



The Scheyvillian

Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee

OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 3, 2019

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



Timothy Andrew 'Tim' Fischer AC, 3 May 1946 – 29 August 2019
See Vale on Page 5

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THE SCHEYVILLE TAPES – Still Available! A good watch!

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

The Recordings are of:

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

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

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

OTHER DVDs AVAILABLE

A must for all Reunion

Co-ordinators or even for Scheyvillians.

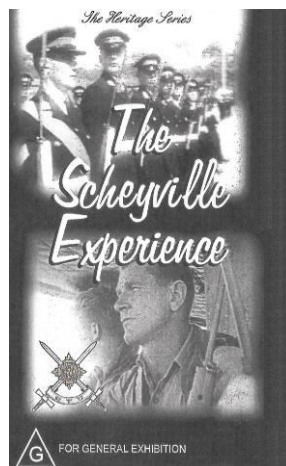
National Service Officer and the Don Keyes (4/69) produced 'The Scheyville Experience'

\$10 incl P&H

Also available from The Editor!



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



THE SCHEYVILLE INTERVIEWS

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



Transferred for the OTU Association
by
Redwood Entertainment, Ballarat

THE SCHEYVILLIAN NEXT EDITION

Due Out April 2020: It is planned to have Edition 1 of 2020 of *The Scheyvillian* in April 2020.

Submissions need to be received by 10 April 2020. If you have any contributions: current stories (eg. Reunions, dinners or other get-togethers) or memorabilia stories, please email them to The Editor, The Scheyvillian, at nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au or post to Unit 3 / 519 Peel Street North, Black Hill, Vic, 3350. **Preferably photographs should be sent separate to the articles.** If you have large file size photos, please send individual photos to nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au or send a disc/USB Stick with multiple photos. Photos are preferred in jpeg format and should be named.

As seen in this and other recent issues, the Scheyvillian is about those who attended Scheyville in one capacity or another.

We all have stories to tell! Please keep the stories coming and keep the standard of this publication high!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (Graeme Chester 2/67)

As at the **17 Nov 19**, a summary of our FY19/20 membership was:

Number of Graduates	1,881			
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	2,004			
Number Financial		590		
Widows		8		
Number Life Members		27		
Number Deceased			213	
Number Unfinancial (Not Renewed)			988	
Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact)			178	
Totals	1881	2004	625	1,379

Of the names on database 31.2% are financial/honorary/widows.

Of the names on the database 10.6% are deceased.

Of the names on the database 49.3% are unfinancial (not renewed)

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

We now have **625** financial members, well above the 573 we had at the end of last FY. This result has been due, in no small way, to the production of the OTU Scheyville Coffee Table Book. Previously unfinancial members purchased the book and gained first-hand knowledge of what the OTU Association is doing for its members and this, together with a spate of 50th Reunions, has rekindled support for the Association, resulting in a significant increase in financial membership.

Our next challenge is to get our financial membership up to **728**, a level last achieved in 2004.

For all those who have not renewed your membership yet, if you are enjoying participating in the Association's activities, ie the Coffee Table book, Q Store merchandise, reunions, dinners, luncheons, ANZAC Day etc, please support our efforts to 'keep the blokes together' by becoming financial.

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

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

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

Past Members

In a later article on Air Cadets and NS who became Army pilots, it has been found that three Graduates have passed away but were not listed on the website as deceased. They are James Mayhew and Les Maike (both 1/67) and Klaus Hahn (O1/73).

In addition, William Ferguson (3/66), Lyn Hummerston (1/69) and Greg Baker (1/70) have minimal information on their deaths.

Tub Matheson is looking into the details on the death of the Aviators, but if you have any information that can be placed on the website about their deaths, please contact the Editor.

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

As advised in the previous Scheyvillian, priority tasks for 2018-2019 were to obtain as many valid email addresses as possible for all members by searching up to date class lists and using postal and telephone contacts where available.

We have sent out National OTU emails this week to 1180 valid email addresses (mainly regarding three separate funeral details for David Harley, Bill Watson and Peter Fox). Three of these have "bounced" and are in the process of being recovered by contacting members by text or phone.

Earlier this year "bounced" (non-deliverable) emails were being reported to an unknown server location on the website. When this was discovered, advice was provided to the Webmaster and more than eighty email address have now been corrected. Many errors had crept in following the retirement of many of our members who then changed their email addresses without updating their OTU record. Another factor was the implementation of NBN which had a disproportionate impact on email delivery. At least now all invalid email addresses are being corrected where possible.

Note that if you do not have an email address on your record (ie. it is blank), I will not receive notification of a "bounce" and you will not receive the information that other members are receiving. Please update these records where possible.

Ed. Note: In the middle of the ordering process for the OTU Coffee Table Book the Website Administrator (not the Webmaster) found that numerous 'Undeliverable' emails had been received by the website, but the website did not advise the Administrator or Webmaster! There were 58 'Undeliverable' email addresses of Scheyvillians on the website. In following through this matter, it was found that the majority of the 'Undeliverable' email addresses were where Scheyvillians had not updated their email addresses since retiring from work.

It is important to keep your email address updated on the OTU Website!

WEBSITE - REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS & MEMORABILIA: MORE NEEDED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEBSITE PHOTOGRAPHS - From The Scheyvillian 2 of 2019.

The word from Les Myers:

1. I took the photo
2. It was sent to the association with names as follows
From left to right: Fred Pedler, John Fraser,
David de Jersey (2/65 DNG), Ken Mitchell, Graeme
Loadsman, Col Linklater, Eric Campbell.
Cheers, Les!



Vale Tim Fischer (3/66)- Army Officer (Peter Whitelaw, 3/66)

Much has been written about Tim since his death on the 29 August 2019. Many journalists and TV programs have covered his long and distinguished career and ALL of the commentary has been favourable. Therefore, this article is only about Tim's career as an Army Officer.

Tim's birthdate of 3 May 1946 was drawn in the National Service ballot and he reported at Wagga in July 1966 where he "got on a bus for 1RTB at Kapooka where all the yelling started". It snowed at Kapooka the next day.

As Recruit Training commenced the opportunity to apply for Officer Training appealed to Tim. He applied and was successful in the challenging selection process. Selection Board reports included "tall lean farm boy", "should make a sound officer" and "will worry".



On arrival at Scheyville and stepping off the bus, he experienced, as did the rest of us (Class 3/66), the loud directive voice of RSM Larry Moon giving him an inkling of what was to occur at OTU. No need to explain to us Officer Cadets what happened during the 22 weeks that followed. We all know that we were stretched to the limit – and beyond – with training, field exercises, sports, lectures and discipline. Sixteen hours a day for 6 days a week with very few leave opportunities.

A few classmates had observed Tim's 'country' style; one said "Tim seemed to have two left feet and was square-gaiting", another said he walked like a farmer; "he lifted his feet too high, like he was walking through wet grass", and yet another (not to be named) said; "he was bumbling, shy and gawky". I have a recollection of showing Tim how to lace his boots the army way instead of farmer style.

Commandant Colonel Geddes observed that Tim; "has a quiet personality and tended to handle subordinates with persuasion", perhaps a portent of a future politician. Others observed that Tim "came out of his shell and became more gregarious".

Eighty-two young men commenced as Class 3 of 1966 and 56 graduated as Second Lieutenants in December, Tim graduated 8th in the class and was awarded the Gordon Sharp Memorial Prize for showing the greatest improvement in fieldwork. Gordon Sharp was the first OTU graduate to be killed in action at the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966. His death was conveyed to us during our training and was a salutary message about the seriousness of our future roles.



In early 1967, Tim was posted to 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and spent the next 9 months at Holsworthy Barracks. He was keen to serve in Vietnam, but he was told he would have to extend his service for 9 months if he was to go. His parents hit the roof, but he did it.

He landed in Vietnam in March 1968 as Transport Officer for 1RAR and into the heat and dust. A few weeks after settling into 1ATF the Task Force began establishing Fire Support Base Coral north of Saigon on the 12 May 1968. About 400 North Vietnamese troops attacked with rockets, mortars and small arms, killing five Australians and wounding eight. 2Lt Fischer was sent the next day as a reinforcement to command a section of the perimeter and to oversee resupply. Tim was digging in when the enemy

attacked again on the 16 May with mortars and an assault, killing another five Australians. Tim's hootchie was only a few metres from the ammunition supply dump that the enemy were targeting. Tim looked over the edge of his pit and a piece of shrapnel pierced his right shoulder and small pieces hit his chest and forehead. Bleeding, he was told by his Signaller to "pull his head in before he got it shot off". Tim was medevaced out by helicopter to Bien Hoa and stitched up.

While convalescing he took an Iroquois flight destined for Vung Tau, but it was diverted well into enemy territory to pick up a wounded American GI. The chopper crew were engaged in an intense fire fight with Tim on board without a weapon. He said it was his most frightening experience in Vietnam. Years later Tim repeatedly recalled that battle with a shiver of fear and called it a "cacophony of experience".

He had some R&R and was then made Platoon Commander of 7 Platoon, Charlie Company. They conducted patrol operations from Nui Dat with frequent enemy contacts with a number of casualties. His men liked Tim. They said he was always concerned about his soldiers, he got up first and went to bed last and made sure they were all looked after. In October 1968 Tim was hospitalised with malaria. You may have seen the TV clip where he wished the folks back home a happy Christmas.

After nearly a year in Vietnam Tim was shipped back to Australia and was demobbed in March 1969. He then pursued his long interest in politics.



In 1992, Tim spoke at one of our OTU lunches and said "On reflection, the truth of the matter is that for all the severe hardships endured, for all the other aspects of Scheyville, good and bad - but mostly good - the OTU graduate emerged with a sense of determination and unity of purpose, a sense of motivation which might be loosely summarised as the Spirit of Scheyville. So far as I am personally concerned, I place on record that undoubtedly my Scheyville experience was a key factor which has caused me to rise to become federal Leader of the National Party and one of four federal parliamentary party leaders in Australia today. It caused me to strive for additional goals and make that extra effort and commitment."

Tim never forgot his Scheyville experience and wore his OTU badge on most public occasions. We are saddened to lose Tim and we offer our condolences to Judy, Dominic and Harrison. (Some content drawn from "The Boy from Boree Creek" by Peter Rees)

Fellow Platoon Commander at 1 RAR, John Salter, wrote, in answer to the question:

So, confirming that Tim was actually the 1 RAR Transport Officer and was at Coral during the first few days of the attack from 12th until wounded on 16th?

No, as Transport Officer he was not at Coral on the 12th but came up later to assist in resupply etc. Not sure of exact date of arrival but probably 13 or 14th. He was there for the second attack on the night 15/16 and was wounded early on the 16th. He was Medivaced initially to Bien Hoa, stitched up and then to the Australian Hospital Vung Tau for 2 weeks to recuperate. He then went to 7 Pl C Coy as Pl Comd and stayed with that Pl until the Bn returned to Australia on HMAS Sydney in Feb 69 and was discharged Mar 69. He had extended his time to stay with the Bn.

Post-Army

In 1970, post-National Service, Tim was elected to the NSW Parliament at the age of 24, then in 1984 he won the Federal seat of Farrer in Southern NSW and six years later became the Leader of the National Party, a position he held for nine years.

Among his achievements was arguing the case for the government's gun control laws, particularly among rural voters, that followed the 1996 Port Arthur massacre.

After resigning from politics in 2001, Tim worked for various charities connected to autism and veteran's affairs. He was appointed Australia's Ambassador to the Holy See in Rome in 2008.

Tim is survived by his wife Judy and sons Harrison and Dominic.

Tim was a great supporter of the OTU-A and was regularly seen wearing his OTU badge at non-military events.

Funeral



Following his passion for trains, Tim's casket was transported on a train to Albury for his funeral. He was met by a contingent of Scheyvillians with an OTU Flag. The State Funeral for Tim Fischer AC was held at the Albury Entertainment Centre, Swift Street, Albury on Thursday 29 March at 1.00pm. After the service Scheyvillians met at the Board Room at the SS&A in Albury, a short distance from the service site, for afternoon tea. There were 17 attendees were from the OTU-A and a number of veterans from the FSB Coral battle.



Scheyvillians at Tim Fischer's post-funeral gathering
Robin Hunt (3/69), Terry Earle (3/66), Paul Ford (2/71), Peter Whitelaw (3/66), Brian Cooper (3/69), Frank Miller (4/67), Gerry Pels (4/71), Don McNaught (4/69), Noel Osborne (4/66), Les Myers (2/65), Wal Hall (2/68), Bruce Selleck (2/70) and Nick Israel (2/70).

RECENT NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Class 3/72 Reunion 16 – 19 September 2019, Sunshine Coast, Queensland (Evan Williams)

The Queensland Committee for Class Reunion 2019 (Evan Williams, Kim Turner, Ian Hendrick, Andre Legosz and Mark Rohan) decided that rather than follow previous reunion guidelines linking the get together with ANZAC Day commemorations we would arrange a reunion which avoided school holidays in September 2019. The chosen dates allowed attendees and their partners to come to Queensland and enjoy the Sunshine Coast environs. To this end a decision was made to nominate Novotel Twin Waters Resort as a suitable “Form up Place” as it had easy access to transport and all activities associated with the Sunshine Coast.

For the reunion optional activities included - Dinner, Beach/Pool, Golf, Local Markets, Barefoot Bowls and of course Free time to allow memorable catch ups. The highlight of the reunion was the Formal Dinner held at the Maroochy RSL with 33 Class members and partners enjoying the RSL Hospitality. For the evening the Organising Committee had put together a “sound and light show” featuring music from the 1970’s and Scheyville DVD’s made available through the association. During the evening Kim Turner was our MC and allowed each attendee to present a “Soldiers Five” on our respective lives over the preceding 47 years!

At the RSL the organising committee set up a Memorabilia Table which included photos, Uniforms and other items of interest – This invoked many distant memories including the quality of the Directing Staff and activities associated with training at Scheyville including the night march through the Putty Ranges at the conclusion of Exercise Bonanza.

In conclusion, the Queensland Organising Committee thanks those who were able to attend the reunion with representatives from all states enjoying the Queensland Hospitality. For those members of 3/72 who were unable to attend, we now look forward to catching up in the near future and hopefully in October 2020.



Class 3/69 Celebrates a 50th Anniversary in Canberra, 16 – 19 September 2019

Monday, September 16, 2019 saw twenty-eight 3/69 OTU graduates and one distinguished non graduate (Paul DeLaunay OAM) arrive at the Mercure Hotel, Canberra, in the delightful company of twenty wives and partners for a total of 49. Present were a truly remarkable body of men and women with more than a smattering of rank and honours. One Colonel, five Lieutenant Colonels, a couple of Majors and Captains and seven Australian honours gathered together with captains of industry, medicine and bureaucracy.

The event started with an informal ‘Welcome Reception’ that night, well lubricated and provisioned, and addressed by the imposing figure of Lt Col Brian Cooper, whose idea the reunion was and whose two years of work and hundreds of emails had ensured its success. While the scheduled event was for two hours it took on a life of its own and kept the hotel’s main bar open until nearly midnight.

The reunion was held over three days in the nation’s capital and saw the delegates attend private tours of the New Parliament House, the Royal Military College with its OTU memorabilia, memorial to fallen classmates and an address by its CO; Old Parliament House and the Australia War Memorial, at which four wreaths were laid in honour of OTU graduates and others who laid down their lives in the service of Australia. The event wound up with a Formal Ladies Dining In Night accompanied by a rousing speech by Dr Brendon Nelson AO, Director of the AWM, for which he received a well-deserved standing ovation and OTU memorabilia. The evening of course was graced by many toasts, some programmed and some spontaneous, including one by Maureen, wife of Jay McDaniell, who with Gary Vial assisted Brian

in the creation and management of the event. The toasts were taken in port, graciously sponsored by John Wedgwood who unfortunately could not attend.

Breakfasts, lunches, bus trips and informal dinners were the centres of animated discussions. As one member quipped “it was as if we were just carrying on a conversation we started 50 years ago”.

Canberra turned on sparkling, cool weather with only one rainy day and that for a short period that did nothing to dampen the spirits of the attendees.

Class 3/69 graduated 57 of whom the majority, less those who have sadly deceased, were contacted and as previously noted, 29 attended with another 12 regretting their absence due to health travel or prior engagements. Not a bad result!.



Full photographic coverage can be seen on the event's Facebook page Officer Training Unit Scheyville - 3/69 Reunion 2019 16-19Sep, and a photo book of the event is available: <https://au.blurb.com/b/9685936-officer-training-unit-scheyville-class-3-of-1969-r>

Class 2/69 Celebrates its 50th Anniversary of Graduation in Launceston, 18 – 20 October 2019

(David Jarvis 2/69) The 2/69 reunion in Launceston, Tasmania, from Friday the 18 to Sunday 20 October 2019 celebrated the 50th anniversary of our graduation. Organised and hosted by local legend, the urbane, affable Ross Robbins, a record 45 people attended our 21st annual reunion - it would have been 51 but for some last minute scratchings!

We were based at Peppers Seaport Hotel in the heart of Launceston where the North and South Esk rivers meet - an excellent, reasonably priced hotel with beautiful views and the Mud Bar, an alluring place that some, at times, found difficult to leave. Although these events are always endurance tests, 16 people still arrived the day before the reunion started and after a robust Thursday night dinner in the hotel restaurant a lot of them were a bit sluggish before the starter's gun.

Unfortunately, the weather on the Friday was cold, wet and windy. Determined not to be seduced by the siren song of the Mud Bar I set off with John Hunter to play golf at the Launceston Golf Club - we realised we had made a terrible mistake as soon as we hit off as it was like playing on the polar ice caps. Somehow, we played 18 holes. Meanwhile the wives shopped happily in downtown Launceston and there are rumours men were sighted in the Mud Bar.

That night we had dinner in the “Rupert and Hound” Restaurant - a relatively quiet night for most. The weather improved and Saturday morning was spent at the Farmer's Market and sight-seeing. A major attraction is the Cataract Gorge only 15 minutes' walk from the city. It is a spectacular river gorge, home to the world's longest single span chairlift, a 50-metre swimming pool, the Alexandra suspension bridge, lookouts and walking tracks.

The Launceston CBD is full of historic buildings and old-style houses - like a walk back in time and very interesting and attractive. Federation, Victorian and Georgian styles are prevalent. I must say Launceston folk are very welcoming, friendly and helpful.

Saturday afternoon we went to “Woolmers” a world heritage listed convict site at Longford. It is a farming estate founded in 1817 by Thomas Archer a prominent grazier and MP. It consists of an immaculate 82-hectare property including a two-part manor house, coach house, vast cellars, the National Rose Garden, extensive outbuildings, convict cottages and a formal garden. We had a guided tour followed by scones, jam and cream. Like Port Arthur this is an important and fascinating place.

That night we had our formal dinner at the beautiful Stillwater Restaurant situated at the start of the Cataract Gorge walk. We were delighted that Lawson Ride was able to attend with his wife Vivien. Lawson has advanced Parkinson’s disease. He is wheelchair bound and cannot speak but he understands and smiles a lot. Rob and Jan Wilson helped Vivien look after Lawson during the reunion and hats off to them.

After various toasts, speeches and a rather lack-lustre performance of the OTU song we were surprised when Kevin Richardson stood up and spoke about how much our friendship meant to him and then gave all of us a gift. The ladies received a box of exotic chocolates and the men a small, working clock especially made for the occasion by a craftsman to Kevin’s specifications. The clock is made of wood in the shape of a four-sided star to denote an officer’s “pip”. On the face is the Scheyville OTU insignia of crossed swords under a “pip” and the hands of the clock start at and extend from the “pip”. Below the insignia is “2/69.” The words “TRIA JUNCTA IN UNO” are on the clock face as they are on all officer’s “pips” and mean “Three joined in one”. If you want to know the origin and significance, I suggest you Google the Latin phrase. Kevin had already given all of us custom made pens a few years ago - a big man with a big heart. The evening ended at midnight when, thankfully, Stillwater’s license expired.

Sunday lunch was at the Josef Chromy winery restaurant set in more beautiful gardens with a lake - a world class establishment. As tradition demanded Paul Flanagan entertained us with his brilliant limericks and some startled patrons celebrating a birthday were gratuitously regaled by some of us with a very loud rendition of “Happy Birthday” led by skilled baritone Doug Harrington.

That night, as people started dropping like flies due to sheer exhaustion, a resolute group had dinner at the hotel while about 20 attend a farewell breakfast on Monday morning before returning home after another great reunion.

A lot of work goes into these shows and hosts Ross and Jane Robbins, Mick Hart and his secretary Melanie Griffin and the late Bill Watson deserve our thanks. Apart from the aforesaid the following attended - Robin Apted and Helene Dussault, Roger and Jenny Baird, Gordon and Ingrid Campbell, Grahame and Kay Charge, Ian and Sue Coulson, Gordon and Anne Dickens, Peter and Birute Don, Judy Flanagan, Trish Hart, Jenny Harrington, David and Sophie Jervis, Terry and Jocelyn Keogh, Chris and Angela McEvoy, Lotte Monotti, Tim and Nichole Overall, Ian and Annette Paul, Kath Richardson, Jennie Watson, Lyn Williams, Peter and Cher Wotton.

We are looking forward to the October 2020 National Reunion in the Scheyville area.”

Things learned at Scheyville (Paul Flanagan) - caring for our weapons and surviving in the bush; never having enough time; doing things in the dark after lights out; and doing more than one thing at a time.

You must clean your rifle and oil it, and to drink dirty water you boil it.

It’s no walk in the park, cleaning brass in the dark,

And shaving while using the toilet.

Paul also wrote limericks about a number of other attendees:

It was good that **Lawson Ride** was able to join us, despite his illness. After Nasho, Lawson returned to the decadent life of a muso and, in due course, met his wife, Vivien at the Carlyle Hotel in Hobart. She was working there - and he was drunk – dressed like a hippy, with long hair and flares – and his psychedelic kombi parked outside. To try to win her heart, he pinched her on the bottom. What a start!

He was hippy and way below par, when he first met his wife in a bar
 He was one of those lairs, who dressed up in flares,
 And had flowers all over his car.

His conduct was hard to surpass, though it may well've ended in farce
 It was his way of courting, but jolly unsporting,
 When he pinched the poor girl on the arse!

Others to feel the humour were:

Lyn Williams – a serial ladies' Man. John Hunter – a connoisseur of exotic foods and pleasures.

The Charges – married over 50 years and still the best of mates. Kevin Richardson – big man, big heart.

Woollmers Estate – our visit to a historic estate, and Ross Robbins – a man of many talents:

Organiser of a most enjoyable reunion; aviation enthusiast; purveyor of ribald jokes; serial stirrer.



Standing (L to R): Gordon Dickens, Doug Harrington, David Jervis, Ian Paull, Bob Apted, Graeme Charge, Lyn Williams, Mick Hart, Peter Don, Ian Coulson, Paul Flanagan, Ross Robbins, Roger Baird, Terry Keogh. Sitting (L to R): John Hunter, Chris Mc Evoy, Gordon Campbell, Kevin Richardson, Lawson Ride, Rob Wilson, Bill Watson

Class 4/69 Celebrates its 50th Anniversary of March In in Sydney, 14 – 19 October 2019

A large contingent was available for the preparatory evening on Monday 14th October at the Kirribilli (ex-services) Club. This included some who had not been able to get to any previous reunion. On 15 October 2019, The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron did us proud for the Reunion lunch, coincidentally also the 50th anniversary to the day, of Dick Flint marching in to OTU as CI. 19 graduates and 14 wives and partners attended the lunch.



Those present (pictured) were: Ian and Christine Alexander, Clive and Janice Badelow, Terrence and Di Ballantyne, Peter and Paulene Blackwood, John and Denise Bushell, Geoff and Carmel Daly, Kevin and Sue Dixon, Michael and Sandi Faulkner, Geoffrey Gardiner, Ted Gretgrix and Liz Commadeur, Brian and Pauline Hetheron, Donald Keyes, Peter and Colleen Krauklis, Victor and Stella Lampe, Donald and Liz McNaught, Barry Miechel, Graham Riches, Warwick Settree, and Hein and Francois Van der Heide. After the eventual departure from the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, the Kirribilli Hotel was conveniently located just near the station. This resolved the question of where to have dinner if needed.

52 marched in to OTU, Scheyville as the 18th intake on 17 October 1969. 27 of the original 52 and 5 of 3/69 graduated on 15 April 1970. 17 of those were at lunch as well as 2 of the 5 who graduated with 1/70.

On Wednesday morning, 25 people surveyed the surviving buildings at what is now Scheyville National Park. Vic Lampe, who was posted back to OTU Scheyville on staff, met the coach at the back gate (special permission) and provided a detailed and informative guided tour for wives and partners new to Scheyville and those of us whose memory has faded. His comments were peppered with 'things we never realised' from a staff perspective. After lunch at the golf club, there was a short visit to St Matthew's Anglican Church where there is a replica of the unit banner and other memorabilia. The coach dropped participants back at the front door of the Treehouse Hotel in North Sydney.

The Thursday morning Sydney Harbour coffee cruise was outstanding, especially when some discovered that the bar was open for more than coffee. The bistro at the Museum of Contemporary Art was a convenient post cruise venue for visitors to farewell Sydney.

A major contribution to the success of the four days was made by all participants warning in and arriving at the FUP by the appointed time. Undoubtedly, still fearful of an ETP. Thanks to our Sydney Organisers, Kevin Dixon, Peter Krauklis and Vic Lampe.

Class 3/71 Reunion Perth, 15 – 17 November 2019 (Chris Coates)

After a slow start in the reunion business Class 3/71, one of the smallest graduating classes in the OTU era, has now settled into a regular two-yearly event with Fremantle now added to Melbourne and Adelaide. Thirteen of 3/71 and our honorary 4/71 member with seven partners also in attendance, settled into the Swan yacht Club for an initial informal get together to begin a weekend of events from 15 to 17 November. As is usual at these events tall tales and true were the order of the day but also as usual it seemed only yesterday we were all enjoying the luxury resort conditions of Scheyville and the shared experiences.

On Saturday we were off to Perth mint to watch gold poured and for a bit of history before wandering up to King's Park for the wonderful views and to spend some time at the many memorials to soldiers past.

A beautiful trip by ferry from central Perth took us back to Fremantle past, as described to us by the locals, the residences of the "wanna be's", "coulda beens" and "has beens" of the west. I have a feeling some are still doing ok.



Rear: Alan Fitzgerald, Michael Tonks, Richard Groves, Darryl Sturgess, Barry Cooke, Phil Verco 4/71, Geoffrey Houghton, Peter Ralston, Chris Coates, Steve McAlinden, Front: David Nomchong, Alan Sparkes, Greg Rodgers, Mark Berry.

On Saturday night we met at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht club for a formal evening, although given we had chosen the hottest November day since records began for Perth, dress was rather neat casual. A great night and time to thank Barry Cooke, Steve McAlinden and Mark Berry for the organisation and all step back one pace to leave the Queenslanders volunteering for the next event in 2021, our fiftieth year since graduation.

Sunday was spent around Fremantle at the Maritime Museum and Fremantle Old Goal. Two more excellent venues in the beautiful coastal setting. Another visit to Swan Yacht Club brought the weekend to a close and we all headed back to the five states represented after a great weekend.

Class 2/66 '53 Years of Soldiering' Reunion, Sydney 5 – 7 May 2019 follow-up (Frank Shellbear)

As part of our 2/66 mini reunion in May, after the visit to Scheyville, we stopped for lunch at the Windsor RSL. One of the lunch specials was a sausage sampler. Described by the waiter as “really good and really big”. So, John Howe and I agreed to split the meal, along with the chips and coleslaw. It certainly was “really good & really big”, to the extent that we needed Jonesy, at the head of the table, out of camera, to pitch in and clean up the leftovers.



Most Determined to Graduate Award – Follow Up.

In The Scheyvillian 2 of 2019 Class 4/68 brought to our attention the OTU Flag presented by the then Brigadier Geddes, the first Commandant of OTU, and that across the bottom of the flag were seven small plaques. These plaques were for the ‘I Can and I Will’ Cadet – ‘The Most Determined to Graduate’.



Geoff Davis advised that the third Commandant, Colonel Stoddart, presented him with the pewter mug for ‘The Most Determined to Graduate’ Cadet for Class 3/70. This award was not one of the official prizes shown on the Graduation Parade Card given to visitors to the Graduation Parade. Geoff has a vague memory of one of his Seniors in Class 2/70 receiving such an award. It would be interesting to know which other Cadets were presented that award! Geoff recalled being ‘blown away when my name was announced, as I thought I would have been the last person likely to receive it’.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

As publicized in recent Scheyvillians a National Reunion is to be held 16 – 18 October 2020. The event’s timing, location and format had been decided following the response to a questionnaire circulated late last year. The Windsor/ Hawkesbury area of New South Wales was chosen for the activities involved. An assessment has shown there to be sufficient accommodation and facilities in the vicinity to support the anticipated number of attendees.

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

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

Costings for each of the functions have yet to be confirmed and will be made available in the new year when the local businesses advise their costings for 2020. The National Executive has agreed to a generous subsidy for the reunion as it fits well within the Association’s Constitutional objectives.

The present intention is that an on-line facility be created for bookings and payments through the OTU Website www.otu.asn.au Further details will be made available through email and on the Website in due course.

WA Chapter Busselton Weekend 7 – 9 February 2020.

David Eyres (3/67) and a Sub-Committee are coordinating a “new set of activities” based around the weekend Friday 7th – Sunday 9th February 2020.

STATE ACTIVITIES:

ACT Chapter Les Boag (4/68)

Mixed Xmas Lunch On Friday 22 November 2019, the ACT Scheyvillians held a mixed lunch for 28 at the Royal Canberra Gold Club. Unfortunately, this year the only widow able to join us was Marion Mitchell (Neil Mitchell, 2/72). The lunch was organised and coordinated by Bruce Selleck (2/70). The location was superb to escape the hot day and smoke from the bush fires. The catering was first class with a buffet main with turkey and ham and dessert at the table, along with the fine wines served.

Thanks to Bruce for a year of great organising of our Canberra lunches. The joy of the event was dampened by the tragic death of our ACT Treasurer and OTU Life Member, Bill Watson (2/69), in a car accident a week earlier. However, knowing that Bill and his wife Jennie would want us to proceed with the lunch, we did so and had a special toast to Bill that was delivered by Wal Hall (2/68). Bill leaves us with many fond and treasured memories and he will be missed but remembered. RIP William (Bill) Watson.

We also had a toast to the ladies by Chris Joscelyne (1/68) and a toast to fallen comrades by Greg Monteith (2/67). With four tables of seven it was easy to capture the event with a picture of each table:



Table 1 - L to R: Marion Mitchell, Chris Joscelyne 1/68, Les Boag 4/68, Dawn Boag, Liz Mayo, Wayne Mayo 3/68, Jacqui Thorpe & Brook Thorpe 4/66



Table 2 - L to R: John Herlihy 1/67, Wal Hall 2/68, Greg Monteith 2/67, Brian Curren 1/68, Jan Curren, Joan Monteith & Anne Hall



Table 3 - L to R: Pam Wesley-Smith, Andy Kimpton 1/68, Terry Wesley-Smith 2/67, Lorraine Kimpton, Paul Beerworth 1/71, Greg Todd 2/71 & Vija Todd

Table 4 - L to R Barb Selleck, Winston Bucknall 2/68, Pam Wilkinson, Bruce Selleck 2/70, Jim Rule 1/65, Mary Rule & Jeff Wilkinson 2/70



Note: There was a ‘Celebration of Life’ for Bill Watson at the Commonwealth Club in Yarralumla, on Wednesday 4 December 2019.

NSW Chapter (Phil Paddison, 2/70 and John Marsden, 2/68) Like many areas nationally, we have seen steady growth in numbers at our gatherings in NSW from March to July. Teasing graduates out of the bush and suburbs is good for all involved. From March 15's Coffee Morning at the Wickham Boatshed (left), May 17's Queen's Wharf Hotel Lunch and June 20's Philip's Foote Lunch (right), we saw many of the usual suspects on rotation and many new attendees. Lively discussions, good food, outrageous stories and mateship strengthens our unique bond. Supporting and staying in touch with our blokes is good for the reclusive male species.



Coffee often extends to lunch; lunch can spread to twilight (and beyond) as we struggle to complete catching up with each other in the time available. Maintaining fuel levels and suitable fluid intake is a necessary part of the process. All is always forgiven before the next scheduled meeting.

Queensland Chapter Geoff Daly (4/69) The Queensland Chapter continue enjoying their monthly lunches period of eating and drinking and general all-round merriment at the Pig'n'Whistle, usually attended by eight to twelve hardy souls. They have been used as practice runs for the gigantic, 'bigger than Ben Hur' Christmas Lunch this year which will include a tribute to the late Geoff Butts (his son is coming along) and our donation to the Vitae representatives who will also be attending.

South Australian Chapter Gary Vial (3/69) The Remembrance Day lunch was held at our ANZAC Day watering hole - the Exeter Hotel. In attendance were David (3/72) Morgan, Malcolm (1/70) & Lee Nicolle, Craig (1/70) & Ash Steel, Phil (4/71) Verco, Gary (3/69) Vial and James (4/71) & Raelene Young. The fact that we had a good time is attested to by the fact that we forgot to take any photos! Best Wishes to all for Christmas and 2020.

Tasmanian Chapter (Ray Williams 2/71) The Tassie OTU group met for their scheduled luncheon on Friday 23 August 2019 at the Bellerive Yacht Club, one of our Eastern Shore venues in Hobart. A pleasant outlook over the Marina and fine Tasmanian weather to complement the day. Our numbers were down a little, however life's other activities still have to be scheduled for those that could not attend. We will be holding our next luncheon in the Launceston area, possibly around the end of November.



A final date will be advertised around mid-September.

Those that attended were: L to R.: Lorraine Luff, Paul Ferguson, Viv McRoberts, Ian Howard, Norma (sister), Pam Williams, Peter Dalkin, Ray, Mary Mace, Ross Mace, Noel McRoberts, Jean Howard.

Apologies: Ross and Jane Robbins, Gavan Connell, Peter Bysouth, Peter Williams, James and Di Reade, Dennis and Anne Townsend and Ron and Jenny Dennison.

Victorian Chapter

Monthly Lunches Under the guidance of Brian Cooper (3/69) the Victorian Chapter monthly second Wednesday lunches continue to generate interest among the Victorians and occasionally an 'interstater'. Numbers have varied from 14 to 22! The RACV Bistro Staff look after us well and the food is excellent. The next lunch will be a 'Festive' Lunch on 11 December.

Victorian Annual Dinner (Peter Hateley, 2/71) Organisers for this year's dinner on Friday 11 Oct 2019 were Peter Hateley and Chris Coates (3/71). As has been the location for a number of years we returned to the William Angliss Institute in Melbourne. A great night was had at this mixed dinner with 82 members and partners attending. The event is one of the functions at the Institute where trainee chefs and front of house students are grouped to assist plan and run the event as part of their qualifications within the college.

At the start of the dinner a eulogy by Peter Whitelaw 3/66 was given for the late Tim Fisher 3/66.

Master of ceremonies, Ray Andrews (1/70), provided an excellent presentation. Mr Frank Miller 4/67 provided the Chairman's address. Attending were two first class 1/65 graduates Mike Delves and George Fisk. A great all male choir sang with great gusto the Scheyville song. A raffle for youth leadership was conducted raising almost \$1,000. We thank the staff and students from William Angliss.



Vic Dinner - Left: Mick Stone (1/68), Peter Whitelaw (3/66 - Compiler of The OTU Coffee Table Book) and Barry Miechel (4/69). Right: (Winston Bucknall (2/68 - ACT) and Beth and David Maddison (4/67)

Victorian Chapter Golf Day (Frank Miller, 4/67)

The fourteenth Victorian Chapter Gold day was held on 17 November at the Waverley Golf Club. Twenty-one Scheyvillians, family and friends played. After a sandwich lunch, players took to the course.

The game format was again Ambrose to ensure all contestants were equal in their quest for glory and prizes. After some light rain in the morning the afternoon was, by and large, sunny. 'Afters' fellowship and prize giving and took place in the clubhouse. This year's winners were team "Echo" headed by Gerry Pels (4/71) with brothers Paul and Ron and friend Ron Marshall. Second was Team "Delta" – Tony Trevethick (1/65), Alan Brimelow (3/69) and Portsea graduate Bill Van Ree. This was a reversal of last year's outcome. Everyone received a prize – either a book - donated by Mick Stone (1/68) or chocolates (Frank Miller, 4/67). The golf day is always most enjoyable and a fine celebration of "The Scheyville Experience".



Above right: Victorian Golf Day Prize giving. L to R. Team "Charlie" – Mick stone (1/68), John Caine (1/67), Wayne Bruce (2/70) and Dave Lewis (2/68).

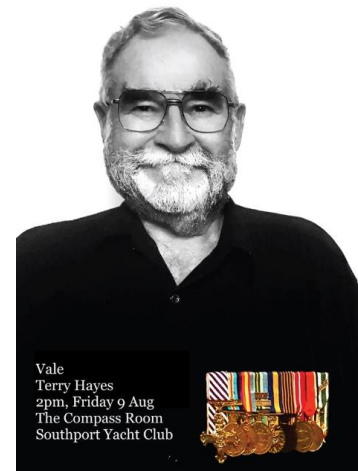
Western Australian Chapter (Pip Edwards, 1/71)

A very successful OTU, W.A Friday lunch was held at the Sorrento Restaurant on 1 November with twenty-one attendees. All present were in high spirits, it being the pre-Christmas gathering. Bruce Thorpe (3/66) put to the group the fact that his son-in-law is the President of the SAS Association and as such had extended our group an invitation to Campbell Barracks (home of the SAS) for a tour of the facilities, museum and then to lunch. This invitation was unanimously and gleefully accepted. Again, it was agreed the SAS invitation be accepted as a replacement for the second lunch of 2020; date to be advised. Another good day!!!!

There was a good spread of attendees from all years and many classes: Bernie Houston, Ian 'Joe' Martin and Harry Neesham (all 1/65), Neville Gale (1/66), Bill Hewitt and David Ward (both 2/66), Bruce Thorpe (3/66), John Barnes (2/67), Dick Baird (1/68), Paul Conti (3/68), Dennis Barton (4/68), Steve Pearson (3/69), David Harley and Steve McDonald (both 2/70), Steve Merralls (3/70), Ben Blake (4/70), Ron Packer and Pip Edwards (both 1/71), Andrew Martindale (1/72), Ken Waller (2/72) and Elliott Nielsen.

VALE

Terrence John Hayes was born in Rushworth, Vic, on 20 October 1944 and completed his secondary schooling at Christian Brothers College, Vic. At 17 years of age Terry commenced his military career at RMC Duntroon as 39545 Staff Cadet Hayes, however, he did not complete the course. Before entering the Army as an Air Cadet in 1967 he was employed as a Plant Operator with Lewis Constructions. Whilst at OTU with Class 3/67 he was appointed as an Under Officer and held the position of Company Sergeant Major. Graduating first in his class Terry was awarded the Governor-General's Medal, the Staff Prize (for Tactics) and the Skill at Arms Prize. Terry was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineers and posted to 2 RTB, Puckapunyal while he awaited his course at the Basic Flying Training School at Point Cook, Vic. Terry commenced BFTS in May 1968 and followed this in 1969 with his Advanced Flight Training at RAAF Base Amberley, converting into the Bell Sioux helicopter.



He was posted to 161 (Indep) Recce Flt in Vietnam as a 2nd Lieutenant Rotary Wing Pilot "Possum" from October 1970 until September 1971. During his tour in Vietnam he flew 1000+ hours first in the Sioux and then the Kiowa on loan from the US Army in late 1971. After being in country for just two months Terry was shot down whilst flying a mission with the CO of 2RAR/NZ, LtCol John Church. He was able to get the aircraft onto the ground without causing any further injury to his wounded passenger or himself. The aircraft couldn't be recovered and was destroyed in-situ. Terry was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his personal courage, determination and skill of the highest order in providing direct support to the ground forces he was supporting.

Terry was a larger than life Army Aviator who served the Corps in a variety of locations and appointments. Major Terence John Hayes, DFC, AA(Avn (Ret'd), passed away on 25 July 2019 in the Pindara Hospital on the Gold Coast after a long illness which included a brain

tumour. Terry is survived by his wife Carol, daughters and their extended families. Terry will be dearly missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him throughout his military career and as friend post his time in the Army.

May He Rest In Peace – Lest We Forget. Len Avery (161 Recce Flt Assoc'n) via Alistair Pope, 4/66)

William (Russ) Henderson was born in Perth, WA, on 7 January 1947 and completed his secondary education at the Sydney Church of England Grammar School. He attended Queensland Agricultural College and graduated as a Diplomat of Animal Husbandry in 1966. Before entering the Army as National Serviceman 1733455 with OTU Class 4/67 he was employed as a Clerk with Imperial Chemical Industries. Whilst at OTU he was appointed Under Officer and Battalion Quartermaster Sergeant. Russ was allocated to the Infantry Corps and posted to the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra.



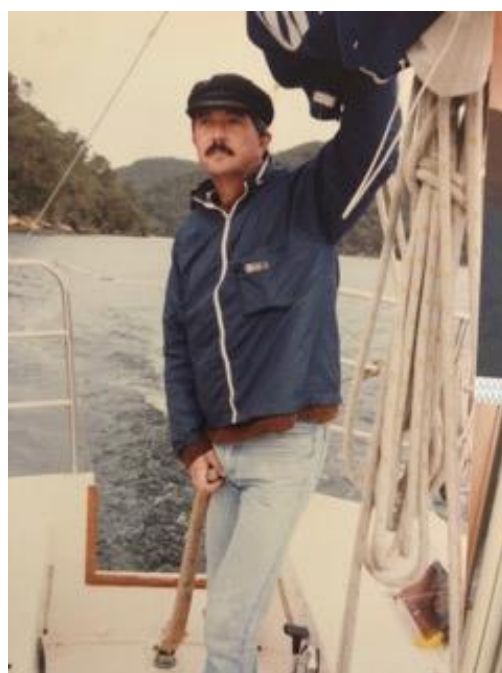
The association received notification that Russ, as he was known to most (and as Sooty to close family), passed away peacefully in the early hours of Saturday 21 September. His partner Susan and daughter Claire were with him the whole time. He had been having a long battle with cancer and was undergoing immunotherapy; however, some side effects took their toll. On Friday 27 September, sixteen Scheyvillians from the OTU NSW Chapter assembled at the North Chapel of The Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium to farewell a much loved and respected member of our Association.

As well as the strong turnout by OTU, a number of emails and phone calls were received by me from ex-service members, all giving testament to how much Russ was admired and respected. He was a man of integrity, good humour, and simply fun to be with. He loved life, and he loved those family and friends with whom he shared many memorable moments. During the Service, his daughter Claire delivered a wonderful eulogy, delighting in the positive personality and aura that was Russ.

After graduating from OTU in April 1968, Russ was appointed to the Royal Australian Infantry, and sent as a platoon commander to Battle Wing at JTC Canungra. From there, he moved through the reinforcement system to South Vietnam, arriving on 9 December 1968. At the time, both 1RAR and 4RAR were towards the end of their deployments in SVN, and Russ was to serve with both until their departure. He was then transferred to command D&E Platoon at Nui Dat. Russ received a command handover in August 1969 from the outgoing platoon commander 2Lt Mick Woolan MC(2/67). Mick was in attendance at Russ's Service and spoke of those times when he was serving with Russ. Mick arranged for an ex-member of Russ's platoon, to present the family with the National Flag, and the sounding of the Last Post. Dick Adams also spoke during the service, giving some insight to the task of getting through OTU. Dick was also able to pass on a humorous anecdote from Russ's classmate (and OTU National Chairman) Frank Miller.

A measure of how well Russ was respected was the large number in attendance, and for good measure a handful of Maori ex-diggers from across the ditch, who had served in SVN at the same time as Russ, joined the Service. (They had just finished farewelling one of their mates in the next chapel). Also in attendance was our retired Governor General, Major General Peter Cosgrove, who after graduating from RMC in 1968, was sent to SVN, where his first appointment was to take over from Russ as D&E Platoon Commander.

Russ Henderson was a regular attender at our NSW Chapter functions, and at mixed events, was always accompanied by his beautiful partner Susan. We hope that she can maintain a connection with the OTU as Russ will be sadly missed. (John 'Booka' Bushell, 4/69)



Raymond 'Ray' Allan Dousett was born in Chelsea, Victoria, on 21 April 1950. After three years with 2 Commando Company in the Citizen Military Force as 3179820, Ray joined the ARA in 1970 and undertook Recruit Training at Kapooka followed by RAEME Corps Training and a posting to 3 Base Workshops, Puckapunyal as a Radar Mechanic. On 31 January 1973 Ray joined what would be the last class of officer training to be held at Scheyville, Class O1/73. On graduation from OCS Ray was posted back to RAEME and 3 Base Workshop Battalion. In 1976 Ray applied for and commenced flying training, passing his Basic Flying Training with Course 23/76. He, along with all of the other trainees, passed the rigorous training by supporting each other to the maximum; something Ray was known for at Scheyville and became to be known for throughout his selfless life. This first course was followed by passing his Advanced Flying Training with Course 1/77 (Rotary Wing). Ray then served until 1981. In 1986 Ray re-joined the Army with the Army Reserve flying with 1 Aviation Regiment. In 1989 he commenced Continuous Full-Time Service with the Reserve flying with 162 Reconnaissance Squadron in 1 Aviation Regiment. After a short break Ray re-joined the ARA and served a further two-years, this time with 5 Aviation Regiment, before retiring from the Army.

Sadly, Ray passed away on 29 October 2019 in a motor vehicle accident: a tragic end to the life of an honourable, generous and extremely positive gentleman. He left behind his wife Suzanne; his children, Michelle, Christine (Matt), Damian (Catharine), Deborah, Joslin (Merv), Chad, Donna (Nathan) and Melinda (Anthony).

Eventually, Ray became a Blackhawk Pilot and revelled in the experience. However, dark days were to follow and the Black Dog bit Ray hard. He entered into a battle for not only his career but his life. He bravely continued his battle until the day of his death. Leaving the Army as a Captain, Ray saw Service as a Search and Rescue Pilot, putting the safety of his fellow man well before the danger associated with doing so. But his mental health issues eventually interfered with his flying and upset his life.



Ray married again and he and Suzanne moved to China to manage an Orphanage for eight years. During their time in China they met and adopted a young Chinese girl who had been abandoned as she suffered with physical and mental limitations. They called her Deborah and she joined Ray and Suzanne when they returned to Australia. Ray wrote two books, "Rotor in the Green" and "With Wings as Eagles" with the proceeds from sales going to Ray and Suzanne's Ministry 'Wings as Eagles'. In his sixties, Ray served God and his family. Ray had 14 grand-children, all of whom were at his Funeral.

Classmates of Ray, Lou Hatton and Brent Olsen, journeyed to Bundaberg to attend the Celebration of Ray's life, support his wife, Suzanne, Family and Friends and represent Class O1/73 and the wider OTU community. The service was held on 7 November 2019 at the Bundaberg Baptist Church. A graveside service was held on Friday 8 November at the Mullumbimby Cemetery.

When Lou and I arrived at the Church, we attempted to look inconspicuous; myself with two medals and Lou with three (he was a Nasho). Taking our seats an image appeared on the big screen, it was Ray looking down in a curious manner. I said, "Lou, Ray's looking at us!" Lou replied, "I think he's bemused as to why we two retrainees are here". Attending the large gathering on that day was the AAAvn Colonel Commandant, BRIG Neil Turton 1/82 OCS and Ray's first aviation OC (161 Recce Sqn), Tom Partridge. Sad as it was, the Service was most fitting for a man who believed: "... for life is not about pursuing selfish goals whether it be happiness, wealth or power. It is about serving the hungry, the homeless, the lonely, the orphaned, the abandoned - those who are seen by man as the least of the least, but by God as the greatest".

RIP. Ray Dousett, Colour Sergeant Bridges Company, 1/73 OCS Wing, Scheyville. (Brent Olsen)



Geoffrey Leonard Butts was born in Brisbane on 11 May 1946 and completed his secondary education at the Church of England Grammar School, Qld. Before entering the Army as National Serviceman 1738584 with OTU Class 1/72 he was a university law student and completed his Articles of Clerkship with Morris Fletcher and Cross. Geoff graduated into the Infantry Corps and was posted to 7 RAR. At the cessation of National Service, he continued serving with 7 RAR and had a five-week detachment to HQ 1 Task Force. Geoff discharged after his 18 months finished.

Geoff died suddenly in England on 9 November 2019. His family are preparing an obituary for the next edition of The Scheyvillian.

David Neville Harley was born in Perth on 21 July 1947 and after spending his early years in Dumbleyung WA, he completed his secondary education at Christchurch Grammar School, Perth. He graduated from the University of WA in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science and at the University of Adelaide with a 1st Class Honours Degree in Economic Geology in 1969. Having deferred for his studies, David entered the Army as a National Serviceman 5717302 with Class 1/70. David was employed as a Geologist by Western Mining Corporation, a company he would work for from 1971 to 1995. On Graduating with Class 2/70 David was allocated to RAASigs and posted to 5 Signals Regiment. From there he was posted to HQ Eastern Command at Victoria Barracks Sydney from where he discharged in November 1971. David married Jan in December 1971 three weeks after completing his National Service.



After the Army, David completed a Master's Degree from the University at London, Ontario, Canada which was sponsored by his employer, (WMC). He subsequently had directorships at Gallery Gold and Gunson Resources and was a Past President and Life Member of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.



David enjoyed Australian Rules football as a talented player and later supporting the West Coast Eagles and he also enjoyed golf having become a regular at the Mosman Park Golf Club in recent years. Amongst his family, colleagues, both military and others, and friends he was known for his quirky and unique sense of humour which helped diffuse many a tense situation, particularly when under attack by his superiors!

David had a stroke while at home in Mosman Park, WA, and a few days later, on 14 November died after surgery to remove a blot clot from the brain. He leaves behind his wife Jan and family Paul and Bron and Glenn and Charlotte. He was a Grandpa to Minna, Sophia, Tom, Finn and Fred.

His funeral was held at the Fremantle West Chapel on 19 November 2019 and was attended by several hundred people including many Scheyville/OTU men. Both David's sons Paul and Glenn, and David's brother Peter presented eulogies.

David will be sadly missed by all who knew him.
(David Russell 1/70 & 2/70)

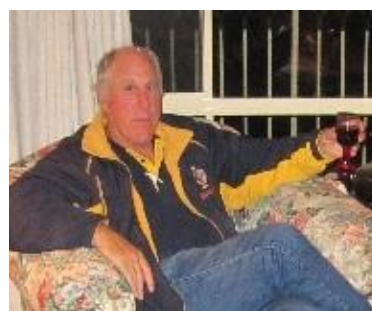


Mines and Petroleum Minister Bill Marmion (centre) with (L-R) Ron Chamberlain and David Harley from Gunson Resources, and Kobus Potgieter from Pluton Resources; the first entrants into the Mining Rehabilitation Fund.

William 'Bill' Donald Watson was born in Adelaide on 12 April 1947 and completed his secondary education at Scotch College, SA. He attended Roseworthy Agricultural College and graduated as a Diplomat of Agriculture in 1968. Before entering the Army as National Serviceman 4720871 with OTU Class 2/69 he was employed as an oenologist (the science and study of wine and winemaking) with S. Wyan & Sons. Whilst at OTU Bill reached the rank of Colour Sergeant, Company Quartermaster Sergeant. He graduated into the Infantry Corps and was posted to the 3rd Training Battalion at Singleton from where he took his discharge in 1971.



Tragically, Bill was killed in a motor vehicle accident near Cooma on 15 November 2019. His family are preparing an obituary for the next edition of The Scheyvillian.



Peter Thomas Fox was born in Ferntree Gully, Vic, on 26 August 1945 and completed his secondary education at Wesley College, Melbourne. He attended Melbourne University and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts and Laws in 1969. Before entering the Army as National Serviceman 3798476 with the second intake of 1970 Peter was employed as a Solicitor by Maddock Lonie & Chisholm and was admitted to practice in 1970. On graduating with Class 2/70 Peter was allocated to AALC and posted to HQ Puckapunyal Area. In March 1971 he was transferred to AHQ and discharged from the Army there after 20 months of service. Peter came to the Bar in 1973 and was accredited as a mediator in 1993. In 2000, he was appointed a member of the Chief Justice's Supreme Court Rules Committee and a member of the County Court Rules Committee. He retired from the Bar in 2007.



Peter died suddenly at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, on 17 November of a brain hemorrhage. His funeral was held at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery on 25th November after which light refreshments were partaken of in the function rooms at the cemetery. Peter leave behind his wife Barb, children Susi & Andrew and grandchildren Heath, Deccie, Eloise, Rhys, Milly & Seba

Peter's funeral was attended by approximately 300 family, friends and work colleagues from the Victorian Bar. Eulogies were delivered by Peter's brother Bill, his daughter Dr Susi Fox and Justice Tim Ginnane of the Supreme Court. His son Andrew read a poem which was a moving tribute to his father. Scheyville was well represented by members of Class 2/70, Wayne Bruce, Bryan Thomas, Ian Watkins and Richard [Rick] Francis, the latter being one of six pall-bearers.

On a Lighter Note: Jane Brook Estate Wines 2019 'Mates Rates' Premium Wines from the Swan Valley and Margaret River. Once again, we have decided to put together a special price list that is only available to friends of Jane Brook. We have some great award-winning wines to offer you at one-off prices for the festive season.

Contact David Atkinson (2/65) at Jane Brook Estate: Mob 0428 741 432 or david@janebrook.com.au

FEATURES:

Danger Close, the Long Tan Story (Robin Hunt, 3/69)

Overall, this is a stimulating film and shows a good interpretation of its subject. Four out of five stars! I won't comment on the section-level infantry tactics depicted as the action was so fast moving and so intimate it was hard to discriminate between the three platoons' members. Suffice to say here that it was action packed, heroic in parts and quite plausible.

It was a movie that kept me (and many other grey-haired males who saw it at the same time as myself) engaged right to the end and through the very long credits section. Indeed, I spent quite a period of the subsequent night awake thinking about what I had seen (and perhaps what I done in earlier times). I think this was the most graphic depiction of the horror of war since I saw '*Gallipoli*' with my late grandmother (who remarked she had no idea that her late husband - who landed on 25 April - went through the experiences so depicted). I've never seen so many enemy bodies shown flying through the air as a result of incoming artillery. Although I was an Artillery officer who served in Vietnam, I didn't have a real appreciation as the potential damage we may have caused. That was an eye opener.

Whilst it was filmed in Queensland, it had the feeling of Vietnam about it and I wonder how many trees were damaged during filming? Perhaps the mud wasn't as red as I recall but this could be a matter of just local geography. The noise level was about right (and I wonder how many of the participants -incl those on the gun line - were made temporarily deaf for several hours?) But, of course, viewers were deprived of the smell from cordite and other explosives, mangled humans and shredded plant material.

There were some minor inaccuracies and omissions that detracted from the film:

- A battalion commander is a Lieutenant-Colonel: Townsend was shown wearing shoulder slides for a Colonel
- Both the Colonel and the Brigadier wore metal badges of rank; they certainly didn't in my day in Vietnam (but that was three years later)
- No one was depicted wearing a helmet and or a flack-jacket in Nui Dat during the "stand to" on the night of 17 August. I am assured by several SVN vets that this may as well have been so; others can't recall if 'pots' and jackets were issued by Aug 1966. Also, the whole TF area seemed to be lit up like a Melbourne street which is strange when it was under potential attack. That may have been necessary for filming to be successful
- The monsoon didn't seem to have enough heavy drenching rain
- No one was shown taking a random pee during the whole of the movie (unlikely in that all male environment) and there were far too few men shown smoking
- A lightning strike was shown taking out the electricity (and comms) in the TF command post. Weren't the PRC9 radios run on batteries in there? Because it was shown, it must've happened, but I don't recall reading about lightning in any book. Was it in the TF Commander's diary one muses? Certainly, there was a lightning strike on the Arty CP.
- I don't believe that the pilots who did the ammo resupply (with then unidentified CO of Admin Coy and the RSM in the back seat) were involved earlier in the return of the entertainment troop to Vung Tau. (As an aside: had it been thought of before the ammo re-supply was conducted by helo , it would've been so beneficial to have loaded the rifle rounds into magazines rather than to require D Coy to do this given the pressure and circumstances they were in. (It's easy to be wise 50 years after the event!).

Other viewers have criticised the soldiers' "trigger discipline" as shown in the film but I didn't notice any problem.

On the technical side of things, the aspects relating to Cavalry Regiment involvement seemed correctly depicted, although the number of APCs held back for the CO and at the river crossing do not accord with written history nor practices of that era.

Artillery looked and sounded good, although some arty orders were simplified (eg the number of charge bags weren't specified). The guns depicted firing were correctly shown as 105 mm L5 Pack howitzers (replaced later with M2A2s in that the former had a tendency to shake to bits). I wonder where those L5s come from? Maybe from a museum or from a deep-in-reserve battery one guesses as those guns were

made in the 1950's. 105 mm ammo (even blank) would've been hard to come by in 2018 when the film was made.

The film's military advisor was stated to be Jack Isles. Who is he and what did he advise on? There were quite a number of current-day warrant officers named in the credits in the context of the Cav Regt and its M113 APCs but I could find no reference to anyone serving on the guns of 161 battery RNZA or 1 Fd Regt RAA; just two artillery "wranglers". What? The contribution of New Zealand forces cannot be overstated: was it explicitly said that the battery in direct support of D/6 RAR - 161 Fd Bty - was a Kiwi battery? Certainly, the No. 1 Gun Sgt looked to be a Maori. Artillery FO Morrie Stanley was from 161 Bty RNZA but he didn't sound like a Kiwi (nor his did his FO Ack).

A minor gripe: Maj Harry Smith is shown firing his rifle until his last round was gone, and then he takes out his pistol and continues to fire until that too is empty and only then does the Cavalry (literally) arrive. Smith might have done some shooting, but I doubt if he was down to the last round as demonstrated. Hollywood touch!

For me, there was far too much insubordination shown between senior officers (Brig & "Colonel"), officers & NCOs (2Lt Sharp and his Sgt), and officers and soldiers (Maj Smith and Pte Large). That made me feel uncomfortable and I wonder whether it was all as was shown in this movie? 2Lt Gordon Sharp was shown in very poor light in the movie: he continued to play cards when the TF was put on alert (having been apprised of this by Sgt Buick) (this aspect was reported on in Grandin's & Smith's books) and he headed off on patrol wearing sunglasses and having a pretty carefree manner. There used to be a maximum "don't speak ill of the dead", but some liberty seems to have been taken here. Ditto with Pte Large and his relationship with Major Smith.

There are conflicting aspects regarding the context of the battle: the Brigadier was quoted as saying that if he sent out any more reinforcements, he would've only had one company remaining to defend the task force area. Not quite true, yes, he only had one Coy of his other battalion (5RAR) in camp, but he did have the residue of 6RAR, and many others from combat arms who had passed Canungra jungle fighting courses. Aspects not covered, that should've been covered in the movie, include the fact that the Brigadier had intelligence from a Morse Radio intercept (that wasn't made available to the battalion commander nor to Maj Smith) that there was a concentration of enemy at regimental strength in the area D Coy was sent out to patrol. With the benefit of hindsight and access to enemy (VC 5 Div) records, it seems that neither 274 nor 275 Regts, nor D445 provincial Bn intended to attack our TF but this was of major concern to the Brig. It's open to debate whether the enemy had the capacity for success and, perhaps, what they intended to do was to conduct a series of ambushes to kill sufficient Australians to cause our politicians to withdraw the Army from this war ie "to draw the tiger from the jungle". That didn't happen and Long Tan, whilst it was one of a small number of important battles (remember also Coral and Balmoral), it was not pivotal, nor was it a victory for either side.

In the "Credits" at the end of the movie, there are the words "This motion picture is based on a true story. Some characters may have been created and a number of incidents fictionalized and any similarity to the name, character, or history of any person is entirely coincidental". The "story" was a good one, and the heroics real so why make any of it up? Ridiculous. Perhaps it's a piece of legal drafting to ensure if anyone was slandered, they could say it wasn't a true depiction of Long Tan. I maintain it should have been. No need for fictionalization here.

If it was part of the intention of the producers to follow the tradition of Australian authors depicting senior offices as incompetent (vide "*Gallipoli*" and the books about senior British generals in WW1 who were in command of Australian formations) then they succeeded in relation to the TF Comd (Brig OD Jackson and 6RAR's CO (Lt Col Colin Townsend). The latter was never seen consulting his other company commanders, his 2IC or his IO but only in "earnest discussion" with his superior in the TF HQ - until he headed out on his glory run as the battle site was being secured

Out of respect for Harry Smith and D/6RAR, see this movie if you can - even if it means downloading it or borrowing it on a memory stick. Harry has spent much of his time since Long Tan fighting for recognition for his soldiers and this took 40 plus years to achieve in terms of tangible outcomes by the belated issuing of Australian gallantry medals. To that end, do read Harry's book "*Long Tan - the start of a lifetime battle*". Also, read Bob Grandin's "*Danger Close - The Battle of Long Tan - as told by the Commanders*" (this book was formally entitled Long Tan - as told by the Commanders "but due to the film, it seems to have been rebranded). OTU Grad - and a Long Tan platoon commander - David Sabben has written "*Long Tan through Enemy Eyes*". An interesting approach and well worth a read. Books such as these will place the Battle of Long Tan in proper historical context and assist you to enjoy the movie.

A challenging film and it's a pity it won't be seen by more young Australians to give them an idea as to what the Vietnam war was like for some at the sharp end. Indeed, one can ask, was it much different - from a private's perspective - from the experiences of their forebears in WW1?

A Further Review (Bill 'Yank' Akell, Admin Radio Operator, D Coy, 6 RAR (took the radio forward to Geoff Kendall's platoon) now Major William Akell CSM (Ret'd).

I first would like to thank Major Neil Leckie for the opportunity to provide comment on the film *Danger Close, The Battle of Long Tan*. As a Long Tan Veteran and one who has now viewed the film on four occasions, I feel qualified enough to provide my comments.

We must first remember that this is a feature film and not a documentary. To my memory there have been two documentaries now on the Battle with the latest a couple of years ago produced by the film producer Martin Walsh.

On ANZAC Day last year I was invited, along with six other Long Tan veterans, to visit the plantation at Nerang in Queensland. This being the location for the battle scenes in the film. Here we spoke with both the Director Keiv Stenders, Producer Martin Walsh and main actor, Travis Femill - all wishing to produce a film in which the surviving Long Tan veterans would be proud of. Albeit with the mandatory 'Hollywood effects' necessary for this feature film to be financially viable. I believe that they have achieved their aim with a fine balance of fact and fiction. LTCOL Harry Smith, although also acknowledging the 'Hollywood effects', gave the film 8/10.

My comments are:

Worn Rank. Martin Walsh served 3 years with the Australian Commando Company. He would be very familiar with the Australian Army rank structure. The wearing of metal rank and incorrect rank was purely for the benefit of the audience.

Helmets & Flack-Jackets. Whilst we were issued with metal helmets before departing Australia, the issue of flack-jackets came much later in the tour and not prior to Long Tan.

Street Lighting. Not installed prior to the battle and used for the benefit of the audience.

APC Usage. The number of APCs used in the film was slightly higher than during the battle. It looked exciting from an audience point.

Artillery. A couple of points here. The New Zealand 161 Field battery were in direct support of D Coy throughout the Battle. There were two indicators that the artillery support was initially from the New Zealanders. First the wearing of NEW ZEALAND slides by the CP Officer. Next the use of a Maori Gun Sergeant. One aspect which I believe could have been amplified was the difference between the Radio Calls of "Fire Mission Battery" and "Fire Mission Regiment". The initial call was for support from the New Zealand Battery. As the Battle intensified and "Fire Mission Regiment" was made, this indicating support from all allied artillery in range of the Battle, Australian, New Zealand and United States guns, perhaps a scene of U.S. 155mm Self Propelled Guns firing could have denoted the difference. In the film in response to both calls the same battery firing was made.

Personal Weapons. In 1966 the 5.56 mm M-16 was being introduced into the battalion to replace the 9 mm Owen Machine Carbine. Most signallers, myself included, preferred carrying the O.M.C. as it allow for one hand weapon operation and the other for use of the radio handset. From memory in D Coy, the

officers, forward scouts and limited others were issued with the M-16. Others had the S.L.R, O.M.C. or were machine gunners with the M-60. I thought there was a slight overissue of the M-16 in the film. I cannot recall LTCOL Harry Smith carrying a pistol outside of the Australian Task Force wire. His weapon was the M-16.

Relationships. The film depicted a soldier's bond between LTCOL Smith and PTE Large. This was purely the Hollywood effect. Smith being the Officer Commanding was located in Company Headquarters. Large was a member of David Sabben's 12 Platoon. Both men were not positioned as close as show in the film. LT Gordon Sharp was not shown in a good light in the film. This being unfortunate because of my recollection on Sharp he was a young and dedicated National Service Officer who tried hard to be a good Platoon Commander. I cannot recall him smoking or ever wearing sunglasses.

Use of C.P. In the film again for audience appeal both the Brigade Commander and Battalion Commander shared the same Command Post.

Radio usage. Again, in the film, for convenience and simplicity the Battalion Command, D Company Internal and the Artillery Nets were all operated on the same frequency.

In conclusion, the task before the film crew was to provide a film which shared historical facts of the battle with some effects purely for the audience, the 'Hollywood effect'. I believe they have achieved the desired effect and the correct blend. *Danger Close, The Battle of Long Tan* is a powerful and moving film and deserves to be placed on the same level of production as previous block buster war movies.



Left: 2Lt David Sabben being presented with his 'Mentioned in Dispatches' by the former 1st Australian Task Force Commander Brigadier D Jackson. (Mufti)

Like most Long Tan Veterans David was not happy with some of the 'Hollywood' aspects of the film and was disappointed with the display of the lack of leadership shown in D/6 in the early part of the film. This was definitely not the D/6

that David, and the late Gordon Sharp, and their men were trained for by Harry Smith. David avoided the Long Tan Opening Night 'hoop-la' by contacting a bout of pneumonia which put him into hospital a few days before the event! – Ed.

50 Years On And Still Relevant? Who said "they shall grow not old nor the years condemn them to irrelevancy"? Dave Sabben was asked to give the graduation speech for 76 Sqn RAAF. The Sqn is an Flight Training Squadron based at RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW, where it operates Hawk 127 jet training aircraft. The graduates – 9 male and 2 female – were two courses graduating on Friday 28 June 2019. The requested theme of the address was on the value of "training" and how your training can and will affect your deployment.

David Sabben's Speech: To explain the standard of D Company 6 RAR prior to going to Vietnam we need to understand how the company was trained. David said: "Good evening. Thank you for inviting me to address your graduating class. I'm Dave Sabben, former first-intake National Serviceman, called up June 1965 for 2 years full time in the Army. Having my Leaving Certificate, I applied for officer training and was accepted into the first course at Scheyville Officer Training Unit. The 22-week course aimed to produce an Infantry platoon commander able to conduct Counter Revolutionary War (CRW) operations in a South East Asia environment. It was an intense 6-months: 2 in 5 failed to graduate. And those who DID graduate were deemed to be "good enough" to serve in Viet Nam. I graduated as a 'Provisional' 2Lt in December 1965 and was posted to 6 RAR in January 1966 as Platoon Commander, 12 Platoon, Delta Company. The Officer Commanding (OC) Delta Company, 6RAR, was Major Harry Smith. He was an ex-Commando (Cdo), now transferred to Infantry. As a result, he was not a happy chappie!

Cdo was then a Citizen Military Force (now known as Army Reserve) unit taking civilians off the street and in 12 months part time, training them to Cdo standards of fitness and tactics. He now found himself in command of 120 men, half of whom were National Servicemen, which the Battalion CO was intent on training as an Infantry unit to be “good enough” to go to Viet Nam. Smith’s reasoning was this... if I could train civvies to Cdo standards in 12 months part time, why can’t I train Nashos – basically civvies - to Cdo standards in 6 months full time?

In the first O-Group I attended, he laid out his thoughts:

- (1) The Colonel will set out his “Routine Orders” (ROs) in which he will specify the syllabus to be followed by the battalion to get the whole battalion to a standard where they will pass the JTC Canungra Course, certifying that they will be “good enough” to serve in Viet Nam.
- (2) If the pass mark is, say, 50%, then “good enough” is 50%, which means that the “good enough” 50%-ers will be the weakest units in the war zone.
- (3) Do you want to spend a year in a war zone with all the 50%-ers who were just “good enough” to go?

No? We’ve got to do better... Should we aim for, say, 75%? Okay- so we aim for 75%. Then when we arrive in Viet Nam with everyone between 50% and 100%, what will we be? Average.

Do you want to spend a year in a war zone with an “average” outfit? No?

We need to aim for 100% in order to enhance our chances of returning home

But what is 100%? Is it possible to be 101% ready for Viet Nam? Why Not?

Can you be over-qualified for a war zone? Let’s find out.

So, we set no % at all. We simply adopted the motto: **“Be The Best You Can Be”**.

Decision made. Now... how to go about that...

Incremental improvements: Every time the Colonel puts out ROs for his syllabus, we will increment it... daily! For **fitness**, if the RO sets X distance in Y time under Z load, we will achieve that and, once achieved, we will reset to X+1 distance in Y-1 time under Z+ something loads. For **strength**, if the RO sets X exercises in Y time under Z order of dress, we will achieve that & then do X+1 exercise in Y-1 time & adding kit & equipment to increase the load. Increased fitness/strength will increase **endurance**.

For **military skills** the ROs called for what to do and how to do it. This produced mere competence. We repeated it endlessly until the skill became automatic, subliminal. We took competence to the level of an **expert**. At the same time, we adapted, experimented, innovated. We practiced alternatives. We took ‘expert’ and added **flexibility** and **versatility**.

Then we cross-trained so that each soldier knew each other soldier’s job and weapon. We taught each soldier the basic skills of the next rank higher – Diggers could, at a pinch, take over their Section Commanders’ job; Corporals could do the Sergeant’s basic job; Sergeants could do the platoon commanders’ basic job – map reading, radio procedure, calling in artillery... This engendered **teamwork** as well as the **confidence** that the team would still function if a key man went down. Confidence that the system will still work when put under pressure.

Then finally, we introduced the policy of adding to the expected task at no notice. At the end of a route march we would add a few kilometres; just when everyone was looking forward to a shower and some boozier time, we would require an extra run through the obstacle course. This didn’t make us popular, but it gave the Diggers a level of **resilience**... of **perseverance**... of the attitude that the job wasn’t over just yet – there’s always more to come.

By the end of May, our training had brought the results we wanted: The Company was the **strongest, fittest, most expert, most flexible, tightest and most resilient** in the Battalion. And we copped endless rubbishing from the other Companies!

In June 1966 we arrived in Viet Nam. Training time was over – now time to put it all into practice.”

For anyone wishing to read the full speech, please contact Dave Sabben sabben@ozemail.com.au

In the meantime, David is writing a book on 12 Platoon, D Company, 6 RAR. He has been in discussions with Dr Brendan Nelson at the AWM about how he can reduce the cost for the use of many extremely suitable AWM photos. An agreement has been reached and the photos will be selected in December. With the photo costs resolved all that is needed is to find a solicitor to ensure that there are no legal issues with the content and a publisher who understands what needs to 'stay in' such a book.

The Last Scheyville Graduate Serving – WGCDR John Howe OAM (Les Boag, 4/68)

When John Stephen Howe graduated from OTU Scheyville in 1966 he could not have imagined he would still be a serving member of the Australian Defence Forces, fifty-four years later. However, he is as a Reserve Wing Commander, in the role of Honorary Physician to the Governor General of Australia, responsible for attending to the Official Party on Overseas Trips.

John was born in Randwick NSW on 1 February 1945 and grew up in Windsor. John graduated from Blacktown Boys' High School and was accepted into Sydney University to study medicine. As John describes it, his focus during his first three years at University was more upon social events rather than his medical studies and he failed his first year and then passed the following year but subsequently failed second year of medicine.

When his birth date came up in the National Service Ballot, John went off to Kapooka for Recruit training where he was accepted to attend the OTU, Scheyville in Class 2/66. John enjoyed the challenge and graduated from OTU as a 2nd Lieutenant and was posted to Healesville as a Platoon Commander at the School of Army Health. Following that he was posted to 2 General Hospital at Ingleburn as a Company Commander until he completed his National Service and was discharged on 28 April 1968.

John considers his two years in the Army and being an OTU officer gave him the drive, determination and commitment to go back and complete his Medical degree and become a doctor. Despite being told he would not be re-enrolled into a Medical Degree John convinced a selection panel that the Army had given him the training to apply himself and succeed and he promised them he would commit and succeed. Almost against all odds he was re-enrolled and John committed himself to his studies and graduated from Sydney University as a doctor (M.B.B.S.) in 1972.

In 1970 John joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as an undergraduate and then as a Medical Officer and served full-time until 1979 including a posting to Butterworth Malaysia (1978-79). John took up full-time General Medical Practice from 1979 to 2008 but remained in the RAAF Reserves and deployed to the Gulf War II with the RAAF from October 2003 to January 2004. In 2008, John was posted to the role of Honorary Physician to the Governor General of Australia and his posting has been extended until June 2020.

John married Lee in 1975 and they have two adult children. John has been involved in many interesting activities since his OTU graduation including in Solomon Islands working for Aspen Medical with the AFP and with the AFP during Operation RAAMSI and in Timor Leste. His ADF deployments have also included Townsville, Cairns, Nowra, Kapooka, Albury, Oakey and Puckapunyal. John still cares for a large number of DVA patients at the Fisher Medical Practice, ACT where he still practices two days a week. John has been actively involved with assisting many community organisations and still performs other medical roles. John and Lee attend many social events, including country horse race meetings.

John has been awarded: OAM, AASM (IRAQ & ICAT CLASPS), ASM (SE CLASP), ADM, DLSP and ANSM.



OCS Portsea Project (From Rudi Poldoja, O2/72)

Rudi has been asked to provide the OCS/OTU Chapter for the OCS History Project which is an on-line history being developed for the OCS site.

<https://www.ocsportsea.org/portsea-post-officer-cadet-school/>

This project was commenced in 2013 to supplement the official history by Colonel Neville Lindsay (Ret'd). Neville addressed the December '57 & June '58 OCS Classes at a reunion held in Brisbane in 2008. In his address he mentioned that he felt in hindsight there were inclusions he would have liked to have covered in his official history. This work hopes to record some of those missed items.

Further to this, additional segments not available to Neville have been collated as a result of commencing this 2013 Project. Many Graduates and ex-Staff from OCS have given freely of their time to put pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard to add to this record. However, there still remains much of the untold story that could be expanded upon, e.g., Class Memoirs and/or Scrapbooks. See the December 1957 Scrapbook included as but one example. [Chapter Fourteen refers]. Also see the incomplete Chapters as indicated in the Index & as listed at the end of this manuscript. Much of this remains in the memories of members who entered those gates or were involved leading to that era of officer training not only for young Australians but, from January 1957 until closure, many other nationalities as well. This not only includes cadets but also anyone who served at Portsea during its time as an officer training institution. It is therefore hoped that the story does not finish with what is already recorded but continues until the last of us who were a part of OCS History can still add to it.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all the Contributors who have subscribed to this project to date. Without this input the OCS Story would be LESS complete in its telling.

Ossie Kleinig OCS Class of Dec '57 2013 Project Co-ordinator

Note: O1/72: 26 Graduated & 1 Repeated (from 32), O2/72: 23 & 1 Repeat Grad (36 & 1 Repeat), Class O1/73: 18 & 1 Repeat Grad (30 & 1 Repeat). Total: 68 from 98 (69% same as for NS/Air Cadets!)

From Nasho to VC Recipient

Few would know that there is one Nasho who received the VC: Peter John Badcoe

Badcoe was born as Peter John Badcock on 11 January 1934 in the Adelaide suburb of Malvern, South Australia, to Leslie Badcock, a public servant, and his wife Gladys (née Overton). He was educated at Adelaide Technical High School, playing hockey for South Australia and played a fife in the school band. After leaving school he gained employment as a clerk with the South Australian Public Service. He was called up for National Service as 4/702401 and served for a period of seven weeks with the 16th National Service Training Battalion at Woodside in Adelaide. Despite his father's opposition to the prospect, Badcock held ambitions to join the Australian Army; and did so in April 1952 as an Officer Cadet at the OCS Portsea commencing on 15 June that year. Following six months of training, Badcock graduated 19th in his course out of 49 Cadets on 13 December and was commissioned as a 2Lt into the Royal Australian Artillery. In his assessment of Badcock, Portsea's commandant noted that he was a "very keen and sound student" and would "make a capable officer".



Badcoe served with the AATTV from 5 August 1966. On 23 February 1967, in Hương Trà, Vietnam, Badcoe rescued, under heavy fire, a United States Medical Adviser. On 7 March, he led his company in an attack and turned what seemed to be certain defeat into a victory. Again, on 7 April, he attempted to lead his company against more powerful opposition. This final act of bravery resulted in his death.

For his "three acts of heroism" and "outstanding leadership" between February and April 1967, Badcoe was posthumously decorated with the Victoria Cross. The full citation for the award appeared in a supplement of the *London Gazette* on 17 Oct 1967.

He is buried in Terendak Military Cemetery which is located in the Terendak Military Camp in Malaysia.

The Military Cadet School (Lae) Andrew Dalziel (1971-72)

The Military Cadet School (MCS) in Lae was established in the 1960's as the initial officer training school for PNG officer cadets. Cadets entered the school having either successfully completed Year 10 at high school or having already shown leadership qualities as NCOs in the PNG forces. The age at entry of cadets was between 17 and 23 years, the variation largely depending on their means of entry.

The MCS OC was an Australian infantry major who was assisted by other training staff including a PNG lieutenant and several NCOs. In 1972, the educational side of the school consisted of ARA RAAEC Captain Ken Jorgensen (ex OTU DS) and six National Servicemen, *one of whom was a second lieutenant who had completed the officer training course at Scheyville in NSW*. The other five were sergeants from the 1/71 National Service intake. All of the educational instructors had teaching qualifications, and most were university graduates.

Who was the Scheyville teacher?

Do you know any of these teachers?

Note soldier in the middle in wearing Lt 'slides'.



MCS Book -Australian Army Museum – Duntroon

(Paul Mitrovich, Manager)

The MCS prepared Cadets from TPNG for either a direct commission into the ARA in Papua

and New Guinea Command (for those without the academic ability to attend OCS) or as was the case with most of the Cadets, the 18 month course 'prepped' them for the 12 months at OCS. Their motto was a play on that of Portsea "Service with Loyalty".

Cadets would write about their travels to various locations around the Territory and occasionally as far as Australia, not sure if they went to RMC though. Cadet Reu wrote about OTU.



OTU SCHEYVILLE

.... It was very interesting to note that the cadets who have only been in the Army for about three weeks could easily cope with the standard of military skills required at the College. The skill they have acquired in three weeks would take New Guinean recruits at least two or three months at recruit training at Goldie River.

Another thing which really impressed me was that the cadets who are only in the junior class at present have already started to do the same lessons as our senior class here at MCS, although our senior class has already been here for about fourteen months. This is probably because their course is so much shorter than our 18 months course here at MCS.....

Cdt Reu.

New Veterans' White Card (Frank Miller, 4/67)

The last two editions of "The Scheyvillian" carried articles on the new Veterans' White Card and Badge. These are to be issued by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, upon application, to all people who have served at least one full day in the permanent Army, Navy or Airforce – and who do not have a Gold or other card. In essence, it covers the holder for any expenses pertaining to the treatment of mental illness – a problem that may develop or compound as we age. For a list of those conditions Google "Non-liability Health Care Department of Veterans' Affairs". Please note the rider "including but not limited to:" In order to apply for a White Card you must first open a MyGov account if you do not already have one. Log into www.dva.gov.au/myservice . From there a new DVA account can be created. Steps to apply for the White Card follow.

It is strongly recommended applicants provide their Bank Account Details in the appropriate section. This will allow the payment of a small fortnightly pension. **The Association urges eligible Scheyvillians to apply for the White Card as soon as possible.** To quote one recent recipient "it is all upside with no downside".

Veterans' White Card Recipients will also receive their Veteran's Badge which will entitle them to discounts at participating stores.



The Veteran's Badge (left)
and the box cover (right)



The National Service Ballot

Peter Whitelaw (3/66) has provided a list of the men who supervised the drawing of the National Service Ballots. For those, including the late Tim Fischer AC, who believe that the Ballots were 'rigged' there were some powerful men at those draws to ensure that they were genuine!

The sixteen Ballots were drawn by:

1. Mr E D McKinnon MP - Federal Member for Corangamite
2. Lieutenant-General Sir Ragnar Garrett KBE CB - former Chief of the General Staff
3. Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Wells KBE DSO - former Chief of the General Staff
4. Mr Lindsay Hassett MBE- former Australian Test Cricket Captain
- J. Air Chief Marshall Sir Frederick Scherger KBE CB DSO AFC - former Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee
6. Sir Giles Chippendall - former Chairman of the Australian National Airlines Commission
7. Sir Tasman Heyes CBE - Chairman of the Commonwealth Hostels LTD
8. Sir William Dunk CBE - former Chairman of the Commonwealth Public Service Board
9. Air Vice-Marshall F M Bladin CB CBE - former Member of the Air Board
10. Mr Lewis Luxton CBE - Member of the International Olympic Cttee and Aust. Olympic Federation
11. Councillor E W Best - Lord Mayor of Melbourne
12. Major-General Sir Robert Risson CB OBE DSO-Executive Director, Metropolitan Transport Committee, Victoria, and former Chairman of Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board
13. Mr Ron Clarke - Olympic Athlete and world record holder
14. Sir Willis Connolly CBE - President of the Victorian Institute of Colleges and former Chairman of the State Electricity Commission
15. Brigadier Sir William Hall CSE DSO ED - National Party President of the Returned Services League
16. Mr Ian Johnson MBE – Sec. of the Melb. Cricket Club and former Australian Test Cricket Captain

School Classmates are OTU Graduates (Ken Patterson and Geoff Noble with Neil Leckie)

Three classmates at the Preston Technical School, who all attended the next-door Preston Institute of Technology (PIT), were called up for NS and all three graduated from OTU. Their civilian lives were as diverse as their military careers.



Neil Robert Leckie was born in Melbourne on 23 September 1946 and after completing his NS attended from the PIT graduating as a Diplomat of Electrical Engineering in 1970. Before entering the Army, he was employed as Probationary Cadet Electrical Engineer with the State Electricity Commission, Victoria. Graduating with Class 3/68, Neil was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and posted to the 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka. Enjoying the Army life, Neil joined the CMF (later to become the Army Reserve) and served a further 32 years.

Upon discharge in 1970 Neil's returned to electrical engineering and joined the CMF. In 1976 he changed occupation to become a TAFE Teacher in Electrical/Electronics, where he stayed until retirement. He served a further 32 years post-NS. Neil is married and had two children. His biggest commitments now are, as a volunteer, managing the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum, and as Editor of The Scheyvillian.



Kenneth John Patterson was born in Melbourne on 19 April 1947 and graduated from the PIT as a Diplomat of Commerce in 1966. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman Ken was employed as a merchandise administrator and research officer at Myer (Southern Stores) Ltd, Melbourne. Whilst at OTU with Class 4/68, Ken attained the rank of Under Officer as Company Sergeant Major.

Ken was in Neil's Junior Class, 4/68, and graduated first in that class and was awarded The Governor-General's Medal. He was allocated to Australian Services Canteen Organisation and posted to 2 Platoon, Second Armed Forces Canteen Unit. From 27 January until 3 December 1970, Ken served in Vietnam with 5th Australian Services Canteen Organisation, extending his NS to complete his tour.

Upon discharge in 1970, Ken returned to Myers but then explored a career in Marketing. He pursued this until he became a mature-aged student to study Social Work for 4 years at University of Melbourne, graduating in 1978. He worked in the community welfare sector in Melbourne for a variety of 'Not For Profit' organisations until his retirement in 2011. In retirement Ken has enjoyed many interests such as travelling, hobbyist furniture making, volunteering, and more recently he has re-discovered bushwalking. Ken is married and has two children.



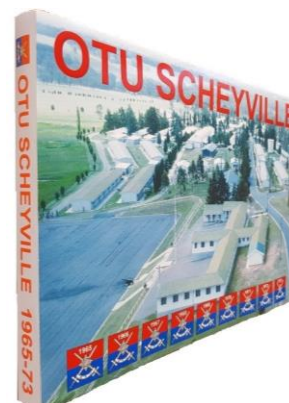
Geoffrey Walter Noble was born in Melbourne on 23 October 1946 and graduated from the PIT as a Diplomat of Commerce in 1970. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman he was employed as an accountant for four years with Lakeside Cooling Towers Pty Ltd. Geoff graduated with Class 1/71 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps and posted to 1st Base Ordnance Depot in Brisbane where he served out his NS commitment.

After discharge in November 1972, Geoff commenced work as an accountant in the brick industry where he stayed for 26 years holding senior positions of Company Secretary, Sales and Marketing General Manager, and Victorian General Manager and experienced a number of mergers and takeovers as the industry consolidated. Geoff left the industry in 1999 to join a large contract painting company in Business Development and State Manager roles. After three years Geoff returned to the brick industry to develop and implement strategies to address the national skill shortage in the trade of bricklaying. Geoff retired in 2016 and has lived at Mount Martha on the Mornington Peninsula with his wife Denise for the past 17 years. They have two children both living overseas in the United Kingdom and Vietnam. Geoff currently enjoys travelling, movies, gardening and cold-water swimming with 'icebergers' in the bay. He still stays in touch with a number of OTU graduates from the 1/71 intake.

The OTU Scheyville 1965-73 Pictorial Book

There was a fantastic demand for the “OTU Coffee Table Book” with almost 400 orders. The high demand has resulted in some delays in processing orders.

The “OTU Coffee Table Book” along with “The Scheyville Experience” are now **SOLD OUT**. If you did not order these books and are still keen to obtain one, or both, please notify the QM as “Waiting Lists” are being established. If there are sufficient requests, reprints may be arranged. Alternatively, a USB EBook option may be possible.



All confirmed and paid orders for books will be posted by end of November. If you have not received your book(s) by mid-December, please email the QM (email address available on the Website) with a copy of your order and the preferred postal address. Please ensure that your contact details in the OTU website, are up-to-date.

Note: Stocks of window stickers, ties and lapel badges have been replenished and are being dispatched separately to the “OTU Coffee Table Book”.

Feedback

There has been a lot of email feedback on the “OTU Coffee Table Book”. Some of the comments are:

My thanks for your work on the OTU Coffee Table Book. It just arrived. Excellent job. IF

Just received my copy of the Coffee Table Book. Congratulations to all involved. A great idea and a wonderful reference to our mutual histories --- well done all!! AC

Just wanted to let you know that I have received the OTU Book. It's great - So many memories. My thanks and gratitude to all who had anything to do with putting it together. Well done!!! GW

I have received my copy of OTU Scheyville Book, Thank you. I am puzzled that B class 2/70 seems to be missing from the album. Only A and C classes appear. IW (Ed – B Class photo not received by OTU-A)

I have received my copy of the book and I am very impressed with the quality and work that has gone into compiling all the photos. Please pass on my thanks to Peter Whitelaw and everyone else involved in the project for an excellent book. AH

Errors

One email stated: ‘On the dark side --- my name is misspelt under a pic with ‘JM’ and my regimental number is wrong – the last 2 digits have been transposed.

Notes: The “OTU Coffee Table Book” was produced from information provided to the association from the ‘Blue Book’, a book produced in the early days of the association, which in itself was produced from the ‘Record of Graduates’ from OTU. It has been found over the years that the original ‘Record of Graduates’ had some errors in it – including missing one graduate! As these errors are found and the association notified, they are corrected in the association’s records.

The photographs were selected from those held by the association on the ‘Gallery’ on the website. Names on these photographs have been shown as they appear on the website.

Scheyvillians are encouraged to visit the website and look at their class photographs, their Senior Class photographs, and their Junior Class photographs and advise the Editor of any missing names or any corrections advised.

WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DID

Tom Derham (1/72) graduated from OTU Scheyville in July 1972 and was posted to 1PIR, PNG, with another OTU graduate, Steve Blinkhorn, who was posted to Wewak ... Steve later joined the Regular Army and ended up serving with 2/4 RAR among other units. Tom was also good mates at OTU with Stan Beaman, who Tom sold his much-enjoyed Renault 10 car to after he left OTU and was preparing to leave for PNG!

Capt. Laurie Mobbs was in charge of Education Section at that time and Tom was to be his 2IC. Tom was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant whilst at his first posting at 1PIR Taurama Bks in late 1972, where they wore green berets. Tom signed on for an extra 6 months of NS to complete 2 years' service and in early 1973 was posted to Goldie River for 12 months before leaving the Army in December 1973.

Below: Left, Tom Derham, Stan Beaman and Steve Binkhorn in 1972



WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DO:

Travel - England (Robin Hunt 3/69)

Whilst on a trip to England, I went and visited this relatively new museum in London. It's established in Royal Hospital Rd, Chelsea SW3 4HT and its open from 1000 to 1730 hrs. They have a good bookshop and a cafe and the Museum is adjacent to the Royal Hospital in Chelsea for Army Pensioners

See <https://www.nam.ac.uk/> Do visit; entry is free - save for special exhibits

Artefacts on display over the four floors and in five galleries include some real treasures such as

- A banned "Taliban Hunting Club" badge
- A VC awarded during the Indian Mutiny of 1857 - but later withdrawn
- A portrait of "General" Oliver Cromwell
- Large scale interactive model of the Waterloo battle site
- The pencilled order that lead to the charge of the Light Brigade
- Lawrence of Arabia's "Arab" Robe
- Florence Nightingale's lantern and gold brooch

There is also a good Naval Museum at Greenwich, and an RAF Museum at Hendon in NW London. Add to these the Imperial War Museum ("IWM") and Churchill's War Cabinet Rooms. Then there are various Regimental and Corps Museums and thus there's plenty to keep the ex-soldier off the streets for many days in London.

Travel – Russia and Vietnam (Alistair Pope, 4/66) OTU people seem to be anywhere and everywhere and in the oddest places. Several years ago I caught up with Brock Thompson and his wife Jo in Moscow, where I was working at the time (Brock was holidaying). Now that I spend a more time in Vietnam than in Australia it is no surprise that I am not alone. On 13 July Wayne Bannon (2/65) and myself met for lunch in Ho Chi Minh city, where Wayne now lives, while I live 90 minutes away in Vung Tau (where 1ALSG was based). Rumour has it that a RAE OTU member has moved into Ba Ria, something for me to research when I am there over Xmas. (Has the Vietnam Chapter been raised?)



Race Cars (Gary Vial, 3/69)

Not one to rest on his laurels (or lack of them) Gary (3/69) Vial is now (along with his sons Sam and Tom) proud owner of a Puma Clubman. Following the concept and lines of the Colin Chapman designed Lotus 7, Gary's Puma was assembled in 2001 by the designer himself, South Australian John Karnon.

A turbo-charged Nissan 2 litre engine putting out 220KW at the wheels in a 650KG body makes for quite lively performance. The power to weight ratio is about 20% better than a 992 Porsche. Although it is road-registered, it is destined to spend most of its time at 'track days'.



Tour Guiding: 17-Day OTU Scheyville Commemoration Tour Of Vietnam 4 – 18 May 2020

On this Matt McLachlan tour, walk in the footsteps of more than 50,000 Australians who served during the Vietnam War on this emotional journey to the former battlefields. The 14-night tour takes in all the key Australian sites from the war, plus also many of Vietnam's cultural treasures, allowing us to experience all aspects of this vibrant country. This proposal is based on a private group of minimum 10 passengers travelling, personally escorted by historian and Vietnam Veteran, Gary McKay (2/68), who served as a platoon commander in Vietnam. Extensions to the main tour are also available.

Inclusions: ▪ 14 nights' superior class 4-star accommodation with private facilities ▪ All meals, entrances and sightseeing as per accompanying itinerary ▪ Transport by comfortable, air-conditioned vehicle with professional driver ▪ One group arrival transfer and departure transfer ▪ 2 x domestic flights (Saigon-Danang & Danang-Hanoi). Visa Requirements: Australian passport holders require a visa to visit Vietnam. All passengers are responsible for their own visas.

Right: Gary (on left) with the previous group at the Long Tan Cross.



For full details on this tour please contact Gary McKay at garymckay@bigpond.com or 0411 574 019.

Attend Presentations (Alistair Pope, 4/66) I went along to the RUSI presentation on the new Oz Hunter Class Anti-Submarine Warfare Frigates. I wanted to have fun and pose the 'impossible question'. First a quick introduction: We are supposed to be 'building' 12 'Barracuda' Class leading edge French 'Clownfish' submarines as our most important first line of defence. (We never will, but that is another issue for another time and place, though it was dealt with in Quadrant-on-Line). We are building 9 ASW Frigates, of the most advanced technological design on the planet, to hunt and kill submarines. Now join the dots!

My question was "Do these new ASW frigates have the capability to find and destroy the Barracuda submarines we are designing and building?" Checkmate.

If the answer is: "No, the capabilities of the Barracuda will make them invisible to all our technology" – then the frigates are a waste of time and \$40Bn.

If the answer is: "Yes, the ASW frigates can easily find and destroy them." – then the Barracudas are a waste of time and \$50Bn to build and \$150Bn to maintain.

The Presenter chose the obvious (and only realistically possible) 3rd answer: "I don't know ..."

Time for a review of our RAN senior ranks and their political masters???

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO:

OTU... I Missed the 'Sam Brown' (Alastair Henderson 3/66)



As a 'DNG' I look back on my time at OTU Scheyville as a learning experience that has been beneficial, ever since. a discipline I use to this day. My time at OTU was not enjoyable, nor was it meant to be but, on arrival, I perceived the Senior Class to be individuals I would not seek out as 'friends' in civilian life. I had a 'Father' who was neither empathetic nor helpful but, in all honesty, I did not help matters. I regretted my failure to graduate then, and ever since. But I was not mentally equipped to succeed. At 169 cm, it was only my sporting prowess that kept me viable... and then my own behaviour led to my demise.

As I reflect on the success of 'graduates', I must say I am surprised at the success of some. But I should not be surprised: they had the intellect, attitude and ability to conform, which I did not possess. More power to them. But as the years close down on our lives, we become more equal and I suffer less from my initial failure as time takes its toll.

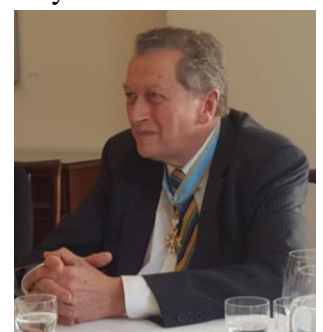
I was surprised at my selection for OTU at Pucka in 1967, but pleasantly surprised. Frankly, I did not feel a rapport with my fellow 'Nashos'... so, removal to OTU came as a welcome relief... a relief short-lived. I teared-up on the evening I rang my parents and told them that I had failed the course. Truth be told, I was never suited to the role of an Army Officer.... eccentricity, humor and individuality were frowned upon... and I had them 'in spades'. I represented OTU in athletics, football, swimming and rugby, but my failure in exams, due to lack of dedication to study, led to my demise. Also, I drank too much in the mess.... I'd brought that bad habit with me from 'civvy' life.

One evening, at OTU classes, a cadet made a comment disliked by the lecturer... "Was that you Officer-Cadet Henderson?... No Sir, I was asleep!" I made too many such comments and my card was marked, justifiably. On another occasion in an evening class, I appeared to be not paying attention: "Are you asleep Officer-Cadet Henderson?... "No sir, just blinking slowly". You cannot survive such insubordination... and I didn't. I failed 'Minor Tac' big time, but mainly because the supervising WO had it in for me and said my radio operator had been shot minutes into the 'contact'...sob! But you can never recover from getting out of step in the front line during the church-parade march-past... and I didn't. Not helped by Lt. Col Clark [OTU 2IC] mentioning my mis-step/s in his subsequent speech at the Church Service.... Wow... you don't recover from that... and RSM Moon brought it to everyone's attention on the parade ground the next day.. that's how they treated you... little empathy. In hindsight... as they said in primary school reports of the day: "Could do better".

I remained a 'private' for all of my 'Nasho' service, and was not treated well as an 'OTU failure'... : "thought you were better than us"! But I survived, with 12 mths in Vietnam (7 RAR 8 Apr 67-26 Apr 68). Years passed... then 20 years as a humanitarian-aid logistician/consultant.... in Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Serbia, Bosnia, Liberia, Kenya, South Africa, Lesotho and Croatia... my time at OTU served me well.

To all OTU attendees... you did well to be selected, and we all, graduates and DNG's, were recognized as being potential leaders of our generation, committed to our 'Nasho' obligations. Fare you well!

Frank Paton (2/70) Japan has awarded Frank Paton 'The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays' with Neck Ribbon. This is an award Japan bestows on foreign nationals who make a significant contribution to relationships with Japan. Frank has acted as lawyer for many Japanese corporations and institutions, including the Consul General of Japan for over 30 years. The award process takes about 6 months of detailed vetting from initiation to approval by the Emperor's office.



John Karajas (2/70) After graduating from the Uni of WA with a BSc (Hon) in 1970, he gained his grounding in the mining industry by working for mining companies, Falconbridge, Anaconda and Hanna Mining. The period extended though to 1982 and was predominantly in WA but included 3 years in Mt Isa. Commodities explored include nickel, copper/lead/zinc, gold, phosphate, taconitic iron ore, tin/tantalite and lignite/oil shale. Between 1982-85 he gained his initial experience in oil exploration by working for Eagle Corporation and IEDC (Aust). This period was spent working on sedimentary basins in WA and included basin studies, well-site geology and other duties related to oil and gas exploration. From 1986 onwards he has worked predominantly as a consultant/contract geologist for a wide range of mining and oil industry clients, both within Aust and abroad. Periods of a more managerial nature have included 1989 – 91 Technical Director of King Mining Pty Ltd, 1992-95 Technical Director of Omega Oil NL 1996-97 Exploration Vic President of Icelandic Gold Corporation. He is a Member at Australian Institute of Geoscientists. He is on the Board of Directors at Genesis Resources Ltd. Mr. Karajas was previously employed as Non-Executive Chairman by Red River Resources Ltd.,

Statistics: OTU and NS – 1 RTB, 2 RTB & 3TB (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

During NS the Army took in about 8,000 Nashos a year. Of the approximately 2,000 per intake 1 RTB took 9 Platoons of 48 (1 Floor of a Recruit Company building per platoon) or 432 Recruits, while 2 RTB took 20 Platoons of 64 (four huts of 16 per platoon) or 1,280 Recruits. 3 TB could take 10 Platoons of 60, a total of 600. A total intake of up to 2,312 Recruits!

To cater for these 39 Platoons of Recruits there needed to be 39 Platoon Commanders. Many of these Platoon Commanders were Nasho Officers or Air Cadet Officers awaiting their flying training.

For OTU Graduates the end result was:

83 Graduates first posting was to 1 RTB plus four Graduate Education Corps Officers

13 Graduates second or subsequent posting was to 1 RTB plus one Graduate Education Corps Officer

100 Graduates first posting was to 2 RTB plus one Graduate Education Corps Officer

10 Graduates second or subsequent posting was to 2 RTB

95 Graduates first posting was to 3 TB plus two Graduate Education Corps Officers

7 Graduates second or subsequent posting was to 3 TB.

A total 278 Graduates were posted directly to an RTB/TB, plus seven Graduate Education Corps Officers, then a further 30 Graduates were posted to an RTB/TB as a second or subsequent posting, plus one Graduate Education Corps Officer.

Consequently, a total of 316 Graduates from OTU served at the RTBs/TB, or 17.5% of Graduates.

In the NS era, how would the Army have survived without the OTU Graduates as Platoon Commanders at the RTBs/TB?

Note: At least one Air Cadet served at both 1 RTB and 2 RTB!

Right: Pl Comd Phil Paddison (2/70) with his Lion Trophy winning platoon at 3TB in 1971.



BOOK REVIEWS

Peas Beans and Bullets (Robin Hunt 3/69)

“Peas Beans and Bullets – Aussie diggers supporting the combat force in Vietnam” by Russ Morison. “On behalf of those who served their country”. Paperback. March 2019. ISBN 978-0-646-9938-8. \$39.99 from the AWM

The author’s somewhat amateurishly produced A4 sized paper back sets out to recognise “the service of Australian supply platoon soldiers in the Vietnam War”. From that perspective, Morison been highly successful, and he provides us with lots of photographs, interesting documents, interviews, and many, many anecdotes. What’s lacking is an overview that sets out the relationship between 1ALSG, the support forces at Nui Dat, the Americans and AHQ in terms of the provision of logistical support. From what I read elsewhere (see “Australian military operations in Vietnam” by Albert Palazzo (Australian Army Campaign Series 3, 2009, Page 168), it was a bugger’s muddle in terms of accountability and reporting lines. I’m surprised we got ammunition and food on such a regular basis as we did - especially so given the command structure that RAASC and others had to work within

RAASC was an important part of our deployment - as were members from RAAOC, air dispatch, engineers, workshops, base hospital, postal, military police and all the other “behind-the-scenes support” necessary to keep the rest of us going up the sharp end. I think their story is yet to be told in an integrated fashion and substantial booklets like this will go a long way towards forming the background to that endeavour. There is an interesting section on “the missing man ceremony for formal dinners” (Page 88) and this is something our Association should consider for a dining in night.

There’s also a fascinating section on the behind-the-scenes work that happened during the 1966 Battle of Long Tan (page 75) where the Detachment Commander of 1Tpt Pl (a Corporal) had to requisition Chinook helicopters from the US Army to move artillery ammunition forward to 1ATF as soon as an OpDem came in. A Corporal did that! On Page 83, one can read about the support given to soldiers deployed at the Battles of Coral and Balmoral by the RAASC Det Comd, Capt Ball.

Did you know that in 1966 the Task Force received an excess of fruit cake in one delivery such that the allocation was to be 17.5 cakes per man in our Army in Vietnam? One can read too what they did with 67,000 eggs delivered one day in a hot environment with very limited refrigeration capacity. That’s about one dozen eggs per man! OTU Association Life Member Alistair Pope (4/66) rates a mention on Page 30 re his time as an RAASC Lt in SVN from Dec 1969 to Dec 1970. If you’re at Vietnam War veteran, read it if you can find a copy

New Australian Coal History (Denis Porter, 2/67)

A new book written by Denis Porter has recently been published by Connor Court Publishing. The book traces the development of the coal industry in NSW and Queensland from the early days of the colony to the 1960s. Sub-titled *From convict mining to the birth of a world leader*, the book brings together many of the major events and stories about the industry, including its industrial conflicts, inquiries and major developments. The Australian coal industry has been the subject of a number of books, papers and university theses, but there has been no recent book to bring together the overall story of the development of the industry in the two major coal exporting states. Denis says that he hopes that this new book now does this in a way that the general reader as well as those acquainted with the industry will find informative and interesting.

The book was launched in Brisbane on 9 October by Ian Macfarlane, CEO of the Queensland Resources Council, and in Sydney on 15 October by Tony Haraldson, CEO of Coal & Allied Industries Ltd from 1989 to 1993. Denis, a graduate of OTU Class 2/67, is also working on a second volume which covers the period from the 1970s to the present and hopes that it will be published in 2020. He worked for the NSW Coal Association and NSW Minerals Council from 1989 to 2001 and was CEO of the Council for the last three years of that period. The book is available from the publisher’s website –

www.connorcourtpublishing.com.au

The Knack of Selling Face to Face, Revised 2020 Version (Keith Rowe, 1/67)

This is a re-write of the original title released in 2009/10 to complement an extensive live sales training program. The 'Knack of Selling' became something of a standard – but time moves on! To celebrate its tenth year, this latest edition contains significantly updated and expanded content. Presented with '2020 vision' and a renewed theme to address the challenges imposed by this new era of digital transformation, it takes us well into the next decade. Retaining the original trainer-friendly structure, and presented as a contemporary eBook with full-colour 16:9 illustrations, it should serve as a comprehensive on-the-run learning reference for everyone involved in buying and selling cross the supply chain.

From field salespeople to sales and marketing managers at trade level, from floor salespeople to buyers and store owner in the retail sector, it remains the definitive sale manual. It costs about the same as a good cup of coffee, so don't delay ... go to Amazon and download it onto your laptop or tablet! Alternatively go to www.amazon.com/author/keithrowe Also available in full-colour print as a 'Collector's Copy'

Creswick's War (Alistair Pope, 4/66)

Among the many books I own and have read on WW1 are the first-hand memoirs of soldier's experiences in war. Donovan Joynt's two books give good accounts of 'up close and personal' combat and the ethos of frontline warriors. Roy Kyle is another who's simple title of 'An ANZAC's Story' tells of four years of his life in and out of the trenches. And so, the list goes on with Ion Idress's 'The Desert Column' among the finest of the genre. Such memoirs of soldier's personal experiences carried on through WW2 (with Peter Ryan's 'Fear Drive My Feet' a must read) to books on the Vietnam War by our own OTU graduates, most notably Gary McKay's 'In Good Company', David Sabben's 'Through Enemy Eyes' and Dave Earley's 'Beneath Blades'.

Neil Leckie's book, 'Creswick's War' differs from most of those listed above in that it is not so much about the exploits of individuals, but about a unit that was founded in Ballarat and drew many of its initial soldiers from the surrounding district. As such, it would seem likely that, as with unit histories it would be expected to appeal only to the relatives and descendants of the soldiers who served and perhaps a slightly wider audience from the Creswick and Ballarat environs. But read on ... Driver S. Gordon Spittle was a prolific diarist and letter-writer, and it is fortunate that his letters and detailed writings about every event were preserved for a century by his descendants. His notes, plus extensive research by Neil provide the basis for this book. One has the feeling that given enough time Neil would have located everyone from Creswick and recorded their service on a daily basis!

Gordon and his mates served in 18 Company AASC (later RAASC) and later in 10 Company AASC. By a curious coincidence I served in both companies for a total of four years, yet was unaware of their foundations.

There are three features that make Neil's an outstanding book:

1. It is written in a very readable style laced with anecdotes and profiles of many of the soldiers;
2. It contains an extensive array of photos and maps that are worth skimming through; and
3. It can be digested in easy stages, not necessarily just from 'front to back'.

This is the human side of soldiering as Gordon was concerned to make sure the 'folks back home' were up to date with the news of their relatives and friends.

Inadvertently, he produced an archive and record which Neil has turned into a book that is well worth reading, even if you are not from Creswick!

More Scheyvillian Travel – Europe It certainly is a small world. Mike Delves (1/65) and Neil Leckie (3/68) were on Rhine/Main/Danube River Cruises in Europe in August on separate boats but following the same itinerary. On Day 10 the options were Salzburg in Austria or Cesky Krumlow in the Czech Republic. Both opted for the later and they crossed paths there!



EMAILS TO THE EDITOR (Neil Leckie, 3/68)**From:** Frank Shellabear (2/66) **Date:** 1 November 2019 **Subject:** WA Chapter Nov Lunch Apology

Greetings from the Third World, one party, socialist state, known also as California. Just being the world's eight biggest economy doesn't guarantee that you'll be able to keep the lights on; but that's an aside. As part of my grandfather duties, I've just re-read "All Quiet on the Western Front". I first read it 60 years ago. A great, albeit dark read. Should be required reading by Generals, Politicians & Bureaucrats before they send young men and women off to war. Have a great lunch & sink an adult beverage for me.

From: Gary Vial (3/69) **Date:** 22 July 2019 **Subject:**
Brighton Secondary School (SA) School Newsletter

3/67s Bob Ormston's wife Elizabeth and I went to the same Primary and Secondary Schools and at a recent lunch, said my photo was in the 2018 Brighton Secondary School Magazine. I couldn't see how, but it appears it was one of those random atmospheric photos at the Brighton (SA) ANZAC Day Dawn Service in which the choir from the school participated, and I happened to be in shot!



From: Adrian Lombardo (1/65) **Date:** 28 August 2019 **Subject:** 1966
Newspaper Report - **OTU Crashes In To Dual Win**

National Service Officer Cadets of the OTU at Scheyville had a dual win recently when they met the Combined High Schools in Australian Rules and the NSW Police Cadets in Rugby.

At Randwick Military Oval the Cadets defeated the Police Cadets 17 – 3 in a fast bruising game in which the fitness and superior football sense of the smaller OTU Cadets ensured success. The OTU Cadets were slow in settling down to their usual game, due to the hard tackling of the Police forwards, and their backs lacked finish in their move. When then attack did straighten, OTU scored and at half time the score was 8 – 3, with two tries to OTU and one to the Police Cadets.

The second half saw no slackening in the hard forward play, but in the last 15 minutes the superior fitness of the Cadets resulted in three more tries. Intelligent hard play by the OTU forwards Reidy, the Captain and Young, paved the way for the elusive and try-starting moves of Brooker, the half-back and Gordon, the five-eighth.

A large vocal crowd at Erskine Oval, saw the Cadets defeat Combined High Schools 7.7 (47) to 5.4 (34) in Australian Rules. The game kept the crowd anxious and resulted in a display of fast, play-on type of football. CHS proved to be a pacy, high-flying side as opposed to OTU's heavier hard-hitting game.

As the game progressed OTUs fitness, experience and solid play slowly took control and they ran out winner. Officer Cadet Jones was best on field and Officer Cadets Renowden and Holman provided the pivots for victory.

Does anyone know when these games were played?

From: Alistair Pope (3/66) **Date:** 9 November 2019 **Subject:** Military Writings

Alistair continues to be active in his writing and has recently written a number of articles for Quadrant:

The Rise & Fall of Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi

Project Cane Toad: The Oz Submarine Debacle

Fear Drive My Feet: Peter Ryan's War in New Guinea in WW2

To read the articles contact Alistair via his email (available on the website) or visit quadrant.org.au

Soldiers Haversacks are heavy enough without political correctness (George Mansford via Al Pope)

Within our Armed Forces, the strong bonds of camaraderie, sense of purpose and the ability to fight are being eroded by changing rules to placate Canberra Suits (Pollies). Training for war does not include pampering, diluting the chain of command, restricting powers and lack of delegation to both NCOs and junior officers. Such circumstances impede a team's readiness to endure the hardships and a constant changing fog of war. One proverb in the soldier's bible is to "look after your mates." It is not issued at the Q Store or by a stirring directive from Canberra.

Mateship is developed by sound and demanding training programs with numerous challenges from recruit training to deployment, then forever and a day. The conversion of civilians into warriors begins with a signal of intent by the commanding officer, which is then planned and supervised by his/her officers. Training at the coal face is then pursued by seemingly, angry, cranky, and very professional disciples, night and day. Even if blindfolded, anyone could identify an NCO by their high-pitched screams of command and colourful phrases, be it in barracks, the feared parade ground or in the field. The salt of the earth, these NCOs are constantly disciplining and demanding high standards, correcting flaws and now and then offering words of praise as their flock slowly develops to be as one. It is never without casualties and those few who do not meet the high standards required, despite counselling and remedial training are removed. Training for war is not a social experiment to please politicians who are sensitive to political correctness.

Racism is now front and centre on parade. The seemingly never-ending flow of measures to counter it is exaggerated and insulting to all who wear the uniform. Warriors simply expect everyone, be they white, black, brown or brindle to be part of the team and share both tasks and dangers. Unity and not comparison is the key and is the very heart of training for war where all will depend on each other in brutal, never ending demands of the battlefield. Be it Von Kurtz from Germany, Parrello from Italy, Imaks from Lithuania, Mene from the Torres Strait, Saunders from a proud indigenous tribe in Victoria or Malone from Ireland, there exists a strong bonding; a brotherhood of sharing and caring. Followers of the Political Correct Club should be aware that in the military there are **no favourites** or **special considerations** for any race or religion. Canberra Suits should stop promoting information which demonstrates "**them and us**" as opposed to "**all as one**". Trading the stark realities of the battlefield for votes of those who worship political correctness is fraught with danger for future operations. So endeth the lesson. Amen.

Just One Question I Will Ask *Who will be the bravest of the brave on Canberra Hill to make the kill?*

I see them as they were, here, there and everywhere in all those yesterdays'
Soldiers with dreams often stolen, broken or lost as they marched on their way
Visions of loved ones at home and what peaceful tomorrows would bring
Deep sleep, dry roofs, soft beds, children's laughter, hot food and glasses brim

In blurred scenes of war are glimpse of faces, tense and strained
Alert for deadly shadows, while in steaming heat or shivering icy rain
Mid the fear of the unknown; trusting and relying on each other
Whatever race or religion, in torn rags of war, they had become one another

I see them with distant weary stares, yet always with grins
Sharing battered mugs of tea as they rested mid war's terrible din
Sliding, slipping, stumbling with crippling heavy loads on their backs
Always a hand reaching out to help a fallen mate back onto the track

Sharing tasks that stole precious rest, be it in day or night routine
Trust in sentries to guard all from any danger yet to be heard or seen
Sweet thoughts of home cut short by restless sleep on muddy ground
At day's first light; waiting for the unknown, all together, so closely bound

Around a cheery campfire, I can hear their laughter and song
Airs of a wild colonial boy from a beloved land where they belong
I see so many trusted comrades, shoulder to shoulder in the flickering light
All as one, spurred on by camaraderie and a cause they believed was right

Today's soldiers have sworn the oath to serve no matter where
They too will do their nation proud with grit, dash and ANZAC dare
Purpose, love of country, hard training, battle discipline and all as one
Led by leaders who have the knowledge of lessons from wars lost or won

Yet there is a sharp thorn which Canberra Suits cannot afford to ignore
Already it digs deep and festers military feet training for war
Divisive, confusing, and could cripple the column as it marches on its way
It's called political correctness, and should be shot this very day

From Robin Hunt (3/69) Date: 2 December 2019 Shrine of Remembrance Weekly Last Post Service
The Melbourne Shrine is instituting a weekly Last Post Service, every Sunday from 4.45pm, to honour those who have served. This is commemorated during a poignant reading of *The Ode* by a veteran. The Shrine Guard, in historic uniform, will lower the Australian flag. A Piper will play as a wreath is laid. Attendees can reflect as a Bugler sounds the *Last Post*.

More Statistics (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

Air Cadets: The OTU-A Victorian Chapter monthly lunches, held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the RACV Club in Melbourne, bring up many points of discussion. Not all are about what we did or how good we were! However, Graduate, DNGs, Repeats and Air Cadets numbers are often discussed. A couple of years ago it was confirmed that there were 1,881 Graduates from the NS/Air Cadet, OCS/OTU and CMF Courses run at Scheyville. The number of Air Cadet Graduates has been a bit 'rubbery' over the years, so in an effort to confirm the number the Graduation List, along with the Graduates' Book produced for NS Classes from 1967 onwards and paperwork held for the association were consulted.

All National Servicemen with no previous military service were given a seven-digit Regimental Number that followed the 1950s NS numbers: a state number followed by, in the early days for NSW and Vic, the number '7'. Most Nashos with CMF service retained their CMF number, although it is thought that a couple may have been issued with a new NS number. Air Cadets without previous service in the CMF were given a Regimental Number that could be anywhere between five and seven numbers with a state number being the first number.

The investigations show:

NS	1,697	69 NS undertook BFTS and/or AFT with 48 passing (70%),
Air Cadets	106	102 Undertook BFTS and/or AFT with 75 passing (74%)
OCS/OTU	68	
CMF	10	
Total OTU Graduates:	1,881	A total of 171 Air Cadets and NS attempted BFTS and/or AFT 123 Qualified as Pilots

Notes:

4 Air Cadets were posted to AAAvn but did not attend BFTS

13 NS were posted to AAAvn but did not attend BFTS

Total NS to AAAvn – 82

50 NS had previous CMF Service

4 Air Cadets are known to have previous CMF service, while one Air Cadet had completed NS

The Editor would like to hear from any NS Officers who had CMF Service prior to NS who were then given a NS Number and any Air Cadets who had previous CMF Service!

History of AAAvn

https://www.army.gov.au/sites/default/files/2015_02_ahq_armyaviation_factsheet.pdf?acsf_files_redirect
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Australian_Army_aircraft

Q STORE (Order through the Website)

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

Lapel Badges: \$5 Plus \$3 P&H



OTU Ties: \$25 plus \$5 P&H

Window Stickers \$1 plus \$2 P&H

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

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

Book OTU Coffee Table Book (Waiting List) Price TBA

Book The Scheyville Experience (Waiting List) \$25 incl P&H



OTU ASSOCIATION

2019/20 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Website: www.otu.asn.au

INVOICE ABN 26 390 124 006	Please return by 31 December 2019 Cheques payable to OTU Association	
MAIL TO: Treasurer OTU Association PO Box 540 BLACK ROCK VIC 3193 CONTACT: (03) 9533 1810 rayelder45@gmail.com	Annual Subscription July 2019 to June 2020 Donation to Youth Leadership Development Total Cheque/Cash Enclosed <i>(For Direct Debit payment see below and please remember to update our database or return this form so that your contact details can be confirmed)</i>	\$50.00 \$ _____ \$ _____
MEMBERSHIP DETAILS UPDATE		
Personal Details:		I Have Retired Yes / No
Title/Rank:		Work Details (If Applicable):
First Names:		Position:
Last Name:		Organisation:
Wife/Partner:		Industry:
Address:		Address:
Town/Suburb:		Town/Suburb:
State:		Postcode:
Home Phone:		Work Phone:
Personal Mobile:		Work Fax:
Personal Email:		Work Mobile:
Personal Web Address:		Work Email:
Class:		Work Website:
Corps:		Any Comments:
Regimental No:		
Awards:		
I am a new member: <input type="checkbox"/>		I am no longer interested.
I am a continuing member: <input type="checkbox"/>		Please delete me from the database: <input type="checkbox"/>
		<i>(Please Indicate)</i>
For Office Use:		You will need to know the following information to pay your Membership using Direct Debit: Bank – National, BSB – 083 298, Account No. 56-687-0611, Reference – Surname and/or Regt No.

Membership Drive

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

	NAME	CLASS	ADDRESS	EMAIL	PHONE NO
1					
2					
3					

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS:

Queensland:	Geoff Daly (4/70) 0403 171 478 Back-up: Melanie Griffin (Mick Hart's secretary) 07 3230 5253 or Mick Hart Monthly Luncheons: 2nd Thursday of the month	seagull@bigpond.com mgriffin@clearhoare.com.au mhart@clearhoare.com.au
NSW:	Gary McKay (2/68) 0411 574 019 Monthly Luncheons 3rd Wednesday of the month	garymckay@bigpond.com
ACT:	Les Boag (4/68) 0418 210 348 Monthly Lunches Bruce Selleck (2/70) 0407 163 108	les@boag.biz bselleck@bigpond.net.au
SA:	Gary Vial (3/69) 0414 762 525 Advised through SA Contact List	garyvial@ctmc.com.au
Tasmania:	Dennis Townsend (2/70) 0419 313 855 Ray Williams (2/71) 0447 006 034 Quarterly lunches advertised by email	det47@y7mail.com adaptbm@bigpond.net.au
Victoria:	Frank Miller 0401 140 762 Bernie Gleeson 0414 702 905 Monthly Lunches, 2nd Wednesday Brian Cooper 0418 373 874	millerfw@netspace.net.au berjungleeson@bigpond.com bctcooper@gmail.com
WA:	David Ward (2/66) WA Chapter Chairman/Hon Treas 0417 927 146 Frank LeFaucheur (1/71) Lunch Co-ordinator 08 9246 2666 Jay McDaniell (3/69): 0438 959 050	david.ward@taxhut.com.au lefauche@inet.net.au mcdaniell@ozemail.com.au

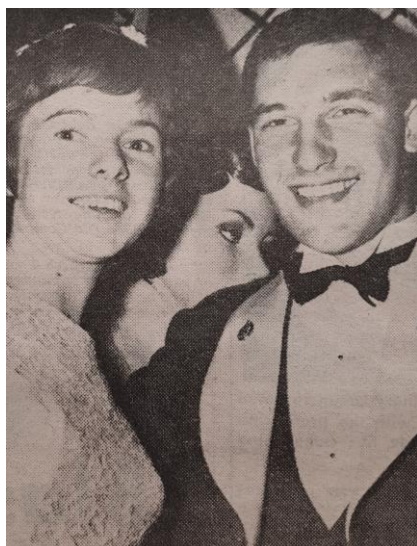
Quarterly lunches on the first Friday of the month of February, May, August and November at The Sorrento, 158 James Street, Northbridge. Parade time is 1300 hr. Warning-in is required with bookings to be confirmed CoB on the Wednesday before via email to Frank LeFaucheur.

THE BACK PAGES Below left: Vic Chapter Dinner at William Angliss Institute



Below right: Left Neil Leckie (3/68), right Les Boag (4/68) with mutual friend retired Major Bob Prewett at lunch in Bacchus Marsh, Vic.





Were you there too?
Left: 2Lt Adrian Lombardo (1/65) with Fiancée Pamela Hiscock at the Army Ball held in the St Kilda Town Hall in mid-1966. Adrian at that time was posted to 2 RTB Puckapunyal.



Above: Peter Ralston (3/71), Phil Verco (4/71) and David Nomchong (3/71) at the 3/71 Reunion in Perth



Above: Class 4/69 50th Anniversary of March In.



Above: Nick Callinan, Dr Brendan Nelson and Peter Don at the Class 3/69 50th Reunion in Canberra.

SURVACTO 1966 and 1967 SURVACTO commenced their Officer Training Course in January 1966 with 33 Officer Cadets. 20 survived the first part of the course. This photo below was taken at the end of their 'Big Run' with someone's modest little 'Kodak', but it is 'evidence' that they were there at that time. Peter Dalkin (Tas) remembers a DS asking, as they returned, 'How many of you fell out?' and he was staggered to hear that none of them had. Ten completed the second phase of the course and were commissioned at OTU in 1967, while others completed the course with other CMF units. (Dalkin photo)



Above: The Walkers at the Vic dinner. Kerrie, Warwick (1/71) and Jennifer with Peter Matters (3/70).

