



2RAR Amphib

The King's Battalion Combative Tournament – Unarmed Kings of the Ring

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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 Association via email at 2rarassoc@gmail.com

Cover Image: 2RAR Amphib soldiers show off the championship belt from the annual King's Battalion Combative Tournament against, 1 and 3RAR (Sep 2024)

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.

PATRON

Major General M.D "Mick" Slater AO, DSC, CSC (Retd)

PRESIDENT

Mal Gray

M: 0428 588 431

E: 2rar@assoc@gmail.com

TREASURER

Brendan Martin

M: 0459 214 186

E: brendanmartin5@icloud.com

SECRETARY

Robert Althofer

M: 0404 078 797

E: 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

COMMITTEE

Troy McGill – Membership

M: 0409 649 633

E: troy_sam_mcgill@icould.com

Anthony Duroux – Social/Reunions

M: 0467 826 522

E: anthonyduroux007@gmail.com

Merv Diction - Welfare

M: 0427 657 742

Email: 2rarassoc@gmail.com

Postal Address: PO Box 2352, Idalia, QLD 4811

www.facebook.com/2RAR-Association-Inc

Website: www.2rar-association.net.au

ASSOCIATION STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

TAS: Cameron Simpkins – 0426 502 394

NSW: Vacant (volunteers requested)

SQLD: Vacant (volunteers requested)

VIC: Shaun Hughes – 0421 546 494

SA: Mal Allen – 0451 374 133

WA: Alexander Nie – 0417 993 751

NT: Wayne Woodhouse – 0499 432 315

ACT: Robert Pickersgill – 0451 978 250

Michael Kruger – 0419 773 331

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 and a photo 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.

Membership

Membership fees are due as of 30 Sep each year. The fees are \$20.00 per year, and you can pay 5 years in advance. You can renew membership on the website at Membership Subscription Form | 2rar-association.net.au and you can pay through PayPal or direct debit. Please advise us if you have changed any of your contact details, particularly your email address.

Association Report

This Association held its Annual General Meeting on 26 Oct 24 with the event staged both in Townsville and SEQLD with other members attending via zoom across Australia. In all some 70 members were in attendance across all platforms.

The Association will action items discussed at the AGM and will provide a greater focus on communication to our members, ensuring our members are more informed of what is occurring within the Association and the Battalion.

The updated Association Strategic direction has been developed and will be sent out as an attachment to this Newsletter for our members to provide feedback on.

2025 is a very important time in the history of the unit with the celebration of the 80th year since the units formation. Initial plans are now under way to celebrate this achievement with a whole inclusive reunion for all members who have served since inception. At this stage the event will be held 24-26 Oct 2025 at Coolangatta, QLD. Warning Order for this reunion is provide within this Newsletter.

2024 was a strong year for the Association with the dedication of 2 x memorial plaques laid. Firstly, a Canungra Memorial Plaque was unveiled to commemorate the opening of the Canungra Memorial dedicated to all Vietnam veterans which has been relocated to the front of Kokoda Barracks in Canungra. The second plaque was dedicated at the Navy Fleet Air Arm Memorial in Nowra for our own Pte Patrick Halley who was an Air Gunner in Vietnam and finally was presented with his Gunner Wings.

Membership has remained steady and our financial position is sound, with a bit of twinkling to our accounts now being looked at to better maximise our interest returns.

The Association has been left in good stead in this department thanks to the tireless efforts of our now former Treasurer who has passed on the duties. David White, the 2RAR Association thanks you, our departing VP Justin Huggett MG, and Rick Avery. Rick was an enormous help in his role as Membership Member and his knowledge of all Vietnam Veterans was outstanding in particular with helping prepare VALE notices of our veterans departed.

Enjoy your Christmas with family & friends and see you all in 2025.

‘Second to None’



‘Second to None’
Malcolm Gray
President
2RAR Association, Inc

Significant 2 RAR Dates: SEP-OCT

16 Sep 1967- South Vietnam – 2RAR was joined by a second New Zealand Rifle Company from 1RNZIR which was designated Whiskey (W) Company.

20 Sep 1999- East Timor - 2RAR troops land in the East Timorese capital of Dili as part of the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) following the violent unrest after in the independence referendum.

20 Sep 1967-South Vietnam – SGT John Warren TWOMEY, 2RAR, died of gunshot wounds aged 33 years at Long Giao, South Vietnam after his patrol was ambushed two hours earlier in Xa Bong. SGT Twomey also served in Korea.

27 Sep 1999-East Timor - D Company 2RAR, conducted an airmobile operation into Liquica, west of Dili.

Sep 2003-Iraq - OP CATALYST- Security Detachment 2 (SECDET II), 1PL, A Company 2RAR plus CHQ elements deploy to Baghdad, Iraq.

Sep 2007-Afghanistan – Elements of the Battalion deploy on OP SLIPPER as part of RTF-3. The security Task Group (STG) was made up of Infantrymen from C Company 2RAR, Mortarmen and Snipers from Support Company.

Sep 1948-Japan – It was announced that the 66th Bn would be withdrawn from BCOF and would return to Australia. An advance party departed in Sep 1948.

15 Oct 2017- Townsville, Australia – 2RAR transferred from the 3rd Brigade to report directly to 1st Division HQ.

16 Oct 1945-Labuan, British North Borneo – LTCOL G.E Colvin DSO and Bar, ED takes official command of the newly formed 66th Bn.

28 Oct 1989-Sandgate RSL, Australia - The 2RAR reunion voted on a motion put forward from Mr Jim Poynter and seconded by Ron Kirley, that a 2RAR Association be formed of all ex members of 66Bn, 2RAR and any ex member or serving member of 2/4RAR. This motion was carried unanimously.

29 Oct 2011-Afghanistan – LCPL Luke Nathan GAVIN, 2RAR died from gunshot wounds received on operations in Afghanistan as a member of Mentoring Task Force – Three (MTF-3). Two other soldiers, CAPT Bryce Duffy and LCPL Ashley Birt were also announced KIA when an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier gunned down the Australian soldiers in the “Green on Blue” attack during a routine parade. Seven other soldiers were wounded during this attack.

Oct 1955-Malaya – 2RAR was the first Australian Battalion deployed to Malaya following a decision by the Australian Government to commit all three armed services to British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR)

Veteran Stories — Ernie Holden

Taking the Plunge

Private Ernest Robert Holden was just 20 when he deployed to Korea with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment between March to May 1953. During the war, he was wounded in a minefield while trying to rescue injured mate Corporal Jack Ashe, who is still missing in action.

On 7 April 1952, I reported to Rushcutters Bay for a medical examination to see if I was fit enough to be accepted into “Her Majesty’s” service, for Korea. Then I had to wait to see if I had passed the medical examination.

The next couple of weeks I pondered over whether I should go ahead with joining the army or stay with my boring printing career. Some close mates told me, “Don’t join to go overseas, wait until you get called up for National Service, it will be safer staying in Australia”. However, over the next few weeks, my heart told me to look for new adventures and when the news came that I had passed the medical I made the decision to go ahead and ‘report for duty’. Looking back I realise I was just a silly nineteen year old kid, who had absolutely no idea what war was all about.

As I had to report in a couple of weeks, I finished sign writing the Church notice board, after many weeks of work on it. It was delivered to Mr Patfield ready to be placed on posts near the church grounds entrance on Pennant Hills Road. It was there for all to see as they drove past and stayed there for many years until it was professionally done again.

I left Norwood Press the day before Good Friday, spending the long weekend with friends, my parents, and going down to the bush to fire a few rounds through my Winchester rifle. On the Monday holiday I went with my fellowship friends back down to Parsley Bay, walking just a short hike around from Hawkesbury River station. It was a pleasant fine day with my Normanhurst friends, knowing it would be the last time I would be with them for quite a while. What lay ahead for me?

My new career began on 15 April 1952, when I reported to Rushcutters Bay Army Depot and was then taken by truck to another depot in Addison Road, Marrickville. Looking at all the new faces on the truck with me, I wondered which ones would be my friends and the ones that wouldn’t like me.

Next day, my group of about 100 men were assembled to be ‘sworn in’ to the army. It was a bit like being sworn in at a courthouse, as you used see in movies or on TV. We swore to keep up army tradition etc. and swore ‘Allegiance to the Queen’ and then signed our names.



Private Ernest Robert Holden – Korea

We lazed around the next two days getting used to the new environment and on the 17th, after only two days in the army, it was pay day— you beaut!! The pay was £1.6 shillings each.

At 8 pm, we left Marrickville on trucks, heading for Central Railway Station, to catch the ‘Albury Mail’ at 10.15 pm for the city of Wagga Wagga. A story had gone around that during the day, an officer found two new recruits in one of the toilets together. I did not see the two on the train that night, so maybe they had decided that they didn’t like army life — or the army did not want them!

As we travelled through the night, all of us were probably thinking about our futures, military life and how we were supposed to keep up the traditions of generations before us; Boer War, First World War and Second World War, which had only finished about seven years earlier.

(Extract – Taking the Plunge - is from Ernie’s book – Mates. Mortars and Minefields – Korea)

Ernie Holden - Korea

There was no way that Ernest (Ernie) Holden was going to join the Army, until an advertisement in the paper sparked his sense of adventure.

Ernie started life in Paddington and Surry Hills in Sydney before he was adopted by Alice and George Holden. He grew up in Normanhurst and has vivid memories of Sydney during the Second World War.

As a young man, he tried his hand at delivering telegrams and as an apprentice printer before the monotony of that trade became too tedious for him.

In 1951, he promised friends and acquaintances that if he was called up for National Service, he'd just disappear into the bush. About a year after that, he saw an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald for a new role that would take him across Australia and overseas.

Ernie signed up for K Force, the Australian contingent of forces deployed to the Korean Peninsula following the invasion by North Korea. After basic training at centres across Australia, he began his trip to the battlefields of the Korean War.

In early December of 1952, he set off to Japan. The first stopover was in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Ernie still remembers this flight fondly, even if it was at this point that the fear for what was coming started to set in.

"Oh, it was great! I woke up off the coast of New Guinea on the Friday morning and looking out the window at the sky. Beautiful! I think often of that first flight. I was thinking, 'Oh, this is beautiful!' and all of a sudden dread come over me. 'I wonder if I'll ever come back?'"

Ernie also stopped in Guam before arriving in Iwakuni, Japan. He had to ferry across to Kure where he was taken to a nearby training camp. After a month of running up and down the mountains to build strength, Ernie went to Haramura, a Second World War Japanese training camp. He was there for a month completing battle training and learning how to fire 2-inch rockets and mortars. The conditions were much different to what he was used to in Sydney.

"I was on the front lines for three and a half weeks. It was no man's land during the day. I went on patrol at night. I never did run into any Chinese soldiers. They knew Ernie was coming so they'd get right out of the way!"

On 28 May 1953, between 12am and 1am, mortars started raining down. Another patrol couldn't find their way back, so at 2:00am Ernie was one of many sent to find out where the Chinese were sneaking up from.

"Australians weren't issued with bulletproof vests. We were grabbing them from a pile as we went out and I was at the end of the line, and all the bulletproof vests had been picked up. So I went out on patrol without one."

Ernie was looking for his friends, Jack Barden, Bob Hipworth, and Jack Ashe. By 5.30am, nearly daylight, he still couldn't find anyone. No man's land shouldn't be patrolled in daylight but Ernie went back on the frontline in search of his friends.

"We went out and we found Jack Barden and Bob Hipworth who were both injured by Chinese machine guns. We got them back inside, and they said Jack Ashe was still missing somewhere in a minefield."

Maury, a friend of Jack Ashe's, was determined to help in the search. Ernie went with him back into the broad daylight of no man's land.

"I had a 303 rifle and two hand grenades. Maury on my right had a machine gun and a radio on his back."

After walking for a while, Ernie noticed that there was a wooden box lid with a skull and crossbones on the ground, signalling a nearby minefield. Ernie and Maury didn't know that they had already tripped a wire. The land mine went off.

"I got thrown to the ground but I was lucky. When I hit the ground, I heard another little bang. I couldn't work out this bang and when I'm lying on the ground, I couldn't figure out what had happened. I was covered in the yellow explosive powder from one of the grenades I'd been carrying had been damaged by the mine explosion. I was lucky it kept the grenade from going off."

Ernie was evacuated from Korea and recuperated in Japan before returning to Australia. That was the end of his Korean deployment and his Army career. He still lives in the Sydney area.

Ernie uses one word to summarise his memories of his Korean combat experience with the Australian Army:

"Mateship."

WARNING ORDER – 80th Anniversary Reunion

80th Anniversary of formation of the Battalion

AT: Coolangatta/Tweed Heads & Canungra Valley

AT: 24-26 October 2025

WHAT: Celebrate 80th Birthday of the formation of the Battalion.

WHAT: Birthday celebrations is open to all who have served in 2RAR or its derivatives (66thBn, 2AR, 2/4RAR, Task Groups, 2RAR Amphib)

WHAT: Early planning is currently being conducted on the sequence of events for this event. This planning is as follows:

Fri 24 Oct 2025

1000 Hrs: Veterans only Lunch – Coolangatta (venue TBA)

1700 Hrs: Meet and Greet in Harbour Bar Twin Towns Resort.

Sat 25 Oct 2025

0930 Hrs: Commemorative Service (Cunningham Park Cenotaph adjacent to the Twin Towns Resort).

1015 Hrs: All Gather for 2RAR Association AGM (Visions Room)

1100 Hrs: Participate in AGM

1200-1600 Hrs: After AGM function/luncheon

Sun 26 Oct 2025

1030 Hrs: Depart Twin Towns by Bus to O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards.

1130-1230 Hrs: Arrive at vineyards pre-lunch drinks on The Deck

1230-1400 Hrs – Lunch in the Wine Cellar. Birthday celebrations all round.

1430 Hrs: Depart Vineyards back to Twin Towns.

1530 Hrs: Arrive Twin Towns.

This is the current draft plan for the event. All members of the Association and their families are welcome to attend.

Confirmation of the event locations and timings TBC. If you would like to help with organising this event with regards to fundraising/prizes/raffles please reach out to the 2 RAR association at 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

Let's make this a celebration one not to forget.

2RAR History – Stories Wanted

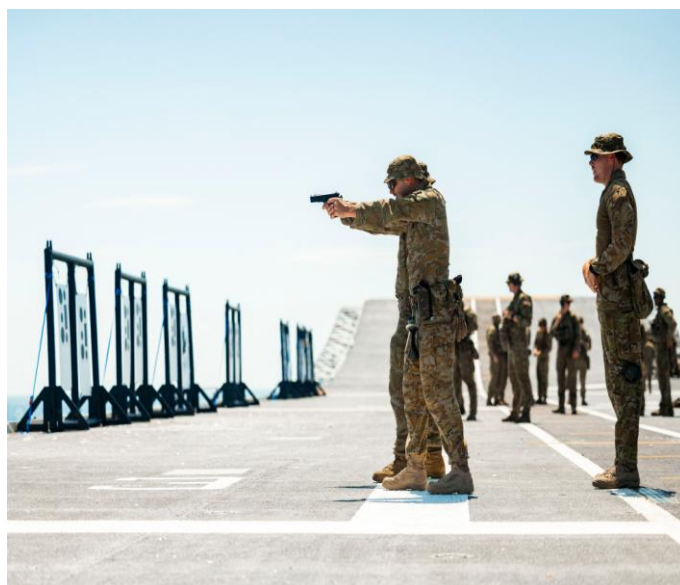
The 2 RAR Association has set an ambitious plan to put pen to paper to write and record for prosperity the complete History of The Second Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

To succeed in this endeavour the Association requests your support in a collaborate way to make this happen. The 2RAR Association is particular after your stories from service, whether that is on Operations or in barracks, photos, drawings and podcasts would also be appreciated.

This Historical account of our History is a long term project but is something the Association believes needs to happen. Our goal is to collect all this information into a draft publication so as to then engage with a Military Historian Author to look at writing and publishing this into a book.



66th Btn Japan – December 1946



2RAR Amphib – October 2024

LIFE MEMBER #21 – 2 RAR Association

27926 Alfred “Alf” VOCKLER (Member 520)

On 26 October 2024 prior to the commencement of the Association AGM at Twin Towns Resort the 2RAR Association was proud to announce the newest Life member, Mr Alf Vockler. At the completion of the presentation to Alf, all members in attendance spontaneously, all stood and applauded a great man and worthy reciprocate of Life Membership to the 2RAR Association, Inc.

CITATION – ALF VOCKLER

27926 Alfred “Alf” VOCKLER enlisted in the Australian Army in 1953. He served 6 years in 2RAR and he was discharged in 1959. During this period of service, Alf served in Malaya (2RAR First Tour) during the Malayan Emergency, departing Australia in October 1955 and returning in October 1957.

During this period, the Battalion participated in numerous operations against the Communist Terrorists (CT) throughout the northern part of the Malaya Peninsula. There were numerous contacts with the enemy which resulted in 14 soldiers being killed plus more wounded. Those killed were interred in Taiping in the Christian cemetery.

Many years later in early 1990s, while holidaying in northern Malaysia, Alf visited the cemetery, only to find that the soldier’s graves were overgrown and had fallen into disrepair due to lack of care and attention. Alf decided that he had to do something for these fallen soldiers so he set about organising to have the cemetery cleaned up. His original request for action through the Australian Government was not successful. However, this did not deter Alf, who set about through local channels of the Australian High Commissioner and Malaysian military to finally get the support needed to have the cemetery cleaned up and the soldier’s graves refurbished particularly those from 2RAR.

Alf has long been the unofficial “Association representative” for the Gold Coast and every year is fully committed to the annual reunion held at Tweed Heads. He is always willing to



take on tasks such as liaison with the local authorities and organisations to ensure the reunion can go ahead without any problems. He is always extremely generous in supporting the reunion with his own financial contributions.

Alf is a doer; a man of action. In every situation, he gives due consideration, before offering suggestions or advice. As a member, he is consistent in his approach, then firm and decisive in his decision-making.

Alf Vockler is characterized by his exceptional organizational skills, his thoroughness in research and sourcing solutions. He is dedicated, clear thinking and always of good humour. He is persistent, enthusiastic, tireless in his work and fully committed to the Association.

The Association is pleased to recognise the services of Alf Vockler and appoint him to Life Membership from this day forth.



Alf Vockler receiving his Life Membership certificate from fellow life members, Leo Van De Kamp and Gordon Hurford.

Warrior Who Have Marched Out – Jul-Oct 24

2783046 PTE Eric ASHBY

21 Dec 1945-27 Sep 2024



NS. Eric was a driver with C Coy 2RAR in South Vietnam (19 May – 6 Dec 1967). Eric passed away on 27 September 2024, aged 78 years. A Celebration of Eric's Life was held at Mollymook Beach Bowling & Recreation Club, Ulladulla NSW

3786910 PTE Robert (Bob) Edward BOX

08 Apr 1945-23 Jul 2024



In 1962-63 Bob served in the CMF, he was conscripted in July 1965 and did his Recruit Training at 2RTB. Bob was sent to 2RAR for Corps Training and then in January 1965 joined 4 Sec, 8 Pl, C Coy, 5 RAR. He deployed to South Vietnam on

22 Apr 1966. When the coy hit booby-traps on the Nui Thi Vai, Bob was badly wounded and medically returned to Australia (26 Oct 1966). Robert 'Bob' died peacefully in Swan Hill, Vic, on Tue 23 Jul 2024. A private cremation was held for Bob.

545985 WO1 Maxwell (Max) Richard BOYLE

? 1951 – 09 Jul 2024

Max served in the Australian Army from about 1973 to 1995 with RA Inf, including service in 2/4RAR (29 Jan–15 Nov 1983), his last posting was RSM at the Pilbara Regiment. Max passed away in Geraldton WA, aged 73 years and his funeral was held at the Geraldton Crematorium followed by his burial in the Geraldton Lawn Cemetery.

? PTE Dean (Deano) BUNNETT

?1956-02 Jul 2024



Dean grew up in Crystal Brook SA and enlisted in the Australian Army at the age of 17 in 1963; Recruit Training at 1RTB (17 Pl C Coy) and served in RA Inf - 2RAR, 6 RAR and the Demo Pl at JTC Canungra Qld before discharging in 1966. Dean was a

Bloody good mate and put a lot of time and thought into our War Memorial and will be sadly missed in our small community. Dean was a foundation member of the Gladstone South Australia Ex-Service Personnel Group.

310083 SSgt William (Bill) Basil "Chips" CARPENTER

07 Nov 1925 – 22 Jun 2024

Bill was born in Redruth, Cornwall, England and embarked at the Port of London, England aboard RMS "ORMONDE" on 16 October 1950 as a 24 year old Australian Army Recruit and served in Korea with 2RAR (14 Mar 1953 – 6 Apr 1954). Bill passed away after a short illness, aged 98 years. After his funeral service, Bill was cremated and his ashes spread on the Clarence River, Yamba NSW. Bill was an early member of the 2RAR Association (No. 74).

3162721 PTE Phillip (Coxy) John COX

01 Jul 1948-07 Oct 2024



Phillip was a Signaller with C Coy HQ, 2 RAR/ NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (16 May 1970–1 Jun 1971). Phillip passed away on 7 Oct 2024, aged 76 years; his funeral was held at Murrindindi Chapel, Alexandra, Vic followed by a private burial service. Phillip was a member of the 2 RAR Assn (No. 104).

2793341 Pte Graham Thomas DORRINGTON

08 Feb 1949 – 14 Jul 2024



NS. Graham served in 5 Pl B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (16 May 1970 –1 Jun 1971). Graham Dorrington passed away suddenly at home in Coffs Harbour on 14 July 2024, aged 75 years. Graham's

Funeral service was held in the chapel of the Coffs Harbour Crematorium, Coramba Road, Karangi, NSW.

29066 Major Karl Henry JACKSON

23 Jan 1937 – 18 Dec 2023



Karl graduated from OCS Portsea in Jun 1956 and posted as 2Lt to 1RTB (19 Jun 1956-9 Feb 1958), 11NS Trg Bn (10 Feb 1958-10 Mar 1959), 3RAR (11 Nov 1959-7 Sep 1964 - included Visit to South Vietnam (3-12 Mar 1964), GSO3 (C Ops SD and Trg) HQ N Comd (8 Oct 1964-26 Sep 1965), 2RAR (26 Sep 1965-10 Nov 1966), South Vietnam OC 1 ARU (9 Nov 1966-07 Jun 1967), 5RAR (21 Aug 1967-29 Jan 1968), 2RTB (30 Jan 1968-19 Jan 1969), DAAG HQ Puckapunyal (20 Jan 1969-Mar 1970), GSO2 HQOTG E Comd (1971-72). I remember him as my Pl Comd 2 Lt in the 1st quarter of 1957 at 1 RTB.

34080 WO2 Rex Lawrence McCALL

05 Feb 1931 – 19 Sep 2024



Rex served in Korea with 2RAR (9 Jun 1953 - 7 Mar 1954 including the Battle of the Hook), with 2RAR (Sgt) in Malaya (1961-63) and later in PNG; South Vietnam with 6RAR (CSM B Coy, 04 Jun-08 Nov 1966). Rex passed away on 19 Sep 2024, at the

St Andrews War Memorial Hospital, Brisbane, aged 93 years. Rex's funeral was held at Albany Creek Lawn Cemetery, Bridgeman Downs, Qld.

13879 Cpl Richard (Dick) Gordon "Gordon" McKEEN

20 Mar 1936 - 19 Sep 2023



Dick served with 2RAR (Malaya 1956-57 and 1959-60) with BHQ, B Coy and C Coy. Dick served with Ray Simpson (later VC), Lt Col Ochiltree the CO, Lt Hands and Capt Chapman. Dick, late of Kingaroy and formerly of Warwick passed away on 19 Sep 2023,

aged 87 years and his Funeral Service was held at Orana Lutheran Aged Care Chapel, Kingaroy and is buried in Taabinga Cemetery, Taabinga, Qld.

1735618 Pte Phillip "Leppy" LEP

24 Sep 1948 – 28 Jul 2024



NS. *Leppy* served in 4 Pl B Coy and then Mortar Pl, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (16 May 1970 – 1 Jun 1971). Phil passed away surrounded by family on the night of 28 July 2024, aged 75+ years.

A Memorial Service for Phil was held at Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens, Holland Park attended by many of his mates from 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn SVN 1970-71.

218929 Pte Kevin "Ollie" Adrian OLIVER

09 Apr 1949 – 06 Aug 2024



Ollie was a member of the Int Sect, 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn serving in South Vietnam from 29 Apr-13 Aug 1970. In 2002 Ollie underwent surgery for throat cancer, this did not stop him from enjoying life by playing golf and riding his motor bike. In recent

years year Ollie was in a lot of pain, he Marched Out on his own terms on 6 Aug 2024, aged 75 years. No funeral was held as his body was donated to science.

Mrs Audrey Veronica (nee DUNIAM) SCATCHARD

27 Apr 1933 – 17 Mar 2024



Audrey was the widow of the late Cpl Bernard Scatchard (Malaya 1955-57). Audrey passed away on 17 March 2024, aged 90 years and is buried in Burnie Lawn Cemetery, East Cam, Burnie City Tas.

3795662 Cpl Jens "John/Schroeds" SCHROEDER

03 Oct 1948 – 10 Oct 2024



NS. John was a Section Commander in 6 Pl B Coy 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam (16 May–24 Dec 1970). Schroeds passed away after suffering a stroke, aged 76 years, his funeral was held at Gregson and Weight, Caloundra Qld

attended by many former members of the Battalion. John was the Administrator for the BCOY2RAR/NZ Facebook for many years and co-ordinated many B Coy 2nd Tour Reunions. Thank you for your service now Rest in Peace.

41769 WO2 Jack Richard STANNARD

09 May 1935 - 24 July 2024

Jack served in Malaya with 2RAR; in South Vietnam with 6RAR (22 May 1966–14 Jun 1967). In 1973 Jack was awarded a Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct (Military). Jack passed away at Ipswich on 26 July 2024, aged 88+ years. A Funeral Service (Poppy Service) was held at the Rosewood RSL Soldiers Hall, Rosewood Qld.

12273 Pte Kevin TUPPER

06 Nov 1933 – 03 Mar 2024

Korea: 2 RAR (17 Mar 1953 - 06 Apr 1954). Kevin, late of Bridgeman Downs Qld passed away on 3 March 2024, aged 90+ years. Kevin was an Association Member for many years (Member No. 511).

43504 Cpl Keith Richard WEBB

16 Feb 1947 – 14 Jun 2024



South Vietnam: Cpl Clerk, B Coy HQ 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn (19 May 1967 – 13 Jun 1968). Keith was the B Coy Orderly Room Corporal throughout the entire 2RAR First Tour. Not only did he keep the Orderly Room in good shape and he ran numerous patrols

outside the wire. On his discharge he had his own rural magazine and book distribution company in Adelaide retiring to a rural property on the Fleurieu Peninsular in SA. Unfortunately, he had to manage dementia during the last few years of his life. Keith was 77 when he passed away and was privately buried prior to his Memorial Service at Mt Barker SA. Rest in Peace Keith.

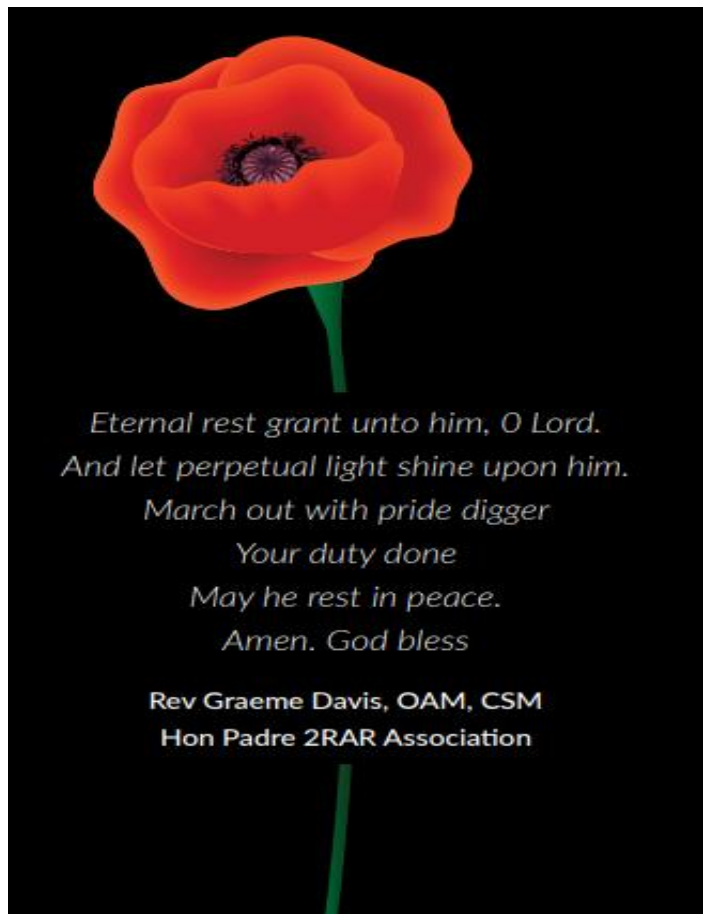
NZ 30743 Lt Col John Gilbert Hamish (Hamish) WILSON

22 Sep 1943 – 28 Jun 2024



Enlisted in the New Zealand Army as a Staff Cadet in January 1961 and graduated as a Lieutenant into RNZIR in December 1964. Served as Platoon Commander in A Coy 1 RNZIR 1965–1967. Completed tour in

Borneo in 1966. Platoon Commander of 6 Platoon V2 Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in Vietnam, 1967–1968. Called time on 28 Jun 2024 at Christchurch Hospital, aged 80+ years. Funeral held at Lamb & Hayward Westpark Chapel & Memorial Garden, Christchurch. New Zealand.



*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**

We Brave Few

4718242 Lieutenant Patrick Daniel SAVAGE MC South Vietnam: 31 Mar 1971

On 31 March 1971, Lieutenant Savage's Platoon made contact with the enemy in a well defended bunker position. The contact was initiated by the forward section and five enemy were seen to fall as a result of the initial burst of fire.

Lieutenant Savage deployed the remainder of his platoon in preparation for an assault onto the position. At the same time the enemy reacted by deploying strong flanking groups and reinforcing those engaged in the initial firefight.

Lieutenant Savage attempted to outflank the enemy with his reserve section, but it was effectively pinned by enemy fire and suffered a number of casualties.

With the whole platoon committed and the numerically superior enemy able to employ a variety of weapons, Lieutenant Savage calmly and resolutely set about directing the battle. He enforced strict fire control, directed the fire of armed helicopters and held his ground in the face of the determined and well armed enemy.

After a firefight which continued for three hours, Lieutenant Savage ordered the withdrawal of the platoon and the evacuation of casualties. The withdrawal was orderly and well controlled, with the wounded being collected under cover of the armed helicopter strike.

AN element of the platoon commanded by Lieutenant Savage remained in the contact area where the wounded could be extracted by air.



Military Cross

Throughout the firefight, withdrawal and evacuation of the casualties, Lieutenant Savage displayed leadership qualities of the highest order. He was in control of the situation throughout and in spite of the overwhelming numerical superiority of the enemy he resolutely held his ground until all his men could be extracted without further loss.

His actions on that day were exemplary and in the finest traditions of the Australian Army.



Lieutenant Patrick Savage MC

4718242 Lieutenant Patrick Daniel Savage MC saw service in Vietnam from 28 May 1970-01 Jun 1971 a total of 370 days where he was awarded the Military Cross.

HISTORICAL ITEMS — Passing of the .303 Lee Enfield Rifle

Letter – Hand over Ceremony of the SLR

2RAR Historical collection has the following letter as part of its collection. It tells a great story from the Battalion. 2RAR was the first Battalion to be equipped with the SLR whilst it was serving on the first tour of Malaya in 1955-1957. 2RAR was issued the Belgian, Fabrique Nationale (FN) (SLR) produced version.

This letter details the handover ceremony on the 5th March, 1959, that took place at the Lithgow factory and featured two 2 RAR guards, one with the .303 and one with the new SLR's produced from the factory, as well as the Band from 2 RAR.

The Australian produced SLR was designated the L1A1 Self load-loading Rifle, with production started in October 1958. The first version had a wooden carrying handle and a triangular heat shield/fore grips with slots, these were replaced with a plastic carry handle and a rounded heat shield/Fore grips with round holes.

In December 1962, the first L1A2 Automatic Rifle was produced, based on the SLR but with a 30-round mag, heavy carry, automatic setting and a bipod.

In December 1988, the last SLR was produced as the changeover to production of the AUSTEYR would take place.

The SLR was a robust rifle that was used by many countries and used a heavier 7.62mm round than the later 5.56mm. It was similar to the US M14 rifle.

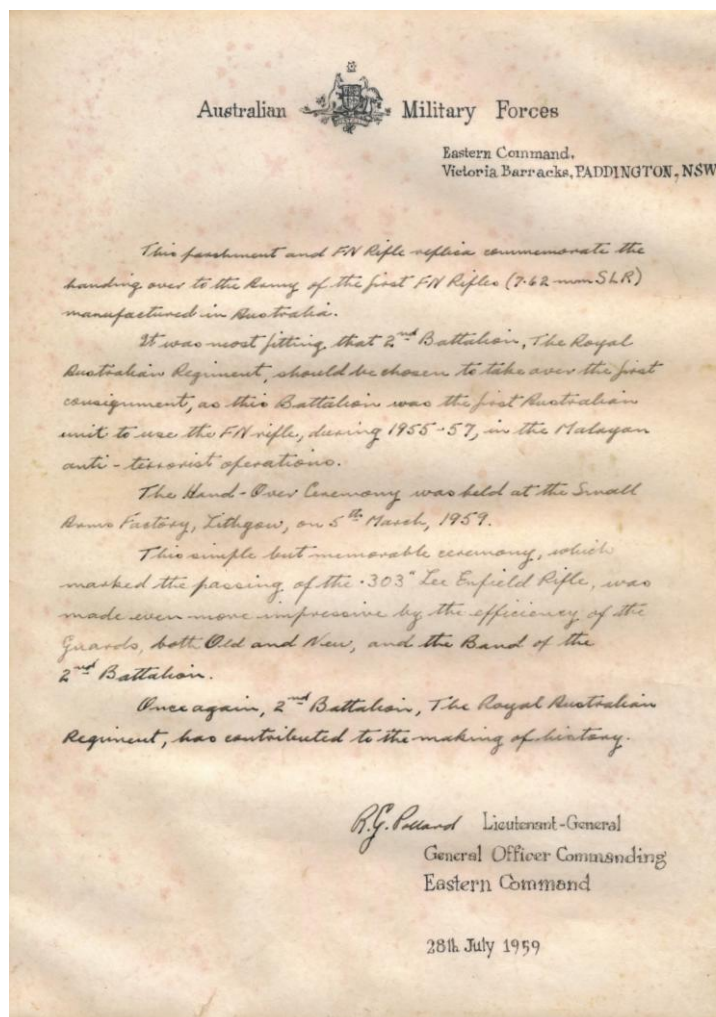
The rifle was used extensively by the ADF for many years and carried on operations such as Malaya, South Vietnam, Malaysia, Rhodesia, Namibia, the first Gulf War.

There were variations and additions such as a line throwing capability used by the Navy. This was the same at the rifle launched grenade, with both using ballistite cartridges as the propellant and the gas plug reversed.

They both used attachments to fit the line thrower and the rifle grenade to the weapon. Sights were used on the weapon by attaching them to the slide cover, the most noticeable being the SUIT sight. However, these were not common.

During South Vietnam, the SAS modified theirs by shortening the barrel and adding a second pistol grip or a grenade launcher.

In the early 1990s, the large-scale issue of F88s meant that the SLR was slowly moved to war stocks and sold off. In the 1980s and 1990s, many soldiers in QLD Battalions owned their own SLR. With the issue of the F88, new armouries were built to house these. So, for a time, 2/4 RAR companies had two armouries full of weapons.



In recent times there have been rapid acquisition purchases of 7.62 mm weapons such as the M14 EBR and HK 417 and the repurposing of SR25 Sniper rifles as battle rifles in the 2010's in Afghanistan. This has been due to the range of contacts and the lack of longer-range weapons.

To learn more about items held within the 2 RAR Historical collection you can visit there Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/The-2-RAR-Historical-Collection-2110949075591616/>

If you wish to donate items to the 2 RAR Historical collection for future generations please email the Curator at: 2RAR.Museum@gmail.com or call Jason Harrison on 0419 749 198.

(Information for this article was attained from the 2RAR Historical Collection - Facebook site)

Veterans Matters

PENSION COMPENSATION PAY RISES

From 20 Sep 24, some veterans will receive an increase to their DVA pension and compensation payments in line with increases to the cost of living. New rates will occur from 17 Oct 24

Service Pension	New Rate/FN	Increase
Single Person	\$1,144.4	\$28.10
Couples	\$862.6	\$21.20
Single –Transit	\$941.1	\$18.20
Couples – Transit	\$759.3	\$14.70

War Widows

War Widow Pension	\$1,165.3	\$29
Income Support	\$346.2	\$8.80

Disability Compensation Payment

T&PI	\$1805.3	\$45.30
Intermediate Rate	\$1196.8	\$30
EDA	\$974.2	\$24.40
100% inc ES	\$626.7	\$15.70
10% inc ES	\$69.6	\$1.57

Veteran Payment

Single	\$1242.2	\$31
Couple	\$968.7	\$24.20

MRCA

Wholly Dep Part	\$1165.3	\$29
SRDP	\$1805.3	\$45.30

These are maximum rates of payment and include and Energy supplement payable.

ROYAL COMMISSION FINAL REPORT

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide delivered its final report on 09 Sep 2024. It included 122 recommendations to Government, which form the Royal Commission’s blueprint for real, meaningful and long-lasting reform.

The final report is 7 volumes containing over 3000 pages.

Vol 1 – Executive summary, recommendations and the fundamentals.

Vol 2 – Serving the nation, and Defence culture and leadership.

Vol 3 – Military sexual violence, unacceptable behaviour and military justice.

Vol 4 – Health care for serving and ex-serving members.

Vol 5 – Transition, DVA and support for ex-serving members.

Vol6 – Families, data and research, and establishing a new identity.

Vol 7 – Appendices.

Summary:

Veterans should receive the support they need, when they need it, from organisations they trust. Services should be better integrated and easier for veterans to navigate, and governments should work together to deliver practical actions that improve veterans’ wellbeing.

Veterans’ entitlements should be fair and equitable; regardless of how a member’s military service is classified. Claims processing should be efficient, with ongoing transparent reporting. Veterans should have access to advocates when making a liability or compensation claim, and have more choice and autonomy over their supports after a claim is approved.

Let’s hold the government, DVA, ESO to account and make sure we all look after our mates.



The 2 RAR Historical Collection

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p> <p> 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/</p>	<p>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></p>
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AGM REPORT - SEQLD

Gordon Hurford – Life Member

“Age shall not weary them ...” however the attendance at the Coolangatta/Tweed Heads reunion is growing less every year. This year we had approximately 50 veterans, partners and family join us for some quality time together again.

Friday evening, in the Harbour Bar, kicked off the gathering for 2024. This is a very casual get together (meet and greet) to get the party started. As I mentioned to some along the way that I had some apprehension as to how many would join us this year. The roll up was good but nowhere near the numbers of previous years. The band rocked on, the good humour and camaraderie flowed and by the time it was all over everyone had had a good time although the hearing was a little numb due to the extraordinary level of noise in the bar. All good fun!!

Saturday dawned a beautiful day and activities began at 9.30am with a commemorative service in Cunningham Park. It was great to see some grandchildren in the crowd and even more stirring was when they accompanied granddad to lay a wreath. Leo Van De Kamp welcomed all to the service, wreaths were laid; one for those who gave their lives while serving in 2RAR by Alf Vockler and another for the Association by Graham “Harry” Leggett. The valedictory was completed and the National Anthem sung. Leo wound up the service by thanking all who came and invited them all to join in the hospitality in one of the resort’s function rooms. The Association’s is thankful for support provided through:

- Twin Towns Resort Management,
- Twin Towns Resort Function Management
- Twin Towns Resort Technical Staff
- The President and Members of the Coolangatta/Tweed Heads RSL
- Mr Alf Vockler – the unofficial Gold Coast Representative!
- Tweed Heads Shire Council

Following the service, we all went to Visions, a function room within the resort and watched, with the aid of Zoom technology, the AGM.

However, before the AGM got started, I had the privilege, on behalf of the President and Committee to appoint Alf Vockler to Life Member status. I read out his citation, presented him with the Soldier and his LM badge. Spontaneously, all stood and applauded Alf after the presentation. A worthy recipient for decades of service to the Association.

Raffles were held raising \$1,000.00 for the Association. Also, the bar tab was opened for about an hour. The gathering was all over by 3.00pm.

The 2RAR Association “gathering” was a great time and everyone who attended had a good time. Coolangatta/Tweed Heads is a beautiful part of the country and has all the amenities for a reunion.

Next year, will be a very special year. In 2025, the Battalion celebrates its 80th birthday as well as many of those usual attendees who also reach the ripe of age of 80 at some time during 2025, thanks to National Service. We think that for many, this may well be “the last hurrah”. We want to make it as special and fun-filled as we can possibly achieve. Planning is underway for a very special time.

This is event is open for everyone not just a few “die-hards”. All members of the Association and their families will be most welcome.

The 2RAR Association wishes to thank Maroochydore RSL and all supporters of the 2RAR Association for assisting to make this event a special occasion.

TRACEY BOECK

Head of Marketing & Loyalty Operations



07 5443 2211



PO BOX 5824
Maroochydore B.C Q 4558



105 Memorial Avenue
Maroochydore QLD 4558



www.maroochyrs.com.au

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MAROOCHY
RSL

Roll Of Honour: Remembering our Fallen

QX 55791 PTE NEVILLE LEO VOLLING (03 Mar 1924 – 01 May 1946: Aged 22 yrs)



Service Details:

Private Neville Leo Volling was born in Longreach, QLD on 03 Mar 1924. Pte Volling enlisted on 19 May 1943, Selwyn, Queensland and was given the Service number QX55791 (Q267141).

Pte Volling was the son of Alexander and Julie Rose Volling and passed away due to injuries sustained in a vehicle accident near Saka in Japan.

Unit: 66th Battalion, Australian Infantry, 2nd AIF.

Fate: Road Accident, Saka, Japan, 01 May 1946

Cause of Death: Sustained Injuries from vehicle accident

Memorial Details: Yokohama War Cemetery, Yokohama, Kanto, Japan – Plot Aust.Sec.E.C.4. Panel 71, Commemorative Area, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT.

From 66 Bn War Dairy:

QX55791 Pte VOLLING N.L. died of injuries sustained in
road accident near SAKA, JAPAN.

'Lest we forget'



WELFARE:

RAAF Holiday Resort - Ambassador Apartments - Gold Coast, QLD

Not-For-Profit group who provide Discount Holiday Accommodation to Current and Former Serving Members of the Australian Defence Force, their families and Defence Australian Public Servants.

Location: 9-13 Parnoo Street
CHEVRON ISLAND QLD 4217

Phone: + 61 417 780 961
Email: aambassador@bigpond.com

SUPPORT SERVICES

OPEN ARMS

Veterans and Families Counselling - 1800 011 046, or www.openarms.gov.au

OPEN ARMS SUICIDE INTERVENTION

<https://www.openarms.gov.au/get-support/suicide-intervention>

ADF – All-hours Support Line 1800 628 036

- Defence Members & family Helpline
1800 624 608
- Defence Chaplaincy Support
1300 333 362
- ADF Mental Health Services <https://www1.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/health-well-being/garrison/adf-mental-health-services>

LIFELINE

13 11 14, www.lifeline.org.au

BEYONDBLUE SUPPORT SERVICES

1300 22 4636, www.beyondblue.org.au

SUICIDE CALL BACK SERVICE

1300 659 467

HOMELESS HOTLINE

1800 474 753

VETERANS OFF THE STREETS AUSTRALIA

1800 868 726

ALCOHOL & DRUG INFORMATION SERVICE

1800 177 833

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DV CRISIS

1800 737 732

DVA

1800 555 254



2ND BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
(Incorporating 66 Inf Bn, 2 AR, 2 RAR, 2/4 RAR and 2 RAR (Amphib))

MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member **Renew Membership** **Change of Details**

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

State _____ Post Code _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Tele: (____) _____ Mob: _____

Regimental /PMKeyS No: _____ DOB: ____ / ____ / 19 ____ / 20 ____

Years Served in the Bn from 19 ____ to 19 ____ 20 ____ to 20 ____ Total Years _____

A COY	B COY	C COY	D COY	ADMIN COY	SPT COY	BHQ

Deployments

YEAR				
AO				

Honours and Awards (NOT Service Medals)

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

Would you prefer to receive your copy of Membership RINGO via email or post
SUBSCRIPTIONS Year: 1 October to 30 September
 Yearly \$20 or Multiple-Years \$40 (2 years), \$60 (3 years), \$80 (4 years), \$100 (5 years)

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Receipt Required? YES/NO

Either – **POST** this Form to: The Secretary, 2 RAR Association, PO Box 2352 IDALIA QLD 4811
 Or **EMAIL** a copy to 2rarassoc@gmail.com

DIRECT DEPOSIT to: Account Name: 2RAR Association, Inc.
 Account details: Suncorp Bank. BSB: 484-799
 Account no: 063 350 355. *Include your NAME as reference.*

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS – Ring Troy McGill - 0409 649 633



**2RAR Association, Inc
Merchandise Order Form**

FULL NAME: _____ **Tele:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **Mob:** _____

PostCode _____ **Email:** _____ @ _____

All prices are inclusive of packaging and postage fees within Australia

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	ITEM	PRICE	QTY
Clothing Items					
SHIRTS					
Polo Shirt, Off Duty M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$55		Polo Shirt, Black Cotton M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL	\$55	
Tee Shirt: Black – 4XL/5XL	\$30		STUBBY COOLERS		
HATS			Stubby Cooler - "2RAR"	\$11	
Cap - Black 2 RAR	\$35		Stubby Cooler - First Round On Us	\$11	
Bucket Hat - II	\$30		Stubby Cooler - Second to no Bastard	\$11	
TIES			CHALLENGE COIN		
Tie - 2 RAR Black Heritage	\$35		Coin Black and Gold – 2 RAR	\$20	
BADGES					
Lapel Badge - Member	\$13		Lapel Badge - NOK	\$13	
Lapel Badge - replacement Life Member	\$13		Lapel Badge – Slouch Hat	\$5	
STICKERS					
Sticker – Unit Colour Patch	\$8		Bumper Sticker - 2RAR Association	\$8	
Sticker (Round) – "2RAR"	\$8		Bumper Sticker – Second to None	\$8	
Sticker (Square) Roman Numerals II	\$8		Bumper Sticker – Vietnam Veteran	\$8	
Sticker (Oval) – "ICB"	\$8		Sticker (oval) – Vietnam Veteran	\$8	
Sticker – ICB Window Transfer	\$8		Sticker – 2 RAR Amphibious	\$8	
Sticker – 2RAR/NZ ANZAC Bn	\$8				
PATCHES					
Patch – Woven - Rising Sun	\$8.00		Patch – Woven - Unit Colour Patch	\$8	
Patch – Woven - Combat Vietnam	\$8.00		Patch – Woven - ICB	\$8	
KEY RINGS			PLAQUES		
Key Ring - Black/Gold – 2RAR	\$20		Wall Plaque: 2RAR	\$55	
PRINTS					
Print - 2RAR Air Assault Operations Nui Dat Vietnam	\$30		Print – Korea, Samichon	\$40	
FLAGS			BOOKS		
2 RAR Large Double Sided	\$90		Book – East Timor in Pictures	\$20	
2 RAR Single Sided	\$50				
MISCELLANEOUS					
Cards – Deck Playing	\$20		Pewter Drink Coaster - ICB Badge	\$25	
Note Pad Leather ICB	\$10		Bar Runner – 2 RAR	\$55	

You can pay for your merchandise by:

Direct deposit to the Association's bank account:

Account details: 2RAR Association, Inc.
Bank: Suncorp Bank.
BSB: 484-799
Account Number: 063 350 355.

When ordering merchandise using this form, email to:

2rarassoc@gmail.com
or
Post the Merchandise Order Form to:
PO Box 2352, Idalia
Townsville Qld 4811

- Please include name and address

STRATEGIC PLAN

2nd BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION 2025-2030

Updated Oct 2024

Introduction

The 2nd Battalion has a long history for tough hard soldering forged through service in The Dutch East Indies, Japan, Korea, Malaya, South Vietnam, Malaysia, Rhodesia, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, The Solomon Islands, Iraq, Afghanistan, Timor Leste, Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operations.

2 RAR was one of the three original units formed in 1945 for the raising of Australia's Regular Army and has been at the forefront of Australia's military commitments since 1945.

Aim

This strategic plan sets out the plan for the association 2024-2030 and sets the longer-term strategy for 2030-2035.

2 RAR Association Committee

The 2 RAR Association Committee elected 26 October 2024 is made up of the following positions and appointments:

- President – Mal Gray
- Immediate Past President – Robert Althofer
- Secretary – Robert Althofer
- Treasurer – Brendan Martin
- Committee Member – Merv Diction
- Committee Member – Troy McGill
- Committee member – Anthony Duroux

Sub committees for the purpose of organising specific events, reunions, memorials, or special projects will be formed as required. State representatives are elected by the Committee to assist in the running of events in each region. Currently there is no state representative for QLD, NQLD or NSW region, all other states have a representative member voted in by the committee.

Note: An example would be a Steering Committee for the writing of the Battalion Official History would be a subcommittee of the Association.

Aims of the Association

The objectives of the Association are to:

- To provide opportunities for Association members to come together for camaraderie and mutual support with their fellow Association members under national, state and local arrangements.
- To maintain a close relationship between the Association and 2RAR.
- To provide opportunities for regular communication with, from and among the members of the Association.
- To maintain an ongoing program to increase the membership base of the Association.
- To provide timely advice of relevant support agencies to both Association members and the immediate family of deceased members requiring individual support in areas including health, relationships, and personal welfare.
- To ensure the sacrifice of those who died whilst serving on duty with 2RAR is acknowledged during all collective Association activities.
- To develop a systematic program of updating and maintaining the history of 2RAR and the Association.
- To participate as a collective group on relevant occasions of national or regimental significance including ANZAC Day.
- To acknowledge the support given by non- members to the Association.

Membership of the Association

Membership of the association is available via the website. The Association is available to:

Ex-members of 66 Bn AMF, 2RAR, 2/4RAR and serving members of 2RAR. Membership may include those of Corps, other than the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, eligible by Service with 2RAR and includes all or any 'members of supporting arms or philanthropic organisations attached to 2RAR from time to time'.

Ex-service persons who have served with "Sister Battalions" of The Royal Australian Regiment, or persons currently serving, or will in future serve, with "Sister Battalions", in any theatre of operations including Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Rwanda, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq, Timor Leste, Afghanistan or any future theatre of operations.

Any direct relative of a person killed in action, died of wounds, or died from illness, in any theatre of operations while serving with 2RAR, and who would have been eligible for membership of the Association; such relatives to include spouse/partner, mother, father, brother, sister, children or grandchildren of such deceased person.

Association Routine and Memorial Events

In order to establish a Battle Rhythm for the Association and the Committee the following yearly reoccurring dates are proposed:

DATE	EVENT	ASSOCIATION
Feb	Battalion Family Day	Provide BBQ luncheon and children's rides – Link in with Oasis to conduct at their facility. First Fri of the month.
Mar	Banjo Breakfast for the Battalion	Association to provide a Banjo Bfast the first Friday in Mar – On approval from RSM and when in barracks.
25 April	ANZAC Day	State marches and functions. A method of subsidising attendance of financial members to be investigated. Distribution will be via state reps.
May	Golf Day	Provide Golf Day function for veterans in NQLD
Jun	Section Invite Luncheon	Invite a section from the battalion for Lunch – Association to cover costs. – On approval from RSM.
27 Jul	Samichon Day	Luncheon
18 Aug	Vietnam Veterans Day	Commemorative Service and Luncheon in NQLD Region visiting a grave of a Vietnam KIA
Oct	Annual General Meeting	SEQLD Reunion Gathering, Association report and AGM last sat of the month.
11 Nov	Remembrance Day	Thuringowra Service, Wreath laying and drinks at Irish Finnegan's.
Dec	Xmas Family Gathering	All Families invited of Members.
Each Tue	Coffee Catch ups	Association run social meetings

Table 1 - Association Routine Events.

Significant Events

A list of significant events that are important to the battalion is proposed. This will allow for the association to plan commemorating significant events. It is proposed that we celebrate 20-year, 25-year, 30-year, 40-year, 50-year, 60-year Anniversaries of the significant events. Significant events will be open to attendance by financial and non-financial members with a discount offered to financial members of the association.

Membership of the association will be rewarded whilst no one will be excluded if they are not a member. For example, a dinner might be \$70 for members and \$100 for non-members.

The 2 RAR significant events to be celebrated as an Association are proposed as:

SIGNIFICANTEVENT	YEAR	20 yrs	25 yrs	30 yrs	40 yrs	50 yrs	60 yrs	70 yrs	80 yrs
Battalion Birthday – 16 Oct	1945								2025
Korea – 27 Jul – Samichon Day	1953							2023	2033
Malaya – All Tours – 31 Aug	1955							2025	2035
Vietnam - All Tours – 18 Aug	1970						2030	2040	2050
Somalia – Jan	1993			2023	2033	2043	2053	2063	2073
Rwanda – 22 Feb	1995			2025	2035	2045	2055	2065	2075
East Timor –All tours – 20 Sep	1999		2024	2029	2039	2049	2059	2069	2079
Solomon Islands - Jul	2003		2027	2033	2043	2053	2063	2073	2083
Iraq – All Tours	2006	2026	2031	2036	2046	2056	2066	2076	2086
Afghanistan – All tours	2007	2027	2032	2037	2047	2057	2067	2077	2087

Table 2 - Significant Events List. The significant events list has aims to capture significant events from each era of the battalion and the events would be guided by Era Representatives. This list is not exhaustive and should be viewed as a starting point for the Era Representatives. All though members went on Operations over different year brackets the aim is to celebrate all members who went over to that theatre of Operations as a whole group, thus the year celebrated may be different from when some veterans went. ie East Timor includes 5 x tours over a 10-year period.

Proposed Calendar

From the significant event table and in recognition that we wish to rapidly grow the Association membership the following calendar is proposed:

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ASSOCIATION
2024	ANZAC Day	Melbourne, Vic	Association Sponsored event for costings of an ANZAC Day Luncheon for Vic based Veterans
2025	Back to Battalion	Coolangatta, QLD	Reunion event and celebration of 80 years of the Battalion – Open to all 2 RAR veterans and serving members – 24-26 Oct.
2025	ANZAC Day	Darwin, NT	Association Sponsored event for costings of an ANZAC Day event for NT based veterans.
2026	Iraq Reunion	Townsville, QLD	Association Sponsored event for 20 yr reunion, coincide with Association AGM
2026	ANZAC Day	Adelaide, SA	Association Sponsored event for costings of an ANZAC Day event for NT based veterans.
2027	ANZAC Day	Canberra, ACT	Association Sponsored event for costings of an ANZAC Day event for ACT based veterans.
2028	ANZAC Day	Perth, WA	Association Sponsored event for costings of an ANZAC Day event for WA based veterans.
2029	East Timor Reunion	Dili, East Timor	Association sponsored event for 30 yr Reunion – Back to Timor.
2029	ANZAC Day	Brisbane, QLD	Association Sponsored event for costings of an ANZAC Day event for SEQLD based veterans.
2030	Vietnam Reunion	Townsville, QLD	Association sponsored event for 60 yr Reunion, to include both tours.
2030	ANZAC Day	Sydney, NSW	Association Sponsored event for costings of an ANZAC Day event for NSW based veterans.

Table 3 - Proposed Calendar. The aim of this calendar is to allow for maximum participation and so some dates have been adjusted to fall on similar dates that way only one subcommittee needs to be formed for the event.

Communications

In order to grow the Association, it is essential that we communicate effectively.

• Website

A new website will be built in Q4 2024/Q1 2025 that is easy to use and protects all the content of the existing site whilst being new and vibrant.

A key deliverable of the new website will be an automated online membership and merchandise purchasing process that will make becoming a member and tracking the financial nature of members easier.

• Social Media

Social media should be used to drive traffic to the main website. The association does not intend to establish a social media presence but rather leverage off pre-existing social media sites such as the 2 RAR Facebook page. In order to drive traffic to the website the amount of information contained within the social media channels needs to be moderated and limited. Announcements made on Social media should drive the party to the Website.

Merchandise

A key fundraiser will be the sale of 2 RAR merchandise. Merchandise if not selected carefully can become a financial burden on the Association.

Museum

The 2 RAR Museum at Lavarack Barracks is the main area that the history of 2 RAR will be housed and maintained. It is important that the Association contributes generously to the 2 RAR Museum to ensure the ongoing care and protection of the history of the battalion. The association will identify a History Rep to act as an LO with the 2 RAR museum to ensure the Association can source 2 RAR info as required.

Welfare

There are other organisations better financed and resourced to provide welfare support to Association members. A member of the committee has been identified as the Welfare Support Liaison Officer (WSLO) to ensure the association is linked into appropriate support associations and that referrals are best available.

An Official History of 2 RAR

A key deliverable for the association is an Official History of the 80-year career of 2 RAR. The target date for publication of the Official History should be 2035 to allow 10 years to raise the money to engage a full-time historian and give them time to record the history and write the history.

Operational Tasks

In order to achieve this strategy, the immediate operational tasks are:

- Grow the association by 30 new members per year whilst maintaining the existing members
- Develop a new website with easier membership and Merchandise process
- Establish and maintain financial system of independence
- Identification of appropriate Historian to write The Official History of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.
- Identification of Sponsorship options to provide one veteran each year a fully paid expenses trip to a historical battlefield.

Conclusion

We, the members of the Association have, by virtue of our willingness to support the perpetuation of Battalion's legacy, inherited a responsibility to ensure our Battalion's efforts throughout its powerful 80 years' service to our great country are honoured and commemorated in such a way that befits the blood, sweat and tears that each and every member of the Battalion sacrificed during its existence. How will we be remembered? Who will remember us? The goal of this strategic plan is an association better equipped to serve the needs of its membership and deliver a definitive official history published for all serving and ex serving members.