.com)

### **4/72 NTR yet! Contact:** Wayne Broun [aapswayne@bigpond.com](mailto:aapswayne@bigpond.com)

### **Special Function during the Reunion** from Dick Whitaker (1/69):

At 10.30am on Wednesday 24 April 2013 in the Community Hall on St Ives Village Green, Ku Ring Gai Council will present a talk in commemoration of ANZAC Day. Scheyvillian David Sabben (1/65), one of the three Platoon Commanders at the battle of Long Tan will give a talk, supported by his PowerPoint presentation, on the battle – considered to be the largest battle involving Australia in the Vietnam War. David will be in Sydney for a reunion of the Officer Training Unit.

David's presentation will be preceded by the 2012 60 Minutes documentary, which is available on Youtube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uODWvj8aP-Q>

### **FROM THE WEBMASTER:** (Roger Nation, 3/68)

The OTU Website [www.otu.asn.au](http://www.otu.asn.au) has a new link. On the Homepage you will see the box **2013 National Reunion**. Click on 'Click Here' and the Reunion Homepage opens. All the details for the 2013 Reunion, including registration for individual events and contact details, can be accessed from this page.

The website also has a link to the Zenfolio 1 OTU Gallery, which contains the 'OTU Collection' of photographs. The 'collection' is regularly updated. If you have been holding off sending photos send them to The Editor now so that they can be available for the 2013 Reunion!

### **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS** (Membership Officer: Graeme Chester, 2/67)

As at the end of November, our FY12/13 membership position was:

|                                     |      |      |     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|-----|------|
| Number of Graduates                 | 1880 |      |     |      |
| Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff) | 1589 |      |     |      |
| Number Financial                    |      | 419  |     |      |
| Number Honorary                     |      | 15   |     |      |
| Widows                              |      | 7    |     |      |
| Number Deceased                     |      |      | 104 |      |
| Number Unfinancial (Not Renewed)    |      |      | 892 |      |
| Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact) |      |      | 152 |      |
| Totals                              | 1880 | 1589 | 441 | 1148 |

Of the names on database 27.8% are financial/honorary/widows.

Of the names on the database 6.5% are deceased.

Of the names on the database 56.1% are unfinancial (not renewed)  
Of the names on the database 9.6% are unfinancial (do not contact)

So far this FY the response to our membership renewal process has been tracking at about the same rate as last year. We were hopeful, with the 2013 Reunion beckoning, that numbers would improve significantly to ensure a successful event. For those still getting around to coming on board for this year, a Membership Renewal form is attached to this newsletter or, you could renew using PayPal via the website. Renewing by 31 December 2012 would be helpful.

Regarding the website, did you know you can update your personal profile in our database? Simply, login and when your profile page appears, click on the 'Edit' button (top left of page) and amend your profile. 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 help your Class Coordinators to track you down for your class activities during the 2013 National Reunion and for other class activities.

### **MORE ON MEMORABILIA**

For sometime the Editor has been requesting Scheyvillians to provide memorabilia to assist in the production of a history of OTU. Items such as the Church Parade and Graduation Parade Brochures and the Graduate's Book can provide a lot of information that needs to be recorded. Information that can be provided from these documents, but is not yet recorded, is such as who received the awards in each course. The recipients of the Sword of Honour and the Governor-general's Medal are shown on the Honour Boards that are now hung in the Cadet's Mess at RMC. In some later classes the Graduate's Book gave these details, but not all did!

The **award recipients** of the following classes are yet to be recorded:

|                                           |                           |            |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Class 1/65 to Class 4/66                  | Class 2/67                | Class 1/68 |
| Classes 2 & 3/69 – some missing from 4/69 | Classes 1/70, 3/70 & 4/70 |            |
| All Class 1971                            | Classes 2/72, 3/72 & 4/72 |            |
| OCS Overflow Classes.                     |                           |            |

Other information that can be obtained for the Graduation documents are:

|                    |                                                                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Church Parade:     | Chaplains and Band                                                             |
| Graduation Parade: | Reviewing Officer (such as the GG for Class 1/65 and 2/67) and Special Guests. |



So come on guys, the information is out there, either in your head (eg In my Class John Smith was awarded the ..... ) or on paper. If you can help with the names of the Awardees or other information, please email them to the Editor.

### **RMC Museum – the repository for all Officer Training History**

By the time Scheyvillians receive this newsletter, the long serving Archivist at the RMC Museum, Ross Howarth, will have retired. Prior to his December retirement, Ross has ensured that the OTU Corner in the RMC Museum has been made more respectable.

The association provided the funds for the OTU Display Cabinet (left) and Ross has acquired a number of photograph albums and has been progressively placing photographs from OTU Classes in them.

When next in Canberra ensure that you visit the RMC Museum. Telephone 02 62659733 or Fax 02 62659052 for an appointment. Major Emma Maiden, OPSO, RMC-D HQ, will take control of the museum after Ross retires.

## NATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

### 1/69 Reunion Rick Thomas

For the past few years around October a group of 1/69ers have got together at the MCG in Melbourne for a lunch. This year we met on 25 October and were delighted that Allan Pemberton could join us. Although it was 43 years ago that we spent a busy 5 months together just outside Windsor, as we have found in past years, conversation was easy and we shared plenty of laughs as the stories of our Army service were told. Ian Millar brought a series of photos and we spent some time trying to put names to faces.



The photograph shows from the left Rick Thomas, Dick McCubbin, Ian Millar (Lakes Entrance), Alf Grigg (Echuca), Alan Hudson (Geelong), Allan Pemberton (Jervis Bay) and Phil De Young and we had apologies from regular attendees Chas Whitling (Bairnsdale) and Roger Dundas. In organizing the get together we also touched base with Ken Finlay (Canberra) and John Sierakowski (Gold Coast) who couldn't join us this year. A number of us will be attending next year's reunion in Sydney in April. Anyone wanting to join this group in Melbourne for our October lunch let Rick Thomas know (email: [rickshaw1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rickshaw1@optusnet.com.au))."

### 2/69 Annual Reunion, Melbourne, October 2012 David Jervis (2/69).

The 2/69 Annual Reunion was held between Thursday 4 and Sunday 7 October 2012 in Melbourne, a city described (usually by Victorians) as the world's most liveable, as well as the sporting and food capital of the world. It is hard to say if these claims are justified as most of the reunion was spent in the Sportsman's Bar and dining rooms of the Windsor Hotel (where most stayed) and various other places where alcohol was served. This was partly due to the weather which was, at times, "bracing" but mainly due to a lack of self control.

In hindsight, this was a bit of a pity as clearly there's a lot to do and see in Melbourne - I think I caught a glimpse of the MCG while walking from one pub to another. Had we been properly supervised by our wives, we would have seen a lot more, but they were away a lot, shopping.

Many of us arrived in Melbourne on the Thursday so our wives could attend a surprise lunch at the Windsor for Lotte Monotti, the wife of the late Bruce Monotti (2/69), to celebrate her 40 years in Australia after immigrating from Denmark. As it was a ladies only show the men were left to make their own fun (code for spending the afternoon in the Sportsman's Bar). Unfortunately Lotte arrived at her show two hours late because no one had told her it was on.

That night we walked to a restaurant. I can't remember its name or what happened except my main course was cheese which I hate. I ate it because I thought it was the fish that I'd ordered.

Friday was a "free day" (i.e. free from the obligation to drink a lot) as that night was the official dinner in the "Canberra Room" at the Windsor. Peter Don made a controversial speech that, again, showed how Scheyville's bonds transcend interstate rivalries. The food and service were excellent and it was a terrific night. The under-refreshed went back to the place where I ate the cheese and drank on until they were kicked out at 3.00 a.m. Mercifully Saturday was another "free day" although somehow, Gary Ryan and I ended up at "Barassi, The Stage Play".

On Saturday night we went to dinner at the Pump House Hotel in Fitzroy. We were in the "Room with a View". I'm not sure about the view as it was dark outside but it was a good pub anyway. We were joined by the comedian/actor Gerry Connelly, a friend of Terry and Jocelyn Keogh. Gerry is famous for his impersonation of the Queen (Her Majesty) - poor Gerry was told some terrible lies that night about military matters.

On arrival back at the Windsor, 12 of us got trapped between floors in the lift. We were saved by the cool head of Paul Flanagan who managed to operate the emergency phone. I blame the Windsor for this distressing experience as the sign that said "no more than 10 people can enter this lift" was too small to be seen particularly by old, drunk people.

On Sunday, we went to lunch at Lotte's Brighton home. The Moët flowed freely and the food was superb (especially Lotte's rare roast beef). It was a wonderful day. Paul Flanagan entertained us with his limericks and there were many lively discussions. Retired solicitor, Andrew Sutherland, talked about his studies for a Master's degree in Military History while Lyn Williams and Gary Ryan (both retired Qantas captains) discussed Lyn's plans to fly seaplanes full of tourists out of Broome, and Gary's bunker problems. We gave Lotte some plants and a garden gnome in St. Kilda colours wearing a St. Kilda beanie. The gnome's name is Lenny named after St. Kilda's champion Lenny Hayes, Lotte's favourite player.

That night Mick Hart lured some of us into the Windsor dining room where we drank and ate (sandwiches) until midnight. Men of our age should know better. I might add that at this reunion, it was a privilege to enjoy the company of Nicki Baylis and Diana Coats the wives of the late Ross Adams (2/69) and the late Peter Coats (2/69) not to mention Diana's extremely attractive daughter, Shelley.

As usual, everyone had a great time at the reunion and many thanks to Peter Don, Lotte and, of course, Mick Hart's surrogates Stephanie Mauchlan and Margaret Quirk, for the organization. As well as those already mentioned the attendees were Grahame and Kay Charge, Peter and Cheryl Wotton, Bill and Jenni Watson, Glen and Denise Smith, John Lewis and Denise Hogan, Rob and Jan Wilson, Roger and Jenny Baird, John Foley, Rick Jarrett, Gordon and Ingrid Campbell, Sophie Jervis, Trish Hart, Birute Don, Judy Flanagan, Carole Ryan and Kathy Sutherland with guest appearances from Victorians Brian Cooper (3/69), Ian McCallum (2/72) and wife Jenny and John Neve (1/72) and wife Marianne.

While we are all looking forward to the Sydney reunion next year, 2/69 has still organized its own October 2013 reunion in Townsville. The tradition continues.

During the reunion a CD/DVD of class photographs and memorabilia was compiled. Further photographs and memorabilia are being sought. Contact Bill Watson for further information on [bill1223@gmail.com](mailto:bill1223@gmail.com)

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### ACT



#### RMC Graduation

Mike Buick (1/67) attended the June Graduation Prize Awarding Ceremony at RMC this year. He presented the OTU Prize to Sergeant Thomas Moore.

#### WA Frank LeFaucheur (1/71), Lunch Convener

Our final Quarterly Lunch for 2012 was held on Friday, 2 November at *The Romany*, in Northbridge and was attended by 10 stalwarts of OTU: Dave Atkinson (2/65), Derek Ladyman (2/66), Bruce Thorpe (3/66), Jay McDaniell (3/69), Turk Ellis (1/70), Steve McDonald and Dave Macoboy (2/70), Giles Waterman (1/71), Eric Tucker (2/71), and Frank LeFaucheur. Apologies were received from Harry Neesham and Bernie Houston (1/65), Dave Ward (2/66), John Lochhead (1/67), John Barnes (2/67), Brian Boylson (1/68), Steve Pearson (3/69), Kevin McCarthy and Graham Mathieson (1/70), Phil Edwards (1/71), Don Froome (2/71), Andrew Martindale and Glenn Longmire (1/72).

For the benefit of 'Interstaters', who may be visiting Perth, they are held at 1pm on the first Friday of every 3rd month beginning February, ( i.e. Feb, May, Aug and Nov each year ) - all and any are welcome to attend - just warn-in via me and follow the adopted S.O.P. of bringing a bottle of "interesting" wine to the lunch, (euphemism for "not rocket fuel" and saves on costs on the day, plus allows us all to taste a range of wines), and

you will always be greeted by a bunch of interesting and interested fellow-members. (James Hardy's famous quote is recommended to be 'kept in mind' - i.e. " *The first duty of every wine is to be red* ", but all members have complete autonomy in their selection !!)

It is probably an interesting "sign of the times" that most Members are still in the work-force, and thus not always available for "Lunch Commitments", so our usual attendance is 10 -15 Members.

The Romany is a very popular Friday lunch venue in Perth over many years so warning-in is essential to ensure a seat! Our State Chairman Dave Ward is usually in attendance to apply his (serious) accounting skills in acting as Hon. Treas. for the day!

On another note, those of us from W.A. attending the ANZAC Day reunion in Sydney next year are looking forward to putting 'faces to names', in many cases - the Committee are to be congratulated for pulling on such a **huge** event, from an organisational point of view - the range of events and venues looks really sensational and, I'm sure, will be thoroughly enjoyed by all.

All the best to all members for Xmas, from the TRUE 'Sunshine State' of Western Australia,

## Tasmania



### August Lunch Dennis Townsend (2/70)

The August lunch was held at the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania in Lindisfarne, a northern suburb of Hobart. The Tasmanians were joined by Neil Leckie (3/68) and his wife Kaye from Ballarat, Victoria. They were also joined by David Hickman (3/71) who was in Tasmania from overseas. Those attending had a great lunch and the stories flowed freely. Neil took the opportunity to talk to the group in his capacity as the Editor of the Scheyvillian and OTU Historian and to remind all about the upcoming National Reunion.

Tasmanians in attendance were: Ian Steele (4/66), David & Annie Taylor (4/66), Peter Bysouth (1/67), Ian & Jean Howard (1/69), Dennis & Anne Townsend (2/70), Bob

Fielding (4/70), James Reid (1/71), Ray & Pam Williams (2/71), Lorraine Luff (Pam's sister) and Barry & Hickman (3/71). Apologies were received from: Ray Escobar (3/68), Ross Robbins (2/69), Bob Sydes (3/70) and Gavan Connell (1/71),

### November Lunch Dennis Townsend (2/70) & Rob Youl (2/65)



The Tasmanian Chapter held another successful lunch on Friday 23rd November, this time at the Anglesea Barrack's Officers Mess in Hobart. The Tasmanian members were joined by Rob Youl and Alison Harris from Melbourne. Other attendees were David and Annie Taylor (4/66), Peter Bysouth (1/67), Ian and Jean Howard (1/69), Ross and Jane Robbins (2/69), Lawson Ride (3/69), Dennis and Anne Townsend (2/70), Bob Fielding (4/70) and Ray and Pam Williams (2/71), and Apologies were from Ian Steele (4/66), Peter Williams, Gavan Connell and James Reade (1/71), and Barry Hickman (3/71). While it is pleasing to get notified of apologies, it is disappointing that so many didn't respond.

Once again there was great conversation and merriment around the table which shows that the OTU experience across all classes is a common bond as there were no two from the same class. Rob Youl described it as ‘a pleasant lunch indeed! Great architecture, super room, good company, simple meal with everyone off about 3.00 pm.’

After the lunch the Townsends and Youls visited the MONA (Museum of Old and New Art in Hobart. Another great place to visit in Hobart.

Likely date for February Tasmanian luncheon is 1 February in Launceston. Contact either Ray Williams or Dennis Townsend. Details to be advised to emailing list early Jan 2013.

### **Victorian Activities:**

**Geddes Dinner 2012:** On the evening of Friday 17 August some forty five Scheyvillians and guests gathered at the Toorak Services Club for the seventh annual Geddes Dinner.

Our guest speaker for the occasion was Lt Col Alan Brimelow AM (Ret'd) Class 3/69. Alan, after 26 years with the Army, joined the United Nations and served as Chief Security Advisor in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Headquarters, New York. Colleagues from Class 3/69 were in firm support with Brian Cooper (and son Jad), Tony Beddison AO, Bernie Gleeson (just moved south from Qld), Peter Don and Robin Hunt all in attendance.

The Class of 2/67 was also strongly represented and especially welcomed Keith Hopkins, Denis Porter and Ian Brien - all from New South Wales. A number of Toorak Services Club members also came.

Alan's fascinating talk ranged over his military roles and later experiences with the UN concentrating on his duties as Chief Security Advisor in Afghanistan. He presented a detailed social and political history of that war torn country. He also gave an insight into the people themselves and those in power there. OTU's training had clearly set him on his way to a most impressive career.

Alan's theme stressed concepts of the need for a "sense of duty" to "getting things done" – all thoroughly covered at Scheyville. Questions from the floor led to some behind the scenes information and observations on Australia's participation in Afghanistan (and withdrawal), leadership issues, the squalor of refugee camps, and the role of the UN as a Peace-keeper. It was a fascinating speech.

Chairman Frank Miller thanked Ray Elder for his fine organising of the night. Ray first conceived the Geddes Dinner in 2005 and has put it together every year since. Robin Hunt (3/69) – carried out the role of Mr Vice admirably.

The "Purple Heart of the Year" award went the past President, Peter Don (3/69) for his stoic support of Melbourne's public transport system. (Peter works in the transport policy area of the State Government). He was late for just about every Association Executive meeting in the year – but never once blamed the trams or the trains!

We look forward to next year's Geddes Dinner with well deserved anticipation.

### **Keith Payne VC and Wife Flo in Melbourne: Two members of the OTU community.** Rob Youl (2/65)



Keith Payne VC and wife Flo were in Melbourne from Monday 14-Thursday 18 October as guests of OTUA Victoria. Firstly, Monday lunchtime had them in Albert Park at a Japanese restaurant with Rob Youl, who last saw Keith in April 1966. As head of OTU's Fieldcraft Wing, which also included able and memorable infantry WO IIs Alex Von Kurtz, a Hitler Youth veteran, and military protocol expert Bill Laphorne, and amiable Sgts Taff Evans, Ern Snelling and Dave Eather, Keith trained the first five Scheyville intakes. Keith recalled several useful Japanese phrases from his Korean War days, enjoyed walking through inner-urban Melbourne and was great company.

The highlight was the wine tasting (left) and dinner held at William Angliss Institute (WAI) on the Tuesday evening, with wine supplied by Doug Mellor of DWB Wines, himself an ex-Dental Corps nasho. Peter Hateley organises this annual event; this year Rob Youl helped Peter. WAI's Jason Schumacher and his team of event and restaurant management students did the real work on the night—splendidly.

Naturally Keith spoke of Scheyville: the first topic was stiles. The army took the camp over in late 1964, with migrants still in residence, and leased extra land from local farmers, who forbade the construction of new gates—hence the many stiles, upon which all and sundry males risked their genitalia. Then they had to shovel vast quantities of cow-dung from prime sites for outdoor lessons. Settling down, he spoke of the huge amount of work required to develop the training program. He'd served throughout the first phase of national service in the 1950s and loved this association, but Scheyville was different. The standard was much higher because graduates had to be able to command a platoon in battle in South Vietnam and be able to get that platoon home.

At first the ARA staff lived in tents and ate in the open around a Wiles cooker (invented incidentally by a Ballarat man, James F Wiles, a Boer war veteran).

The students arrived; their high IQs amazed the staff. (Keith compared us more than favourably with the then Corps of Staff Cadets, the Duntroonies.) All went well; even though only three of the first staff members, the CI Lt Col Algy Clark, Maj Adrian Clunies-Ross and WO II Bill Laphorne, had had experience in Vietnam, the course was extremely relevant. In his own case, it prepared him superbly and completely for his job in the Australian Army Training Team as a company commander. The staff felt keenly the early loss of OTU graduates, particularly Gordon Sharp at Long Tan.



Before answering questions, and reminiscing on some memorable personalities, especially the long deceased weapons maestro WO II Laurie Tilbrook, Keith discussed a new initiative to assist the current generation of servicemen, to be known as *Soldier On*. \* He would love to see OTUA members across the country, with their military backgrounds and civil networking and managerial skills, supporting this campaign to provide extra opportunities, activities and equipment for disabled soldiers and play a major part in overcoming post-combat stress and depression and restoring self-confidence.

Finally Keith did something he said he'd never done before: he called Flo to the lectern. She appeared outraged, but gave a lucid, moving but entertaining few minutes on family life in the services. Keith would be home for a day or two from an exercise then off on a course—nevertheless family life proceeded reasonably smoothly. The PNG supply ship *Braeside* came in for particular criticism—anything they desperately wanted when living in Wewak was always en route in this notorious vessel. The army organisation sometimes cut it fine, but after almost sixty years of marriage they could look back happily.

The Paynes also met old friends in Melbourne and heartily enjoyed themselves—and they'll be back for the Cup. WO I Ted Boltong RAE, a veteran of D Coy 6 RAR, which he joined right after Long Tan, and a friend and military colleague of Rob Youl, and Ted's wife Maria, chauffeured Keith and Flo around Melbourne. This made a big difference to the event and the Paynes' personal comfort. Thank you, Ted and Maria!

Finally Alistair Pope recalled how, justifiably embittered when he found himself on CB at Scheyville on his twenty-first birthday, life's major milestone in those days, Keith had kindly tried to reduce Alistair's despair by spontaneously presenting him with a tin of bully beef. Alistair returned that gift to Keith on the night; well, it was a similar tin, equally inedible, but the thought was there!

\* Retired Generals Leahy and Cantwell strongly endorse this organisation; see <http://soldieron.org.au/>;

*It's about giving those who have served our country the dignity they deserve and the chance to do and be whatever*

*they choose; providing access to inspirational activities; supporting rehabilitation; and providing opportunities that empower individuals.*

Deployment history of early Scheyville Staff mentioned by Keith Payne:

|                                                         |                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lawrence George Clark</b><br>(known as LG or Algie): | 28 Sep 50 – 17 Jul 51: 3 RAR, Korea<br>3 Aug 62 – 13 Jul 63: AATTV<br>8 Mar 65 – 9 Oct 67: CI OTU                                                   |
| <b>Adrian Clunies-Ross</b>                              | 3 Aug 62 – 20 Jun 63: AATTV)<br>22 Mar 65 – 28 Jan 67: SI OTU to 8 RAR 19 Jan 68<br>17 Feb 69- 24 Feb 69: HQ 1 ATF-V<br>17 Nov 69 – 5 Nov 70: 8 RAR |
| <b>William John Laphorne</b>                            | 28 Sep 50 – 17 Nov 51: 3 RAR, Korea<br>15 May 64 – 13 Mar 65: AATTV<br>20 Dec 67 – 28 Nov 68: 3 RAR                                                 |

### **Annual Golf Day, 21 October** Frank Miller

The seventh annual Victorian Chapter Golf Day was held at Melbourne's Waverley Golf Club. Following a sandwich lunch eighteen Scheyvillians, family and friends took to the course with great gusto. The 'Ambrose' was the competition of the day again. We



were fortunate that the odd shower of rain had been forecast but only a brief sprinkle eventuated.

After the game all retired to the clubhouse for prize giving, fellowship and refreshments. The competition was won comprehensively by Team Echo – Yvonne Daniel, Michael Delves (1/65), Gus Steegstra (3/70) and Peter Sutcliffe. Second was Team Charlie – Gerry Pels (4/71), Paul Pels, David Lewis (2/68), and Brian McCarthy (3/69). Team Bravo – Wayne Bruce (2/70), Bernie Gleeson (3/69) and Vincent Berne (4/69) came third. It was a fun afternoon – although there is pressure to review some handicaps before next year's event!

### **10/11 November Weekend away** Graeme Chester (2/67)

Beautiful sunny days welcomed Robert (2/67) and Maureen Cronin, Colin Lindsay (2/67) and Denise Cosgriff, Graeme (2/67) and Heather Chester, Brian Scantlebury (3/67), Frank (4/67) and Janice Miller and Bernie Gleeson (3/69) to the delightful Yarra Valley/Yarra Ranges area over the weekend 10/11 November. Centred on the RACV Country Club at Healesville, the group enjoyed all its facilities as well as the sights and tastes of the famed Victorian tourist area.

In true Army form, we RV'd at the Innocent Bystander Restaurant and Winery in Healesville on Saturday morning for a heart starter of their specially brewed coffee. From there we ventured in convoy up the mystic Black Spur to Marysville and were surprised and pleased to see how the ferns and mountain ash forest had recovered after the 2009 bushfires.

As the majority of the group had not been to Marysville for some time, they were both horrified to imagine the disaster that befell the town in Jan 2009 and encouraged to see the results of the residents' efforts to rebuild the town in just four short years. A visit to Steavenson Falls (left) tourist spot provided a good example of the regrowth of the forest and the effort that has been made to rebuild facilities.

Bruno's Sculpture Garden again epitomized the indomitable human spirit of one man who was left with nothing but his determination to rebuild his garden. We enjoyed a short introductory talk by Bruno and were infected by his humour and enthusiasm. To rebuild the garden and all its sculptures was a huge undertaking but the end result is well worth a visit.

After a casual lunch at the Marysville Bakery and a stroll around the town centre, including a visit to the rebuilt Lolly Shop, we returned to Healesville and settled into the RACV Country Club before venturing out onto the greens.



Frank Miller and Bernie Gleeson blitzed the group with their efforts at bowling and putting. They showed how they spend their days in retirement by taking the first two prizes as multi-skilled sportsmen. Maureen Cronin won the best 'wrong bias'

bowl and Janice Miller and Colin Lindsay shared the Runner's Up prize. After some time to enjoy the other recreational facilities of the venue, we reconvened at 7pm to enjoy the views and dinner in the Terrace Café.



After a slow start over breakfast in the Terrace Café on the Sunday morning, the group met at the Healesville Sanctuary for a tour conducted by Graeme Chester who volunteers there as a guide. Again, most of the group had not been to the Sanctuary for many years and they were amazed at the changes that had been made, including a more 'hands on' approach for visitors with the animals and the educational benefits of the recently constructed veterinary facility, the Australian Wildlife Health Centre. Some of us even learned of the symbolic reason that the kangaroo and emu are on the Australian Coat of Arms, how the Koala got its name and why the wombat has a hard gristle plate under the skin covering its rump. It was a most enjoyable and educational morning communing with our native flora and fauna.

After the Sanctuary, the more serious stuff began with visits to a few of the little known wineries in the Yarra Valley, Soumah and Medhurst, and then on to the Yarra Valley Dairy, another local gem. Some new wines were discovered and purchased and the light lunch at Medhurst Winery, amongst the eucalypts and overlooking the valley, was most enjoyable. Afternoon coffee at the Yarra Valley Dairy, tasting a range of their cow and goats cheeses, capped off a great weekend.

For those who attended the weekend, it proved a most enjoyable break and opened their eyes to a beautiful part of Victoria that is on the doorstep of Melbourne.

**SA:**

**Remembrance Day** found twelve Scheyvillians at the Glenelg Football Club's 'The Bay Bar & Bistro' for an informal lunch. Gary (3/69) & Libby Vial, Craig (1/70) & Ashley Steel, Malcolm (1/70) & Lee Nicolle, Geoff (2/70) & Marg Williams, Ken (2/71) & Michele Wagnitz, Geoff Houghton (3/71) and Trevor Ranford (2/72) made their presence felt, and Bob Ormston (3/67), Neil Curnow and Greg Rosser (2/68), David Zundel (3/70) and Brian Nankivell (1/72) made their apologies.

It was great to see so many new faces, and the fact that nobody remembered to take any photos is an indication that an excellent time was had by all. The next luncheon is Sun 31 March (the day before - and celebrating - 'Foundation Day - 01April) and as the venue is proving popular, it will be at the same location.

Gary managed to trash his email and back-up list, so if you are in SA and haven't already done so, please resend your contact details to Gary Vial [otusa@ctmc.com.au](mailto:otusa@ctmc.com.au) so we can keep you up-to-date with events.

### **THE PASSING PARADE**

**Barry Stach (1/68) Mick Stone (1/68)**



In March Brian Boylson, Dick Baird, Gerry O'Keefe and Tony Alder (all 1/68 – from WA) were having a Friday lunch and after a few glasses of Pinot Grigio, they decided to give their old mate Barry a call --- all spoke to him at length and became aware of his ill-health.

Tony had sent an email to Barry on 26 July 2012 enquiring about his well-being but this was followed by a phone call from his wife Janice advising that Barry had passed away on July 10. Tony Alder felt that Barry was bigger than life and hard to imagine he was gone.

Mick Stone had visited Barry in Darwin in May this year and felt that Barry looked pretty stuffed but full of spirit - a brave bastard! Mick was lunching with Graeme Burns (1/68) on 31 July and they talked about the tougher guys in their class whereby Graeme immediately mentioned Stachy - bloody grim coincidence that Mick received Dick Baird's email later that day advising of Barry's death.

Barry had been suffering from alpha -1 antitrypsin deficiency for some time, which led to emphysema, which led to liver dysfunction and eventually liver cancer. In March Barry was diagnosed as having succumbed to a local tropical bacteria called Melioidosis. This was the beginning of the end as the bacteria was too much for the diseased liver.

Barry's funeral was held in Darwin. Janice said there was 400 at the funeral, including sailing and car restoration friends. The guy was a legend!

Although he never lived in Torquay, Barry was a regular visitor for surfing and football. His ashes were farewelled at Point Danger, Torquay at 4 pm on Friday 5 October. The event was attended by OTU classmates Dave Lewis & Mick Stone, plus Barry's unit mate from Vietnam, Larry Fanning, amongst many others from Barry's former surf/footy etc life at Torquay - a sad but great day.

3792838 (Robert) Barry Stach was born in Melbourne in December 1945. He was educated at Northcote High School and studied Design Drafting at The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Barry's sporting achievements include winning the Victorian Long-board Surfing Title in 1964 and later being a Team of the Century member of the Torquay Football Club (having won the club's Best & Fairest in 1971).

Barry undertook National Service in February 1968, graduating on 19 July 1968 as a 2Lt with Class 1/68 and was posted to the Armoured Centre where he underwent his Corps Training. In November 1968 he was posted to A Sqn, 2 Cav Regt and in December 1969 was posted to B Sqn, 3 Cav Regt in Vietnam. Barry extended his National Service and stayed in Vietnam until late November 1970.

Barry and Janice met in 1971, married in 1979 and moved to Darwin in 1980. Barry's work included Project Construction Management (including RAAF Base Tindal at Katherine), University Lecturing and High School Teaching. His interests included sailing (12 years as the Darwin Sailing Club Commodore), Classic Car restoration and he was a fanatical South Melbourne 'Bloods' supporter. Sadly missed!

#### **The Scheyville Fallen** Dick Whitaker (1/69)

For those who would like to research their fallen classmates prior to the reunion, Dick has sent the following links:

**(1) 2LT Gordon Cameron Sharp: KIA 18/8/66**

<http://www.6rarassociation.com/fallenlongtan.htm>

**(2) 2LT Kerry P. Rinkin: KIA 7/4/67**

[http://www.5rar.asn.au/honour\\_roll/rinkin.htm](http://www.5rar.asn.au/honour_roll/rinkin.htm)

**(3) 2LT Leonard Alexander Taylor: KIA 8/2/68**

[http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/roll\\_of\\_honour/person.asp?p=564186](http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/roll_of_honour/person.asp?p=564186)

**(4) 2LT John Fraser: KIA 24/3/68**

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/fraser-john-10243>

**(5) 2LT Terrence Edward Langlands: KIA 24/11/68**

[http://www.vvaavic.org.au/Honour\\_detail.asp?offset=242&ID=250](http://www.vvaavic.org.au/Honour_detail.asp?offset=242&ID=250)

**(6) 2LT Alan Douglas Jellie: KIA 3/12/69**

<https://vhpa.org/KIA/K11017.HTM>

**(7) 2LT David Patterson: KIA 20/3/71**

<http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bobw/members-8.htm>

**(8) 2LT Ian George Mathers: KIA 7/6/71**

[http://12fieldregiment.com/memorial\\_roll.htm](http://12fieldregiment.com/memorial_roll.htm)

#### **HEALTH MATTERS**

Over the years we have heard of the battle that Tony Sonneveld has had with prostate cancer. David Taylor from Low Head in Tasmania, a 4/66 attendee has had his own health battle.

The aim of this article is to encourage members and their families to discuss and consider organ donation. It does not matter what age a prospective donor is, all transplantations save lives and what's more it allows all recipients a quality of life they may not have experienced for years.

'In my case I was diagnosed with acute emphysema as a result of smoking, prolonged exposure to Diesel fumes from APC's and a lifetime of working in the home garden industry. As a result I was unable to walk much more than 20 metres without resting,' David said.

'In November 2010, I received a double lung transplant at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and, after two relatively minor operations I felt sufficiently recovered to honour my donor by participating in the Australian Transplant Games in Newcastle in October this year. The games were a wonderful experience with the number of different activities reminding me of our sporting life at Scheyville.'

David urges all to discuss and register as organ donors.

Further information can be obtained from [www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au).

## FEATURES:

**The end of an era:** For those of us who 'served on' either in the ARA or ARes, we may have flown in these aircraft! Two RAAF Hercules C-130 'H' Model aircraft ended more than 30 years of service with a final low level flight over Sydney on Monday 19 November 2012. The fly over marked 34 years of service by the aircraft. They took off from the RAAF Richmond base before flying over Cronulla and the southern beaches. The planes orbited Sydney Harbour for 20 minutes before heading west to the Blue Mountains.

One of the Hercules carried a bright yellow sunset tail to commemorate its years of service in the RAAF.



The C-130 'H' Model has provided tactical and strategic airlift for Australian Defence Force personnel around the world since 1987. This includes operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and East Timor.

The planes were used in the aftermath of the Bali bombings in 2002 to carry the injured from Bali to Darwin. They were also used to drop hay to stranded cattle in regional NSW during floods. "They leave behind a considerable record of accomplishment," said Air Commodore Gary Martin. "One which all men and women who have worked on this aircraft can take great pride in."

After their final flight, the C-130Hs were retired to RAAF Base Richmond as the latest-generation C-130 'J' Model 'Super Hercules' takes over its role with the RAAF.

**And speaking of aircraft** (Michael Delves (1/65) via Frank Miller (4/67):

A mid-air collision on 1 February 1943, between a B-17 and a German fighter over the Tunis dock area, became the subject of one of the most famous photographs of World War II. An enemy fighter attacking a 97th Bomb Group formation went out of control, probably with a wounded pilot then continued its crashing descent into the rear of the fuselage of a Fortress named All American, piloted by Lt. Kendrick R. Bragg, of the 414th Bomb Squadron. When it struck, the fighter broke apart, but left some pieces in the B-17.



The left horizontal stabilizer of the Fortress and left elevator were completely torn away. The two right engines were out and one on the left had a serious oil pump leak. The vertical fin and the rudder had been damaged, the fuselage had been cut almost completely through connected only at two small parts of the frame and the radios, electrical and oxygen systems were damaged. There was also a hole in the top that was over 16 feet long and 4 feet wide at its widest and the split in the fuselage went all the way to the top gunner's turret.

Two and a half hours after being hit, the aircraft made its final turn to line up with the runway while it was still over 40 miles away. It descended into an emergency landing and a normal roll-out on its landing gear.

When the ambulance pulled alongside, it was waved off because not a single member of the crew had been injured. No one could believe that the aircraft could still fly in such a condition. The Fortress sat placidly until the crew all exited through the door in the fuselage and the tail gunner had climbed down a ladder, at which time the entire rear section of the aircraft collapsed onto the ground. The rugged old bird had done its job.

**RAEME Workshops, Puckapunyal** Tony Sonneveld (1/70)

About 8 years ago I received a phone call from Milton Pearson who was the CSM at Puckapunyal Area Workshops back in 1970-71. Milton had read an article about John Sonneveld DFC flying the Portsea rescue helicopter so he drove down to Portsea from his home in Frankston to speak with John to find out my contact details. Milton commented that he had always wondered what had happened to me in life. This contact has developed into a great friendship and I've stayed with Milton and his wife Wendy on the Mornington Peninsular.

Milton continued on in the Army and finally became WO1 RSM RAEME Training Centre at Bandiana; the highest NCO rank in RAEME. Milton also reminded me that he accompanied me on an Admin trip to Southern Command Alpine Chalet at Mt Buller given that I was the Quartermaster on the Southern Command Alpine Ski committee.



Owen Williamson (4/70) and I have been friends since the first day he marched into Pucka Workshops in 1971. Unbeknownst to me the previous Adjutant CAPT Gary Williams had submitted a promotion request to Southern Command on my behalf. On my return from skiing for the Army in the Inter-service Competition at Mt Buller in August 1971 CO MAJ Len Master accused me of being incorrectly dressed at our regular morning tea in his office. He then produced the extra pips and congratulated me on being promoted to full Lieutenant.

Tom Geczy (2/66), David Longhurst (1/67) and I have been friends for 20 years through the OTU Scheyville Association. It turns out that both Tom and David also served at Pucka Workshops; no doubt they have a story or two to tell. John

Nelson was posted to the Ordnance depot attached to Pucka workshops and John drove a flashy Fiat sports car whereas I persevered with my beat-up VW Beetle. John invited me to his family home in Wagga Wagga, we water skied at Hume Weir, travelled to Blowering Dam and visited Yerrangabilly Caves. John is now a Major at an Ordnance depot in Wodonga and is a Rotary member in Wodonga. My best mate Danny McCrohan (First NS intake, driver of command APC that went in after the Battle of Long Tan) has a brother living in Wodonga and Peter is also a Rotary member; so it was through this contact that the link was made about us serving in Pucka workshops together.

Milton Pearson is a persistent bugger and he has progressively located several former workshop members from 1970-71. SGT Les Lidbury phoned me last January and we discussed his career since leaving the army in 1984. Les studied at University of WA initially, then Curtin University and gained Computer Modelling qualification in 1990. Les has built up a vibrant electro-etching, laboratory equipment business servicing the oil industry in WA.

It is amazing that 40 years down the track we have made contact with so many workshop members from what was a relatively small army unit. By the way Len Masters no longer owns the box trailer that Owen and I built in 1971 (refer to the article published by Owen Williamson in Scheyvillian 2/2012).

I spoke with Don and Marie Juers today (Saturday 1 December 2012). Don is 85 and is overcoming the effects of operations for a bowel obstruction 18 months ago; he appears to be well on the mend. They have travelled around Australia about 11 times in a caravan, but now has the van up for sale. Don joined the army in Adelaide and never got posted back to SA in his whole military career. He had 27 different postings in Puckapunyal and has lived in Seymour all that time. They knew my grandmother, Ellen Ferguson who also lived in Seymour; sadly she passed away on 1997 aged 96. Don doesn't use a mobile or computer which is fairly typical for men his age; let's face it I only started using a computer in 2005.

We have now tracked down the following officers and NCOs from Pucka workshops:

BRIG Bob Carson (Ordnance) left the army and joined the Q'ld Police service, Brisbane, senior role

CO 1970 MAJ Ron Behan, Canberra

CO 1971-72 MAJ Len Masters, Maroochydore, Q'ld

CAPT Gary Williams (Adjutant), Casterton, Vic

CAPT John Power is committed in a hospital somewhere in NSW.

Owen Williamson (Adjutant - OTU 2Lt), Brisbane

Tony Sonneveld (OTU Lt), Sydney

Tom Geczy (OTU 2Lt), Sydney

David Longhurst (OTU 2Lt), Sydney

CSM WO2 Milton Pearson, Mornington, Vic

SGT Les Lidbury, WA

John Nelson (Ordnance - Portsea Lt), Wodonga, Vic

Don Juers, 40 Alfred St, Seymour, Vic, 03 5792 2167

Tony Burak contact details known to Les Lidbury

Unfortunately, there are a number of deceased members:

WO2 Joe Harlow (Armoured Regt LAD)

WO2 Vin Nutt

SM Sid Olinski

SGT Bill Geddes

SGT Jack London

Craftsman Andrew Jennings Star

Cpl Les Zegir

CAPT Scholar Watkinson retired and lived in a unit in WA. Legend has it that his sister's house was about 100m East and the pub about 100m West . . . I believe he died happy, according to Gary Williams

It would be interesting if we could find a bunch more guys from Pucka workshops!

### **Abuse?** Robin Hunt (3/69)

I see that Defence is to further enquire into "abuse" in the Defence Force. I wonder if any OTU participant experienced any abuse – bastardization, improper conduct, sexual predation etc? Certainly, I didn't. In the second half of 1969, we were too busy for such nonsense to happen. Bastardization DID happen at RMC at that time (ie July to Dec 1969) (did Fraser lose his Defence Portfolio over it?) and, as a consequence, I recall there was an enquiry at OTU. It consisted of Cadets being marched one by one into a room with the command "*You will tell the officer if you have been mistreated*" (or words to that effect)... "*No?...March out. Next*". Either the Commandant, or the CI was present with an "outside" investigating officer" and I think the RSM marched us in and out! Usual subtle and sensitive approach! Any one else from 2/69, 3/69 or 4/69 recall this matter?

### **Whatever happened to:**



Class 4/71 saw six members graduate into Signals: Bruce Gladman (130 Sig Sqn), Peter Johnston (2 Sig Regt), Ray Lewis (1 Sig Regt), Brian Roberts (AHQ), Peter Skinner (1 Sig Regt) and Bryan Welch (133 Sig Sqn). Four of these Scheyvillians attended their Corps Training together. The course included Australian 2Lts and a collection of PNG and Indonesian officers of ranks from 2Lt to Captain.

Peter Skinner has provided a photograph (left) taken during the course at Watsonia. OTU Graduates shown are Skinner (rear row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Lewis (rear row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Welch (centre row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right) and Gladman (front row, left). Question raised are where were Peter Johnston and Brian Roberts, or when did they attend their Corps Training?

Peter Skinner served the rest of his regimental duties at 1 Sig Regt, Ingleburn. He said: 'A great unit with a fantastic mess. As the Regiment was very tech orientated it took just about all the techies from the PMG that were conscripted. The night that Labour won the 72 election we nearly had a riot. Guess who was Duty Officer? Fortunately I went to school or had played sport with a sizeable number of the troops and with the inducement of cheap alcohol was able to convince them to go back to barracks and they would be discharged on the Monday. It seriously affected the Regiment's ability for a couple of months but the CO did a great job.'

### **SCHEYVILLIANS AROUND THE WORLD:**

Chris Coates (3/71) sent an email to a number of Scheyvillians to let us know how he is progressing in Singapore: Not sure if you are interested but thought I would drop a Line from Singapore! I have been very busy at work continuing to set up William Angliss here over the past month or two. Beginning to get somewhere but still struggling with relationships to government - so anal retentive and number fixated. However have 4 commercial clients on the go and three more to join in the next month.

I have started a fitness regime. I get up at 6.30 and walk four or five kms every morning and then watch the news before heading off to work at 8-15 or 8-30. It is about 10 minutes in the car to work and can be quicker. We have the whole of the sixth floor of a building and the basement and first two levels are shops including lots of food courts. We do not need to leave! I sometimes walk in the evenings and have tried a run with the girls from work but that will take a little while to get going - although they are all well worth following!

I have bought a road bike after borrowing one for a few weeks. On Sunday I ride at about 8.30. We (a group of about 15 expats from all over the world) go out about 24k along the south and east coast and then stop at about 9.30

for iced coffee then come back along the same way. It takes a little longer coming back because of more people about. I am doing a two day ride up into Malaysia in a couple of months. I think it is all doing me good. By the end of the year I am looking at a 100km ride. I hope to be out and about more with the institute doing better. I might be able to cut my hours back from 8.30 until 7pm and often later to something more reasonable.

On Wednesday night I was invited to the High Commissioner's residence for a night with the Khazakstan Ambassador. I was introduced to the High Comm and the Ambassador. The High Comm promptly excused himself and I had to talk about Khazakstan to the Ambassador for ten minutes by myself. Fortunately, I know where it is and he was a nice guy. A very pleasant evening concluding with Khazak cognac! I had four and walked home about 4kms in a pleasant warm fug past the botanic gardens.

I have some nice friends and I have guys from work stay about one week in three. David Coull, my father in law, has been for five days and next month he and my brother in law Ian are staying a couple of nights and some friends from Sydney are dropping in. If anyone is going through Singapore let me know!

Many of the people I have met here are women. It seems that expat women outnumber the men significantly. Some people say because the men have married younger Asian wives! I don't know but whenever I am out I seem to find only women around 40-55 to talk to. Might sound great but can be very strange. Two or three are very good to me though and invite me to BBQs etc. Joy and Jacqui are Aussies and Katrina a Scot. I met them at ANZA and was going to set Karen up with them but I think she only got to meet one of them before I had to take her home. Katrina and Jacqui also in the bike group. I think they thought I could do a BBQ but they were sadly mistaken. Peter Vince an Aussie friend I often have with me as well and at least he can cook.

Well what else! This is probably going to be a tough week. It is one year since Karen died. Karen told me I had to get out and live my life but sometimes I just want to curl up and be left alone. However, it is slowly getting less and less and this anniversary is of course the last major first. I will also concentrate on Jemima's birthday (m daughter in Ireland) which is the same day and I think a few of the people here are going to keep me occupied. After that it is time to find out what is next in my life. I will look at other jobs and projects as I do intend to finish here in March unless something drastic changes. I will be over Singapore by then, I think, although many places to go to from here. If I can get good staff in to back me up I may stay and provide support for other SE Asian projects from here.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2013!

From David Nomchong (3/71):

Hi Chris, a great ramble, I really appreciated it! Lots of memories of Singapore and Malaysia from when I worked there! It sounds like you are getting fit which reminds me I need to get back in the gym, thanks! Take care Mate, see you in April.

#### **WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DO:**

**Operation Finders** (The Advertiser/SA Weekend), WORDS: Katie Spain, PHOTOGRAPHY: Namoi Jellicoe Gary Vial (3/69).

The OTU Association supports the Lord and Lady Somers Camps each January that provide life-changing experiences for their young participants. For many years, the SA Chapter has supported Operation Flinders, a challenge for 'at risk' teenagers that follows much of the OTU Tradition. As OTU got us out of our comfort zone, so the teenagers are forced way out of their comfort zone during Operation Finders.

There is still a strong army connection with 'on the ground' personnel, and Simon O'Brian [1/70] was Chairman for several years and is still an active Board Member.

The following article emphasises the positive 'life changing' nature of the course, and the success it has had with young people 'at risk'

The Northern Flinders Ranges are a spectacular sight. The rugged patchwork of red dirt with its burnt brown saltbush, dry creek beds, rocky outcrops and jagged valleys is as unforgiving as it is beautiful. Wild goats scatter, their cloven hooves carving the terrain as a mob of kangaroos prick their

ears toward an alien sound. They hear voices; agitated young voices. “It’s crap. I’m sick of it. If I could go home right now I would,” whines a pretty blonde. “It sucks. My feet hurt. My head hurts. My back hurts.” Sixteen-year-old Ashlea is perched on a fallen tree branch, grey hoodie pulled over her face in an attempt to block campfire smoke from her eyes. “This is supposed to change us but I don’t think it has changed me at all. It’s made me worse.” Ashlea is three days into a gruelling eight-day trek and will do anything to avoid the blistering miles between her and the finish line. We are 585 km north of Adelaide and her Port Lincoln home has never felt further away. “My mum is sick. I’m worried about her.” she whispers with a sudden tug at my heart strings. “They won’t let me call her . . . can you talk to them for me?” I can’t. And it wouldn’t make a difference anyway. I’m here as a visitor and after a brief chat with Ashlea and her peers, I’ll leave in a 4WD and a cloud of dust. For Ashlea, her team leader, assistant team leader, peer group mentor, two counsellors, nine fellow students and teddy bear mascot, the only way out is by foot. Rain, hail, shine or floods of tears; they’ll trudge the 100 km Operation Flinders path home. For many parents the program is a desperate bid to shake their children out of a destructive life cycle.

Five times a year, nine teams of 10 children at risk set out on this blood, sweat and tears adventure. The teams set off across Yankaninna Station’s 568 sq km property in staggered waves. They come from schools state-wide – Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Indulkana APY lands, and Adelaide. Some know each other, most are strangers. They are tough cookies hardened by circumstance with no idea of what they are in for: a brutal, challenging, confronting and potentially life changing experience

Participants are nominated by schools, counsellors and care organisations in response to myriad reasons; disobedience, drugs, violence, learning difficulties, emotional struggles and the kind of adverse upbringings most of us can only imagine. According to executive director John Sheppard, categorisation is impossible. “Often parents are caring and don’t understand why their kids are out of control,” says John. In other cases, home-life is the core problem. “Many of these kids don’t have self-esteem – most believe they’re worthless.”

The former Police Sergeant and past SA Great Executive Director has been with the program for 19 years. Established by the late Pamela Murray-White in 1991, Operation Flinders helps over 400 young people each year. Eight days away from familiar surroundings takes the youngsters on a gruelling journey through rebellion, adjustment, contribution and trust. “It’s about the drudgery of walking,” says John. “Many have never walked further than the bus station or local deli.”

It goes without saying, the kids would rather be anywhere else but here. “I’ll tell you what . . . the walking is f. . . d,” says dust-covered participant Jake. The 16-year-old is five days in to the trek, is agitated and has literally been running amok for days. “Runners”, John informs me, are common. “If faced with a challenge they run,” he says. “They don’t know what they are running away from or where they are going – they just run.” “Sitters” are also common. Defiant, they plonk down and refuse to move. Far off we spot one, alone and forlorn. Counsellor Duncan Henderson heads off to talk the youngster into budging. This could take a while. Meanwhile, participants approach, extending grimy hands in welcome. Dylan, 15, from Happy Valley is beaming. “It was challenging on the first two days – the heat and walking so far,” he says. “I never really caused trouble but I’m just not really smart – not as good at my work as other kids.” He pauses. “I thought it would be good for me and I’ve really loved it – I’ve learnt a lot.”

Caitlin, 17, is well aware of the potential power of this experience. In 2006, her older brother took part and came back a different lad. “It’s been hard,” she admits. “But it’s a really good experience if you go along with it.” Bullied since reception, the Year 11 student says the trek helps with more than just confidence. “I get bullied to the point where I completely lash out and don’t know what to do, but coming here and getting away from the bullies has taught me to keep calm and move on.”

Finally, success on the sitter front prompts the group to shuffle into action. There’s food to prepare, long-drops to dig, blisters to tend to and a long night’s walk ahead.

Team leader Mick Shepherd looks wary as he bids us farewell. A fireman by trade, this gig is as tough on him as it is on the teens. Later, back at Yankaninna headquarters, an exhausted Mick reports in on a two-way radio. This group is challenging; a runner has made for the hills just as darkness is falling.

“They usually only run for a few hundred metres,” says exercise commander Ray Shillabeer, an ex-army officer, Vietnam vet and grandfather of eight. “I don’t care how long they run but we must keep them visual,” he says. “Ninety-nine per cent of the time a kid runs a few hundred metres and stops, but we have had instances where they keep running. One ran seven kilometres. To keep sitters moving is simple,” he adds. “If you don’t move you don’t get fed – it works well.”

This is Shillabeer’s 21<sup>st</sup> exercise with Operation Flinders. He is part of a dedicated team of volunteers at Yankaninna Station’s base-camp, many of whom are ex-police and military. They work around the clock to keep the eight-day project turning. The current intake has a total of 106 people – 72 are teens. One hundred litres of water and food supplies are delivered daily to each campsite. The program largely relies on donations and volunteer support. “We just could not operate without sponsors and volunteers,” says Chairman Mike Terlet.

The backbone includes second-in-command Peter Mildren, operations officer Ian Langley, logistics manager Graham Green, a general hand, two abseiling instructors, paramedics, survival instructors, Adnyamathanha Aboriginal community culture teacher and entertainer Noel Wilton, two cooks (for base camp staff), drivers Peter Vandepeer and Nick De Bruyn and pilot Brenton Hollitt. Team leaders range from lawyers, teachers, bus drivers and fire officers to gardeners. They all lead busy lives and most take two weeks’ leave to lend an Operation Flinders hand. It is hot, dusty, draining work, but the results keep them coming back. “The wilderness element is very important in the therapy process,” says Terlet. Some of these nippers have never played, read, flexed their imagination or marvelled at the stars.

Fifteen-year-old Alex, for example, is more accustomed to “chilling in the city with friends” than sleeping under the Milky Way. “In the first two days of walking I felt like I’d blacked out and was dreaming,” he says. “I’m so used to being in the city – instead of enjoying nature.” As he prepares for the abseiling session, he grins. “I was heaps excited coming out here but on the second day I wanted to go home. But you get used to the 20kg packs on your back and press on.” Alex heads for the cliff face. “You realise that you can’t go home because you’re so far away and you may as well get it over and done with. It’s a wicked experience.”

Last year, Alex was excluded from Hamilton Secondary College (“for being a little nuisance”), and sent to Cowandilla Learning Centre for 11 weeks. His new school suggested Operation Flinders. “When mum described what we had to do I told her it sounded far too difficult and didn’t want to go,” he says. “The only reason I did come was to make my mum proud – because of all the crap I’ve put her through recently.” As he approaches the cliff’s sheer drop, Alex says he can’t wait to tell her about his latest challenge. “Mum called me on the bus ride here because she had to say goodbye one more time. I told her, ‘the only reason I’m doing it is for you,’ and she started tearing up. I thought that was pretty nice.” The kids are all smiles as they scale the ledge. We leave them to it and all seems peaceful, for now!

Like any machine, well-worn parts have a tendency to break without warning. Situations are as varied as the eucalypt varietals surrounding base camp. A participant once launched themselves off a rocky incline, purposefully injuring themselves in a bid to leave early. Others turn to violence. Last night a participant locked himself in the long-drop and wouldn’t come out.

This is where peer group mentors come in. They are on hand to help team leaders when the cogs grind to a screeching, defiant, profanity-spitting halt. Their perspective is as unique as it is priceless; each PGM is a former participant. Take Ayrton Koning for example. “I’ve walked with the toughest of the tough,” says the strapping 19-year-old, who has now completed four treks. Ayrton was 15 when he

first experienced Operation Flinders. “I played up a bit when I was in school,” he says. “I wasn’t a law breaker or a drug abuser or anything . . . I just needed a kick in the right direction.”

Back then, a painfully shy Ayrton struggled to communicate with others. You wouldn’t know it now. His blue eyes shine with confidence as his words flow with the steady tempo of desert boots pounding a long, dusty track. Hindsight aside, Ayrton says nothing could have prepared him for the intensity of his first walk in 2009 – or the effect it had on his life. The first four days were hell. “Every night I’d ask all my friends if they would have come if they knew it’d be like this,” says Ayrton. “And everyone said, ‘no way, not in a million years.’”

Then came the “hump” day. “After the first four days I really started to show my true colours and kinda came through with the goods,” he says. They were colours he didn’t know existed. Impressed by his change in attitude, organisers nominated Ayrton for training as a peer group mentor. “That was really the turning point in my life,” he says. “It’s done a world of good for me.”

Team leaders and PGMs are trained to give them the skills to defuse altercations before boiling teenage tempers erupt. “I remember two boys digging the toilet with a shovel and a pickaxe: they started to swing them at each other,” recalls Ayrton. “Last year I walked with a group that had five indigenous and five white boys from two different schools – the racial barriers and clashes were unbelievable.” But the boys began co-operating, eventually connecting on the final day of walking.

With every wipe of sweat, each burst blister and each muscular burn, the trekkers – young and old – discover an inner strength. “I never knew what I was capable of, and to some extent, I still don’t,” says Ayrton.

He’s well on his way though. “Before I did Operation Flinders all I could think about was leaving school as soon as possible”. Now, with Year 12 under his belt, the Roxby Downs sports store manager aspires to be a youth worker. He earned a place on the Clubs SA Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge and walked the Kokoda Track on October 3. He will share his experiences at Operation Flinders follow-up sessions, organised by New Directions manager Kylie Pointon. The support process is an important part of the program and while they can’t save everyone, results are promising. “I walked with 10 young drug abusers in August last year,” says Ayrton. “I spoke to nine of them recently and none of them use anymore.”

“We try to instill a bit of self-discipline in the participants,” says Commander Shillabeer. “Kids are kids; all they’re screaming for is love and attention. These are kids who can’t hack school . . . when you go into their background it brings tears to your eyes,” he says. As do letters of gratitude written by some parents upon their child’s return.

Ayrton smiles and wraps his arm around his mum Jill. “Without this I wouldn’t be the man I am today.”

#### **Tour Guides 1: David Sabben (1/65).**

In The Scheyvillian 3 of 2011 David’s article was on his planned **Long Tan Trek Tour, October 2012**. This tour went ahead and three Scheyvillians participated Barry Hester (1/72), Graeme Chester (2/67) & Bill Reddrop (3/66). Details on David’s tours are on the website:

<http://www.sabben.com/longtantrek/VN%20Long%20Tan%20Trek%20Tour%202012.html>

The following is Barry Hester’s (1/72) report on the 2012 Tour.

#### **The 2012 Long Tan Trek tour of Vietnam Barry Hester (1/72):**

I recently joined Dave Sabben (1/65) on his “Long Tan Trek” tour of the battlefields of Vietnam, which departed on the 10 October 2012, and I’d like to share with you the positive experience I enjoyed on this activity and value packed travel package. I signed up with the first section of the tour, the 7 days/6 nights “Long Tan Trek Tour” that mainly focuses on the area around Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Coral/Balmoral, the old Australian forces base at Nui Dat and the battles that occurred in that vicinity.

There is also a second section of the tour, the 12 days /11 nights, “Decisive Battlefields of the Vietnam Wars”, which covers the other battlefields ending up at Hanoi in North Vietnam. I had previously experienced Dave speaking of the Battle of Long Tan, and had always wanted to visit the location of the battle to gain extra insight into the lead up to the battle and discover how an Aussie company size force had initially survived and eventually triumphed against vastly numerically superior NVA forces.

Dave and his wife Di, (an experienced travel agent), host the tour as guides as well as Dave providing the extensive historical background of battles and locations of interest. The tour is also professionally co-ordinated by National Network Travel & Cruise Co., which brilliantly micro-managed all the pre-tour details, (visa, vaccinations, flights, transfers, travel tips etc.).

Tour members joined various Singapore Airlines flights, (a fantastic flight experience), from all major Australian capital city airports, landing in Singapore airport and meeting up to form our tour group of 35, comprising; ex Vietnam Veterans, ex-Nashos including 4 x Scheyvillians, spouses, partners, veterans adult children and military history buffs. Age ranged from the 20's to the 70's). We then boarded a short flight to Ho Chi Minh City, (HCMC). I was amazed as to how close Vietnam was to Australia, as combined flying time ex Melbourne was under 9 hours. Our hotel in HCMC was the “Majestic”, a classic French era 4+ star hotel located on the Saigon River. Our rooms, meals and service were excellent.

**Day 2:** (NB: **Day 1** involved travelling to Vietnam): Firstly sightseeing tour of the city, (to gain our bearings and to be briefed on how to dodge the thousands of buzzing motor scooters). HCMC is a beautiful city, the highlights were a visit to the War Remnants Museum, drinking a cocktail at the rooftop bar of the Rex Hotel and a visit to the famous Ben Thanh Market, to learn the art of “turbo-bartering” and purchase a Rolex watch or two (and discovering that the watches keep working as long as you keep moving your arm to wind them up). That evening, prior to a “Welcome Dinner”, Dave briefed the group on the history of the Fire Support Base Coral and Balmoral battles, as we were to visit these battlefields the next day.

**Day 3:** We travelled by comfortable bus (with an entertaining local guide plus plenty of bottled water to offset the hot and humid weather), North of HCMC to view the extensive B52 bomb craters and tour the battlefields of FSBs Coral and Balmoral. Like most Aussies, my knowledge of these battles was limited and it was illuminating to hear of the ferocity of these battles and the bravery of the diggers who stood their ground to repel the NVA attacking forces.

We then travelled by bus to Vung Tau, (although not much remains of the old 1 ALSG site). Good to experience the famous Aussie humour as several of the Vietnam Veterans children mentioned that they were looking out for locals around their age that looked like their Dad.

We mounted an entourage of 35 “Cyclos” to be pedalled along the boulevard next to the beach to reach the “Grand Hotel”, our hotel in Vung Tau, another renovated classic French era building, which was very comfortable and provided exceptional service, (Dave & Di definitely know how to book the best hotels, buses, local tour guides and restaurants to delight their guests).

NB: Vung Tau is now a fishing and resort location, and the base for an extensive oil and gas industry support infrastructure. The Grand Hotel, was used by the Aussies during the war as officers’ quarters, (but Dave confirms he spent most of his tour in his tent or hoochie). Dave gave another extensive briefing on the background to the Battle of Long Tan, over drinks, before another group dinner.

**Day 4:** We travelled by bus to a local kindergarten, (sponsored by the AVVRG), to distribute toys and milk to the assembled children. Then we visited the old Australian base at Nui Dat, where Dave, (and several other Veterans had been based), described the layout in 1966, especially the incomplete defensive works and the vulnerability of the base to attack, at that time.

The entire group then followed Dave on the trek from Nui Dat base towards the Long Tan rubber plantation, as he with D Company, 6 RAR, did on that wet monsoonal day on 18 August 1966. And as if on cue, the heavy rain fell, on a hot and humid day, to partly replicate the historic trek, as we all trudged along using plastic ponchos or umbrellas in a futile attempt to keep the rain and splattering red mud at bay. Our trek took us through grasslands, farming plots, paddy-fields, and around the huts built by new residents to the Long Tan area, and eventually to the road situated at the edge of the rubber plantation, where Bob Buick of 11 Platoon had the initial contact with a small group of NVA, that triggered the start of the 3 and a half hour Battle of Long Tan.

Dave then commenced his detailed “real-time” description of the battle sequence, over a 3 and a half hour period. Explaining in detail every aspect and turn of events, as we walked in the footsteps of each of 10, 11 and 12 Platoons and Company HQ. This was the highlight of the entire tour as it was a true “living history” experience, especially as I had a basic knowledge of military training and tactics from my 1/72 Scheyville infantry training.



Dave’s explanations of the Aussie’s troop’s tactics, weaponry and training etc. really brought home the value of the training, mateship and G&D of the Aussie digger, which made all of us proud to be standing in the pouring rain and red mud of the Long Tan battle-field, to remember both the valour and the victory that D Company achieved on that day.

All the members of the tour group found it hard to understand how D Company survived and won the battle (despite the 18 KIA and other wounded

casualties) due to the small size of the battleground area, (approx. 500m<sup>2</sup>), and the relatively flat terrain with only small rubber trees for minimal cover. Our Long Tan Trek finished at the Long Tan Cross memorial, (where 11 Platoon was positioned for most of the battle), where a wreath was laid, Joss Sticks were placed, and our Vietnamese guide (who calls himself “Wombat”) spoke some conciliatory words regarding our nations once at war, now meet in peace at this hallowed ground.

**Day 5:** We travelled by bus to the Horseshoe, where the minefield was laid by the Aussies that provided the VC with a supply of anti-personnel mines to use against our own soldiers. We walked to the location where a mine incident occurred that resulted in the Redgum band famous song, “I was only 19”. This was a very moving experience as we had a minutes silence as we stood on the same ground as the mine incident with the words of that song being played as thoughts were with those killed and wounded diggers.

We visited a dental clinic located at the Long Tan village supported by the AVVRG, and distributed toothbrushes and reading glasses to the medical staff, (that we had purchased in Australia, for this purpose). The Vietnamese appeared very appreciative of Australia’s support to their post-war repatriation. At Baria, we boarded several traditional fishing boats to cruise down-river to Cat Lo, then boarding our bus to return to our hotel in Vung Tau. We finished the day by enjoying a BBQ on the rooftop restaurant at the Rex Hotel, in Vung Tau.

**Day 6:** After another delicious buffet breakfast (each day started this way at both Hotels selected for our tour) we travelled from the Vung Tau harbour via fast hydrofoil, for the 90 minute cruise on the Saigon River, to return to the Majestic Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City. NB: The boat rides we experienced were

designed to provide an appreciation of the riverine operations conducted by the Aussies and the Americans in the rivers and mangrove swamps during the war.

After arrival at the hotel most of us chose to travel by bus to the Cu Chi tunnels for a tour of the VC tunnel complex and many of us (especially ex Nashos & Veterans), chose to take up the opportunity to experience the live firing at the nearby firing range of some Vietnam War era weapons including: AK47, M16 and GPMG M60. Each round cost \$2.00USD and the sights were way out (at least that was our excuse for missing the targets) and the 40+ year vintage weapons constantly jammed, with the local solution being to pour ever more oil into the magazines and breech. But definitely a highlight of the tour!!!

On returning to our hotel the entire group assembled for a delicious farewell dinner where we all received our Long Tan Cross plaques and we were all encouraged to say a few words about our experiences on the tour, which ended in mostly tearful and emotional expressions of thanks for Dave and Di Sabben for arranging and hosting such a fantastic tour experience and confirmation that each member of the tour group ended up being a “friend” as the 35 individuals who started out soon became a “team” as we experienced an important part of our national history from the 1960’s and 70’s.

**Day 7:** After breakfast those of us on the first section of the tour (the Long Tan Trek) had a free day in HCMC for sightseeing or final shopping; to wait for our flight back to Singapore; and then onto Australia, whilst those who signed up for the second section of the tour (The Decisive Battlefields extension tour), left for the airport to join a flight to the North.

In summary, this was a trip of a lifetime! I can sincerely recommend it to any Australian, especially if you are a Vietnam Veteran or an ex-Nasho, and especially if you are a Scheyville Graduate, due to one of our own ranks, Dave Sabben, being involved, to consider if they get the opportunity, to join a future “Long Tan Trek Tour”.

Bookings are available on the 2013 Long Tan Trek Tour, commencing Tue 08 Oct 2013, 8 days/7 nights. Visiting Saigon, Balmoral, Coral, Dong Nai Museum, ALSG, Vung Tau, Nui Dat, Long Tan, the Dat Do minefield, the ‘Frankie’ mine incident, the Long Hai’s, Cu Chi & more.

Visit: [www.nntravel.com.au](http://www.nntravel.com.au) or [www.longtantrek.com](http://www.longtantrek.com)

More details will appear in The Scheyvillian 1 of 2013 and 2 of 2013.

### **Tour Guides 2: Neil Leckie (3/68)**

In the early 1990s, Ron Austin, a CMF officer with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Melbourne Regiment in the late 1950s, commenced taking tour groups to Gallipoli. Ron’s interest in Gallipoli was spawned from his father being a member of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which fought at Gallipoli. This interest also saw Ron write his first military history book *The White Ghurkas*, the story of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade’s and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion’s involvement in the Cape Helles battle in May 1915. Ron would go on to write almost twenty military books. For a number of years in those early days Ron’s tour groups would be the only people on ANZAC Cove on ANZAC Day. In 2006 Ron’s wife Sue suggested that Ron, now in his 70s, should begin slowing down and off-load some of his Gallipoli and Western Front Tours - he was doing two tours a year to each battlefield area for Belmore Travel. Sue suggested that I would make a good replacement for Ron. Sadly, Ron succumbed to cancer in the middle of the year, but Belmore had already organised me to take the September 2012 Western Front and October 2012 Gallipoli tours.

#### *Tour 1: The Western Front 19 – 30 September*

Belmore Travel provides small group tours and this year used the British Tour Company Backroads Tours to provide the bus and driver. David, a former British Army Intelligence Major and a tour guide in his own right proved to be an excellent source of information on the British battlefields in particular. Together we were able to provide the group a cross-section of Allied Battlefields.

**Day 2** (like Barry’s group Day 1 was travel on Singapore Airlines): Those arriving from Australia were picked up at the CDG Airport and driven to the hotel to meet up with the couple who had flown in a few days earlier. This made a total of seven customers. After a drive around parts of Paris David took us to the Eiffel Tower where we joined a River Cruise on the River Seine before lunching on the riverside. After lunch there a further drive around

town before preparing to participate on the Ceremony of the Flame at the Arc de Triomphe. The group laid its wreath after the main ceremony (where the new French Finance Minister laid a wreath for the first time).

**Day 3:** Headed to Amiens, about two hours drive, and visited the cathedral. Amiens was a major rail junction on WW1 and a major target for the Germans. Then the real tour began with a visit to the National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux and the museum above the VB School. Next was the Hamel battlefield before heading to the Hotel St Claude, our base in Peronne for the next 5 days

**Day 4:** We headed north and visited the US Cemetery and memorial at Bony and then visited the exit to the St Quentin Canal tunnel. This tunnel was built in the Napoleonic days in the early 1800s and was used by the Germans to house men and equipment. Two American Divisions fought alongside the Australians when the ground above the tunnel was taken in 1918. Just down the road we visited the seldom seen 4<sup>th</sup> Division memorial at Bellinghese. After lunch it was off to the little village of Herleville where Ron and Sue had formed a friendship born from the fact that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, which included his father's 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion and Ron's own 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, fought. The town held a small parade from the 'Marie' (Town Hall) to the village's War Memorial. Wreaths were laid, National Anthems were sung, and we all returned to the Marie and drank the (absent) mayor's champagne!

**Day 5:** This day started with a visit to the top of Mont St Quentin and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Memorial. The taking of Mont St Quentin in late 1918 was one of the finest feats of the AIF in WW1 and was a part of the beginning of the end for Germany in WW1. David took us to Pozieres via a couple of interesting British battlefields: The Devonshire Cemetery (where the Devonshire's were mown down and then buried in the trenches that they had just left) and the Royal Welch Fusiliers Memorial (David served with the Welch). Next was the massive memorial to the missing at Thiepval and on to Beaumont Hamel (the Newfoundland Memorial).

**Day 6:** On the way to visit the Canadian battlefield at Vimy Ridge we visited the Notre Dame Lorette Ossuaire French War Cemetery. This cemetery has its own cathedral. After Vimy Ridge we lunched with a French Couple at Hendecourt and moved on to the Bullecourt Battlefield. Unfortunately the new Bullecourt museum is not open on Mondays and we were there on a Monday!

**Day 7:** This was a special day as we were able to visit the newly opened tunnels known as 'The Glory Hole' at the town of Las Boisselle. Normally visitors only pass through the town onto what is the biggest mine crater of Lochnagar. The afternoon saw us visit Delville Wood and the South African Memorial and museum and Albert.

**Day 8:** On our way to Ypres we returned to Vimy Ridge to do the first tunnel tour of the day then visited Fromelles where one of the group visited his grandfather's grave, the first in his family to do so. Next was the Messines area and visiting some recently opened German trenches.

**Day 9:** A tour around the Ypres Salient commenced with a visit to Hill 60 and Polygon Wood and the 5<sup>th</sup> Division Memorial. We visited the largest WW1 War Cemetery at Tyne Cot in Passchendaele before lunching back at Polygon Wood with Johan Vanderwahl, the local tunnel expert. Next was a visit to Essex Farm Cemetery and Casualty Clearing Station, the site where John McCrae wrote *In Flanders Fields*. That evening we participated in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.

**Day 10:** The last stop was at Poperinge, a city behind the lines for the entire war and a rest place for the Allied troops. We paid a quick visit to Dunkirk and then it was on the ferry at Calais and the White Cliffs of Dover and London. Group members stayed in London for a few days after the tour.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the 2013 tour should contact Neil Leckie or Jason at Belmore Travel.

A report on the Gallipoli Tour will appear in The Scheyvillian 1 of 2013.

### **WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DID**

We all have a story to tell! Tony Sonneveld convinced his brother John that the adopting of a Vietnamese baby by an Australian Vietnam Veteran was a must tell one: **The Miracle of Maree!** John Sonneveld (2/68)

Marie's actual birth day is unknown but guessed to be about 30 December 1970. A Roman Catholic nun found her in the streets of Vung Tau, South Vietnam, in about mid January 1971. At the time, I was serving as an Army helicopter pilot with 161 Independent Recce Flight based at Nui Dat. My loving wife,

Liz, and I already had three sons. Unfortunately our only daughter, Wendy Maree, had died in May 1969, aged only four and a half months. Wendy was the catalyst for an idea of trying to adopt a Vietnamese orphan. We had no idea how we might adopt in Vietnam.

On one of my rare days off, I hitched a ride in a RAAF Caribou aircraft from Nui Dat to Bien Hoa where I met up with a couple of American military policemen. They drove me to an orphanage where I saw a large room full of babies in cots. Several of them were of mixed race such as half Negro Vietnamese, half Mexican Vietnamese, and half white American Vietnamese; the rest were Asian. Some had boils, some had skin rashes. The stench of wet nappies was overwhelming. There was one attendant. This was but a sample of the many unwanted, out of mind and out of sight war orphans. The toughest of soldiers would have had tears in his eyes at the sight of these babies. I returned to Nui Dat with a mind full of vague determination to proceed with an adoption.

On another day off I visited the Baria Catholic School where I met Reverend Mother, Sister Augustine. Many Australian soldiers visited this school. It was a place of peace where we felt relatively safe amidst innocent children. I discovered that as well as teaching the normal students, Sister Augustine and her companion Sisters, and helpers, cared for about fifteen orphans. I asked if I could adopt one of her orphans. Eventually we agreed upon a little girl. Marie was not as yet at Baria. She was still at Vung Tau with other nuns of the same Order of Saint Paul of Chartres. Soon the nuns brought Marie to Baria where I saw her for the first time but neither Sister Augustine nor I knew how to adopt. So far I have been calling the baby girl Marie but at that point in time she had no name, no documentation, just a babe. Sister Melanie gave the baby a Vietnamese name, Nguyen Thi Thu Huong, plus Marie Jeanne when she attended the Baria court House to achieve a birth certificate. Thu Huong means autumn perfume. No legal process could commence without a birth certificate.

Fatefully, at about this time, Liz saw an article in the Melbourne Sun newspaper. It concerned Rosemary Taylor, a remarkable Australian lady working towards adoptions of war orphans out of South Vietnam, mostly to France. The paper mentioned the Saigon lawyer she used for adoptions. On the next available opportunity, I hitched a flight to Saigon. I briefly visited Rosemary and the lawyer who wanted \$200US to process the adoption. I also discovered that I needed a Presidential dispensation to adopt because, by Vietnamese law, to be eligible to adopt one had to have been married for ten years and have no other children. Rosemary told me how difficult it was to succeed with Australian adoptions. She could finalize the adoptions of six orphans into America or France in the time she could get one child to Australia. With the lawyer's help, the process of Marie's Vietnamese adoption began. The full Australian adoption process would follow. Until my tour of duty ended, I regularly visited Marie, known as Jeanne to the nuns because Vietnamese people use the last name, whereas we use the first.

At the end of October 1971 my tour of duty ended but the Vietnamese adoption process had not. I was still in the Army, based at Holsworthy. Liz and I still had to wait for the Vietnamese process to be approved before commencing the Australian legal process. In about late April 1972, Marie's Vietnamese passport arrived in the mail. It contained an exit permit from Vietnam. From April into May I heard that an area where Marie was kept some of the time, on a small farm run by the nuns a few kilometres east of Baria, was being rocketed. I became very worried. I told the New South Wales child welfare people of my fear for Marie. To their credit they fast-tracked Marie's entry permit to Australia.

After telling my Commanding Officer that I was going to Vietnam, "with or without leave, Sir", I headed to Melbourne, firstly to attend my mate's wedding as best man and then onto Saigon. I should add that the Army was not happy and I had already been refused an Indulgence Passage which would have meant a free RAAF flight to Malaysia to save a dollar. I wore civilian clothes but my hair style alone made me look like a soldier. I had posted a letter to Sister Augustine about ten days before I left for Vietnam but she never received it. I had desperate hopes that someone might meet me at Saigon Airport (known as Tan Son Nhut) but that did not happen. When I left Vietnam at the end of my tour, the airport was extremely busy. When I returned it was dead quiet. The only Australian soldiers left in Vietnam had the

task of guarding our Embassy. There were no Australian soldiers at Nui Dat or Vung Tau. I had but two addresses in Saigon. I took a taxi to Phu My where I hoped to find Rosemary Taylor. I got caught in a heavy rain shower wetting down my growing sense of terror. When I arrived at Phu My, Rosemary was not there and I was told that Marie was also not there. Now I was really starting to sweat, thinking I might have to catch a civilian bus to Baria. As I departed the Phu My complex, I went through a large gate. I was about to be swallowed up by a throng of pedestrians and a myriad of smelly two stroke motor cycles when a Vietnamese person ran after me and told me that Marie was in another building in Saigon. She gave me an address which I found with the help of a taxi driver. Had I been one or two seconds earlier in my departure from Phu My, I would have merged with the crowd. Sure enough Marie was there in the care of Margaret Moses, an Adelaide ex Mercy Nun who spoke fluent French. She had volunteered to assist Rosemary Taylor. Marie looked skinny but otherwise okay. Even though she was about seventeen months old, she could not walk.

Suddenly I realised I needed a current International Health Certificate for Marie to depart Saigon. Margaret made a phone call and gave me an address for a volunteer Australian doctor running a clinic in Saigon. Her instructions were to go straight to the head of the queue; this got me a few dirty looks from the locals. Marie was jabbed three times and I returned to Margaret. Then I realised that everyone had to wait two weeks after the Smallpox vaccination to discover if it had worked. When I told Margaret about the 'wait' she took the Certificate and made a neat change to the date. Now I hoped I could get Marie "out of there". I booked a flight for the following day.

I had a few hours to spare, so I went for a walk. To my utter amazement, I bumped into one of the nuns who lived and worked at Baria. She had not travelled about three hours in a bus from Baria to Saigon with any hint of meeting me. Just have a think about the statistical likelihood of such a meeting in a city of about five million people. Coincidence? Not likely! This nun could then return to Sister Augustine and confidently advise her that I had really come to collect Marie.

Margaret Moses gave me a bed for the night. I didn't sleep much because I could hear artillery exploding on the outskirts of Saigon throughout the night. I left Saigon the next day, 1 June 1972, but not before I told Margaret get her 'butt' out of Saigon soon because it was too dangerous. This Saint stayed to the very end, 1975. Sadly, Margaret was killed, along with many orphans in a large American Starlifter aeroplane which suffered a decompression failure. The large rear cargo door blew out in flight. Margaret is listed as one of our Australian war dead. What a heroine she was! Rosemary Taylor also stayed to the bitter end and has continued similar work in Thailand with disadvantaged children even as I write this story.

After a brief stopover at Kuala Lumpur and a night at Singapore, I arrived at Perth Airport with Marie. I had to go through Australian Customs and Immigration before catching a local airline flight to Melbourne. I got plenty of scrutiny at Perth but I didn't think much about it. I eventually arrived at Melbourne where I was met by Liz. Within a day we drove back to New South Wales. We now had four children, including Marie. Robert was born six weeks before I left to serve in Vietnam in 1970. He is three months older than Marie. He has been an amazing son who has been very tolerant and caring of Marie from the day she arrived in Australia.

Eventually I learnt why I was given such thorough scrutiny by the authorities at Perth. The Australian Federal Government, probably prompted by the Victorian child welfare authority, had refused entry to five Vietnamese orphans whose approved exit permits from Vietnam were soon to expire. Elaine Joyce Moir, an Australian (who died in August 2012), smuggled these five orphans as far as Perth Airport where a throng of pre-warned media personnel were waiting. The media made it so embarrassing for the Victorian adoption authority and the Federal Government that the orphans were allowed to stay. By returning to New South Wales as soon as Liz, the children and I did, we avoided all news media contact and Marie grew up as one of our family having nothing to do with the media. When I left the Army in late 1973, we moved back to Melbourne until I accepted a flying job based at Tyabb in 1974.

The jobs have changed but Liz and I still live at Tyabb. Our family grew to five sons and two daughters. Marie is happily married, has two sons and a daughter and lives in Tasmania. Liz and I have fourteen grandsons and six granddaughters.

This year, 2012, I convinced Marie that it would be a good idea for her, Liz and me to return to Vietnam to show her the places that I had told her about over the years. So in July 2012, over forty years since Marie left Vietnam as a baby, we headed for Vietnam, an eight day round trip. Marie met Sister Augustine and Sister Melanie. Sister Augustine (in bed) is now ninety-five years old. Marie visited Vung Tau and Baria. She saw the room where she had slept at Baria. We visited Nui Dat and found what is left of Luscombe runway. I reckon I got to within thirty metres of where my tent had been in the rubber plantation.

We visited Sister Augustine twice. Sister Augustine and Sister Melanie now live in a Catholic nursing home for nuns in Saigon. They were overjoyed to see us. According to Sister Augustine, I was the only Australian soldier to adopt a child from the Baria orphanage. It was a very emotional trip for us all. Marie plans to return to Vietnam with her husband and three children within two years. Note well that Liz did the hard yards. While I was away working, sometimes for months, she was the one changing the nappies and feeding our tribe. She is a wonderful mother. She and I now enjoy our twenty grandchildren and look forward to becoming great grandparents.



### BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS:

**Book Review 1: *Farewell, Dear People – Biographies of Australia’s lost generation* by Ross McMullen. Paperback. 600 pp. Scribe 2012. \$45.00 retail Robin Hunt (3/69)**

The author – Ross McMullen – well known for his passionate biography of WW1 legend “Pompey Elliott” – has written “in depth” (his words) biographies of ten Australians who died early in WW1 and whose details support the contention of Henry B. Higgins that the “flower of this generation” was lost to Australia as a consequence. The ten men came from varying backgrounds, had varying levels of education and exposure to soldiering. Eight died at ANZAC cove in 1915 and the other two at Fromelles in 1916.

The entry for Geoff McCrae is twice as long as some of the others but, perhaps, McCrae’s then achievements and his wider family connections (his grandmother was Georgiana of the McCrae/Rosebud, Victoria, McCrae family) justify this (and it was an extract of a letter written by McCrae at Gallipoli that forms the title of this book). The entry for the exceptional Tom Elliott is most welcome as his details would have been lost to us otherwise. Whether Elliott was or would have become an Australian Kitchener is fanciful conjecture by McMullen. It is interesting that the author chose to omit leaders such as General W.T. Bridges (who also died at ANZAC Cove). Comparisons can be odious and, whilst one could posit that many potential national leaders *were* lost in WW1, that war also forged many great leaders (eg John Monash (and through him, Tom Blamey), Richard Casey, Brudenell White, and Neville Howse VC).

McMullen has provided us with ten biographies that are well researched and quite detailed. They also show with great expression, the emotional consequences to the families and friends of those ten dead soldiers.

The ten subjects were born in Australia but they were only one generation removed from being “British” due to the birthplace of their parents and or grandparents. The spread of their ages from 23 (Elliott) to 36 (Larkin) meant that they had time before they died to demonstrate some of their qualities that were then lost to our society. At least 6 were officers and two were Sergeants at the time of their death.

The death of about 60,000 young Australians (plus the even larger number of injured and mentally scarred veterans) derived from such a small population, had huge social and demographic consequences.

We are fortunate that McMullen has chosen these outstanding Australians to demonstrate that their names and contributions are, in the main, unknown to us now and thus they form part of a “lost generation”. I am glad that McMullen didn’t argue that any of these ten were individually irreplaceable. Whether their “*death was a grievous loss to (t)his nation*” I am not convinced about, but I was inspired by reading about their lives and their service to this country.

**Book Review 2: *Mud & Dust – Australian Army Vehicles & Artillery in Vietnam* by Michael Cecil.** (AWM. 2009). Original price about \$55. Robin Hunt (3/69)

The release of this book adds to the growing number of books being published that relate to Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War. The Australian War Memorial has finally completed publication of its nine volume series *The Official History of Australia’s Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948-1975* and there are a number of scholarly books such as Paul Ham’s *Vietnam – the Australian War* (illustrated edition, 2010), and *In Vietnam* (AWM Campaign Series 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edn 2009).

Supporting these – with varying degrees of literary merit – is a wide range of unit histories. Beyond these, we have the valuable series of books on the Vietnam War by Gary McKay MC. There are also “lighter-touch” books such as the humorous *Captain Bullen’s War* (2009).

Coming to the aspects covered by the book under review, there are books on covering Australia’s artillery activity in SVN and these include works by Gordon Pound, Warren Feakes, Randy Foster, David Horner and various titles assessing fire bases Coral and Balmoral. This book - *Mud and Dust* – gives us much detail concerning the L5 and the M2A2 105mm howitzers that Australia extensively fired in support of operations in SVN.

However, the main focus of the book (and for which it is unique) is that it covers everything with wheels that was deployed in SVN ie army vehicles such as the Centurion Tank, the M113A1 AFV, light vehicles (eg the Land Rover), medium trucks and special purpose heavy vehicles. The author’s investigations seem to be exhaustive and there is an extensive range of supporting photos and tabulations. Author Michael Cecil also provides us with letters, interview notes and diary entries from actual operators of the equipment under discussion. Cecil also assesses the logistical nightmare of moving so many vehicles between SVN and Australia and mentions in this context the roles of *HMAS Sydney* and the *Jeparit*. This book is more like a light weight text book than a good read but it offers a mass of detail for the militaria aficionado.

**WINE REVIEW** Robin Hunt (3/69)

**Especially for those from the Royal Australian Corps of Artillery:**

**ARTILLERY PLACE Grapeshot Shiraz. McLaren Vale. 2008.** Screw top. 14.5% alcohol. \$99.99 per doz (ie \$8.25 per bottle) at Dan Murphy’s.

Great front label with an antique cannon, cannon balls and the statutory minimum of detail. On the rear label, the winemaker tells us that “*Artillery Place is our HQ & Barracks. When South Australia’s young colony of 19<sup>th</sup> Century dissenters established its own defences, Cavalry, Foot and Artillery alike needed digs to retire to, after long days defending their new territory having bravely prevented attack since 1836. Artillery Place, on Artillery Lane, in the heart of our capital Adelaide, eventually became home for old gunners, some of whom hadn’t kept their powder quite dry and, rather than succumb to Grapeshot occasionally fell under the grip of the grape*”.

“*Today, Artillery Place is an independently owned and operated winery...This bottle is intended to be drunk with meals and mates, either under fire in the field or at ease in the Officer’s Mess... Produced by Heirloom Vineyards, Willunga, SA*”.

So what does it taste like? It looks red and rich – no wimpy Pinots here! Smells almost port (something about that 14.5% alcohol? 18% and it *could* be Port!). Yep, rich and full flavoured – a typical McLaren Vale Shiraz with 4+ years’ age. Almost spicy with peppery flavours, fine tannins and some acid on the finish that will allow it to age some more. But why wait?

## EMAILS TO THE EDITOR (a small selection):

**From:** Ross Wyman (2/68)

**Sent:** 21 July 2012

**Subject:** (Mayor of Laidley) Humour



I always wanted to be a "Legend in my own Lunch Time". As the photo shows I now have a street named after me in Laidley. It is called Wyman Close and is situated over the road from our house. Irene and I think it has been called "Close" (& not street) because it is "close" to our place...Ha...Ha! I think it should be called Boulevard"...more in line with the famous "Sunset Boulevard", or "2 Platoon Boulevard" at Scheyville!!!!

But...the truth be known it has been named after my family as my Great Grandfather was the first Mayor of Laidley.

**From:** Ron Llewellyn (4/71)

**Sent:** 28 July 2012

Hi Neil, just saw the latest Scheyvillian - **Nice Ambush!** From it I am now back in touch with a good mate, Peter Feeney, who I haven't hear

from in 35 years. Many thanks!

Not only would the RSM go ballistic over the length of my hair but I can hear the mutterings from the Sergeants Mess about my earring. This, however, is worn with pride as being a seafaring tradition bestowed on those who have sailed around Cape Horn. I am also entitled to sit during the 'Loyal Toast' and place one leg on the table. With my co-writer, Lon Bram, I have written a book about some of my sailing adventures which is available as a free 'e-book' - Sailor, Soldier, Lover.

<http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/70919>

The attached photo shows the devastation of being totally capsized 380 miles west of 'The Horn' - Cape Horn can be seen in the background. I believe I owe my survival to my past military training. **Insert photo**

Although not committed, I will keep next year's reunion on the radar - it would certainly be great to catch up with old mates.

Best regards, Ron.

**From:** John Neervoort (Staff 1/65)

**Sent:** 28 July 2012

**Subject:** Citroens in Ballarat

In response to an email from Neil Leckie who saw some Citroens in Ballarat:

Hi Neil, well spotted! Ian Grice (Gricey) is a legend in Australia as far as 2CVs go. He has a business in Melbourne devoted to them. I am not too sure which "Raid" he is going on. There is one starting at Coober Pedy, Oodnadatta track to Maree, then Birdsville track to Birdsville and on to Cairns. That is being run by a Dane who has a 2CV business in France and who repaired my gearbox in Perth when he lived there 4 years ago.

The other one is starting in Perth on 4 August. If its that one, they will meet them on the 5 August in Kalgoorlie. After stocking up with supplies for 10days, they will head east along the Trans Australian railway to Queen Victoria Springs, then the Connie Sue highway, Anne Beadell highway to Maralinga and then to Coober Pedy. Note that these "highways" are anything but. They were built by Len Beadell in the 1950s to retrieve rockets fired from Woomera. They are rarely maintained.

Then bits of the Oodnadatta track, Finke and on to Alice Springs, Mereni loop to Kings Canyon, Uluru then straight to Perth along the Great Central Road. About a month all up.

They are all half mad owning such a car and madder still driving them where they do. So many of the tracks are unmarked except on specialised maps for 4WDs! Australia is a magnet for those from Europe! The concept of driving for a week between habitation or fuel or a wash is quite normal. There is only one place for petrol (or anything) on the Anne Beadell highway. It is 580km from Laverton and 750km from Coober Pedy. You carry a few jerry cans of petrol and hope you don't have a broken fuel line to revert you back to the infantry. My heart is with them, but my wallet is empty. The inevitable end to a life as a wastrel! Maybe next year!

Cheers (or maybe it should be Cheers Bastards, the internationally known greeting for 2CV Raiders in Australia)

**From:** Peter Skinner (4/71)

**Sent:** 2 August 2012

**Subject:** 4/71 Photographs

Peter Skinner sent electronic copies of the Class 4/71 Intake photographs.

Hi Neil, the non OTU photo is from my Sigs Corp training at Watsonia in August 1972.

Graduating to Sigs in 72 was about as complex as my military service got. I then spent about 12 months playing rugby, cricket and basketball as the Regimental Assistant Adjutant ie Sports and Liaison Officer. No more supporting troops to Vietnam meant they didn't know what to do with us. Cheers Pete

**From:** Neil Leckie (3/68)

**Sent:** 2 August 2012

**Subject:** 4/71 Photographs

The photos arrived today. I will scan them and return them over the weekend.

Where was the non-OTU photo taken? I don't have any details on you in the OTU Database except that you graduated into RASigs in Apr 1972. Thanks Peter! I thought that it looked like a group of young 2Lts in the back row.

Was this the end of course photo? Was the posting for the time mentioned still at Watsonia, The School of Signals!

**From:** Peter Skinner (4/71)

**Sent:** 3 August 2012

**Subject:** 4/71 Photographs

Hi Neil, apart from the 3 instructors in the front row all others were Aust. Army 2Lts as well as a small contingent of PNG and Indo officers of varying ranks 2Lt to Capt. Not sure when during the course the photo was taken. I only attended Watsonia for the course. The rest of my regimental duties were at 1 Sig Regt based at Ingleburn. A great unit with a fantastic mess. As the Regiment was very tech orientated it took just about all the techies from the PMG that were conscripted. The night that Labour won the 72 election we nearly had a riot. Guess who was duty officer. Fortunately, I went to school or had played sport with a sizeable number of the troops and with the inducement of cheap alcohol was able to convince them to go back to barracks and they would be discharged on the Monday. It seriously affected the Regiment's ability for a couple of months but the CO did a great job. Cheers Pete

**From:** Dick Whitaker (1/69)

**Sent:** 14 November 2012

**Subject:** Dick McCubbin (1/69)

Greetings brothers: Just a note to let you know that one of our classmates, Dick McCubbin, has been diagnosed with cancer and begins his treatment today. Dick is strong and positive and will be joining us in April for the reunion. I look forward to marching up George Street with him on April 25, as I'm sure we all do.

Some supporting e-mails to Dick would be well received - his address is: [randjmccubbin@iprimus.com.au](mailto:randjmccubbin@iprimus.com.au)

**From:** Geoff Houghton (3/71)

**Sent:** 28 November 2012

**Subject:** Prostate Cancer

There is a good message for all older men in this story about Tony (Sonneveld) and prostate cancer.

[http://www.international.to/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7299:tony-sonneveld-oam-a-scheyville-graduate&catid=66:oped&Itemid=151](http://www.international.to/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7299:tony-sonneveld-oam-a-scheyville-graduate&catid=66:oped&Itemid=151)

## USEFUL WEBSITES

From Rob Youl (1/65) Vietnam War Website:

<http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam..html>

From Robin Hunt (3/69) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vietnam War:

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/05/29/50th-anniversary-vietnam-war?utm\\_source=email161&utm\\_medium=video&utm\\_campaign=memorialday](http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/05/29/50th-anniversary-vietnam-war?utm_source=email161&utm_medium=video&utm_campaign=memorialday)

Items of Interest – YouTube. No doubt a large number of Scheyvillians browse YouTube with great fascination. Many clips remind us of life at OTU all those years ago or of related topics that have interested us since.

As an example, if you type in **H.M. Royal Marines Band Portsmouth – Street Parade Rotterdam 2007**, you will be treated to a stirring display of marching and military music. It is well worth viewing.

In addition, different Trooping of the Colours, Officer Graduation Parades, and other similar events are to be found.

If you come across a clip that may be of interest to Scheyvillians please let us know and we can have details published in future editions.

# OTU ASSOCIATION, 12/13 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

|                                                                                                                         |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INVOICE</b><br>ABN 26 390 124 006                                                                                    |  | <b>Please return by NLT 31 August 2012</b><br>Cheques payable to <b>OTU Association</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                 |
| MAIL TO:     Treasurer<br>OTU Association<br>PO Box 540<br>BLACK ROCK VIC 3193<br><br>PHONE:   Ray Elder (03) 9533 1810 |  | Annual Subscription July 2012 to June 2013<br><br>Donation to Youth Leadership Development<br><br>Total Cheque/Cash Enclosed (For <b>Direct Debit</b> payment see below and <b>please remember to complete and return this form</b> so that your database contact details can be confirmed) | <b>\$50.00</b> M'ship<br><br>\$_____ Y. L.<br><br>\$_____ Total |

|                                                                                                   |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>MEMBERSHIP DETAILS UPDATE</b>                                                                  |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |
| <b>Personal Details:</b>                                                                          |           | <b>I Have Retired</b> Yes / No                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |
| Title/Rank:                                                                                       |           | <b>Business Details:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                            |                   |
| First Names:                                                                                      |           | Position:                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |
| Last Name:                                                                                        |           | Organisation:                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |
| Wife/Partner:                                                                                     |           | Industry:                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |
| Address:                                                                                          |           | Address:                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                   |
| Town/Suburb:                                                                                      |           | Town/Suburb:                                                                                                                                                                                                        | State & Postcode: |
| State:                                                                                            | Postcode: | Business Phone:                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |
| Home Phone:                                                                                       |           | Fax:                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   |
| Mobile:                                                                                           |           | Business Mobile:                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| Personal Email:                                                                                   |           | Business Email:                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |
| Pers Web Address:                                                                                 |           | Bus Website:                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                   |
| Class:                                                                                            |           | Any Comments:                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |
| Corps:                                                                                            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |
| Regimental No:                                                                                    |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |
| Awards:                                                                                           |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |
|                                                                                                   |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |
| I am a new member: <input type="checkbox"/><br>I am a continuing member: <input type="checkbox"/> |           | I am no longer interested.<br>Please delete me from the database: <input type="checkbox"/> (Please Indicate)                                                                                                        |                   |
| For Office Use:                                                                                   |           | You will need to know the following information to pay your Membership using Direct Debit: <b>Bank</b> – National, <b>BSB</b> – 083 298, <b>Account No.</b> 56-687-0611, <b>Reference</b> – Surname and/or Regt No. |                   |

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

|   | NAME | CLASS | ADDRESS | EMAIL | PHONE NO |
|---|------|-------|---------|-------|----------|
| 1 |      |       |         |       |          |
| 2 |      |       |         |       |          |
| 3 |      |       |         |       |          |

## STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS:

**Queensland:** Owen Williamson (4/70) [olwilliamson@bigpond.com](mailto:olwilliamson@bigpond.com) or [WilliamsonO@AureconHatch.com](mailto:WilliamsonO@AureconHatch.com)  
Back-up: Stephanie Mauchlan (Mick Hart's secretary) [smauchlan@clearlyhoare.com.au](mailto:smauchlan@clearlyhoare.com.au)  
07 3230 5252 or Mick Hart [mhart@clearlyhoare.com.au](mailto:mhart@clearlyhoare.com.au)

### Monthly Luncheons

13 December (Christmas Luncheon)

**NSW:** Greg Todd (2/71): 0409 078 888 [greg\\_todd\\_au@yahoo.com.au](mailto:greg_todd_au@yahoo.com.au)  
Details will be in an email each quarter, about a month before each event or call Greg Todd on 0409 078 888 or email at [greg\\_todd\\_au@yahoo.com.au](mailto:greg_todd_au@yahoo.com.au)

**ACT:** Wal Hall (2/68) 02 6288 5251 0418 659 010 [walhall@ozemail.com.au](mailto:walhall@ozemail.com.au)  
Winston Bucknall (2/68) 0408 492 405 [wnbsec@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wnbsec@bigpond.net.au)  
Monthly luncheons are held at the Royal Canberra GC on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, commencing February.

**Victoria:** Activities planned for 2013. Dates will be advised by email and on the Website closer to the events.

**Tasmania:** Dennis Townsend (2/70) 03 6247 3892 [det47@y7mail.com](mailto:det47@y7mail.com)  
Bi-monthly lunches Ray Williams (2/71) [adaptbm@bigpond.net.au](mailto:adaptbm@bigpond.net.au)

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

**WA:** David Ward (2/66) 0417 927 146 [bbs@ca.com.au](mailto:bbs@ca.com.au)  
Frank LeFaucheur (1/71) 08 9246 2666 [lefauche@iinet.net.au](mailto:lefauche@iinet.net.au)  
Jay McDaniell (2/70): 0438 959 050 [mcdaniell@ozemail.com.au](mailto:mcdaniell@ozemail.com.au)

**Quarterly lunches** on the first Friday of the month of February, May, August and November at The Romany Restaurant (cnr Lake & Aberdeen Streets in Northbridge). Parade time is 1300 hr. The next lunch is due Friday 4 February. Warning-in is needed with bookings to be confirmed C of B on the Wednesday before via email to Dave Ward this time.

If ever any Eastern States Scheyvillians are in Perth on the first Friday of Feb, May, Aug or Nov, they are clearly most welcome to warn-in and attend.

**Q STORE:** (QM -Wayne Bruce, 2/70)

**NOTE: Q STORE STOCK** can be forwarded to a Class Co-ordinator so that they can be available for purchase at Reunions or get-togethers. Contact Wayne Bruce or Neil Leckie.

**New OTU Lapel Badges:** The QM has just taken delivery of a batch of re-cast lapel badges. These are pewter in colour and measure about 17mm square or 23mm diagonally, that is smaller than the collar badges which are all that have been available recently.  
The cost is \$5.00 plus postage of \$3.00  
To order, go the website, log in, and click on the QM tab.  
To pay, use the PayPal button (you do not need a PayPal account) it is our secure portal for credit card payments.

**Payment details:** See the Website. Credit Card available.

**Orders via the website.**

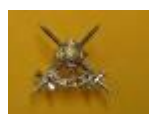
**Enquiries:** [waynebruce@stopline.com.au](mailto:waynebruce@stopline.com.au)



Tie \$30



Caps \$25



Lapel Badge (small) / Collar Badge (Large) \$5

### Odd Shots:



the RMC Museum.

Above left: Long Tan Trek Tour Group 2012. Above right: Maree Sonneveld & Tiara. Centre left: Vic Golf Day: Ray Brady, Mick Stone (1/68), David Lewis (2/68), Ian McEwan (4/70) and Adrian Lowery. Centre right: Vic Weekend at Healesville. Heather Chester watching Bernie Gleeson set up for a putt. Left: The new OTU Cabinet at

### NEXT EDITION DUE OUT March 2013:

Planning is underway to have Edition 1 of 2013 of *The Scheyvillian* out in March so that the final details of the Sydney National Reunion and class reunions can be available.

If you have any contributions: current stories (eg. Reunions, dinners or other get-togethers) or memorabilia stories, please email them to The Editor, *The Scheyvillian*, at [nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au) or post to 14 Doodts Road, Black Hill, Vic, 3350. **Photographs must be sent separate to the articles.** If you have large file size photos, please send individual photos to [nkaleckie@hotmail.com](mailto:nkaleckie@hotmail.com) or send a disc with multiple photos. Photos should be in jpeg format and should preferably be labelled.

Submissions for *Scheyvillian* 1 of 2013 need to be received by 1 March 2013.