

RING

Newsletter



ISSUE 12
JULY 2021



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RINGO is the official newsletter of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association, Inc.

All correspondence is to be addressed to the Secretary via email at 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

Cover Image:

The 50th anniversary reunion memorial service.

Photo courtesy of Jason Harrison.

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 of the Committee or the Editor is otherwise in conflict with the objectives or Committee standards.

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President's report

HONOURING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS 50 YEARS ON

2021, the association was grateful to be able to assist the 2RAR reunion committee in providing support for the veterans of the 50th Anniversary of their return from Vietnam.

Due to Covid restrictions put in place in 2020, the reunion was delayed 12 months – making this year an even more poignant occasion.

The week-long event 31 May – 06 June held in sunny Townsville North Queensland was well represented by over 110 veterans in attendance. The management of Rick Avery and the reunion committee are to be commended for their tireless efforts in ensuring every veteran had a good and relaxing time.

Vietnam veterans from across our vast land were able to come together, have beer or three, reflect on their service and remember mates passed but never forgotten. The event was made even more special at the final farewell dinner for the Vietnam vets when the 2 RAR Association was able to take the opportunity to present the Modern Soldier and citation for Life Membership to the Association for Rick Avery.

Rick Avery is much respected member to not only the Association but to all 2RAR Vietnam veterans and this awarding of Life Membership was a well deserved recognition to an outstanding gentlemen and supporter of the Association. .

AUSTRALIAN GOVT ROYAL COMMISSION

As you may have heard, on the 19th Apr 21 the Australian Government announced a Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide and the appointment of a National Commissioner who will be responsible for implementing its recommendations.

The 2 RAR Association provided a response for the request of information. This request for information and our response can be read in full on page 11 of the magazine. I encourage all our members to take the time to read this article and are also encouraged to provide feedback and additional Input back to our email address at 2rarsecretary@gmail.com.

The only way forward is to identify our past mistakes and then move towards workable solutions so as to try to make sure that our future serving soldiers are better equipped during and post their service.

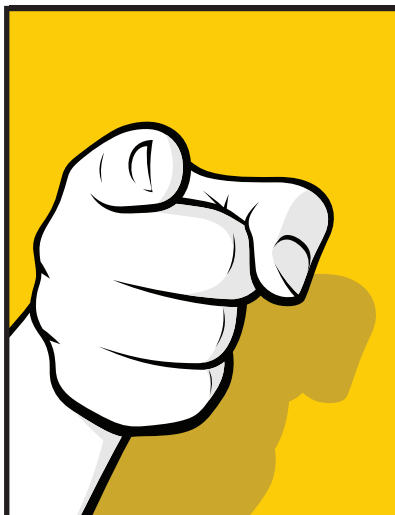
ANZAC DAY BRISBANE

The Association would like to formally apologise to all our members in the SE QLD region with regards to our correspondence involving the Anzac Day March. Unfortunately we were unable to provide a state representative with the Association banner for members to proudly march behind. This unfortunate occurrence with regards to communicating that the Association was not able to be represented formally will be rectified; rest assured we will be proudly marching in Brisbane in 2022.

“Vietnam Veterans from across our vast land were able to come together, have a beer or three, reflect on their service and remember mates passed but never forgotten.”



Sprouty Althofer
President
2RAR Association, Inc



MEMBERSHIP

your membership matters!

Membership fees are due as at 1st November each year.
The fees are \$20.00 per year and you can pay up to 5 years in advance.

You can renew membership on the website at:

www.2rar-association.net.au/merchandise

you can pay through PayPal, direct debit or by cheque.

*Please advise us if you have changed any of your contact details,
particularly your email address.*



**We need your stories
and your contributions
to RINGO**

***Let us have them to share
with everyone.***

Communications with the Association

*All matters are to be communicated through
the Secretary.*

CONTACT DETAILS ARE:

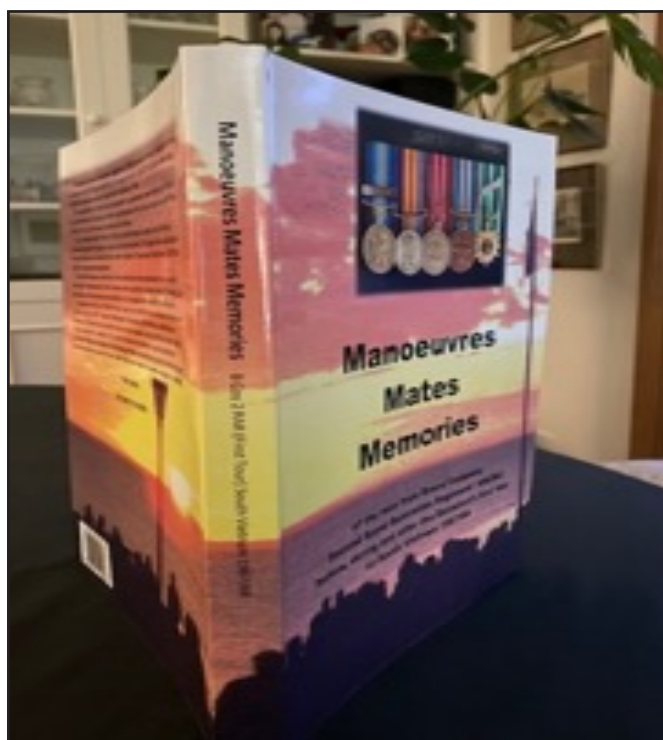
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Postal address:

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Manoeuvres Mates Memories

The long-awaited collection of stories
and anecdotes of B Coy first tour
1967/68 is available now.

Get your copy today!

*Please find the order form and
methods of payment at the end of
this newsletter.*



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE**

Mr Michael Von Berg MC OAM
Chair and National President
The Royal Australian Regiment Corporation
mvp@michaelvonberg.com

Dear Mr Von Berg

Australia deployed our forces to the Middle East in 2001 following the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. Now, two decades on, the last of our service personnel have departed Afghanistan. Their service and sacrifice have helped to save Australian lives from terrorist attacks on our own soil.

As I announced on 11 July 2021, the Australian Government would like to formally commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Defence personnel and their families, who served in, or supported, operations in the Middle East Area of Operations between 2001 and 2021.

A National Day of Commemoration would be a focal point for recognition of all those who served in, supported, or lost their lives during these campaigns. Noting the significance of this, it is important to seek the views of veterans and their families on the most appropriate day to commemorate this service.

A dedicated webpage has been established to seek views on a National Day of Commemoration, with the consultation period open until 1 August 2021. The website can be found at <https://www1.defence.gov.au/events/national-day-commemoration-australian-involvement-middle-east-area-operations>

I welcome your support in distributing this information widely through your existing networks to provide every opportunity for the voices of veterans and their families to be heard.

I thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Dutton'.

PETER DUTTON

Warriors Who Have Marched Out

28164 PTE Brian Mowbray Woolley

27 October 1935 – 31 July 2021

2783602 PTE Earl Lyndon Carrol

14 May 1945 – 22 April 2021

6710061 PTE Allan Anthony Chivers

14 June 2021

27165 PTE Keith Henry Yaldwyn

24 July 1934 – 25 March 2021



*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

Passing of a mate

If you have become aware of anyone who has served in 2 RAR at any time, pass away, please advise the Secretary ASAP so that all members of the Association may be made aware of the situation. Funeral details are appreciated if known or the Funeral Directors who are handling the funeral. In this way we can keep up the information flow to the membership.





His Inscription on his
'Modern Day Soldier' reads:

*Presented to Rick Avery
In recognition of his appointment
to Life Membership
2 RAR Association
5 June 2021*

Life Membership

RODERICK (RICK) GRANT AVERY

The Association is pleased to recognize the service of Rick Avery and appoint him to Life Membership from this day forth.

Below is the citation for Life Membership of the 2 RAR Association.

Rick Avery served in 2 RAR from Sep 1969 – Jul 1971, which included the Battalion's second deployment to South Vietnam. Rick was a Private soldier within the Intelligence Section, 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion in South Vietnam, 1970-71. Rick was discharged on completion of his National Service commitments on 8 Jul 1971 but then went on to complete 8 years of service in the Army Reserve from 1982.

Rick has a long history of involvement in and around the 2 RAR Association since 1987 with his many contributions and assistance to Association members and Battalion veterans. Rick has been heavily involved in the organization of numerous Reunions, Memorial and Commemorative Services and the provision of family support throughout many States of Australia. Rick also represented the Battalion at the 2008 New Zealand Vietnam Veterans "Welcome Home Parade".

Rick has worked tirelessly behind the scenes of the Association, always striving to assist his fellow veterans. He is the Moderator and a major contributor to "The ANZAC Battalion" Facebook page which directly supports the 2 RAR Association in providing information, education and support to fellow veterans. In 2020 he began the "On This Day" segment to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Battalions second tour of South Vietnam.

In 2016 Rick set out on the monumental task of creating a database for all members of the Battalions Second tour of South Vietnam. This involved a great deal of time and painstaking research that resulted in the production of a comprehensive and proficient list of some 973 Vietnam Veterans. This database is an asset to not only the 2 RAR Association and to all our second tour members, but also to our Battalions history. In 2019 Rick was asked to become the custodian of the First tour date base management as well.

Ricks service to the Association has contributed more than could be expected of any 2 RAR Association members and his contributions, dedication, persistence and tireless work ethic is beyond doubt "Second to None".

TWEED HEADS REUNION

A reunion (gathering) at Tweed Heads is planned, as in previous years, on the last **Saturday in October: 30th October 2021.** (See page 18 for the program of events).

Of course, this is totally dependent on COVID restrictions. However, the reunion is now planned and venues booked.

If you are attending and would like book your accommodation at Mantra Coolangatta, mention 2RAR Association and you will receive a discount on the best rate available on the day.

Plan to arrive on Friday and depart on Sunday.

Contact: Gordon Hurford | 0407 926 270 | ghurford@iprimus.com.au



Stickers for Sale

Fundraising by the
2 RAR Historical
Collection

\$10 per sticker

Including postage
Send email or ring
to purchase



II II **The 2 RAR Historical Collection** **'CURATOR'S CORNER'**

G'day! From Sunny Townsville, North Queensland. (As write this we are in lockdown).

The 2 RAR Historical Collection has been busy over the last few months since our last chat. We have begun to have visitors again with many people travelling around the country again. The Collection is there for the veterans of the Battalion, and their families to visit. Some of the visitors were Rob pictured who served during the 2/4 RAR period as a Private in 1977, to a Sergeant in 1989. They are pictured in the Garden of Remembrance which features soldiers from Units on Lavarack Barracks that have passed away whilst serving in the Unit. These are non-operational deaths and are not on the Unit's Roll of Honour. The Battalion has many names on there unfortunately, from deaths during Exercises, to car accidents, etc. This is a solemn little know area on Lavarack Barracks and is located next to the Lavarack Chapel. The names are on individual plates on the concrete plinths located behind the family in the picture below.

Some other visitors were Christian Brown and his daughter Zara. He served in 1 PL, A Coy in 1995 till 1998. He was accompanied by ex-soldiers who served with him.

The Collection has some big projects that it is starting. One is the transfer of all the 2/4 RAR Battalion scrapbooks into archival folders with archival sleeves, this will mean that they can be preserved and still be able to be viewed without causing any further damage. These folders and sleeves aren't cheap, nearly \$2000.

Our big activity was supporting and enabling the 50th Anniversary of the Return of 2 RAR Soldiers from the Second Tour of South Vietnam where they had formed a Battalion with Kiwi soldiers for the second Time called, 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion. The Historical Collection help run and facilitate the events.

This included making all the menus, table decorations, order of Service Booklets, filming and photographing all the events. Those that made the effort to attend enjoyed themselves immensely. We were very glad to support this activity with the great joy it brought the participants.

The Historical Collection is always looking for donations of photo's, slides, maps, equipment, clothes and uniforms and anything really from your or your family member's time in the Battalion from whatever period to now.








Rob McPherson with his wife Courtney Smith and son Jack McPherson



L to R – Mark Reasons, Shane Johnson, Cameron Howarth and Shane Brown and Zara at the front.

I will leave you with one last thought, the Battalion was granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Townsville on the 18th March 1971. It was first exercised on the 15th October 1971. The Battalion once again will Exercise the Freedom of Entry of the City of Townsville this year on Saturday, 27th November 2021, which will be the 50th Anniversary of it being granted. It will include veterans of the Battalion as part of the parade so mark that off in your calendar.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|  | | | | |
| <h1>The 2 RAR Historical Collection</h1> | | | | |
| Mailing Address The 2 RAR Historical Collection 2 RAR (Amphib) Samichon Lines Lavarack Barracks Queensland 4814 The curator can be contacted on MB - 0419749198 2RAR.Museum@gmail.com | | The 2 RAR historical Collection exists to collect, preserve, display and research all items from 66 BN, 2 AR, 2 RAR, 2/4 RAR, 2 RAR (Amphib). Ex-members and their family are permanently invited to visit. Please think about donating your photos, slides, objects, uniforms, maps, trinkets from your time in the Battalion to the Collection  Like us and follow us on Facebook See 'The 2 RAR Historical Collection' Objects in the collection can be viewed by visiting www.thecollectingbug.com/2rarmuseum/ | | Donations (Bank transfer) Acc Name—Historical Collection BSB - 833205 Acc Number - 20419234 # All money is spent directly on the 2 RAR Historical Collection <i>The Collection is staffed by volunteers who have all served in the Battalion at some time or another</i> |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Second Battalion Update



In December 2020, 2 RAR, B Coy was recalled and issued with a warning order to assist the northern Islands of Fiji as a result of Tropical Cyclone Yasa. After further planning at higher headquarters, Small Boat Platoon from B Coy was directed to forward posture in Brisbane under the command of the 6th Engineer Support Regiment. Within 48 hours the Small Boat Platoon and a small Pre-Landing Force command and control node, consisting of the Coy 2IC and the Amphibious Warrant Officer, had been recalled, force prepped, and relocated to Brisbane. The initial planning and embarkation process onto HMAS Adelaide was compressed due to the time critical nature of the task. As a result, a number of last minute orbat and administrative changes occurred inducing a significant amount of friction.

Once all callsign's had embarked and the sail had been conducted the Task Group moved into the reconnaissance phase of

the operation. The Small Boat Platoon was used to reconnoiter potential landing sites in vicinity of Galoa Island, the location of the main rebuild task assigned to 6 ESR. The Small Boat Platoon also provided small boat mobility support to the Royal Australian Navy's Deployable Geospatial Survey Teams enabling underwater survey and lane assessments to inform the viability of the use of landing craft to distribute aid to the local population. This was conducted on a regular basis covering a number of islands that were receiving aid distribution and stores.

After the initial reconnaissance effort had been conducted, a small group from the 2 RAR Small Boat Platoon went ashore to assist with some of the heavy lifting and debris clearance surrounding the school rebuild. A small handful of the pioneer qualified members were able to assist with some of the rebuild supporting the

work of the engineers. Whilst in location they provided a CASEVAC redundancy platform with the small boats while HMAS Adelaide was off station providing the Task Group with far greater flexibility. The pioneers came in handy once again a week or so later when requested to conduct a number of chainsaw tasks to clear debris and open routes.

The work conducted by all callsign's embarked for OP Fiji Assist 20 provided critical support and aid the populations of the northern islands of Fiji. A large number of isolated islands and schools throughout the region suffered significant damage with limited aid or support. 2 RAR was able to provide an agile force element that greatly increased the flexibility of the 6th Engineering Support Regiment Headquarters, providing specialist and general support to a large reconstruction effort.

2 RAR ON OP FIJI ASSIST 2020- 21

The work conducted by all callsign's embarked for OP Fiji Assist 20 provided critical support and aid the populations of the northern islands of Fiji.



ANZAC DAY 2021

TOWNSVILLE

ANZAC DAY 2021 – 2 RAR (AMPHIB) DAWN SERVICE

During the week leading up to ANZAC Day there had been constant rain, however on the morning it held out. Due to COVID 19 permission for guests at the Dawn service and at the Edgar Towner V.C. Club didn't come till close to the Event. As it has been the tradition forever and more, the Battalion, veterans and their families gathered from 04:40am for its dawn service in the dark at the Company's, for Rum and Coffee and then on the Parade around the Flag station to commemorate ANZAC Day. At 05:40am sharp, the catafalque party mounted and the service began with the RSM speaking. Different members of the Battalion read their part in the service with 2 RAR (Amphib)'s Padre, David Kelly reciting the prayers. The CO gave an inspirational speech which followed the Role of Honour for the 66 Aust infantry Battalion, read out by the RSM, with the rest of the Roll read by veterans of that conflict. The Korea and Malaya Roll read by MR Colin Beahan, The South Vietnam Roll read by MR Tom Floyd and the Timor Leste and Afghanistan Roll read by SGT Carlos Barrera. At the Conclusion the RSM, WO1 Ben Lipman on behalf of the CO, Officers and Soldiers of the Battalion invited all veterans and their families to join the Battalion for Breakfast at the ETVC Club,

followed by the Bar opening, along with Two-up and to view the 2 RAR Historical Collection. Many tall stories were told and much camaraderie was had by members and former members of the Battalion, from all eras of the Battalion's History.

The 2 RAR Historical Collection advertised prior to the dawn service that it would be Live-streaming the service on its Facebook page. This was achieved and there was about 46 people watching live around Australia and the world. This will be done next year in 2022, so in the future, if you cannot get back to the Battalion, but would like to experience the Dawn Service back in your home at the Battalion, keep this in mind and remember it will be on Queensland time.

Veterans of all eras of the Battalion's history, The 66 Bn (1945 to 1948), 2 AR (1948 to 1949), 2 RAR (1949 to 1973), 2/4 RAR (1973 to 1995), 2 RAR (1995 to 2017) and 2 RAR (Amphib) (2017 to today) should think about making the pilgrimage back to the Battalion's Dawn service and as well encourage all your mates from the Battalion join you. The timings are the same each year with entry from about 0430/0440, with the service beginning at 0530/0540. The Battalion will always welcome veterans on ANZAC Day to come home, **'Back to the Battalion'**.

SYDNEY

ANZAC DAY MARCH 2021, SYDNEY

The weather for the March was pleasant although a little nippy in early morning.

The turnout of the 2 RAR contingent was pleasing having regard for COVID restrictions and formalities.

The flow of the March became somewhat disjointed as the Marshalls insisted upon at least a 50m gap between units, resulting in a stinging out effect.

There were fewer Bands so the March lacked rhythm, as school and cadet unit bands were not permitted. COVID again.

The spectator/supporter numbers, in my opinion, were less than 2019; however the spirit of "thank you" was strong.

Keeping fingers crossed that the 2022 March will be back to a traditional norm in 2022.

*Grahame Edwards,
NSW Representative.*



The 2 RAR Historical Collection

MAILING ADDRESS

The 2 RAR Historical Collection
2 RAR(Amphib)

Samichon Lines
Lavarack Barrncks
Queensland 4814

The curator can be contacted
on: 0419749198 or via email at
2RAR.Museum@gmail.com

The 2 RAR historical Collection exists to collect, preserve, display and research all items from 66 BN, 2 AR, 2 RAR, 2/4 RAR, 2 RAR (Amphib).

Ex-members and their family are permanently invited to visit. Please think about donating your photos, slides, objects, uniforms, maps, trinkets from your time in the Battalion to the Collection.

DONATIONS via Bank transfer

Ace Name-Historical Collection
BSB - 833205
Ace Number - 20419234

All money is spent directly on the 2 RAR Historical Collection

The Collection is staffed by volunteers who have all served in the Battalion at some time or another



Objects can be viewed by visiting: www.thecollectingbug.com/2rarmuseum/



Like us on Facebook - search "The 2 RAR Historical Collection"



2



50th Anniversary Reunion for the Return to Australia of the 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion 1970-71

Written by Mr Rick Avery

On 1 June 1971, at the completion of its Second Tour of Duty in South Vietnam, the 2nd Battalion disembarked from HMAS SYDNEY in Cleveland Bay, Townsville onto Landing craft and were offloaded near ANZAC Park. The men then marched through the City of Townsville to commemorate their return.

On 1 June 2021, 138 former members of 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1970-71 and their partners from across Australia gathered in Townsville in front of the 2 RAR memorial to remember and commemorate the 50th anniversary of their return to Australia. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions many former members were unable to attend.

The week-long celebration began on Monday evening 31 when we enjoyed the opportunity to meet in a relaxed setting at the Townsville RSL Club where most were able to recognise the old but familiar faces and renew friendships during the evening.

The next morning saw us at Lavarack Barracks for a remembrance service and lunch.

We assembled on the Battalion Parade Ground where Captain Edwin Taber, Adjutant, 2 RAR (Amphib) MC'd the Service which held significant parts of the service conducted in Vietnam 50 years before. The Call to Prayer and Commemorative Prayer were read by Mr Ian Cavanough (2 PI A Coy), with Mr Richard Hawkins MG (6 PI B Coy) reading the Soldiers Prayer. Mr Pat Savage MC, Platoon Commander 1 PI A Coy 1970-71 gave the keynote address. The Catafalque Party did the Battalion proud as did the two sets of "Listening Post Sentries" adding to the solemnity of the occasion. After the dismount WO 2 Shane HUDSON on behalf of the RSM WO1 Ben LIPMAN invited attendees to the Edgar Towner, VC Club.

Former 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1970-71 members also gathered in Western Australia at the Bassendean RSL to

commemorate this important day in our history. They joined the service via video link provided by Mr Jason Harrison, 2 RAR museum curator.

At the ETVCC the reunion was provided a brief on the capabilities of the Amphib Battalion. Afterwards the book "THE ANZAC BATTALION 1970-71" was presented to Lt Col Mark Tutton, Commanding Officer, 2 RAR (Amphib) to be held in perpetuity by the Battalion as it was inscribed as having been presented to the late Lt Col John M Church DSO, Commanding Officer, 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 70-71. Thank you to Terry Dineen for procuring this important piece of our heritage. Other presentations were also made to Lt Col TUTTON and will be held for posterity and display at the 2 RAR Museum.

A coincidental piece of 2 RAR history occurred on this day (1 Jun 2021) when 2 RAR (Amphib) boarded HMAS CHOULES for Exercise Sea Explorer; exactly



50 years to the day when the Battalion disembarked from HMAS SYDNEY after its Second tour of South Vietnam!

A formal lunch on Tuesday allowed Platoon and Company mates the chance to sit down for a and catch up whilst enjoying a great meal and a cold beverage. The highlight was when Roderick "Rick" Avery was rewarded for his dedication to veterans and the association by Life Membership to the 2 RAR Association.

Wednesday saw some Veterans departing for home, while those remaining in Townsville enjoyed the sights and took the opportunity to revive memories of past glories in Platoon/ Company groups. A fishing experience was provided for Veterans by the Townsville NQ Reeling Veterans under the guidance of Michael King, an ex 2 RAR member and Committee Member of the group that provides therapy for veterans through fishing.

The formal dinner on Saturday 5 June was well attended. A commemorative display was a poignant reminder of comrades lost. Major Will Norval, Executive Officer, 2 RAR (Amphib) representing the Commanding Officer, thanked the gathering on behalf of the Battalion and acknowledged our service. A fitting end to an enjoyable reunion.

The Vietnam Veterans attending the Reunion greatly appreciated the visit to and interaction with the Officers and soldiers of 2 RAR (Amphib) showing us that the Battalion is in good hands and keeping up the proud traditions of those who are and always will be "Second to None".

The 50th Anniversary RTA Reunion would not have been a success without the hard work of the Reunion Committee - Brendan Martin, Jason Harrison, Rick Avery and Malcolm Gray along with the Platoon/Company Representatives: A Coy - Ian Cavanough, Stuart Purdie, Ross Kenny, Ross Britt, B Coy - Jens

Schroder, C Coy - Peter Heeny, BHQ/Int Sect - Rick Avery, Assault Pioneer PI - Kevin Webb, Anti-Tank/Tracker PI - Peter Clarke and Admin Coy - Robert Horne.

The Reunion was enjoyed by Veterans and partners from A Coy (28), B Coy (10), C Coy (40), Support Coy - Assault Pioneers, Mortars, Signals, Anti-Tank/Trackers Platoons (35), Admin Coy - Clerks, Cooks, Transport, RAEME (14), V5 Coy (1), W3 Coy (1), BHQ (5) and Int Sect (4).

The Vietnam Veterans attending the Reunion greatly appreciated the visit to and interaction with the Officers and soldiers of 2 RAR (Amphib) showing us that the Battalion is in good hands and keeping up the proud traditions of those who are and always will be "Second to None".



Men of C Company 2 RAR – Jamestown Line Area 1953

Feature story

THE BATTLE OF THE SAMICHON RIVER

Article information taken from AWM website

Samichon River - the Hook 24–26 July 1953

“The memories of bad times in the line were beginning to fade, and everyone was getting impatient for action. ‘When are we going in the line again?’ At last the order came though, ‘We’re going on an important feature further along in the Western Front.’ We were to relieve the Poms on ‘The Hook’.” - Private Harry Kammerman, 2 RAR

The battalion trained for Korea at Puckapunyal. It embarked for Korea on 5 March 1953 on board MV New Australia, arriving in Korea on 17 March. It joined the Commonwealth Division on 21 March, replacing 1RAR at Camp Casey near Tongduchon, South Korea. 2RAR was primarily deployed in

patrolling the no man’s land to the north of the UN lines. This involved making small advances, defending its position, capturing prisoners, collecting intelligence, and maintaining minefields and trenches. The work was monotonous and dangerous, with many casualties caused by mines. The conditions of this phase of the war, often referred to as the “static phase”, created an additional burden. In winter it was not uncommon for top temperatures to be below zero, and troops had to take precautions against frost-bite and trench foot. At the other extreme, summer was humid, with heavy rain that often flooded the trenches. Added to this were possible attacks from the enemy coupled with shell and mortar fire.

2RAR patrolled sections of the Jamestown line, in the area of the Imjin and Samichon Rivers. On 9-10 July 1953, 2RAR with 3RAR were given the task of holding the line to the west of the Samichon River. 2RAR was stationed on the left forward position of a hill that was commonly referred to as the "Hook".

The Hook was a vulnerable but heavily defended section of the UN frontline that protected other UN positions in the Samichon Valley. Here, Australian soldiers took part in their last engagement of the war; the armistice declared only one day later. Positioned at The Hook were the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) and the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR), as the forward troops of the 1st Commonwealth Division. The 7th Regiment of the US Marines held other vital positions to the left of the Australians.

On 24 July, Chinese forces launched their final attack of the war. Probing 2 RAR's position with small infantry parties after dark, the Chinese later subjected it to extended heavy night bombardment, followed by waves of assaulting infantry. The alternating bombardment and infantry assault continued through the night, but the Chinese were unable to penetrate the Australian positions.

Throughout 25 July, the Australian troops were shelled, and endured heavy mortar and artillery fire that night. The American position, to the left of the Australians on The Hook, was now under an infantry attack. With fire support from the Australian positions, the Americans managed to hold off the Chinese infantry, but continued to receive heavy bombardment. By the early hours of the next day, the Chinese had given up their attack.

Five Australian soldiers were killed; 24 were wounded. The next day, the armistice was signed at Panmunjom. The action at The Hook was one of the major engagements of the stalemate period - and having just fought a hard action for three days, it was difficult for Australian troops to believe that the war was finally over.

Lieutenant P.O.G. Forbes was awarded the Military Cross and Sergeant B.C. Cooper, Corporal T.W. Maguire, Corporal K.H. Crockford, Private G.E. Kent and Private J.M. McAuliffe were awarded the Military Medal. Lieutenant C.A.C. Wilson, Corporal K.J. Cooper and Corporal K.G. Condon were Mentioned in Dispatches and Warrant Officer Second Class L.E. Moore was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire.



Soldiers from 2 RAR withdrawing to DMZ, 72hrs after the ceasefire

Social calendar

Social member is Mr Brendan Martin

21

SEPT

2 RAR LUNCH

Tuesday 21 September

Lunch at The Australian Hotel 12 pm

All members current and ex serving members are invited to have lunch at The Australian Hotel on Parmar Street South Townsville. This will be a good time to catch up with people and have a good pub feed.

Please RVP to 2rarassoc@gmail.com



2 RAR Afghanistan Reunion POSTPONED

RE-SCHEDULED FROM 15-17 OCTOBER 2021

2 RAR Afghanistan Reunion has been postponed until next year **14-16 October 2022** due to Covid-19 outbreak across the country



30

OCT

AGM RSL

Saturday 30th October,
10:00 for 11:00

Townsville RSL

All 2 RAR association members

Lunch afterwards and a catch up

Please RVP to 2rarassoc@gmail.com



30

OCT

REUNION AT TWEED HEADS

Saturday 30th October

A program of events is as follows:

Friday 29th October, after 5.00pm – gather in public bar of Twin Towns Resort. Meet and greet.

Saturday 30th October 10.00am – Commemorative service in Cunningham Park (adjacent to Twin Towns Resort).

Saturday 30th October 11.00am – Gather in Stars Room (upstairs in Twin Towns Resort) for drinks and catch up with mates.

Saturday 30th October (time to be advised) – participate in Association AGM by video link from Townsville.

Contact: Gordon Hurford 0407 926 270 ghurford@iprimus.com.au

REMAINDER OF 2021

27

NOV

FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO TOWNSVILLE

Saturday 27 November 2021

50th Anniversary Freedom of Entry to Townsville City Parade by 2 RAR (Amphib)

On the 27th of November, 2021 in the morning, The Battalion will conduct a march in vicinity of Strand Park to Jezzine Barracks. Ex-members of the Battalion will be invited to march with the Battalion, this includes all anyone from 2 RAR, 2/4 RAR or 2 RAR (Amphib) periods.

In 1971, the Battalion was granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Townsville on the 18th March. It first exercised that right on the 15th October, 1971. The Battalion had only returned from its second tour of South Vietnam on the 1st of June, 1971, where it had march through the city on a Welcome home parade. For the Freedom of Entry in 1971, the Battalion produced two first Day covers, which contained information on the Battalion and the City of



Townsville. It also produced a Booklet for the Occasion.

The Battalion was amalgamated with 4 RAR in 1973 to form 2/4 RAR. 2/4 RAR as the custodian of the 2 RAR and 4 RAR Customs and traditions exercised 2 RAR's Freedom of Entry many times. However, in 1988, 2/4 RAR was granted from of Entry to the City of Townsville and exercised it that same year. However, it exercised this freedom of Entry once more before 2/4 RAR was unlinked and resumed being 2 RAR.

So, if you are an Ex-member of the Battalion, please think about travelling up to support and march with the Battalion on its 50th Anniversary march through the City of Townsville.

Second To None!

END OF YEAR DRINKS

Saturday 4 December 2021

Lunch at The Australian Hotel 12 pm

This is the end of year drinks and feed for all current and ex serving members to celebrate the year and to look forward to the following year.

Please RVP to 2rarassoc@gmail.com



H-HOUR WITH HAWKS PODCAST

My name is Simon Hawken, I served in 2/4 RAR from 1997, until the Bn delinked, I was in Rwanda at the time and they presented us a new lanyard for 2 RAR, a very handy piece of equipment at the time as you can imagine. I stayed in 2 RAR until I was finally found out and headed off to QUR NQ Coy in 2002 and several other postings, somewhat of an anomaly I never left Townsville in 21 years.

I'm now working for Downer Defence on Lavarack Barracks in Facilities Maintenance, not the greatest job in the world, however it pays the bills and keeps me off the streets.

So why a Podcast? I started listening to Podcasts a few years ago and enjoyed the concept, listening to information of interest. I thought about all the people I've met over the years and how little I really knew about them, so I thought I'll start my own Podcast. Also, both of my adult children said I was too old to create a Podcast!

H-Hour With Hawks was born November 2019, I've had many guests mostly Ex Military probably because I was more comfortable talking with them however I'm branching out now to all people that I find interesting.

I've talked to people from the Korean War, Malaya Emergency, Vietnam War, Falkland's War, Northern Island, Timor, Iraq, and Afghanistan all absolute legends and great people with great life stories. Of note Brigadier "Warry" George Mansford AM, Ben Pronk DSC and Tim Curtis, Justin Huggett MG and many more ex-military. More recently Claude Verhaeghe who grew up in Ypres in Belgium and now runs Battle Field Tours focusing on ANZAC's WW1 and WW2. Also Yana Fisher a fitness instructor, mother, wife, and business owner, very busy woman.

So if you like Podcast and want to have a listen look for H-Hour With Hawks on Apple Podcast, Spotify, Google Podcast, and Podbean, I also encourage all to find H-Hour With Hawks on Face Book or Instagram and give me a like, I may be able to make some money one day if enough people like the Podcast.

If you have a story to tell and would like to come on as a guest contact me at;

H-Hourwithhawks@bigpond.com

Cheers

Hawks

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The Grey Gonads

Written by Mr Troy McGill

There are many veterans today who still choose to go camping and others glamping around Australia, especially all the Victorians who seem to love their State but a first opportunity to connect the caravan, Trailer or boat and head of to North Queensland or Darwin wearing their favourite football team supporter's shirt.

So enough of pulling the piss out of the boys and girls who follow catch and giggle and let's talk about some serious road runs. No not Mr Hammett and his band of merry handbags hiding up at Cowley Beach and the Padre acting as early warning.

So there a few boys already travelling around in their glorious rigs, Dangerous Dave Face Book page is worth a look, "Just Brilliant Adventures". Soon he'll have his own following on Youtube or has he. Then there's Chris Bubner and his camping and fishing adventures. It always interesting to see where people end up and what their doing.

Today we are going to look at some of the best fishing, camping, eating and drinking locations around Australia, it's been a pretty hard to choose a number one location, its found in the Northern Territory, it's a place that belongs to a former member of the Battalion and a current member of the 2 RAR Committee. He's been formally known by many names, but we all know him as Wayne an all-round good guy.

So if your heading up to Darwin for a break to get away from the cold weather or escape from

dan Andrews just get in your car head north, once you are on the Stuart Highway keep going North. When you see the sign Cox Peninsula Road you need to hang a left, when you hit Tumbling Waters it might be worth getting out stretch the legs and see if you can find some gold, just don't forget crocodiles may inhabit the waters. Once your back in the car just keep driving up through Blackmore, stay on Cox Peninsular Road until you see a left Fox Bay Road, you need to turn down that road brother, if you miss it you will end up at Belyuen and you gone too far. Don't worry you are getting close now to the best feed in the Northern Territory and some of the best fishing too, just remember Woody charges a carton on arrival. By now you should be passing through Charlotte, Bynoe and Dundee Forest and finally you can catch up with the big fella, just remember that carton of beer.

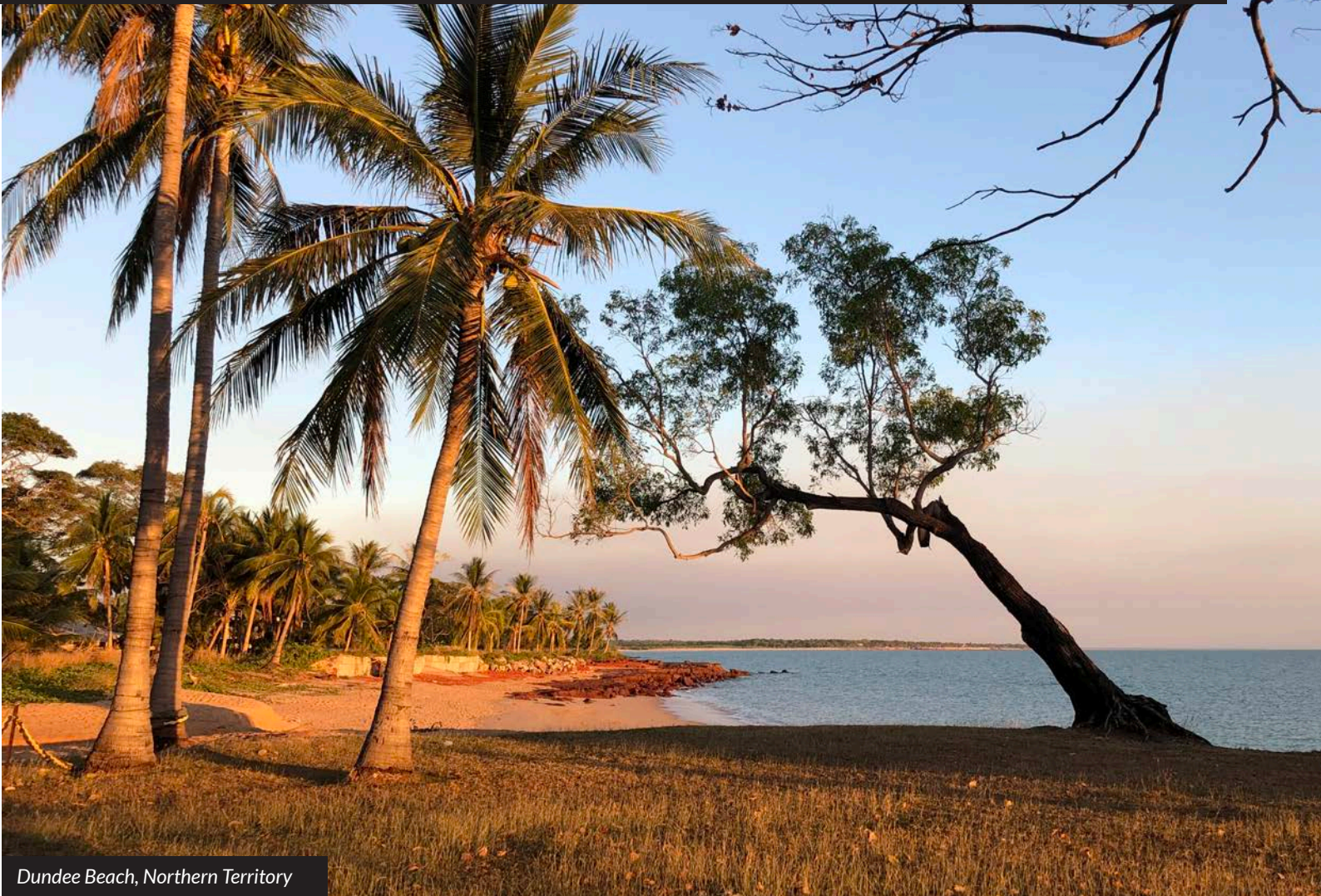
Now I guess you'll be wondering what's to do, well the real reason to go there is for the adventure of it, there is some of the best fishing in Australia, there's a couple of laid back places to stay or there's Woody's Retreat, so

if you've got a camper or trailer Wayne's got 20 Acres, remember that carton of beer.

If you're into social media check out Wayne's Face Book page or his because he's flash and up to date, well his wonderful wife Emma is "BigwoodysBBQNT" and see the meals a champion can cook. But just remember it's all about relaxing and enjoying a small backwater town with great folks, great fishing and a cold beer.

Ladies and Gents if you have any great locations you wish to share or some favourite meal that you like to cook along the way send us in a story and few pics and we show them to all. Send them through to 2rarassoc@gmail.com

Cheerio, hooroo and tight lines and please don't upset the Big Fella!



Dundee Beach, Northern Territory



Wayne "Woody" Woodhouse



Woody's Retreat



Latest catch of Jewies



@BigWoodysBBQNT

B Coy Book Release

PROGRESS REPORT (JULY 2021)

It has taken six years, but the long-awaited collection of stories and anecdotes of B Coy first tour 1967/68

Manoeuvres Mates Memories

is back from the printer and will be available to purchase in the next couple of days. It is quite an exciting moment as I have been privy to see a proof copy. It has come up a treat.

The background for the front and back cover was taken at the 2008 B Coy Reunion Dawn Service in Ardrossan, SA. Manoeuvres Mates Memories will sit comfortably alongside our Battalion volumes in your library.

It is important that all our B Coy personnel and their families obtain a copy before any release to a wider group, so it is essential for me to hear from you ASAP.

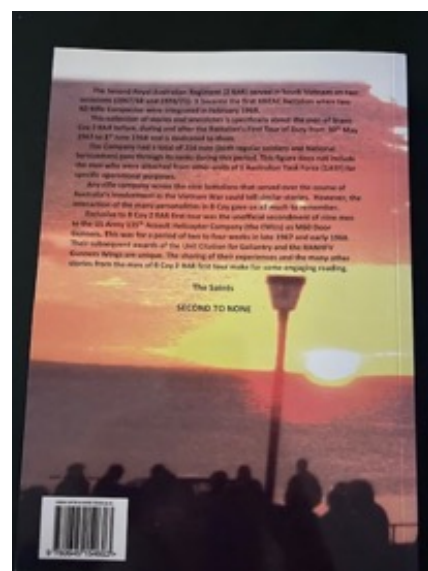
I have funded the printing so once expenses have been covered, my plan is to pass on any excess to the 2RAR Museum in Townsville.

Please find attached the order form and methods of payment.

Here's looking forward to you having a good read and seeing you in Gympie.

Regards

Geoff



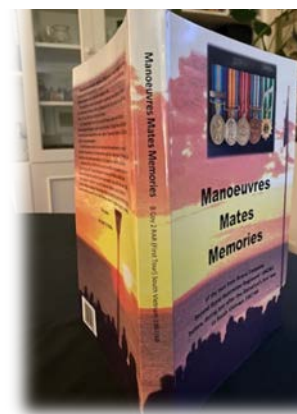
Geoff Brewer
34 Fakenham Road
Ashburton Vic 3147



Manoeuvres Mates Memories
B Coy 2 RAR First Tour 1967/68

Order Form

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(Incorporating 66 Inf Bn, 2 AR, 2 RAR, 2/4 RAR and 2 RAR (amphib))

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Full Name: _____

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_____ State _____ Post Code _____

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Tele: (____) _____ Mob: _____

Regimental /PMKeyS No: _____ DOB: _____

Years Served in the Bn

| A Coy | B Coy | C Coy | D Coy | Admin Coy | SPT Coy | BHQ |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|-----|
| | | | | | | |

Deployments

| Year | | | | |
|------|--|--|--|--|
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