

RINGO



APRIL 2020

Some of the items in this Issue:

- President's Report
- Battalion Report
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- Warriors Who Have Marched Out
- Meet the New RSM 2RAR
- The Painting
- New Arrangements for Merchandise Sales
- RAR Kokoda Trek
- Membership and Merchandise Forms

2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association, Inc

"nulli secundus"

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RINGO

April 2020

RINGO is the official Newsletter of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association, Inc. All correspondence is to be addressed to The Secretary 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

Cover Image: Private Thomas Vandenburg from 2 RAR (Amphib), covers the beachfront during an early morning reconnaissance patrol extraction at the Cowley Beach Training Area, North Queensland.

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Disclaimer: *The Objectives of our Association are clearly outlined on our website, or available from the Committee on request. In keeping with those objectives the Committee and the Editor of RINGO will not publish any correspondence or article, which is Defamatory, Insulting, Lewd, Political, Religious, Discriminatory, or in the opinion the Committee or the Editor is otherwise in conflict with the Objectives or Community Standards.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to our exciting revamped issue of the 2RAR Association Newsletter 'RINGO'. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding job Rick Hollingdrake has done over the many years as editor of *RINGO*. Well done Rick. You

deserve a well-earned rest. We have appointed a temporary new team to manage the newsletter and will advise you once the appointments are finalised. You will note that the format has been changed and we will continue to look at other ways to make *RINGO* a more dynamic newsletter. In keeping with the revised format of the newsletter, we are seeking feedback from members on any aspect of the newsletter as well as any issue that members may wish to bring to the attention of the committee. Accordingly, any articles and 'Letters to the Editor' are encouraged, although because of space restrictions, it may not be possible for all submissions to be published. Photos are welcome but please provide a caption and include the names of the people in the photo.

There are a number of changes to the management committee as we continue to seek the younger generation to come on board. Jason Sten, the recently retired 2RAR (Amphib) RSM, has now settled on the Gold Coast and has joined the committee. Arthur Macdonald, the committee's longstanding merchandise officer has passed on this task to Sgt Cathy Smith who is a serving member of the Battalion. The Association's merchandise has now been transferred to Townsville and details are contained in this issue of *RINGO*. Arthur will stay on as a committee member until the end of the year to assist Sgt Smith with any merchandise issues that may arise. Thank you, Arthur, for a sterling job over many, many years. Welcome to both Jason Sten and Sgt Cathy Smith and we look forward to a long and fruitful association.

The Association welcomes the new 2RAR

(Amphib) RSM, WO1 Ben Lipman. Full details of his service are contained in this issue and the Association looks forward to successful relationship during his tenure.

The Association also congratulates the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Judd Finger for being recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours list. LTCOL Finger was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) for his outstanding devotion to duty as Commander Joint Task Group 629 on Operation AUGURY from February to October 2018 in the Philippines. I have forwarded him a message of congratulations on behalf of the Association.

As mentioned in the previous issue of *RINGO*, the Association presented an outstanding painting by renowned Australian war artists Lyndell Brown and Charles Green titled "2RAR Air Assault operations – Nui Dat Vietnam" to the Battalion on 10 December 2019. The background to the painting is explained in this issue. The Association has arranged for a number of high quality prints to be produced and these are for sale to members. Details are contained in this issue.

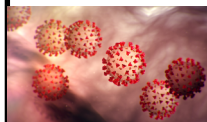
This year is again likely to be a busy one as we continue our efforts to attract younger members into the Association. The committee remains committed to transferring the Management Committee to Townsville and we are working towards that goal.

'Second to None'

Leo Van De Kamp

President

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)



From the President:

The Committee hopes that you are all taking the current circumstances seriously as most of our membership is in the age bracket with the most vulnerability. I encourage everyone to comply with guidance from the experts.

Common sense and consideration of those around you, in the months ahead will ensure that you remain healthy and emerge from the crisis with no long-term adverse effects.

REPORT FROM THE BATTALION

The last 12 months at the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment has been an exciting and eventful period. The Battalion has undergone a significant restructure as part of its evolution into a world class amphibious pre-landing force coupled with the additional mandate of conducting force level reconnaissance tasks in support of ADF operations. The Battalion remains heavily involved in international engagement activities, focused primarily across the Asia-Pacific region but also including reconnaissance elements from 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, from the UK and the United States Marine Corps.

Throughout 2019 the Battalion supported operations in Australia, Iraq and Afghanistan with the largest contingent supporting OP AUGURY in the Philippines. This unique opportunity saw ISR Company deploy to provide and support the training of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as they continued to fight insurgents in the south. The training teams provided excellent training in Urban operations, sniping and the application of indirect fires and was highly regarded by the AFP. In October 2019, 1-4 Platoon participated in OP RENDER SAFE 19, which saw them embark and work alongside the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and Pacific partners including the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Fiji. Their days consisted of working with partnered nations to dispose of UXOs and getting to know the locals as well as enabling combined amphibious beach landings with the Tongan Marines.



The support to OP RENDER SAFE again highlighted that our junior soldiers are adaptive, current and relevant across a range of different operation types. The successful completion of a courses period in October saw the Battalion set up to complete its trial restructure. The restructure saw the Battalion amend its ORBAT from one rifle company (A Company), an Intel Surveillance Reconnaissance Company (ISR Company) and Administration Company (Admin Company) to two amphibious pre-landing force companies (A and B Company) each made up of 2 reconnaissance platoons and a small boats platoon. The creation of an additional company enables the unit to undertake its own force generation cycle and better support its contingency requirements. In line with the growth of B Company, ISR company was renamed Support Company and saw its traditional structures changed to reflect a more contemporary role. Support Company now contains Snipers, Signals platoon, the Joint Fires Team (made up solely of Royal Australian Artillery personnel) and the Training and Operational Capability Cell who are responsible for the management of courses and also capability development, a critical requirement in a specialised unit with a raft of additional skills to master. Log Support Company remains integral to maintaining the fighting force and they have some new capabilities which are being integrated into the unit.

2020 has begun and thankfully without the frictions experienced in early 2019 with the Townsville Floods. All the companies have hit the ground running in their new structures and have quickly moved to maintaining old skills both individual and collective as well as developing new ones, for example another platoon of basic reconnaissance qualified soldiers as well as an increase in numbers of our small boat operators.

Of interest our small boat capability is amongst the best in the world and highly regarded by both the British and the Americans. More on this capability in future articles.



The Battalion has an exciting 12 months ahead, with ongoing support to operations and international engagement and the integration of new equipment. There are some great opportunities for the Companies and their supporting elements to represent the unit on international and domestic exercises. Two of the battalions snipers are representing the Australian Defence Force at an International Sniper Competition in the USA, the Joint Warfare Series will see B Company testing itself and RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific – a US led exercise run in Hawaii and one of the biggest coalition amphibious exercises run every two years. In 2018, the 2 RAR PLF led the amphibious insertion providing the main dismounted reconnaissance effect) will see A company show casing its abilities on the world stage.

The Unit continues its heavy focus to reconnect with the Battalion's veteran community and continues to push the mantra 'Back to the Battalion'. The Unit's soldier boozer has been redesigned with office space for the both the 2 RAR and 2/4 RAR Associations and a room which will display Association merchandise. The Unit no longer conducts Dining In nights of soldier dinners in isolation and offers for every occasion invitations to ex-serving members. We would love, and highly encourage, ex-serving members to return to the Unit for ANZAC Day this year and other events that will be posted in the next RINGO. The Battalion will make a large effort this year to commemorate the Unit's activities in Malaya from the early intervention through to Rifle Company Butterworth.

As always, the Unit remains **Joint, Lethal** and **Agile**.

REPLACEMENTS FOR MEDALS LOST OR DESTROYED



DVA advises that medals that were lost or damaged in the bushfires may be replaced under the Defence Honours and Awards Replacement Medal Policy. Current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force are entitled to one replacement set of medals. Holders of a deceased family member's medals are also entitled to receive one replacement set, provided that replacements have not already been issued.

Even if you do not know exactly what medals were lost or damaged, as long as you have the original recipient's full name and date of birth, Defence can fulfill the request. To apply for replacement medals, please visit: www.defence.gov.au/medals and complete the Defence Medals Online Application Form, selecting Replacement Medals as the application type.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Lieutenant Colonel Judd Finger Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)



The CO 2 RAR (Amphib), LT COL Judd Finger has been awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) for his achievements prior to taking command of 2 RAR (Amphib), while on Operation AUGURY in the Philippines.

For outstanding devotion to duty as Commander Joint Task Group 629 on Operation AUGURY from February 2018 to October 2018

ooOOoo

The late Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Barry Peterson, MC

Member Of The Order Of Australia (AM) General Division



The late LTCOL Barry Peterson, MC has been awarded an AM (General Division) for service to the international community of Thailand. Barry was Company Commander, C Company, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion during the second tour of Vietnam in 1970/71.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gidday Cobber

You are doing a great job and full marks to you and your team --G

I question the accuracy of the article in regards operations in Malaya during 1956. A pity it did not include 1957, which would have given a clearer picture of the battalion at work in two years of operation ranging from Kedah to the Malay-Thai border. There were more than 3 of the battalion killed in 1956. I recall quite clearly one day alone when three of our battalion were buried.

In regards the killing of a terrorist as outlined in the article, I have no knowledge of such a large force being involved but rather a company minus affair commanded by a second lieutenant involving 2 cut off groups and a search group. (If there was a larger force, we at the coal face were certainly not aware of it.)

In the other action described, the C Company patrol involved in the assault on the enemy camp was not in the manner as claimed in the article, nor as recorded in the official reports. There was a fire fight but did not include any grenades. There were three enemy wounded, NOT two during a very brief and noisy phase in rain and fading light. **It was not, as stated due to poor marksmanship** but ammunition fired by one Owen Gun that lacked the power to penetrate both pack and cause lethal injury other than at very short range. A further flaw was the aged ammunition, and after several bursts of the Owen Gun in question being fired, there was a stoppage caused by an expanded cartridge case which jammed in the breach.

All the above is not hearsay. I was there at both incidents. There was certainly no debrief of those involved in the camp assault at any level. Ironically, the Powers To Be ignored the flaws of aging Owen Guns and we continued to use them up to and including the early phases of our commitment in the Vietnam War including 65-66, when the penny finally dropped.

George Mansford,

Private/ Lance Corporal, C Coy, 2RAR-Malaya
55-57

Cairns

WARRIORS WHO HAVE MARCHED OUT

32866 James Henry aka Jim Richardson

Jim served in 2RAR Korea 17/03/1953 to 06/04/1954 and 2RAR Malaya 1955/57

Jim passed away on 08/01/2020 aged 88+
His funeral service was held on 16 January 11:00 am
Caloundra QLD

Rest in Peace Jim

3176021 Private Clifford Bruce Cornish

Cliff served in 2RAR in Vietnam 12/03/1971 to 06/05/1971 in A Company,
Cliff passed away 16 December aged 69+.
Cliff was a Regular soldier who spent many years serving in 5/7 RAR
His funeral was held on 30th December at Minchinberry NSW .

Rest in Peace Cliff

2785605 Private Dennis Clive Newman

Dennis served in 2RAR Vietnam
24/10/1967 to 13/06/1968

He passed away on 9th January 2020 aged 73+
Although a National Serviceman, Dennis served on in the Army for 20 years.

Rest in Peace Dennis

2783068 Private Kevin John Gascoigne

Kevin served in 2RAR in Vietnam 19/05/1967 to 31/07/1967 in B Coy
DOB: 06/12/1945

Kevin passed away on 19/01/2020 aged 74+

Rest in Peace Kevin

218442 Private Peter Arnold Kelly

Peter served in 2 RAR 17/05/1970 to 01/06/1971.

He passed away on the 22 Jan 2020 aged 69+

Rest in Peace Peter

16663 WO1 Kevin "Lofty" Wendt, OAM, BEM

'Lofty' served in 2RAR in early 1960s at Enoggera.
In 8RAR Vietnam 17/11/1969 to 05/07/1970
8/9RAR in 1980 as RSM
In 1987 he was appointed RSM of the Army, only the second to be appointed.

Lofty passed away in Biggenden QLD on 28th January 2020 aged 76+
His funeral was held on Friday 7th February in

Biggenden. It was a full military funeral.

Rest in Peace 'Lofty'

2783059 Private Robert (Mark) Malcolm Collins

Mark served in 2RAR Vietnam 10/05/1967 to 14/11/1967 in C Coy
Mark passed away suddenly at home on 17 January 2020. aged 74+

His funeral service was held in Dubbo on Friday 24 January 2020.

Rest in Peace Mark

6851 Wallace Charles Sutherland, OBE, OAM, JP

Wallace served in 2 RAR in Korea Mar - Oct 1953 (224 Days)

Wallace died on 15 November 2019 aged 89+

Unfortunately we did not receive information regarding his funeral.

Rest in Peace Wally

218359 Sergeant Peter Leo Brennan

Peter served in 2RAR Vietnam 12/05/1970 to 01/06/1971

Peter passed away suddenly at home on 5

February 2020. aged 70+

His funeral service was held on Friday 14 February

Rest in Peace Peter

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.*

March out with pride digger

Your duty done

May he rest in peace.

Amen. God bless

Rev Graeme Davis, OAM, CSM

Hon Padre 2RAR Association



RSM 2RAR**Warrant Officer Class 1 Ben Lipman**

Warrant Officer Class 1 Ben Lipman was born on 20 June 1974 in Lismore, New South Wales. He enlisted into the Army on 03 October 1993 as a rifleman within the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

On completion of his initial employment training, Warrant Officer

Lipman was posted to 5/7 RAR where he served as a rifleman up to the rank of corporal. During this posting, he served as a section commander in East Timor on Operation WARDEN and was selected for secondment to the 1st Battalion, The Coldstream Guards in Canada. In 2001, he was posted to Depot Company, School of Infantry (SOI) as a section commander instructor. He was then posted back to 5/7 RAR as a platoon sergeant where he deployed to East Timor again on Operation CITADEL.

In 2006, Warrant Officer Lipman was posted to Platoon Team, Tactics Wing at the School of Infantry. During this posting, he deployed to Iraq on Operation CATALYST with the Australian Army Training Team – Iraq. He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 on return to Platoon Team in 2008 and filled the position of the Reconnaissance Warrant Officer in 2009. During this time he was selected to take a small team to Cambodia to instruct the Cambodian National Counter Terrorism Special Forces in reconnaissance techniques.

Warrant Officer Lipman was posted to 7 RAR in 2010 as the Battalion Mechanised Warrant Officer and the CSM of C Coy. During this time, he was deployed as the Company Sergeant Major of Rifle Company Butterworth in 2011 and on Operation SLIPPER as the Company Sergeant Major of the Brigade Advisory Team in Afghanistan in 2012. In 2014, Warrant Officer Lipman was posted to the Royal Military College – Duntroon where he fulfilled the positions of a

small group instructor in I Class, CSM of III Class, and Small Arms Training Warrant Officer. In 2017, Warrant Officer Lipman was appointed the RSM of 10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment.

In February 2018, he deployed to the Philippines with Joint Task Group 629 for eight months before returning to complete a third year at the 10th/27th Battalion, the Royal South Australia Regiment. In 2020, Warrant Officer Lipman was appointed the RSM of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

Warrant Officer Lipman is married to Kim. They have two sons, Odin who is 17 and Hunter who is 13. He has a passion for motorsports and engineering, building and competing in his own race car at a local level of competition. He is also actively involved in supporting his sons in soccer and BMX racing.

Communications with the Association

All matters are to be communicated through the Secretary. Contact details are:

Telephone: 0407 926 270

Email: 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

Website:

<http://www.2rar-association.net.au>

Facebook:

Postal address:

PO Box 5187,
Murwillumbah South, NSW 2484

DAWN SERVICE ANZAC DAY 2 RAR

The CO 2 RAR (Amphib) would like to extend an invitation to all ex-members and/or their families to come and experience ANZAC Day back with Battalion. You will be able to drive onto the base using photo ID for those 16 and older, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Schedule of Events

0430 to 450 - Arrival

0450 - Rum & Coffee at the Companies/BHQ

0520 - Move to The Parade ground for Service

0610 - At Conclusion move to the Edgar

Towner VC Club

0620 - Breakfast at the ETVC Club, Welcome by the CO, Two up and refreshments

Cancelled

THE PAINTING

"2RAR Air Assault Operations Nui Dat Vietnam"



The Painting

The scope of this project was to commission artists Charles Green and Lyndell Brown, to paint an enduring artistic record of 2RAR's involvement in the Vietnam War drawing on both tours of duty. The painting contains representations of appropriate and historically accurate equipment, dress, weapons and helicopters that were used by 2RAR during the two tours. The painting does not address one specific action or event. The painting is approximately 140 cm high x 214 cm wide.

This painting seeks to evoke the experience of 2RAR's troops at Nui Dat and in action during the Vietnam War. The Artists visited the sites of the main ADF bases and battlefields in Vietnam and were deeply moved. They approached the commission with deep respect and admiration for the Australian troops who served in Vietnam, and also with intense awareness of that war's mixed, historic significance.

The Painting aims to remind veterans and younger Australians – both ADF and a wider public – of the gravity and seriousness of the Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. The Artwork was rendered with a level of detail so that the subject is easily recognisable.

The Artwork is painted in oils and produced in materials that will maintain archival integrity to ensure the longevity of the painting.

The Artists began working on the painting around August 2018 and it was completed by August 2019

The Painting is an original and not copied or reproduced from any other work or art, with the exception of photographic sources that the artists incorporated into their work.

The plaque attached to the painting states:

"2RAR AIR ASSAULT OPERATIONS NUI DAT VIETNAM" by Lyndell Brown and Charles Green. Presented to **2RAR (Amphib)** 10 December 2019 by **2RAR Association, Inc**

Continued on Page 10

From Page 9 - The Painting

About the Artists

The artists, Lyndell Brown and Charles Green have worked as a team since 1989. Since then, all their art has always been made together.

In 2007, they were Australia's Official War Artists, deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, and between 2011 and 2019 worked on follow-up collaborations with artist Jon Cattapan about the aftermath of Australia's wars since Vietnam.

Charles Green is Professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Melbourne and Lyndell Brown is a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne. They are based in regional Victoria.

Presentation



The President, Leo Van De Kamp presented the painting to the CO 2RAR (Amphib) at a dinner held on 10th December 2019. A number of veterans attended the 2RAR (Amphib) Officer/NCO Dining-In night at Lavarack Barracks. Following the presentation, the painting has been hung in Battalion Headquarters on public display. In time it will be moved to the Historical Collection in a climate-controlled room.

Prints of the Painting

In order that members may own and display a copy of the painting, prints have been obtained which accurately reflect the painting and the artists have sanctioned the prints as being a true representation of their artwork.

Prints are available through the Association's merchandise and cost \$50.00 each, which includes all transaction fees, packaging and postage costs. An Order Form is below:

Purchase Order Form

Print of Painting "Air Assault Operations Nui Dat, Vietnam"

I would like to order ____ copy/copies of the painting "Air Assault Operations Nui Dat, Vietnam"

Method of Payment is shown below.

2RAR Association must receive your payment before prints will be mailed.

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST CODE _____ Email: _____ @ _____

TELE: _____ MOB: _____

Prints are \$50.00 each

This price is inclusive of transaction fees, packaging and postage fees

Prints are 600 mm x 350 mm + border

You can pay for your print by:

Cheque to be made payable to: 2RAR Association, Inc

Direct deposit to the Association's bank account:

Account details: 2RAR Association, Inc.

Bank: Suncorp Bank., BSB: 484-799, Account Number: 063 350 355.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association is open to all ex-members of 66 Aust Inf Bn, 2AR, 2RAR, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC), 2/4RAR, and all currently serving members of the Battalion. It also includes members of other Corps of 2RAR MTF-3 Afghanistan and NOK of deceased 2RAR personnel. See Page 15

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR MERCHANDISE

Arthur Macdonald, who has handled the Association's merchandise for 11 years, has recently handed over the responsibility to SGT Cathy Smith in 2RAR (Amphib). Cathy will carry out all functions associated with the merchandise; planning, ordering, receiving and dispatching orders and maintaining the merchandise ledgers. The changeover date was Tuesday, 18th February 2020.

Merchandise for the Battalion and the Association will now be completely integrated. Cathy will also sell merchandise to the members of the Battalion.

Arthur is not completely stepping away now but will remain engaged for the rest of this year with Cathy to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

For you, the customer, this change will be totally transparent. Your orders will be processed in the same way with the same amount of care and attention. Arthur remains on the Committee and retains the overall responsibility for merchandise for the time being.

This move of the merchandise to the Battalion is a step in the right direction towards integration for us with many more steps to follow in due course.

Sergeant Cathy Smith



SGT Smith enlisted into the Army as a Reservist in July 1994 at 42 RQR in Mackay QLD. After completion of her initial employment training as a Medic/Nurse Assistant she was posted to 11 BASB based in

Townsville. Due to civilian work commitments she moved to Mount Isa in 1995 and reposted to 51 RQR as a Patrol Medic.

In 2002 SGT Smith Corps transferred to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals as a Patrol Signaller and long range communications specialist.

In 2006 she was invited to again Corps transfer, to become a Combat Clerk due to difficulties with the Army finding personnel to post to Mount Isa. She consequently commenced her full time

service career at D Coy 51 Battalion the Far North Queensland Regiment in 2007.

She has remained a clerk since, and enjoyed postings at:

2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry),
7th Combat Services Support Battalion,
2nd General Health Battalion,
11th Combat Services Support Battalion,
3rd Combat Services Support Battalion,
51st Battalion the Far North Queensland Regiment (again),
HMAS *Canberra*

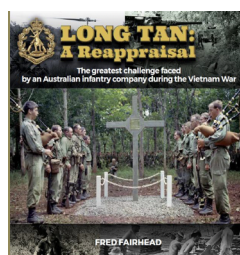
She is currently the Personnel Sergeant at the 2RAR (Amphib).

SGT Smith has a wonderful ex-2 RAR fiancé and she hopes that she can serve the Association well during her time at 2 RAR and possibly beyond, and she looks forward to meeting members new and old at every opportunity.

'Nulli Secundus'

NEW BOOK

"Long Tan: A Reappraisal" by LTCOL Fred Fairhead, Retd, is a quality production of 52 pages including eight maps/sketches, nine photographs and a description of all enemy weapons, D Company weapons and support weapons used during the battle.



The Battle of Long Tan on 18th August 1966 was one of the greatest challenges faced by an Australian Infantry company during the Vietnam War. This reappraisal draws on several new sources

including recently declassified records and translations.

Price is \$20.00 incl postage. Available from: mfred@bigpond.com

MEMBERS DRAW

The latest winners of the Members' Draw received a copy of 'Afghanistan - Australia's War' by Gary Ramage and Ian McPhedran

Congratulations to our latest winners: Don Lynch, Walkerville QLD (Dec 19) and Bob Blair, Rockhampton QLD (Feb 20).

HONOURS AND AWARDS BOOKLET

A small booklet "Honours and Awards Presented to Members Serving with 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment 1945 – 1995" was produced by Bob Downey and "Shorty" Baker in 1997 covering all the operational awards.

A sub-committee of three has been set up with the task of up-dating the booklet. The purpose of the update is to correct some typographical errors and to add a couple of awards that were omitted. In addition, the updated publication will also include awards made to members of 2RAR between 1995 and the present date. These need to be recorded not only for posterity but it's our history and as such past members reflect on it and present and future members learn and should be motivated by it.

We realize that locating the details of all awards since 1995 is going to be a time-consuming task, but believe the effort will be worth it to ensure this important part of 2RAR history is maintained. Ideally, we would like to include a photograph of each recipient, but realize this may be difficult to achieve. If any members have a copy of an Award Citation made since 1995 or a photograph of any recipient, including those in the original publication, a copy of this material would be much appreciated by the Committee. Such material will assist us in giving full recognition to those whose service should be fully recognized. Any material should be forwarded to the Secretary (Gordon Hurford) either electronically or in hard copy. That way maybe we will get it right.

RINGO - BY POST OR EMAIL?



Our preferred method of delivery of RINGO to you is by **email**. Why?

* You will receive the issue, in full colour, sooner and without the delay of it going through Australia post.

* It has economic and financial advantage to the Association by saving on printing and postage.

We are happy to continue to send RINGO to you via Australia Post if you wish but you have to tell us.

Contact Gordon: Mob: 0407 926 270;
2rarsecretary@gmail.com

Gordon Hurford, AM
Secretary

RINGO REVIEWED



We are sorry that Rick Hollingdrake has stepped down as Editor of *RINGO*. Rick's last edition was December 2019.

Rick has been composing, compiling, editing, printing, folding,

enveloping, mailing *RINGO* now for too many years for me to try to recall but it is a long, long time. *RINGO* has become the yardstick against which all the other RAR Associations judge their newsletter. *RINGO* under the penmanship of Rick has brought you current day activities of the Battalion and the Association as well as historical articles reaching right back into the annals our past as far back as 66 Battalion and Korea. It has been a serious labour to bring a high quality, professionally presented newsletter to the membership four times a year. That is an immense work load and now it is time for Rick to step back and take a deep breath and relax. Thank you, Rick; we are indeed indebted to you for all your hard work and long hours as our newsletter editor. Your skills will not be completely lost but we know it will be much easier for you in the future.

Thanks mate, job well done!! Second to none!

Rick has been replaced by an editorial team and we have a few objectives apart from trying to keep up the standard set by Rick.

- We have reduced the number of editions to 3 per year instead of 4. *RINGO* will be published April, August and December in colour.
- We will concentrate on the present or most recent history. Although there will still be the important historical pieces, we will focus more on the Battalion's activities and deployments, as well as the members.
- We want to reach out to the members and request you contribute to your newsletter; funny or sad, we would like your input with captioned photos.

ANZAC DAY ACTIVITY - AWM

You would all know by now, the ceremonies associated with ANZAC Day (Dawn Service, march and ANZAC Service) have been cancelled Australia-wide.

Australia has also withdrawn from the Services at Gallipoli and Villers-Bretonneux.

This year the Australian War Memorial will hold a private, nationally televised ANZAC Day commemorative service. This service will be held in the Commemorative Area and Hall of Memory on Anzac Day.

The traditional Dawn Service, National Ceremony and veterans' march **will not take place**.

The event will not be open to the public but will be broadcast live across Australia by the ABC and streamed online.

**CORRECTION**

In the October 2019 edition of RINGO, an article on Page 5 "Rest in Peace: Ben Morris" stated ... "In February 1967 he [Ben Morris] marched into 5RAR as a platoon commander but was reposted to 2RAR when they arrived in June 1967. It was a nine-month posting to 2 platoon A Company." This statement is misleading. Ben arrived in 2RAR on 5 June 1967 as a Theatre Supplement Platoon Commander. He did not assume command of 2 PI A Coy until sometime around mid-September and remained with 2 PI until he returned to Australia in March 1968. Mike Kinsella was the PI Comd from arrival in Vietnam in May 1967 until mid-September 1967.

The Commander's Diary and other records support this chronology. Apology Mike.

MATES 4 MATES

Supporting Injured
Defence Force Mates.

Actively changing the lives of current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families, impacted by service.

Established in 2013, Mates4Mates has become one of the country's leading charities providing physical, psychological and social support services to the Defence community.

Over the years more than 4,600 people have directly benefited from our services and continue to access support regularly. With over 25,000 face-to-face connections provided by our staff each year, we help veterans and their families connect, recover and move forward after service-related injuries. We have welcoming Family Recovery Centres in South East Queensland, North

Queensland and Tasmania, and provide services in outreach locations around Australia. Many of our staff and volunteers come from all areas of the Defence community and understand what it means to serve. They are experienced in helping veterans overcome hurdles and navigate through recovery.

OPEN ARMS**Veteran & Families Counseling**

Veterans and Families Counseling provides mental health and well-being support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. It provides free and confidential help and is available 24/7.

Phone 1800 011 046 or visit
<http://www.openarms.gov.au>

MERCHANDISE DELAYS

Since the outbreak of the pandemic COVID-19, we are experiencing some minor delays in the delivery of merchandise to our customers. SGT Smith, along with the Battalion was put in quarantine for more than a week. All orders have now been processed and the most recent ones are in the Australia Post system. Once the current pandemic is over we will get back to normal. Your understanding on this matter would be appreciated. ***There is still time to order for Mother's Day, but get in quickly!!***

TREK THE KOKODA TRAIL - AN EXCLUSIVE RAR TREK

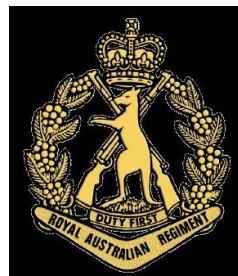
(Subject to COVID-19 restrictions being lifted)

Prompted by the comments of a couple of RAR veterans, Chad Sherrin, MM (ex-8, 2/4 & 8/9 RAR) is putting together an exclusive RAR trek for Regiment members, both past and present.



For us as infantrymen, Kokoda holds a special place because it was there that the jungle warfare skills we use today were learned and honed, and many of the men

who fought on the Trail were to become founding members of the Royal Australian Regiment and mentors to the soldiers who joined post-WW2.



The trek will visit all the major battlefields with in-depth briefings on the fighting as it occurred.

The trek will be a great experience for all involved, providing the opportunity to share the experience of the Trail and to swap stories on their respective careers as soldiers.

The proposed trek will be 10 days which will follow the original Kokoda Trail, visiting all the major battle sites, and includes detailed briefings for each of the battles. Dates of the trek are 18-29 September 2020 – 12 days in total, which includes travel to and from Australia.

Details including costs are available from Adventure Kokoda website:

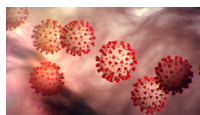
<https://www.kokodatreks.com/treks/our-treks/charlies-premium-kokoda-campaign-trek/#trek-page-itinerary>

click on each of the 'day' symbols for detail of the day's activities.



Charlie Lynn's
ADVENTURE
KOKODA

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)



From the President:

The Committee hopes that you are all taking the current circumstances seriously as most of our membership is in the age bracket with the most vulnerability. I encourage everyone to comply with guidance from the experts. Common sense and consideration of those around you, in the months ahead will ensure that you remain healthy and emerge from the crisis with no long-term adverse effects.



THE SHERWOOD/INDOOROOPILLY RSL SUB-BRANCH INC

Extends an Invitation to all Returned veterans,
Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Day

Annual BBQ Lunch

Honouring the Battle of Coral/Balmoral

Saturday 16th May 2020

At 2 Clewly Street, Corinda

BBQ Lunch Bar opens 1100 hrs

Current Service and Ex-Service personnel
welcome

Sub-branch contact number: 07 3278 6786

2ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NEW

RENEW

CHANGE OF DETAILS

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ State _____ Post Code _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Tele: (____) _____

Mob: _____

Regimental No: _____ DOB: _____

RAR Service: In which Battalions did you serve and when served:

Theatres/Operational Areas Served: In which operational theatres/area of ops did you serve and when:

Post-Nominals: _____ Spouse/Partner's Name: _____

***You will receive your copy of RINGO electronically,
unless you advise us that you want it through Australia Post***

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(Financial Year: 1 November to 31 October)

Yearly or Multiple-Years

\$20.00 (1 yr), \$40 (2 yrs), \$60 (3 yrs), \$80 (4 yrs), \$100 (5 yrs)

(Cheques made payable to: 2RAR Association, Inc)

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Receipt Required? YES/NO

Send to: The Secretary, 2RAR Association, PO Box 5187, South Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Direct deposit to:

Account details: 2RAR Association, Inc.

Suncorp Bank. BSB: 484-799. Account no: 063 350 355.

2RAR Association - Merchandise Order Form

FULL NAME: _____ Tele: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Post Code _____

Mob: _____ Email: _____ @ _____

All prices are inclusive of transaction fees, packaging and postage fees

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
Cap: Black - "2nd Battalion"	\$35.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - RAR Badge	\$25.00	
Cap: Black - "2 RAR"	\$35.00		Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$25.00	
Cap: Black/Silver - "ICB Badge"	\$35.00		Money Fold- RAR badge - Leather	\$25.00	
Lapel Badge - "2RAR"	\$13.00		Badge - Rising Sun - Gold/Metal	\$15.00	
Lapel Badge - "Vietnam"	\$6.00		Bush Hat M (58), L (60), XL (61)	\$25.00	
Polo Shirt: Black/Gold - "2nd Battalion" M(97)L(102)XL(107)2XL(112)3XL(117)	\$48.00		Key Ring - Penny Slouch Hat	\$6.00	
Sport Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102), XL(107), 2XL(112), 3XL(117)	\$55.00		Bumper Sticker - 2RAR Association	\$8.00	
Tee Shirt: Black/White - "Second To None" L(102), XL(107), 2XL(112), 3XL(117)	\$37.00		Bumper Sticker - Vietnam Veteran	\$8.00	
Tie: "2RAR" - Striped	\$30.00		Bumper Sticker - 2nd Battalion	\$8.00	
Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$11.00		Car Registration Plate Frames - 2nd Battalion	\$20.00	
Stubby Cooler - "Second To No Bastard"	\$11.00		Note Pad - Leather - ICB Badge	\$10.00	
Sticker (Oval) - "ICB"	\$8.00		Sticker - Numerals	\$8.00	
Sticker (Round) - "2RAR"	\$8.00		Sticker - Vietnam Vet - Oval	\$8.00	
Key Ring - Black/Gold - 2RAR	\$15.00		Sticker - Window Transfer - ICB	\$8.00	
Wall Plaque: 2RAR	\$55.00		Playing Cards - Rifleman	\$20.00	
Book: Trackers Vietnam 1967/68	\$20.00		Flag - 2RAR Black	\$18.00	
Ladies Silk Scarf (Ideal Mother's Day Gift)	\$57.00		Name Tag - Made to Order "Your preferred name"	\$28.00	
Package Deal 1 Polo shirt and Cap	\$80.00 (Save \$7.00)		Package Deal 3 Polo shirt, Cap and Tie	\$105.00 (Save \$11.00)	
Package Deal 2 Sports shirt and Cap	\$80.00 (Save \$7.00)		Package Deal 4 Sports shirt, Cap and Tie	\$105.00 (Save \$11.00)	
Tie: "2RAR" (Heritage)	\$30.00		Stubby Cooler - "First round on us"	\$11.00	
Enamel Mug 2RAR	\$25.00		Book: "A Duty Done"	\$20.00	
Patch - Woven - Rising Sun	\$8.00		Belt Buckle - RAR	\$18.00	
Patch - Woven - 2 RAR	\$8.00		Belt Buckle - Huey	\$18.00	
Patch - Woven - Combat Vietnam	\$8.00		Patch - Woven - Unit Colour Patch	\$8.00	
Patch - Woven - Combat	\$8.00		Sticker - Unit Colour Patch	\$8.00	
Badge - Next of Kin	\$10.00		Patch - Woven - ICB	\$8.00	
Print -2RAR Air Assault Operations Nui Dat Vietnam	\$50.00				