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Some Stories of Gun Salutes

R.A. Sunderland (1953)

D.K. Baker (1954)

P.J.A. Evans (1958)

To quote from the Australian War Memorial web site:

"Salutes may be fired with personal weapons, field pieces, or ship's cannons. The origins of such salutes are a little obscure. Making a loud noise has long been regarded as a form of celebration. Another suggestion is that the salute was originally a sign of trust, originating around the 14th century. In the days of muzzle-loading cannons, it took a while to reload a ship's armament once it had been fired. So when a ship was approaching a foreign port or another friendly ship, all the cannons on board would be fired to show that they were empty and posed no threat. It was also a sign of trust that people on land or in the other vessel not to open fire on them. In time, this practice was adopted as a way to honour dignitaries on land as well.

The salute today is not fired in one large burst of gunfire but rather as a rolling volley, in which one gun fires after another. It's said that this practice originated in less chivalrous, more pragmatic times. By firing one gun after another, a symbolic salute could be fired to honour a VIP, but some guns would remain loaded so as not to leave the vessel wholly defenceless. A specific number of guns is fired to honour VIPs in accordance with their status. Royalty and heads of state receive a 21-gun salute, field marshals, state officials and equivalents receive a 19-gun salute, generals and equivalent ranks receive 17, and so on down to 11 for a brigadier."

We have all seen magnificent examples of gun salutes being fired with great ceremony and precision for various occasions. Examples are the Queen's Birthday salute by the Royal Horse Artillery in Hyde Park, the Federation Guard on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra on Australia Day, from the Gunner Memorial on Mount Pleasant for the Opening of Parliament etc, etc.

What follows are three stories of salutes that did not go strictly as planned. The first is by Brigadier Ray Sunderland (1953) and concerns a salute fired to honour Prince Philip en route to open the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956.

B Troop 105 Battery fires a 17-gun Salute for Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

My Troop of four guns had been in support of the Second Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) on counter-terrorist operations in Malaya for 12 months. We returned to Butterworth for retraining in November 1956 and one of my

first jobs was to fire a salute for Prince Philip who was on his way to Melbourne to open the Olympic Games at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Philip was stopping off in Malaya to visit the troops and show how very interested he was in our efforts to save Malaya from the Communists. The event was to take place on the parade ground at Minden Barracks on Penang Island. 2 RAR was to provide a 100-man Guard of Honour, my Troop was to fire a 21-gun salute, some war ships in the harbour were also to fire a 21-gun salute, keeping the time from me, and the RAF and RAAF were to stage a fly-past while all this was going on. Because organisers didn't want to keep Philip standing at the salute too long it was decided to dispense with the normal interval of five seconds between shots in favour of a one second interval.

We duly assembled on the parade ground—me and my four guns and the 2 RAR guard. Philip arrived, the guard presented arms and then all hell broke loose. The band played God Save the Queen, the guns from the ships roared and aircraft roared overhead. I commenced ordering my guns to fire in turn. Then silence, the guard came to the order, Prince Philip stepped off the dais to inspect the guard and my senior gun sergeant, Pat Squib, whispered "Psst—you have only fired 17 times". I had lost count in all the confusion. I thereupon ordered another four shots to be fired. More confusion ensued. Philip didn't know whether to go on inspecting the guard, or to pause while the remainder of the salute was fired. Eventually he finished the inspection, climbed into a jeep, and much to my chagrin headed my way. I called the Troop to attention. "What happened?" he asked. "Misfire, sir", I lied. Thus ended my one and only contribution to the 1956 Olympic Games.

The second story relates to the experiences of Colonel Don Baker (1954).

Melbourne Olympic Games 1956 Saluting Troop

Most of us will clearly remember the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games but one has to be old to have experienced the first games held in Australia, in Melbourne 1956. It was plumb in the middle of the Cold War as well as the year of the Suez crisis and also Russia's brutal crushing of the Hungarian uprising. Overall, it strained planning and caused some acute tensions during the Games. Of particular interest to the press was the semi-final Men's Water Polo match between Hungary and Russia which developed into a gigantic below water blood bath. It was won by Hungary who went on to win the gold medal. Most of the Hungarian team sought and received Australian diplomatic protection at the end of the Games before becoming Australian citizens.

As a minor part of the Games organisation, an Olympic Games Saluting Troop was brought into existence and I was

the designated commander. At the time I was the Adjutant of the CMF unit 2 Fd Regt RAA based at the Artillery Depot in Batman Ave. For those who are unfamiliar with the geography of inner Melbourne the depot, which no longer exists, was on the Yarra River next door to Olympic Park and is now part of AAMI Park. It is just on the other side of the rail line running adjacent to the MCG, renamed the Olympic Stadium for the duration of the Games.

Thus, the depot was ideally situated to support the Games, being within the control area set up for the duration, such that regular Army staff members all required car permits over the period. For the duration of the Games we shared our facilities with the Games car fleet of some 50 Holden cars, driven by volunteer female drivers and our drill hall was converted into a men's basketball practice court.

The Games Saluting Troop members were all ARA Cadre personnel drawn from the CMF Artillery units located in Melbourne. Most of the gun numbers were, in fact, WO Instructors and the TSM was my RSM at 2 Fd Regt. Most were Second World War veterans, so it was a very experienced group of gunners.

As I recall, over the period of the Games, we fired a total of six salutes. Two were for the arrival and departure of the Duke of Edinburgh who opened the Games on behalf of the Queen. These two salutes were no different from the numerous periodic and special salutes that the 2 Fd Regt Cadre, plus a few additions, were required to fire each year. These were fired as the Duke arrived and departed the Melbourne Town Hall, requiring radio communications from the top of the building opposite the Town Hall to the saluting base.

The gazetted saluting base was and probably still is, in the Kings Domain across the road and opposite Victoria Barracks. In those days this was the home of Army Headquarters. I found it remarkable during these salutes the number of Army officers with red bands around their caps who would happen to be strolling past the saluting base at around noon on the Queen's Birthday and other days of national significance. On a few occasions I would receive a post-salute phone call from some General's aide saying that the General liked a shorter or longer interval between shots. I even had one report that General somebody had counted only 20 rounds. I think my humble suggestion was that perhaps the General had not heard the first round (not that he could not count beyond his thumbs and fingers).

The other four salutes related to two for the actual Games and two for visiting foreign naval vessels. The latter two were fired from Fort Queenscliff, traditionally in an exchange of rounds both from ship and shore acknowledging that all guns are empty and the ship is free to enter. The saluting base is in a car park on the water edge outside the wall of the fort and facing the bay entrance. The first visit was a single French ship arriving mid-afternoon. This drew a small crowd including members of the Queenscliff Historical Society. As the ship entered they are required to fire the first round. It could not be heard due to distance, but a definite puff of smoke appeared. We responded. When the second puff appeared smoke could also be seen dispensing also from the starboard side. They were obviously firing two weapons simultaneously from both port and starboard. I was unable to acknowledge their starboard weapon hoping that they assumed that Fort Nepean over the other side at Portsea, was also being manned.

The second salute was for a flotilla of four US Navy vessels arriving the next day at 7:00 am, which thankfully was

too early for the Historical Society to witness. This necessitated us being accommodated at the Australian Staff College which at the time was operating, although the students were absent. As we needed to be deployed by about 6.45am, reveille was to be at 6:00 am. I arranged that the Staff Mess bar would not remain open beyond the evening meal. This was withdrawn after I received notification from the Port Authority that the US ships were delayed and would not be entering before 11:00am.

Next morning, I was awakened at about 6:00 am with a cup of tea from a kitchen staff member. He described to me the magnificent scene through the window. A couple of miles out to sea were four ships forming line astern before proceeding into the bay. I had a look. It was not a pretty sight.

Previous leaping training at the RMC fired me into action, although this time it did not involve getting dressed. Pyjamas would have to be the appropriate order of dress. Fortunately, I quickly found three of the troop about to go on a morning stroll, so we mobilized one gun quick smart down to the saluting base while the rest were being stirred into action. Being so long ago I can't remember full details of attire, but I do remember after it was over that I failed to recognise anyone as being a member of the military, let alone participating in a ceremonial activity.

The first gun into action was loaded and ready to respond just as the first smoke puff appeared from the leading vessel. Luckily, this was the only ship that participated in the exchange. By the time the salute was over I had two guns engaging, one coming into the line and the fourth just appearing.

After it was successfully completed, I recited the Gunner's motto "Quo fas et gloria ducunt" ("Where right and glory lead").

The Games opening ceremony salute was of great concern amongst the organizers as we were unable to fire from within the arena. It would necessitate driving across the 400 metres running track, possibly damaging the cinders surface. Many sites close by were tested using varying amounts of charge in an effort to find a combination that could be heard inside the arena. The responsibility for charge amount was an Ordnance decision, whose representative had to explain to the occupants of the Engineer Depot in Swan St why they had numerous broken windows across the front of their building after one of our tests. Of greater concern was the Olympic Games Swimming Pool building which was totally of glass. In the end we fired from the King's Domain saluting base using maximum charge which I doubt would have been heard within the MCG, but would have rattled the windows of AHQ nearby.

The salute for the closing ceremony, quite an experience for all members of the troop, was fired in the appropriate location, namely in the middle of the 'G'. Not many Gunners can boast that they have fired a ceremonial salute before a crowd of some 100,000 people. RMC always taught "know your enemy". My appreciation identified two possibilities. One was a vehicle breakdown. Answer: five vehicles, four guns. Withdraw leaving the dead vehicle on the hallowed ground. Number two threat was the dreaded misfire which, as per the manual, requires a wait of 30 minutes before it is unloaded. I could not accept that. As the charge used inside the arena was relatively small, I decided to take the chance and drive off with the cartridge still in the chamber. I predicted however, that either incident would not be a help for my career advancement. Luckily neither eventuated.

Postscript. Early during the Games I paraded myself to the Olympic Games Southern Command Liaison Officer suggesting some event tickets would be appreciated by the Troop members. He provided me with two 'All Venue Passes'. These did not provide reserved seating but allowed access to the competitors and Press reserved sections in all venues. Although some of the Troop members made limited use of the passes (TV had just arrived) I made full use when I could. I remember seeing Dawn Fraser break the 100 metres record and the Australian men's team win the 4×100 metres relay. However, the most moving incident and a memory still vivid in my mind was the 5,000 metres track race. It occurred when three British runners, one of whom was Roger Bannister, took an early lead and cleverly formed a wall able to block all other competitors, including the Russian (army officer) Vladimir Kuts, for some six or seven laps. Eventually one of the Brits faltered and the Russian pounced. The arena to a man rose to their feet and cheered their approval for the rest of the race. It was won by Kuts, one of the few Russians at the Games appreciated by the sport loving Melbourne crowds.



Firing the salute at the closing ceremony of the Melbourne Olympics, 4 December 1956. Photo Courtesy of the RAA Historical Company.

The final memory is from Brigadier Peter Evans (1958).

Opening of Parliament March 1957

When I was a staff cadet at Duntroon in Second Class (1957), I had aspirations of becoming a gunner and so was a member of a saluting troop for the Opening of Parliament. We had four 25-pounder guns for the task and were located on the slopes near the War Memorial. We were under the command of Captain Clive Simpson, Royal Horse Artillery, who was an exchange instructor at the College. We had a radio link to Parliament House so we knew when to start firing.

Our four guns were properly aligned and blank ammunition was in place next to each gun with spare ammunition in the rear in case of a misfire. All guns were loaded and we were all briefed on action to be taken if a misfire occurred. We received the appropriate signal and firing commenced. After a few rounds had been fired, we had a misfire. The adjacent gun immediately fired with a barely noticeable delay. The misfire procedure was activated and the ammunition re-distributed among the serviceable guns. A single round from the reserve should then have been put in place but, unfortunately, the enthusiastic amateur gunners took two. No one noticed which caused a twenty-two gun salute to be fired.

Clive realised what had happened and was heard to exclaim: "Oh f...k, chaps. I think we fired twenty two".

This may have gone unnoticed, but the Governor-General was Sir William Slim whose ADC was required to count timing and number of shots fired. He was not amused and by the time we had returned the guns to the College, the GG had been in touch with the Commandant. We cadets were admonished but poor Clive became Duty Officer for the next two weeks. This event, together with another unfortunate incident on the Artillery Trek later in the year when I was involved in an unauthorised firing of a whole troop of guns with live ammunition, led me to seek allocation to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, a decision I have never regretted.

{John Bullen suggests that readers may also wish to refer to page 16 of Newsletter 2/1999 which gives the full story of the 25-pounder royal salute by First Class for the arrival of the Queen Mother at Fairbairn in 1958. He says, "Due to misfires and inexperience, we fired one round too many on that occasion too, but WE GOT AWAY WITH IT !!! This was the only known occasion when Field Marshal Sir William Slim (no doubt eager to be the welcoming host to Her Majesty), forgot to count! And no, Peter Evans was not present at Fairbairn – we managed to achieve that particular debacle entirely without Peter's help." Ed}

Statue Unveiled at the Former OCS Portsea

Paul (P.D.) Asbury (OCS Dec 1967)

On 18 March 2021, a life-sized bronze statue of an Army officer cadet was unveiled at the former home of OCS Portsea in Point Nepean National Park, Victoria. Because of COVID-19, the unveiling was a virtual one and can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/Hs9tkMOc6z4>.

Why a Statue and Why Now?

In 2002, the late Bob (R.A.) de Haas (OCS Dec 1967) began the idea to develop a website for his OCS Class of December 1967. This quickly morphed into a website for all sixty-seven Classes from 1952–1985. At the time, this area at Portsea was in a no-man's land with no in-house users, an uncertain future, and a deteriorating infrastructure.

Eventually the Federal Government decided to pass on the site to the Victorian Government, but before that could occur, remedial work valued at \$30 million was carried out under the control of the Point Nepean Community Trust. For example, buildings were made watertight, verandas and balconies replaced, and the sewage system repaired.

In 2009 this work was completed and the area now described as the Point Nepean National Park was handed over to the Victorian Government to be managed by Parks Victoria.

During these early years, Bob de Haas spent many hours and days at Portsea talking with the Point Nepean Community Trust and then Parks Victoria. Bob was passionate about reminding everyone about the 34-year history of the OCS.

Bob long had a vision of a statue of an officer cadet being erected on this site of the original Memorial Wall (now proudly re-located at Duntroon). This was to permanently remind visitors of the important contribution made at Portsea by the OCS. Unfortunately, Bob died in August 2018.



Front view of the statue.



Rear view of the statue.



The unveiling – Major General David McLachlan, AO (Class of 1959) (Retd) with the wreath, and Lieutenant Colonel Robin McBride (Retd) on 18 March 2021 at Point Nepean National Park.

In late 2018 a small group headed by Ossie (O.E.) Kleinig (OCS Dec 1957) got the statue project rolling, and in early 2019 a call was made for donation pledges from the OCS Alumni. The alumni are former cadets, staff, and local community friends. Within an amazing two weeks, sufficient pledges for the cost of the statue were received and so began the formal application process to Parks Victoria for its approval.

The alumni were lucky to have two former graduates living locally who could liaise directly with the local Parks

Victoria staff on the ground at Point Nepean. John (J.F.) Wilson (OCS Dec 1966) and Robin (R.A.) McBride (OCS Jun 1968) readily volunteered. They were at the centre of the various applications, phone calls and meetings until, on 22 April 2020, they received the signed approval from the Victorian Government. Throughout this process, the project was fortunate to have the strong support of the RSL Victoria and the Rye RSL Sub Branch. The alumni also acknowledge the goodwill, guidance and support to John and Robin from all the staff at Parks Victoria.

Eager to get on with the project, the pledges made 14 months before were called in and within 14 days, \$105,000 was received. Alumni donations total about \$124,000 and is a testament to the generosity of the OCS Alumni. It is also an indication of the importance given to the statue as a symbol of how the OCS Portsea course influenced the lives and careers of so many.

On 17 July 2020, the signed final approval from the Victorian Government through Parks Victoria was received. Shortly after this the contracts for the production and installation of the statue, the plaques and the plinth were signed by Ossie Kleinig and the deposits paid on behalf of the Alumni.

The Statue

The original clay model went through four gruelling stages of changes before acceptance by the organising committee and the bronze version was poured.

Before the statue and plinth could be installed, the foundations from the former Memorial Wall were removed. The statue now stands in the middle of the former Wall and faces across the old parade ground to the flag station.

A plaque of the OCS Honour Roll is fixed to the front of the plinth. The statue is registered with the [AWM Places of Pride](#).

OCS Bronze Statue Committee:

Ossie (O.E.) Kleinig (Dec 57), Terry (T.R.) Dinneen (Jun 63), Kev (K.W.) Lunny (Dec 64), John (J.F.) Wilson (Dec 66), Paul (P.D.) Asbury (Dec 67) (Alumni Admin), and Robin (R.A.) McBride (Jun 68).

<https://www.ocsportsea.org>

Shaggy Ridge 1990

Chris (C.G.) Appleton (1978)

Bruce Bond's article in *Newsletter 2/2020* "Shaggy Ridge 1962 and a Note on Wartime Maps" bought back some great memories. In 1962, Bruce, led the first Australian Army patrol since the Second World War through the Ramu Markham Valley and scaled Shaggy Ridge. In mid-1990, I led a group of 33 (cadets and staff from Dumpu in the Ramu valley across the Finisterre range via Shaggy Ridge to Astrolabe Bay on the north coast. I believe we were the first Australian servicemen to do so since Papua New Guinea achieved independence in 1975.

The Adventure Training Program (an artifact of the Long Peace of the later 1970s, 80s and 90s and since discontinued) was conducted during the mid-year break in June. All participants were volunteers who contributed financially to cover some of the expenses.

In both 1989 and 1990 there were expeditions to PNG and separate activities in Australia. While we were crossing

Shaggy Ridge on Exercise NIUGINI WALKABOUT, another contingent of cadets led by Warrant Officer Class Two Dow were in the Northern Territory trekking the desert on camels. The year prior, I had taken other cadets to New Britain in the steps of the ill-fated LARK FORCE which had sought to defend Rabaul against the Japanese. One half of the contingent followed the withdrawal route to Tol, near the neck of the Gazelle Peninsula, where the forces of Imperial Japan massacred 160 Australian soldiers in 1942. The other half of the contingent trekked west across harsh limestone karst mountains to the north coast of New Britain and made their way to Pondo. This team was led by the then Commanding Officer of the Corps of Staff Cadets, Lieutenant Colonel Ewan (E.H.) Cameron (1971) who was following in the footsteps of his father (Lieutenant Colonel A.G. Cameron, DSO and Bar). The then Captain Cameron had led a daring escape from Rabaul on foot and by small craft and on return to Port Moresby was promptly sent up the Kokoda Track where he would soon assume command of Maroubra Force.

NIUGINI WALKABOUT across Shaggy Ridge was an arduous and challenging six-day expedition demanding of stamina, teamwork, good humour and a few risks. The first day saw us step off in pre-dawn darkness from Dumpu. At the first break an hour later, a nameless cadet discovered his painful feet were due to his boots being on the wrong feet. The ascent of Shaggy Ridge was arduous, sobered by the thought that despite our load of six days of rations and two days of water, our effort was slight compared to those who had fought their way up the ridge in 1943.



Day One, one hour into the foothills of the Finisterre Range.

We studied an extensive series of well documented wartime patrol, platoon and company actions in their actual location, the cadets having been allocated topics several months prior and tasked to deliver a brief *in situ*. The relative inaccessibility of Shaggy Ridge meant that quite a few traces of war remained: rolls of barbed wire, helmets, unexploded ordnance and intact weapon pits. Remarkably, while on the ridge we met a sprightly veteran of the 2/27th Battalion who, accompanied by his son, was making a pilgrimage to 'The Pimple'—the most prominent point on Shaggy Ridge) to honour his mates. His recollections of service trumped any

military history presentation we had heard in the Model Rooms of RMC. Our reception in a series of small remote villages—Saipa, Mabeluku and Alibu was memorable—we were amid people who had little but wished to share it with us. Their generosity of spirit was humbling. Ben (B.) Sesinu (Jun 1991) a PNG cadet, was an invaluable member of the contingent and gained considerable kudos from the experience.

On completion of the trek we remained near Madang for three days of sub-aqua diving. This activity was delivered by three staff from the Army Diving School (part of the 1st Commando Company). Some brief familiarisation training had been conducted at the pool (in winter, hence very brief) prior to departure for PNG. These three days of diving in pristine tropical waters culminated in a dive on an RAAF B-17 which had been shot down by Japanese anti-aircraft fire in 1943. The aircraft was missing an engine but was otherwise largely intact, had a full bomb load on board and most poignantly, the pilot's thermos flask was still in the cockpit.



Shaggy Ridge, 1990.

The cadet participants were from Third and Second Class. Those who had completed EXERCISE TIMOR (then the pinnacle exercise of Second Class at the RMC, now called EXERCISE SHAGGY RIDGE) just a few months before, found that the exercise was some preparation for New Guinea; particularly as the demands of the RMC training program afforded little opportunity for specific preparation or for acclimatisation in country. For the rest of the cadets who had entered the RMC just five months prior, Shaggy Ridge was eye opening. Unsurprisingly, all performed well four months later when their turn came for Exercise TIMOR.

The 30-year anniversary of the expedition (and perhaps some COVID induced introspection) led to a flurry of reflection amongst some of the participants last year. Despite one case of malaria and one of the bends (decompression sickness manifested in flight back to Australia) most considered the trip one the highlight of their time at the RMC. One of them, P.J. Connolly (Dec 1990), would later lead his own soldiers across Shaggy Ridge.

In 1999 I returned to the College on posting and along with most of the staff and cadets, from the sideline watched with envy the deployment of INTERFET to East Timor in September. Seeing recent graduates (including those of June 1999) on the television news each evening gave new impetus

to training. (See Roy Henry's article in *Newsletter 2/2019* "Class of December 1999—20-year Reflections"). And the memory of a trek ten years prior led the DMA to rename EXERCISE TIMOR as EXERCISE SHAGGY RIDGE.

Graduates Helping Graduates— and Veterans' Families

Chris (C.G.) Appleton (1978)

Damien (D.R.) Mowle (Jun 1989) and Al (A.J.) Quarterman (Jun 1992) are working pro bono with CEO Brisbane Legacy, Brendan (B.P.) Cox (Jun 1991), to help Legacy Brisbane in a great example of the power of our RMC alumni network coming together to help the wider veteran community.

Brisbane Legacy has embarked on a major transformation journey to modernise how it provides services to widows and families across SE, Central and Western Queensland. Damien and Al both work with Accenture in the Brisbane office and have brought together a team of Accenture employees to help. Supporting Legacy has been a proud and cherished tradition for Accenture, who have continuously helped the charity on basis across the country through donations and volunteering over the last 20 odd years.



Al Quarterman, Brendan Cox, and Damien Mowle at Legacy Brisbane.

Since September they have worked to analyse current operations, fundraising process, technologies, and volunteer recruitment, retention and recognition programs. As part of this process Accenture was able to utilise their deep understanding of not-for-profits and non-government organisations to investigate current leading practices and help identify Legacy Brisbane's opportunities for improvement. Their report maps a path for Legacy Brisbane to transform their operations and technology and improve their volunteer programs and in doing so, better support those who need it most.

The work is not over. The next step is to help Legacy Brisbane build their technology architecture and select the customer relationship management (CRM) platform to suit their needs. If you want to get involved, you can reach out to:

Brendan Cox

brendan.cox@legacybrisbane.org.au or 07 3029 5611, or
Damien Mowle

damien.mowle@accenture.com or 0423 551 298, or
think about how you might support your local Legacy Club.

Well done those men!

From the Commandant

Brigadier Ana Duncan (Dec 1996)

Training Transformation and Leading through Change – The Royal Military College of the Future

The predominant narrative of 2020 was the unprecedented nature of the year. While the societal and professional disruptions were significant, there were substantial opportunities too. Transitioning to a COVID normal setting required adaptation and longitudinal thinking.

In 2018, the Chief of Army released his vision for an Army that is Ready Now and Future Ready, guided by Good Soldiering. Recent focus has developed a Future Ready Training System that places emphasis on culture, leadership and accountability.

The Royal Military College – Duntroon has implemented the most significant curricular reform since the establishment of the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1986. The focus of these changes has not been on revolution, but evolution. The class structure has remained the same—with III Class delivering initial training through what is known as the Officer Foundation Course and II and I Class delivering the broader Officer Commissioning Course. Together, these form the Officer Commissioning Program. The evolved Officer Commissioning Program holds at its core developing leadership and character within a military context, prioritising student-centred learning and affording a scaffolded approach to information and skill acquisition.

Future conflicts will inevitably result in multi-domain operations, making ethical decision making more complex. The officer of the future will lead, command and manage soldiers in an environment that is more uncertain, less predictable and highly complex. As a result, innovative and adaptable training methods have become the norm. For this reason, the use of online learning, the digitisation of the military appreciation process for trainees and the enhancement of Instructor Development Courses have made the learning and teaching at Duntroon reflective of the current age.

Alongside its sister training establishments at the Army Recruit Training Centre and the Land Warfare Centre/Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, excellent training for the workforce of the future has remained at the forefront of Duntroon. While the practical application of training may sound slightly different, Duntroon will continue to produce creative thinkers who are accountable, have a bias for action, inspire relevant change and lead others with conviction. To support the Future Ready Training System, several works programs are currently underway within the Duntroon Garrison.

The Duntroon Garrison is receiving its largest refurbishment in recent history. The Military Instruction Block will soon begin the largest renovations since the mid 1980's. This includes recarpeting, new paint, improved digital systems, replacement of plant equipment and the inclusion of a bathroom in the top level. Similarly, Duntroon House is receiving a minor facelift that focuses on repairing structural damage, improving electrical systems and repainting/recarpeting specific areas. The dining hall within the Officers' Mess will remain open during this time and the remaining live-in members will vacate by the end of March 2021. These refurbishments are due to be completed by mid-2021. Finally, the Geddes Building is undergoing an internal and external upgrade to improve the building's network

platforms and the inclusion of centralised ducted climate control. Additionally, significant paintwork on the interior and exterior of the building will take place. This will resume housing all instructors and support staff upon its completion.

Within the Garrison, the upgrade to the Duntroon Medical Centre is nearing completion. This new medical centre will serve Joint Health Command as the new Canberra region base hospital for all Defence personnel. With upgraded health facilities and the increased ability to treat patients, the improved Duntroon Health Centre will provide outstanding healthcare for decades to come. There are also new roadworks under way on Parnell Road and Robert Campbell Road between Patterson Hall and the new ADFA gymnasium. Additionally, the former service accommodation located on Heritage Close is due to be replaced soon, after some unexpected delays.

2021 and beyond will undoubtedly provide its own unique challenges. With upgraded facilities and a reformed curriculum, the College is well placed to navigate the uncertainties of the future. Training Transformation will provide Army's future leaders with cohesive and comprehensive multi-echelon training. This will continue to be developed and implemented in a way that reflects the College's rich heritage and traditions. Like you, I am proud to be a graduate of the Royal Military College – Duntroon and I remain incredibly optimistic for the opportunities the next generation of officers will encounter during their training and development here.

From the President, Duntroon Society

Chris (C.G.) Appleton (1978)

I acknowledge with sadness the death of Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC AO(mil) CVO MC (Retd) (1958), a Fellow of the Society. Many a graduate of 2003 to June 2008 will recall his and Marlena's hospitality at Government House in the lead up to graduation. Michael Jeffery was a strong supporter of the Society and the College—and Alamein Company in particular. The Corps of Staff Cadets Mess is now the proud custodian of about 200 books from his library housed in the Alamein Room in a custom-built bookcase donated by Michael Jeffery. An obituary by his classmate and Society stalwart, John Bullen, is included in this Newsletter.



Alamein II Class 1957. Michael Jeffery rear rank second from right (Photo by CAPT P.A.W. Stevens (BSM, 1947), military engineering instructor on RMC staff).

Bob Slater has recently stood down as Convenor of the Victorian Branch. I thank Bob for his many years of service to the Society. All who attended will recall his leadership of the Society's splendid reunion at Portsea in 2018. I thank Roger Schie (OCS Dec 1981) for taking up the reins as Branch Convenor and welcome him to the Council.

In December I had the opportunity to present, on behalf of the Commandant, Brigadier Ana Duncan, the Commandant's Instructor of the Year award (and the linked \$1,000 gift from the Society) to Captain Peter Witcomb RAE (Jun 2013). Peter is now the ADC to the Chief of Army. The Duntroon Society Prize was presented in a closed Prizes and Awards ceremony by the Commandant to Corporal Kyle Westwood who has been allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry.

Congratulations to Brigadier Duncan for the Australia Day announcement of her admission to Membership in the Order of Australia for "exceptional performance of duty as the Director Strategy, Plans and Assessments in Headquarters Combined Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve while deployed on Operation OKRA during 2019".

Finally, the demand for a good quality silk RMC tie has been so strong that the Society has recently ordered a third batch. They can be purchased online for \$75 at: www.dunsoc.com/shop/rmc-silk-tie.

If you wish to discuss any matter concerning the Society, please contact me at central@dunsoc.com.



Corporal Kyle Westwood received the Duntroon Society Prize from the Commandant, December 2020 (Dept of Defence).

New Members

Since the last Newsletter, 45 new members have joined the Society, their names are listed below. Please continue to reach out to mates past and present to invite them to join us in the Society at www.dunsoc.com/join. New members are:

Bill Bestic (1994)
Wayne Broun Bt (OTU 4/72)
Byron Cocksedge (Dec 1993)
David Creagh (1984)
Max Cubis (Dec 2020)
Anthony d'Arbon (1983)
Bede Dempsey (Associate)
Nicholas Faghey (June 1991)
Patrick Forbes (AUR)
Kevin Graham (OCS Dec 1958)
Roger Gray (1982)

Megan Gribble (Dec 2020)
 Anthony Heath (Jun 1988)
 Alastair Hee (Jun 2001)
 Daniel Henricson (Jun 1999)
 Charleigh-May Johnson (Dec 2020)
 Craig Johnston (OCS Jun 1982)
 Steven Johnston (Dec 1991)
 Frazer Kemp (Dec 2020)
 Rhiannon Lever (Dec 2020)
 Max Lockwood (OCS Jun 1958)
 Fergus Macks (Dec 2020)
 Dennis Mok (1/1999-2000 SSO)
 Gerry McGowan (Jun 1998)
 Jack McKinnon (Dec 2020)
 Ethan Mortimore (Dec 2020)
 Jacob Moscato (Dec 2020)
 Ian Muir (OCS Dec 1972)
 Don Reid (OCS Dec 1964)
 Jessie Reis (Dec 2020)
 Angus Rogers (Dec 2020)
 David Rose (Jun 1989)
 Tim Scully (OCS Dec 1981)
 Tony Francis Sewell (Dec 2000)
 Arran Smith (June 2002)
 Brian Smith (OCS June 1978)
 Gerry Smith (1979)
 Philip Smith (OCS Dec 1981)
 Johnny Suyat (Dec 1993)
 Bill Thompson (Dec 1987)
 John Timpson (1966)
 Nick Toohey (Dec 2020)
 Jason Ward (Dec 1991)
 Paul Willis (Jun 1992)

From the OTU Association

Frank Miller (OTU 4/67)



The Corona virus continues to hamper activities throughout the country. It is pleasing to report, however, the return of regular luncheons and other functions in several states.

At the time of writing the national reunion, originally planned for last October, has been rescheduled for the same weekend this year. A close eye is being kept on the pandemic's progress to the point where, should the risk still be considered even slightly unacceptable, a further deferment or cancellation will be decided.

Youth Development activities have also been wound back as a result of the pandemic. The Lord and Lady Somers Camps, normally held in January at Westernport Bay, Victoria, did not take place this year. The nurturing of Australia's youth remains one of the Association's main thrusts.

The National Council, a forum whereby the State Chapters have a formal exchange of thoughts and ideas, took place, successfully, over Zoom this year. Similarly, the September AGM was held using Zoom.

The Association's finances are in excellent shape. Further funds are being returned to the State/Territory Chapters for use in pursuing the aims and goals as laid down in the constitution.

Membership numbers remain at last year's pleasing high levels.

Since August two more editions of *The Scheyvillian* have been published. Articles included a piece on 32 Small Ship Squadron RAE and the nine graduates who served with that unit. A series of writings detailing, firsthand, the experience of Scheyvillians serving in Vietnam also makes for interesting reading. As well as reviews of military publications, several Scheyvillians have written on their career history since leaving the Army. All of the latter agree that their time at OTU gave them an invaluable advantage in life.

A recent development has been the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service seeking expressions of interest for the lease of the Scheyville Camp Precinct—the location of OTU in 1965–73. The Association has sent letters to the Premier and others in the Government and Government service to ensure the commemorative cairn at the front of the main building, the interpretive signage throughout the site and the generous access previously enjoyed by Scheyvillians are maintained under any new custodians.

Frank Miller Chairman, OTU Association.

From the Branches

Australian Capital Territory

Branch Office Holders

Convenor: Chris (C.G.) Appleton (1978)
 Secretary: Jason (J.J.) Hedges (1992)
 Treasurer: Mike (M.J.) Ryan (1980)
 Members: Merrie Hepworth (WRAAC OCS 1967); Mike (M.J.) Ford (1957); Stuart (S.B.) Althaus (OCS Jun 1982)

The renovations underway at Duntroon House preclude the conduct of the usual Autumn Lunch in May. Planning is underway for a luncheon in October or November. ACT members will be advised of details once finalised.

New South Wales

Branch Office Holders

Convenor: Bob (R.L.) Guest (OCS Dec 1959).
 Secretary: Matt Jones (1989);
mattjones@socialalchemy.com.au; 0438 007 770.
 Treasurer: Ian (I.R.) Taylor (1965);
ita01@ozemail.com.au; 0407 539 441.

2020 Functions

Since recommencing in July 2020 and rebadging our lunches to the 'Army Officers' Lunch', the NSW Chapter held monthly lunches culminating with the mixed function on 11 Dec 2020—please see following photographs.

The mixed Melbourne Cup function in November attracted the usual keen punters, hats and stalwart supporters. Sadly, the event was without John and Gwen Haynes who have traditionally provided the prize for last place.

The Chapter Secretary, Matt Jones was unable to attend a couple of lunches but had a good excuse. Matt is the winner of the Napier Waller Art Prize from the Australian War Memorial for his entry 'Yarn'. There were 140 entries, and coupled with the Artist's statement, it was easy to see why his work received this prestigious award in a time of COVID. A link to the work can be found at:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/Napier-Waller-Art-Prize-hub/2020-Napier-Waller-Art-Prize/yarn>. If you are in, or can visit Canberra, the exhibition is on display until 16 May 21.

The popularity of the mixed December lunch and the desire to get out more after lockdown, led to an unscheduled mixed lunch in January that also saw some new faces. Maybe, the more inclusive re-badging is having some effect.

Monthly Lunch—The Army Officers' Lunch

Duntroon Society members meet other officers at the Imperial Service Club, now incorporated in the Royal Automobile Club at Circular Quay. They normally meet on the second Friday of each month at 1200h for 1300h and have an excellent two-course lunch including wines for \$65 per head. Future lunches will be held on 9 April, 14 May, 11 June, (Mixed Function), 9 July, 13 August, 10 September, 8 October, 2 November (Melbourne Cup Luncheon), 12 November, and 10 December (Mixed Function). These lunches are known as the Army Officers' Lunch and it is hoped that more Duntroon Society members could join their fellow officers on these monthly occasions. Out-of-state visitors are most welcome but should advise office holders or the Club (02 8273 2320) of their intention to attend.



Chris Dawson, Ian (I.M.) Henderson (OCS Dec 1956), Ken (K.L.) Duncan (OCS Dec 1952) (rear), Lawrie (L.A.) Wright (OCS Jun 1952), Dawn Duncan and Jill Wright.



Doug (Officer Qualifying Course 1968) and Nancy Tear.

New Zealand

Branch Office Holders

Patron: Major General Robin (R.G.) Williams (1952).
Auckland Sub-branch Convenor: Lieutenant Colonel Barry (B.D.) Dreyer (1965).
Wellington Sub-branch Convenor: Brigadier Ian (I.J.) Duthie (1962).

Auckland Sub-branch

After a series of stop-goes and no mid-winter lunch, Auckland Branch finally managed one function for the year in early December. We had 35 or so dine at our usual venue at Ranfurly House for a very enjoyable Christmas Dinner.



The Pillings and the Skogstads.



Howard Mace, Geoffrey Bowes (1960) (behind), John McGuire (1957), Peter Skogstad (1964) (partially obscured) and Brian Cudby (OCS Jun 1958) far right.



The Cudbys and the Dixons.

It was a very good lunch, and being a year since the last catch-up, it went longer than usual. We plan our next lunch mid-year.

Lockdowns have restricted all our activities, although all of us in the Auckland Branch have kept away from the virus throughout the last 12 months. In Auckland though, we are now back into our second lockdown in the last four weeks.

Wellington Sub-branch

With COVID-19 lockdowns, and so on, there is much happening in this part of the Society except that we will be having our Summer Lunch, Curry Makan, at Istana Malaysia

in Wellington on Sunday 7 March. Thirty five are expected to attend. While this will be mostly old faithfuls, we are trying to expand our net to include more recent graduates from all officer training establishments.

Queensland

Branch Office Holders

Convenor: Graeme (G.J.) Loughton (1956).

Here in South East Queensland we meet regularly for lunch at United Service Club on the second Wednesday of each month and I can report that our numbers seem to be climbing a little. I send out an email reminder about 10 days ahead to everyone who I have in my address book, so anyone who is not getting my monthly email will know what to do. My email is loughton@bigpond.net.au, or ring me on (07) 3378 7376. Then twice a year we expand the invitation to include partners. Fortunately, Queensland's state of relative openness in regard to COVID-19 was such that we could do that most recently in November. And the next 'with partners' lunch will be in May or June coming.

South Australia & Northern Territory

Branch Office Holders

Chairman / Convenor: Doug (D.D.) Strain (1978)

Deputy Chairman / Convenor: Peter (P.J.) Neuhaus (1975)

Members: Jack (I.R.) Gregg (1976), David (D.C.) Litchfield (1978), Chris (C.M.) Burns (OCS Dec 1979), Chris (C.) Mulraney (1979), Steve (S.M.) Quinn (1978), Chris (C.E.T.) Roe (1987), Tim (T.J.) Hanna (1980), Steve (S.F.) Larkins (OCS Dec 1976), Leanne Glenny (WRAAC OCS 1983), Mark (M.G.) Dickson (1977).

To keep up to date with the latest information about events please connect with the SA Branch on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/DuntroonSocietySA/>.

Annual Graduation Luncheon—1 December 2020

The Annual Graduation Luncheon was held on Tuesday, 1 December 2020 at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club, cnr Hutt & Angas Sts, City. The ever-present Covid-19 limits allowed for only 30 members to attend to share in fine fare and company, and a fascinating address from two RMC graduates:

- *Dr Emery Severin (1977)*, ex-RA Sigs, a Rhodes Scholar, former CEO of Nuplex Limited, a dual-listed company on the New Zealand and Australian stock exchanges. He is now pursuing philanthropic interests related to tertiary education with UNSW and actively involved in the management of the small family vineyard in the Eden Valley in South Australia; and
- *Adam Watson (1994)*, ex-RACT, Head of Business Development for BAE Systems Australia & Chair of the Defence Teaming Centre.

Emery and Adam explored a little of how their RMC studies and subsequent military service contributed to their personal and business success and highlighted some of the learning they had along the way. Questions followed and a warm sense of camaraderie was again evident.

The luncheon concluded after the usual toasts, COVID-19 restrictions requiring all to be taken whilst seated—does this augur a new tradition being established?—with many members retiring to the bar to continue the banter, all whilst seated!



Adam Watson (1994), James O'Hanlon (PSO) and Peter Hamilton (1963).



Catherine Walsh (RAAF), Chris Roe (1987), Emery Severin (1977) and Steve Larkins (OCS Dec 1976).



Jake Kearsley (1997) and John Shoil (1990).



Keith Bleechmore (1968).



Martin Hamilton-Smith (1975) and Peter Neuhaus (1975).



Patrick Forbes (AUR Aug 50) and Tim Hanna (1980).

Planning is underway for this year's luncheon which will again be held on the first Tuesday of December (Tuesday, 7 December 2021) and we hope COVID-19 restrictions will no longer apply. Anyone wishing to find out more about this year's luncheon or Duntroon Society SA can contact Doug Strain on 0407 200 664 or doug@thedssolution.com.au.

Second Tuesday Group

Adelaide ex-serving and serving officers have been meeting informally on a monthly basis for nearly 20 years through a group informally titled the 'Second Tuesday' group. This group continues as a conduit for local graduates to network and has a core group of local business identities, supplemented by serving officers on postings to Adelaide. Many useful business contacts have resulted, and some serving officers have been able to identify a pathway to life on leaving the Army. The group meets from 0730 to 0900 hrs on the second Tuesday of every month, at Cafe Bocelli on Hutt Street, Adelaide. Any visitors to Adelaide are most welcome. If you wish to know more, please contact Ilona

Horan (1999) at Ilona.Horan@defencesa.com or Jake Kearsley (1997) at jake@allowaccess.com.au.

Victoria & Tasmania

Branch Office Holders

Victoria continues to operate by committee with occasional meetings and primary contact by email.

Convenor: Roger (R.) Schie (OCS Dec 1981).

Secretary: Konrad (C.) Ermert (1962).

Treasurer: John (J.G.) Carmichael (OCS Jun 1977).

Event Manager: Ross (R.S.) Bishop (Associate).

Member: Roger (R.W.) Greene (1965).

With COVID-19 throwing a big spanner in the works there was no activity last year.

With great sadness we record the loss of our long-standing Treasurer and staunch member Alan McDonald (see his obituary in the Obituary section). Alan has looked after the Branch accounts for over 15 years. He has been a constant and active member, helping organise and attending all Branch functions and activities. Alan died on 17 October 2020 after a short illness. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions attendance at his funeral service was strictly limited, however the service was able to be viewed online. A celebration of his life was held on the Mornington Peninsula on 30 January of this year, and was well attended, with family and friends.

In a further blow to the Branch, Bob Slater our Convenor for the last 20 years, has not been well for the past few months. Although he is now recovering well, he is not up to continuing in the role of Convenor. However, Bob will continue his interest in the Victoria Branch by remaining on the committee as a Committee Member. We wish to record our sincere thanks to Bob for all the work he has done for the Victoria Branch over the years. He has been the driving force behind the Branch, organizing the activities and bringing the members together.

A new committee has been formed as you can see above. We have held three successful meetings. We are planning a meeting/function every three months with our first function to be held with the Melbourne Cricket Club Military Veterans Group on 10 Mar 2021, here is an overview of the special guest speaker John Howell.

John is a retired engineer and lives in eastern Melbourne with his wife Lia. They have grown-up children and a brood of grandchildren. Retirement has given John and Lia time to travel, including a four-month drive from their home to Ningaloo Reef, and living for three months in a small hill-top village in Italy. A passion for scuba diving on shipwrecks led him to maritime history and then military history, and an urge to discover and write.

The Only Woman at Gallipoli is his first book. It emerged from a snippet that he read—a scrap of a story so fascinating that it started a long search. The search became a voyage of discovery—from Australian libraries to Turkey, and unseen diaries and love letters in London and Northern England.

A story was unearthed over five years, as he found and assembled pieces of an amazing jigsaw puzzle without knowing until the end that the final picture would look so good.

See the next edition for all the photos.

The Victorian Branch has also set up a dedicated email: dunsocvic@gmail.com. So, if you are coming to Melbourne and want to know what is happening or just want to get in contact with us use this email.

Western Australia

Branch Office Holders

Convenor: Bob (W.R.M.) Hunter (1985)

Social Convenor: Kevin (K.F.) Poynton (1974)

These positions are both endorsed by members but held informally as no specific constitution is in place.

Any visitors to WA or others wishing to be informed please contact the WA Convenor, Bob Hunter on bobhunter@opleadership.com.au or 0413 045 355.

Coming Events

Please note that the dates advertised may be in doubt due to social distancing restrictions extant at the time.

ACT Branch

TBA.

NSW Branch

9 April, 14 May, 11 June (Mixed Function), 9 July, 13 August, 10 September, 8 October, 2 November (Melbourne Cup Luncheon), 12 November, and 10 December (Mixed Function). Monthly Lunch. Imperial Service Club at the Royal Automobile Club building at Circular Quay.

Queensland Branch

Monthly (second Wednesday). Meet at noon for lunch at the United Service Club.

TBA. Next 'With Partners' lunch—May or June.

South Australia Branch (incorporating NT)

TBA

Victoria Branch (incorporating Tasmania)

10 Mar 2021 1200-1230 First Event for 2021 at the MCG Members' Dining Room, Jolimont Rd, Richmond. Fully booked.

Western Australia Branch

Quarterly drinks. For details, contact the WA convenor, Bob Hunter on bobhunter@opleadership.com.au or 0413 045 355.

Ceremonial Events

29 May 2021. Army Reserve Officer Commissioning Programme Graduation.

11 June 2021. Queen's Birthday Parade

21 June 2021. Prizes & Awards Ceremony.

22 June 2021. The Graduation Parade.

6 December 2021. Prizes & Awards Ceremony.

7 December 2021. The Graduation Parade.

Further information is available from Captain R. Knight, SO3 Protocol, Office of the DMA, on 0421 033 549; or robert.knight1@defence.gov.au; or rnc.protocol@defence.gov.au.

Retired Officers Luncheon Club—Canberra

This Club meets on the first Thursday of every month for lunch at the Royal Canberra Golf Club at 12 noon. Retired officers meet in a very pleasant venue for a convivial monthly gathering which originated in 1985. There is a selected menu which ensures that the cost will be approximately \$30 including pre-lunch drinks and wine. Bookings are essential. If you are interested, please contact Don McDonough (1961) on (02) 6259 6583.

Shorts

- Colonel Neville Lindsay's OCS book *Loyalty and Service* was published in 1995 and has long been sold out. A new on-line version of the book has been launched by Lieutenant General Frank Hickling, AO, CSC (Retd) (OCS Jun 61). Please go to <https://www.ocsportsea.org/> to access the launch video and to read the book.

Jock Irvine's Cartoons

John (J.E.) Bullen (1958)

Jock Irvine's cartoon in the previous issue of the Newsletter showed the desperately hungry Fourth Class cadet struggling unsuccessfully for sustenance at the bottom end of the Dining Room table.

We now see him inside the boxing ring. He is still desperate—this time for physical survival which at the moment is looking unlikely.

Boxing was compulsory at Duntroon in this mid-twentieth century era since this was considered an essential element in officer training. By order, all Fourth Class cadets competed in the Novice Boxing Championship where competitors were graded by weight, but not by ability or experience. Thus, completely inexperienced boxers could, and often did, find themselves facing an experienced, skilful, and powerful opponent. The result was inevitable, sometimes followed by hospitalisation. But it was all deemed good officer training.

The annual Open Boxing Championship was not compulsory, however it did score points for companies in the Lee Shield competition. Many junior cadets were strongly 'encouraged' to nominate for the Open Boxing Championship, thereby being seen to be supporting their company and at the same time displaying officer qualities.

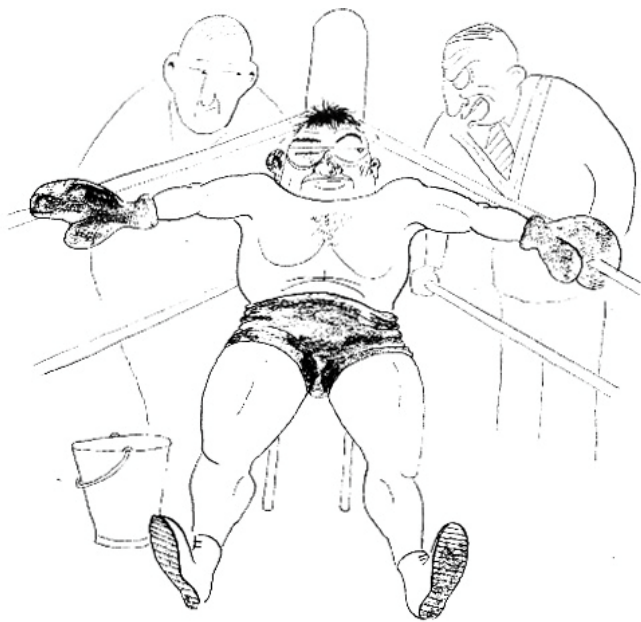
In 1956 the Alamein Company boxing supremo hit upon a clever plan for the Open Boxing Championship. All Alamein Company competitors were required to shed 3 or 4 kilograms of body weight in order to compete in one division lower than their natural weight division. The aim was to put bigger men into a lower weight division and their expected success would score more Lee Shield points. With barely a fortnight to achieve this, many Alamein Company cadets went on starvation diets. All successfully qualified by weight. Unfortunately, an accompanying loss in stamina was only discovered in the boxing ring itself.

Today's cartoon shows our junior cadet in his corner after a torrid round. He is being encouraged by his compassionate seconds from the safety outside the ring.

The sympathetic cadet on the right is wearing the informal version of Recreational Dress. Instead of the more formal Tiger jacket, he is wearing the RMC cricket pullover—a heavy white jumper with RMC colours around neck and waist.

When the bell rings, our hapless cadet will be given another (and possibly final) opportunity to display his officer qualities.

{Jock Irvine was a versatile artist. In addition to his very perceptive cartoons of cadet life at Duntroon, his painting of Tighnabruach (mentioned in the Jeffery obituary) is in the John Oxley Library in the State Library of Queensland. For further details, including a photo, of this painting, see page 6 of Newsletter 1/2003. Ed.}



Haven't you got ANY officer qualities?

John Bullen was a Third Class cadet in Alamein Company when Colour Sergeant Jock Irvine was the Alamein Company CQMS in 1956.

The Over 90s

In recent Newsletters we have published a list of (graduates who had reached the age of 90 years. We update it here.

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| W.H. Wansley (Jun 1941) | b. 31 August 1921 |
| L.W. Wright (1942) | b. 10 May 1922 |
| W.D. Jamieson (1943) | b. 16 February 1924 |
| P.W.F. Joplin (1944) | b. 2 June 1925 |
| J.E. Neylan (1948) | b. 23 April 1926 |
| C.StJ. Griffiths (1947) | b. 15 June 1926 |
| J.F. McDonagh (1946) | b. 6 November 1926 |
| R.R. Harding (1948) | b. 20 December 1926 |
| L.R. Greville (1946) | b. 10 August 1927 |
| K.J. Hill (1948) | b. 10 September 1927 |
| I.D. Stock (1948) | b. 15 March 1928 |
| J.I. Martyn (1948) | b. 13 April 1928 |
| A.T. Pembroke (1950) | b. 23 July 1928 |
| W.M. Purdy (1948) | b. 19 October 1928 |
| P.H. Bennett (1948) | b. 27 December 1928 |
| F.P. Scott (1948) | b. 19 January 1929 |
| P.H. Kitney (1953) | b. 17 February 1929 |
| N.C. Schofield (1950) | b. 27 February 1929 |
| A.R. Vail (1951) | b. 7 March 1929 |
| M.J. Lamborn (1948) | b. 20 March 1929 |
| J.E. Duff (1951) | b. 19 August 1929 |
| B.G. Florence (OCS Dec 1952) | b. 9 November 1929 |
| R.J. Wilson (1948) | b. 13 November 1929 |
| M.B. Pears (1950) | b. 14 November 1929 |
| L.A. Wright (OCS Jun 1952) | b. 29 December 1929 |

This list is not complete and is subject to constant change. There could be survivors in the Classes of April 1944 and 1947. The Classes of 1950 and 1951 would, by now, have members who have already reached that very significant age, but we do not have their appropriate details. Without your help we cannot ensure the accuracy of the listing.

Obituary

Since the publication of the last Newsletter we have learned of the deaths of the following:

- 1 May 20 Lieutenant Colonel A. Schantl (OCS Dec 1964)
- 2 Aug 20 Major R.W. Thomson (OTU 3/66)
- 8 Aug 20 Colonel M.A. Shephard (1986)
- 14 Aug 20 Major R.W. Healy (1974)
- 17 Aug 20 Mr D.J. Weatherall (Associate)
- 3 Sep 20 Lieutenant N.H.K. Solehria (Dec 2018) ¹
- 2 Oct 20 Major G.L. Tod (OCS Dec 1982)
- 17 Oct 20 Colonel A.M. McDonald (1952)
- 29 Oct 20 Lieutenant Colonel P.T. Crowley (1962)
- 1 Nov 20 Major B.T. Ferris (OCS Dec 1975)
- 20 Nov 20 Brigadier D.L.H. Buring (1963) ²
- 24 Nov 20 Major General D.M. Butler (1948)
- 30 Nov 20 Major G.E. Garside (1973)
- 18 Dec 20 Major General the Honourable P.M. Jeffrey (1958)
- 21 Dec 20 Major B.R. Schwarz (OCS Jun 1968)
- 28 Dec 20 Lieutenant E.A. Beaumont (OCS Dec 1953)
- 14 Jan 20 Captain D.A. Crooks (OCS Jun 1967)
- 16 Feb 21 Colonel W.P. Riley (1951)
- 15 Mar 21 Major General D.R. Begg (1944)
- 15 Mar 21 Lieutenant Colonel B.R. Harrison (1968)
- 16 Mar 21 Major A.F. Batchelor (OCS Jun 1952)
- 17 Mar 21 Major J.R. Goodwin (OCS Dec 1968)
- 19 Mar 21 Captain J.G. Strang (OCS Dec 1953)
- 20 Jan 21 Major J. Attard (OCS Dec 1970)
- 29 Mar 21 Captain W.J.A. Hunt (OCS Dec 1953)
- 5 Apr 21 Second Lieutenant M.R. Smith (OTU 3/1966)

1. Lieutenant Solehria (Pakistan Army) was killed in action in north-western Pakistan, well known since the 19th century as the North-West Frontier. A memorial service at Duntroon was held on 3 November 2020 when the freshly engraved tablet at the RMC flagpole was unveiled.
2. David Buring was awarded the Queen's Medal in 1963, following a family precedent. His father M.R. Buring had been awarded the King's Medal in 1932. This combination is unique in history.



Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO (mil), CVO, MC, Fellow of the Duntroon Society

John (J.E.) Bullen (1958)

Michael Jeffery was born on 12 December 1937 in Wiluna at the southern end of the Canning Stock Route through the desert in northern Western Australia.



Wiluna

Educated in Perth, in his final year of high school in 1954 he was the Australian Cadet Corps rifle shooting champion in Western Australia. Interestingly, in that same year his father, a sergeant in the Intelligence Corps, was the Army's rifle shooting champion in Western Command, now 5 Military District.



Alamein Company Fourth Class 1955.

Entering Duntroon in 1955, Michael, better known as Mike or Mick, was allotted to Alamein Company where he was the Company Sergeant-Major in 1958, a successful year for that company—despite the celebrated sinking of HMAS Alamein at its moorings by its rival Gallipoli Company during the night before May leave.

As an infantry subaltern, Lieutenant Jeffery soon moved into the newly formed 1 SAS Company as a platoon commander. His adventures there included sharing a dinghy for a second or two on the Kimberley coast with a crocodile, before Mike and his SAS companion leapt overboard into the comparative safety of the Timor Sea.

This began an extraordinary and highly successful career of command appointments at every rank level from lieutenant to major general. Some of these appointments took him overseas to Malaya, Papua New Guinea, Borneo and Vietnam.

His command appointments included two rifle companies, one of which was B Company in 8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Vietnam where he was awarded the Military Cross and the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. His other company command was C Company in 1st Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment in Port Moresby.

As a lieutenant colonel, Mike achieved the very rare distinction of holding two separate unit commands, both very dear to his heart—1 SAS Regiment in Swanbourne WA and 2nd Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment in Wewak PNG.

Mike's leadership style is illustrated by an incident during his time as Commanding Officer of 2PIR in the mid-1970s when Prime Minister Michael Somare visited 2PIR. Second Lieutenant Garry Young was tasked with organising the morning tea. Keen to use his newly acquired Pidgin English, Garry instructed the cooks to mix it up, make it special—and left it to them. The big occasion arrived. Mike beckoned Garry over, smiled, and pointed to the sandwiches. The slices of bread were three inches thick, and toasted. Each was layered with Christmas cake, peanut butter, jam and Devon meat.

Having a quiet chat with Garry afterwards, Mike said “I expect young officers to make mistakes—you can't learn if you don't. Next time, ensure your subordinates fully understand your orders. And afterwards, check to make sure they carry out your expectations.” There was no anger, nor any punishment. The important thing was that the lesson had been learnt.

As a colonel, Mike was the inaugural Director, Special Action Forces. Newly promoted, he had lunch with an old friend and a foundation Fellow of the Duntroon Society

Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Clarice O'Callaghan, better known to an entire generation of Duntroon cadets simply as ‘Sister Cav’, former Matron of the RMC Hospital. Cav reached up and tapped Mike's shoulder badges, saying “I don't care how much you've got up there, you're still all my cadets!” Mike enjoyed that.

Mike subsequently commanded an infantry brigade and then a division. As Commander 1 Division, he and Marlena lived in the historic Indooroopilly house ‘Tighnabruaich’ built at the turn of the twentieth century, giving them a most enjoyable experience in a heritage home as well as good training for even grander heritage homes in Perth and Canberra.



Tighnabruaich.

His Duntroon classmates were shocked when this specialist infantry and SAS commander was next posted to be the Army's Chief of Logistics. But Mike handled this unfamiliar role well enough to become Deputy Chief of the General Staff (DCGS) and then finally Chief of Materiel (CMAT)—a posting he energetically enjoyed because it gave him the opportunity to ensure that his beloved soldiers were given the best equipment for their tough work. Despite having been DCGS, he looked back with pride on his time as CMAT as the pinnacle of his Army career. It had given him immense job satisfaction.

Mike resigned his position as CMAT to take up his Vice-Regal appointment as Governor of Western Australia. By now he was also Honorary Colonel of the SAS Regiment, only a short drive away down the Stirling Highway. Mike's initial five-year Vice-Regal appointment was extended as also was his obvious popularity throughout the State. During his seven-year period in office he toured WA extensively, making little people feel big wherever he went and leaving behind a warm trail of affection, respect and good will, State-wide. This was practical leadership in Duntroon's finest style.

Looking forward to a quiet retirement, Mike and Marlena retired to their brand-new home in Canberra. But no sooner had they settled in than a Vice-Regal crisis occurred and a safe and experienced pair of hands was needed. Sir Les Patterson volunteered for the position and was interviewed on television at the Government House gates, but fortunately he got no further. Michael Jeffery was invited to be Australia's Governor-General and that spelt the abrupt end of the quiet retirement.

As soon as Mike's appointment was announced on TV news, an excited phone call came from Sister Cav...

“Is that OUR Michael?”

“Yes Cav, it is.”

“But OUR Michael has dark hair, doesn't he?”

“Not any more, Cav!”



Michael Jeffery, Governor-General.

Now came a five-year term in Australia's highest office. Mike was the first State Governor to be appointed Governor-General since Lord Gowrie, VC who had been Governor of South Australia and then New South Wales before becoming Governor-General throughout World War Two. Mike was also the first professional soldier to hold the appointment since Field Marshal Sir William Slim half a century earlier.

Before he assumed his duties as Governor of Western Australia, Mike had been deeply impressed by the ability of Queen Elizabeth II to memorise detailed information about all the many people she would be meeting and speaking to that day. Her Majesty would chat with people receiving awards, obviously knowing much about each individual before she met them. Mike figured that if that was how the Sovereign did it, then her representative should do likewise—and so he set himself this same objective. And later, as Governor-General, there was even more scope for this. But it did require diligent study and precious time beforehand.

On informal occasions amongst friends, Mike would sometimes remark on what a great privilege it was for him to meet and speak with Australians from everyday life who were being rewarded for remarkable feats of sheer hard work as community volunteers or for acts of unselfish courage in the face of extreme danger. He really did enjoy meeting such people and he made this obvious to them too.

He also applied himself seriously to the formal side of his appointment and could discuss the legal aspects of the Vice-Regal role in Australia to a depth that quite staggered his old army mates.

On parades at Duntroon, he never missed the opportunity, often at the end of the parade, of breaking from protocol and using his best parade ground voice to call out an appreciative comment to the Corps of Staff Cadets before departing in the elegant old Rolls-Royce.

In honour of the Golden Jubilee of the RMC Band in 2004, Mike presented the RMC Band with a new staff to be carried by the Drum Major on parade. From a distance it looks impressive enough, but it must be seen up close for its beautiful detail to be fully appreciated.

Mike never forgot his soldiers and welcomed any opportunity to wear his sandy beret as Honorary Colonel of the SAS regiment.

And he got the Wiluna Remote Community School moved away from the adjacent sewage pond, pub and main highway, and rebuilt.

Marlena was beside him much of the time. Not all the time though, because she had a very busy schedule of her own as patron of many worthy endeavours throughout Australia plus other activities such as fighting for child minding centres for Defence families and driving the magnificent refurbishment of Perth's historic Government House.

Mike alone drew a salary, so Australia got two for the price of one. Even better than that, Mike donated his major general's pension to charity for the duration of his service as Governor-General.

On retirement in 2008, Canberra people were given the opportunity to say farewell to the Jefferys by lining up along the one-kilometre length of Dunrossil Drive leading from Government House to the Cotter Road. Mike and Marlena walked the length of Dunrossil Drive, stopping along the way to chat with the large crowd of well-wishers before getting into their car waiting at the far end. The Australian Federal Police motorcycle escort team was there in force, mingling jovially with the crowd. It was a happy occasion for all.

Mike and Marlena were now once again heading for a quiet retirement. But first there were a few loose ends which had carried over from Mike's Vice-Regal duties. And he now had more time for them. So he did more, though at least he did try to take a break on weekends. Amongst many interests, the two to which he devoted most energy and time were the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Australian soils.

As Chairman of the Royal Flying Doctor Service he changed its focus from competing State branches to a truly national organisation that coordinated its efforts.

Mike's greatest legacy, however, is his strong advocacy to improve the condition of Australian soils and, with it, the environment. For over a decade he engaged with Australian scientists, farmers and other interested groups to develop a national soil research program. This complex matter also involves rehabilitation of our waterways, together with better management of agriculture and livestock.

Appointed National Advocate for Soil Health by the Prime Minister in 2012, Mike established 'Soils For Life' in 2013 to support farmers and land managers in regenerating soils and landscapes. At the same time, he continued to lobby for permanent Federal Government support. Mike finally achieved this aim in 2019, laying a path for others to follow, but was stricken with an ultimately fatal brain tumour very shortly afterwards. It had taken a terminal illness in his 80s to finally enforce his long-delayed retirement.

Following surgery and chemotherapy, Mike rested at home throughout 2020, supported by his loving family. For many years he and Marlena had been breeding their own private army. Of his four children, two sons and a daughter are Duntroon graduates like their father, while daughter Sarah's son is now (in 2021) the Academy Cadet Captain at ADFA, the senior cadet there.

One of Mike's final acts of generosity to others was to fund the badly needed bookcase for the Alamein Room in the Corps of Staff Cadets Mess. This room is used by all members of the CSC Mess. The specification was drawn up by the Mess Deputy President, Colour Sergeant Angie Duff (of Alamein Company) who also supervised the project. The bookcase was designed, built and installed by Bungendore Woodworks. Most importantly, it was built of beautiful Western Australian jarrah timber, perfect for the existing décor of the Alamein Room.

Together with the bookcase, Mike also donated some 200 military books from his extensive collection in his office.



Bookcase in Alamein Room.

Mike was not well enough to attend the unveiling on 10 November in the presence of Alamein Company First Class cadets, so Sarah Jeffery (a former Alamein Company cadet herself) unveiled the matching jarrah frame mounted above the bookcase. Within the frame is a photo of Michael Jeffery as Governor-General accompanied by the text shown below.



*Donated in 2020 by
Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC,
AO(Mil), CVO, MC (Retd)
Company Sergeant-Major, Alamein Company
Corps of Staff Cadets 1958
Governor of Western Australia
1993-2000
Governor-General of Australia
2003-2008*

Despite his failing health throughout 2020, Mike continued to keep as fit as he could and to enjoy life as much as possible. His morale remained ever high and he enjoyed a very happy 83rd birthday celebration with his family only six days before his death at home on 18 December.

The State funeral for Mike was held at Duntroon on 29 December. Attendance was severely restricted due to COVID-19. The three eulogies were delivered by Brigadier Chris Roberts, AM CSC (1967), by Craig Jeffery (Mike's eldest son) and by Zoe van der Klooster (Mike's granddaughter).

After the service, the coffin led the procession of all mourners from the chapel to Duntroon House where the coffin was transferred to the hearse. The procession through Duntroon went right past the Anzac Block where Mike was the Company Sergeant-Major of Alamein Company in 1958. Alamein Company lives there today.

The procession included all mourners, a detachment from the Federation Guard and part of the Australian Army Band – Duntroon. For the entire route, the Band played Lili Marlene as a slow march. Not only is Lili Marlene the slow march of the SAS Regiment, but it is also the march (either quick or slow) of Alamein Company, Corps of Staff Cadets. Thus the music choice was doubly appropriate.

The gathering inside Duntroon House included the Governor-General His Excellency General the Hon David Hurley (1975), Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley and the Prime Minister. It also included three of his soldiers—his batman in Malaya and two from 8 RAR in Vietnam. General Sir Peter Cosgrove had previously expressed his deep disappointment that COVID-19 restrictions prohibited his attendance, but he had to obey the rules.

Michael Jeffery will be remembered with much affection throughout this entire country which he served so devotedly for the whole of his life.

John Bullen was an Alamein Company classmate with Under Officer Mike Jeffery in 1958. He is now well into his second 50-year term of office as the 1955-1958 Class Orderly.

Eulogy on the Occasion of the Funeral of Major General D.M. Butler, AO DSO Silver Star (US) (3 Sep 1928 – 20 Nov 20)

Steve (S.N.) Gower (1961)

I have the great honour of being invited by David's daughter, Sue, to speak about his life and contribution as a senior officer. I had a very high regard for him, and we stayed on as friends in later life.

As is invariably the case as a younger officer, I knew a lot about David Butler, even though I'd never met him. I knew that: he was in the first attack ever conducted by the Royal Australian Regiment, and that was the Battle of the Apple Orchard in the advance northwards into North Korea. For his actions, he was to be awarded the US Silver Star; and he'd been a very successful battalion commander of 6 RAR on its second tour in Vietnam. Later when I was at the War Memorial, the Official Historian told me that he regarded him as being right up there with the best commanders; his Holsworthy-based Task Force had responded effectively at very short notice to provide aid-to-the-civil-power protection to the CHOGM retreat at Bowral following the Hilton Hotel bomb blast. His Task Force's quick response shocked and worried one very high-ranking Canberra mandarin. He told David, "Your troops suddenly came from nowhere and took over the town" and that, "the Army, if it wanted to, could easily take over the country!"

I first met David when he was Head of Army Staff in our Washington Embassy. He soon became aware from his contacts in the US Army that it was undergoing a renaissance from its post-Vietnam malaise in its strategic and doctrinal direction. There was the development of the Airland Battle war fighting concept, the articulation of the link between tactics and strategy called the Operational Level of War, and its 9th Infantry Division had become the high technology test bed in an endeavour to increase the firepower and mobility of the standard infantry division.

I was on integrated exchange with the US Army Command that was responsible for these initiatives, and David established close contact with me.

He came to admire the US Army's Chief of Staff, 'Shy' Meyer, whom he regarded as a visionary, and he said to me that his RMC classmate, General Phillip Bennett, displayed similar qualities.

That high regard was reciprocated some years later by General Sir Phillip Bennett when he wrote, "David has shown himself as an outstanding tactical commander, an excellent leader and a teacher in his profession of arms". He came to be an immensely important contributor to the Profession of Arms.

I would add that he was one of the leading thinkers of his time. I observed this personally when I returned from the US to work for him when he was the General Officer Commanding Training Command.

As the Colonel Doctrine, suffice it to say it was a very busy time. He was full of ideas and he would always articulate clearly what he wanted, a great gift.

But we were never too busy not to end our discussions in his corner office without discussions about sport: cricket and Australian football. I was never able to add anything of substance on his other great sporting passion, golf. But in the one golf match we did have, I thought he displayed a great capacity for gamesmanship. I, as a cricketer, would call it sledging!

During these discussions I discovered we had a common background in schooling: he went to Wesley in Perth, Prince Alfred for me in Adelaide; both Methodist-based.

I came to believe he displayed by his conduct and behaviour that he observed the Methodist doctrine of doing your best with whatever attributes you possessed for the good of society; contributing actively to the community; helping others; and being humble.

I found him to be a kindly, courteous, and gentlemanly person, very well-read on a range of subjects and one who cared deeply about the welfare of those who worked for him.

He did, of course, like many of us, like to see the traditions and proprieties of Army life observed; and woe-betide someone who arrived late for his weekly conference or took liberties with their turnout or presentation. Nonetheless, he had a nice turn of phrase when handing out the rebuke!

Before he left the Army, there was talk of him taking an appointment in Canberra. But having been the Director General of Operations and Plans in the unforgettable Sir Arthur Tange period, a Canberra posting had no appeal.

So, it was a return to his lovely property with a pool and tennis court at Portsea, a place he had enjoyed when he was the Commandant of the Officer Cadet School. That was an appointment that he believed was very important. He and Ann immersed themselves in the social life there, particularly the Sorrento Golf Club, where he was a much-respected president.

He continued his interest in Army matters and, with several others, wrote a book, *The Fight Leaders*, about the first three COs of 3 RAR in Korea (Charlie Green, I. B. Ferguson, and Frank Hassett).

In the last two years, David and Ann were moved to Sydney by the family where they could get the care that they needed.

It remains for me to farewell Major General David Matheson Butler AO DSC Silver Star (US). It was a great privilege to know and work with you.

RIP, David, and our hearts and thoughts go out to your remaining family members.

Colonel Alan Martin McDonald, OAM (20 Sep 1930 - 17 Oct 2020)

Konrad (C.) Ermert (1962)



On 17 October 2020 the Duntroon Society lost one its staunchest members. Colonel Alan McDonald, OAM, Victorian Branch Treasurer for over 15 years, dedicated, active supporter and participant in every function and aspect of the Branch. He was much admired and sought out for the sheer pleasure of his company.

The more one became aware of his rich and varied life of service to the Society, the community, the Nation and to his family, the more one admired this quiet, good natured, selfless gentleman.

Alan was born in Lismore, Victoria, the youngest of three brothers. He attended Ballarat College as a boarder, and excelled in rowing, cricket, athletics, tennis, squash, golf and Australian Rules football. He played for the Geelong Reserves in the VFL and remained a loyal and active supporter of the Cats throughout his life. Later in life, he learned to fly, with his son as his flying instructor.

Alan graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1951 into the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. He immediately embarked for service in Korea as 2IC of the Signals Platoon of 4 Battalion, Royal Australia Regiment (4 RAR) shortly followed by his posting as the commander of an Infantry Platoon in 3 RAR. Alan subsequently served with the Headquarters of the Commonwealth Brigade.

After his return from Korea, Alan was involved with the atomic trials at Maralinga and later gave evidence to the enquiry into the trials. After a posting to the staff of the Officer Cadet School, Portsea he was sent on exchange to the UK 13 Signal Regiment in Cologne, Germany. Alan attended the Australian Staff College, Queenscliff in 1965.

His more senior appointments included Commanding Officer, 7 Signals Regiment, Cabarlah, and Commandant of the Army Apprentices School, Balcombe. His later appointments were as the Director of Operations, Defence Communication Systems Division, and the Director of Army Training, in Army Headquarters, Canberra. After a remarkable career, Alan retired from Army service in 1986.

Alan's connection with the Services did not end with his retirement. Alan was an active member of the Korean Veterans Association of Australia (KVAA). He served the Association as Vice President and represented KVAA on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Korean War Veterans Health Study, DVA, 2004. Alan was described as a driving force in initiating the study.

Alan also contributed his time and energy in support of the Mornington RSL. He served as Vice President and President. During his time as the Appeals and Welfare Officer he raised \$890,000 to help those in need. He was installed as a Life Member and in February this year, the Mornington RSL has named the Alan McDonald Memorial Hall in his honour.

Alan made significant contributions to his community. He was a Councillor of Mornington Shire from 1991 to 1995. He was the Chairman and Convenor of the Mornington East Community Group. Alan was the District Chairman for the Salvation Army, and he organized the Red Shield Appeal for many years. He was a member of the Mornington Memorial

Park and Gardens Committee and a Foundation Member of the Greens Bush Committee. For his service to Australia and the community, in 2005 Alan was awarded the Commonwealth Government National Day for Older Australians award.

And, if his life was not sufficiently full from his service to others, Alan also conducted his own business, Astrovac, installing and maintaining vacuum cleaner systems.

But above all, Alan was a family man. At the celebration of his life his children told the stories of his constant devotion, involvement, and support. Alan married Waltraud in 2003, living in Mornington, and cultivating friends and a magnificent garden. Alan is survived by Waltraud and his children Robert, Janet, Ross and Joanne.

For his lifetime of service to his country and community Alan was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

Profile of the Corps of Staff Cadets

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Current strength (5 April 2021) | 397 |
| First Class | 86 |
| Second Class | 227 |
| Third Class | 84 |
| Neville Howes VC Platoon | 9 |
| Afghanistan | 1 |
| Cambodia | 1 |
| Fiji | 6 |
| Iraq | 1 |
| Lebanon | 1 |
| Malaysia | 2 |
| New Zealand | 4 |
| Pakistan | 2 |
| Papua New Guinea | 10 |
| Philippines | 1 |
| Qatar | 1 |
| Singapore | 1 |
| Thailand | 1 |
| Tonga | 2 |
| Vanuatu | 4 |
| Females | 55 |

Two Australian Army trainees are undergoing training at the NZ Officer Cadet School on exchange.

Letters to the Editor

Ross (R.R.) Harding (1948)

When the Duntroon Society was formed on 27 June 1980, it shared its beginning with its *Newsletter* 1/1980. That date also marked the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Military college in 1911. Further, with the publication of *Newsletter* 2/2020 last September, the Newsletter passed its 40th anniversary.

Brigadier Geoffrey (G.D.) Solomon (1940), was the first Editor and he set the format and tone much as it is today. It was a modest publication of eight black and white pages. He wrote in the first editorial that, "For the moment our expectations for the Newsletter are more ambitious than our hopes. Our feeling is one of cautious optimism." I am sure that he would not be disappointed to know how that which he began has developed and matured since then, in no small part with its current Editor.

From this background we now have Newsletter articles of a quality of writing and content that is informative, interesting and accurate. Indeed, from that aspect its identification as a newsletter is doubtful. It has been cited in other serious publications and, without its significant proportion of domestic material, the word 'newsletter' in its present title could be altered to 'journal'. Given its mixed content however, a neutral word would be more fitting. Two examples from similar institutions are the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy with its *Assembly* and the Officer Training Unit Association with *The Scheyvillian*. In that vein *The Duntrooner* comes to mind. And there are other options.

I appreciate that for many the Newsletter after 40 years has a comfortable and secure, albeit small, place in their lives and that consistency has value. Nevertheless, in keeping with its theme of accuracy, the Newsletter has overtaken itself and deserves a title that better reflects what it has now become.

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