

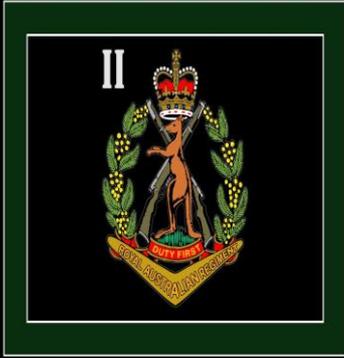
2 RAR and 3 RAR Positions on the 'Hook', July 1953

24-26 July 1953

Battle of Samichon – The Hook

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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 and 3RAR Battle positions on the 'Hook', July 1953

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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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.



MEMBERSHIP *your membership matters!*

Membership fees are due as at 30 Sep 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.

President's Report

A lot of has been written and much more will be written over the coming months and years on Australian Soldiers involvement in Afghanistan and alleged war crimes committed. The most essential human right in our legal system is 'The presumption of innocence', and until all such matters have been dealt with at a war crimes trial operating at the criminal standard of proof ('beyond reasonable doubt') than these men should be afforded that right of presumption of innocence. The media pile on of our soldiers will continue for some time until such matters have been dealt with in a court of law.

The CDF 2nd proposal to strip soldiers of Distinguished Service Medals awarded in the Afghanistan War without any criminal charges being dealt with and all the facts established, in accordance with due process has created an inference of guilt against those involved before the defendants account of events have been heard.

Our soldiers and their families have paid a physical, psychological, and moral price for their service across all operations and service. Each of us continues to carry this burden, and with this proposal put forward from our top-ranking military officer shows how far away support and care for our soldiers actually is.

Final Word

With the ongoing Royal Commission, the proposal to remove service medals and clear lack of leadership and support to both serving and ex-serving members it is up to all of us to make sure we look after our own.

Look after your mates, look after your families and be kind to each other as it is quite clear that our leaders and Government officials will not.

Seek support and reach out if needed as we are there to support all our veterans no matter the issue.

'Second to None'



'Second to None'
Robert Althofer
President
2RAR Association, INC

Leave ANZAC Day Alone

A very special sacred day to salute our fallen from the first to the last

To reflect on glorious deeds and sacrifice from our proud past.

*To confirm national identity, and all as one standing tall
From opulent castles to far distant bush hats with cooee calls.*

*Parade from coast to coast, and in foreign land too
We salute our fallen who gave all, for me and you.*

*Shame on leaders who speak as Gods from well protected thrones
Who talk of **them and us** and not **we** with flawed judgement in godly tones.
Readily distort our military past to infer racism and its shame is far from dead
Ignoring today's military proud cry; "We all wear the same-coloured thread".
The constant sound of Didgeridoos now dominates where tranquillity has been
Our proud flag is now one of many in what is becoming a carnival scene.*

It's time for all RSL Caesars to roll up their sleeves, for all to see

*To guard against distortion of our proud history.
Our very special **One day of the Year** is slowly being stolen by a few*

To placate a noisy mob blowing smoke and constant welcomes too.

If there is to be a greeting, then let it be for all to hear and see

As a salute to all our heroes who gave all to keep our country free.

We are as one

George Mansford 2023

URGENT VOLUNTEER REQUEST

The 2 RAR Association is seeking an urgent volunteer to act as our 2 RAR State Rep for NSW. The job does not require too much work and you can do as little or as much as you wish.

Our only request is for the volunteer to take custodian of the 2 RAR Association Banner and provide the banner and help organise to march on ANZAC Day in Sydney.

If this sounds like you we would like to hear from you. Please contact the Association at 2rarassoc@gmail.com or call 0404 078 797.

ANZAC Day - Commemorations

ANZAC DAY 2023

2023 – Veterans across the country gathered at memorial sites to honour and remember all veterans who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

The men and women who forged the ANZAC spirit had core values which included courage, mateship, endurance and sacrifice. They all understood the values of independence, freedom and a fair go for all, but above all – possessed a willingness to defend these values. Freedom only survives as long as people are willing to defend it. We gather on ANZAC Day, as we should always gather, not to glorify war, but to remind ourselves that we value who we are, where we have come from, and the freedoms we possess; and to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who contributed so much in shaping the identity of this proud nation, and those that continue to serve.

ANZAC DAY – NT

A small gathering of veterans headed out on a road trip like no other, destination Dundee Beach, NT to gather and remember our ANZACs on such a solemn occasion.

The weary veterans were welcomed by Woody at his homestead and then set about organising a commemorative service to remember.

As the light started to rise wreaths were laid and past soldiers stood in silence to remember departed comrades.

FOR THE FALLEN

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children
England mourns for her dead across the sea,
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again,
They sit no more at familiar tables of home,
They have no lot in our labour of the daytime,
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires and hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the night.

As the stars shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are stary in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain



ANZAC Dawn Service- Dundee Beach, NT

L-R: Tim Bransby, MAJ David Hopgood, Wayne Woodhouse, Mal Gray, Stephen (Pa) Hicks, Sid Bell, Paris Stephens

Korea – Battle of Samichon River

'The Hook' 24-26 July 1953

The Korean War was one of the most bitter, inglorious and yet least known conflicts in history. 2 RAR began to prepare itself for active service in Korea, embarking on the MV New Australia on 05th March 1953, for Pusan with a compliment of 22 officers and 590 other ranks.

The 28th Commonwealth Infantry Bde was faced with an area of operations divided by the Samichon River. Brig John Wilton gave this responsibility for the Hook and surrounding positions to the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. The first priority for the Australians was rebuilding of the defensive wire and minefield fences which had to be almost entirely rebuilt. Particularly noteworthy was LT Patrick Forbes, 2 RAR's Assault Pioneer PL Comd. He and his platoon not only rebuilt a destroyed minefield fence but also traversed that field - which was unmapped - at night and managed to survive the experience, having suffered no casualties as a result.

During the same period, Australian patrols clashed frequently with the Chinese and suffered several casualties. The area of greatest contact was on a feature forward of the Hook known as Green finger. The contacts were fierce and often at close range.

From the beginning of July there was a distinct increase in Chinese radio network activity, as new gun batteries were brought into line in preparation for one last offensive.

On 19 July, negotiations for an armistice were concluded at Panmunjom, with the date for the signing set for 27 July.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04007.001

SGT Brian Cooper at Hill 159 in May 1953

In the evening of 19 July, the Chinese attacked the US Outposts as well as the 2RAR MMG section on Hill 111 and battalion positions on the Hook, killing one and wounding three.

Throughout the day of 24 July, Chinese artillery had been limited to harassing fire on 2RAR's positions. But at 8pm, with heavy rain falling, the fire increased to a barrage focused on positions at the Hook, Hills 121 and 111, and a position known as Boulder City. Soon after, the Australian standing patrol on Green Finger called in an artillery strike on a group of 50 Chinese Infantrymen who were moving towards the Hook and Hill 121.

The Chinese managed to get spotters into a position between Hills 121 and 111 from where they called accurate fire down onto 2RAR's Mortar baseplate position and rear areas. 2RAR lost two men killed and several others wounded due to the Chinese shelling.

SGT Brian Cooper, in charge of the MMG section, organised his men into all-round defence, and kept his two Vickers guns covering Hills 121 and 146, and a Bren gun facing the US Marines positions, which had now been overrun. Eleven surviving Marines joined SGT Cooper and his men and assisted in holding of the Chinese.

During the first night of the battle, more than 3,000 Chinese troops had assaulted the Main line of Resistance between the Hook and Boulder City.

As dawn on 25 July broke, the extent of the damage was surveyed. The positions on the Hook had not been directly attacked, although there had been casualties to the patrol on Green Finger and in C and D Company positions of 2 RAR.

The Hook – Brief History cont.

A Chinese bunker was discovered near the MMG section when CPL Walker and Pte Cranston conducted a reccie into the Marines' communication trench. They were greeted by a Chinese grenade, the shrapnel wounded Cranston in the buttocks but they were soon quickly able to overrun the Chinese in the bunker.

"I reckon my luck's been used up. The fire was right on top of us and the noise was horrendous... We were in weapon pits, so we ran a certain amount of risk, but not as much as the Chinese. We knew it (Artillery) was coming and we could get down, where as the Chinese were out in the open, so they were just going to cop it.

I had words with the great Godfather up above, and I said to him, 'Well if it's going to be me, I'd like it to be quick. I didn't want to be wounded and lying around, or taken prisoner or something, and I said, If you can go easy on my blokes.' And that's the extent of my religion."

SGT Brian Cooper

Throughout the day, the Chinese kept up sporadic artillery fire whilst collecting their enemy wounded and dead. Once again, as evening fell the artillery fire intensified, and Chinese forces once more advanced to attack. The Chinese quickly gained the Marines front line and surrounded the Australian position on Hill 111. Hand to hand fighting in the trenches and bunkers lasted well over an hour with LCPL Ken Crockford (who relieved SGT Coopers section on the Hill) calling in artillery onto his position to avoid being overrun. Five men of the replacement MMG section were wounded during the night.

The last Infantry actions of the war occurred later in the morning when platoon-sized Chinese forces attacked Boulder City and Hill 111. The fighting continued as the armistice was signed a little over 8km away.

Although Hill 111 had come under attack again, no further combat casualties were noted. The only casualty listed in 2RAR's war diary that morning was a member of the MMG section on Hill 111 who had been shot and wounded by a Marine when he was caught 'souveniring' items from Marines' packs.

During the Battle of the Samichon, leading up to ceasefire, 2RAR suffered five men killed and 24 wounded, two of whom died from their wounds.

The Chinese casualty figure will likely never be known, with estimates of 2-3,000 killed and another 10,000 wounded.

Brig Wilton quoted 'the floor of the valley between the Hook and the Chinese positions was almost covered with dead Chinese... on the immediate approaches to 2RAR the bodies literally carpeted the ground sometimes two deep... It was a terrible sight which I will never forget.'

For its performance under the concerted attack of Chinese forces, 2RAR received the battle honour '**SAMICHON**'

Honours and Decorations

- Member of the British Empire
 - LT John William Martin Connell;
 - WO2 Leslie Ernest Moore.
- The Military Cross
 - LT Patrick Oliver Giles Forbes.
- The Military Medal
 - SGT Brian Charles Cooper (Commander MMG Sect on Hill 111);
 - CPL Thomas William Maguire (Commander of Green Finger standing patrol);
 - LCPL Kenneth H. Crockford (Commander Contact Bunker);
 - PTE George Edward Kent; and
 - PTE James Michael McAuliffe.
- Mentioned in Despatches
 - LT Colin Andrew Collingwood Wilson;
 - CPL Colestin Herbert Chauvier;
 - CPL Kevin George Condon;
 - CPL Kevin Joseph Cooper (Posthumous);
 - CPL Leonard Hayden;
 - CPL Joseph Brian Slater;
 - PTE Keith Weeding; and
 - PTE Donald Albert Youngman



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

157527

Warriors Who Have Marched Out

680071 CPL Christopher Reeves ALLEN – Died 20 Jan 2023

2784837 Pte Gordon Phillip ASTILL – 23 Feb 1946-24 Mar 2023

41570 Pte Frederick (Fred) George CLARK – 19 Nov 1927 - 2021

1202871 Pte Robert (Bob) David DANGAARD – 02 Jun 1949 – 17 Mar 2023

2400887/215170 S/Sgt Austin George (Aussie) DAWSON JP – 01 Oct 1928-18 Dec 2012

1735336 Pte David (Spider) Michael FERGUSON – 08 Aug 1948-06 May 2023

1200960 2Lt Robin (Rib Fronklin) Gordon FRANKLIN – 04 Mar 47-26 May 23

2792874 Pte Ian William GREEN – 22 Sep 1948 – 16 May 2023

5900126 Pte Henry Richard HANBURY – 03 Jan 1930 – 25 Jan 2021

1411309 Gregory (Greg) Reginald HANSEN – 19 Aug 1948-12 Jan 2023

1731794 Pte David John HAYNES MM – 19 May 1945-28 Jan 2023

8586749 Lcpl Murray (Muz) A HORSFIELD – Died 20 Feb 2023

26275 WO1 James (Jim) HUSBAND OAM,BEM – 24 Jun 1933-21 May 2023

2782603 Pte Peter McDonald (Jock) KENNEDY – 12 Feb 1945-06 May 2023

212938 WO2 James (Jim) Edward LANGHAM – 21 May 1936-25 Mar 2023

1731654 Pte Mark Sydney LAURENS – Died 23 Aug 2022

311229, 15265 Sgt James (Jock) Bennett LINDSAY -07 Jan 1931-29 Mar 2023

28064 Pte Robert Clive LUBKE – 06 Jan 1933-12 Apr 2022

5717234 Pte Henry MATEJA – 26 Sep 1948-21 Feb 2023

8579534 Pte Laurence Paul MEACLE – died on 12 Feb 2023

53411 Sgt Robert (Bob/Boof) James MILLWOOD – 03 Jun 1940-17 Dec 2022

1731905 Pte Noel (Buck) Frederick MORRIS – 25 Dec 1945-05 Mar 2023

3790446 Pte Christopher (Chris) Richard MORTIMER – 14 Aug 46-18 Feb 23

55751 Pte David (Dave/Poly) PERKINS – 20 Sep 1949-18 Feb 2023

2/7029 Sgt Malcolm Clive RANDALL OAM JP – 05 Aug 1930-07 Oct 2017

5714177 Pte Allan William ROBARTSON – 09 Jan 1945-01 Mar 2023

2783005 Pte Terence Vincent TITMUSS – 02 Sep 1945-06 May 2023



*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

The Last Post

Come home! Come Home! The last post is sounding for you to hear.
All good soldiers know very well there is nothing to fear while they do what is right, and forget all the worries they have met in their duties through the year.
A soldier cannot always be great, but he can be a gentleman and he can be a right good pal to his comrades in his squad.
So all you soldiers listen to this – Deal fair by all and you'll never be amiss.

Be Brave! Be Just! Be honest and true men!

We Brave Few

3/2491 Private James Michael McAULIFFE MM,

Place: Korea-01 Jul – 27 Jul 1953

Pte McAULIFFE was a section LMG Bren Gunner whilst the unit was holding the HOOK Sector. He had served on tour of twelve months in Korea with the 3rd Btn, and had volunteered for a second tour with the 2nd Btn. His ability as a soldier and a BREN Gunner had earned Pte McAULIFFE the admiration of his comrades and the respect of his officers.

On the night of 23/24 July Pte McAULIFFE was a member of a standing patrol which moved onto GREEN FINGER, which covered one of the main approaches to the HOOK position. On each night the patrol was engaged by an unknown number of the enemy and the patrols suffered casualties.

On the night 23/24 July the enemy withdrew after a brief fire fight and brought down heavy mortar and artillery fire which wounded five members of the patrol, and forced the patrol to pull back.

Whilst the patrol leader organised the evacuation of the casualties, Pte McAULIFFE commanded the remainder of the patrol. This he did coolly and efficiently passing back information and directing supporting fire over the patrol wireless, which he had not previously handled on patrol.

Later in the night when the enemy shelling had eased the patrol leader ordered the patrol to move to its original position. During this move Pte McAULIFFE manned the wireless and continued to pass information calmly and efficiently until he was seriously wounded and had to be evacuated.

His actions on this occasion were typical of his devotion to duty and his calm efficiency in the face of the enemy throughout the period and were an outstanding example to the remainder of his company.

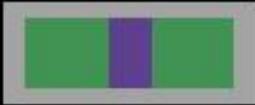
A Korean Hillside

*There is blood on the hills of Korea
'tis the blood of the brave and the true.
Where the nations they battle together
beneath the banners of red white and blue.
As we marched o'er the hills of Korea
to the hills where the enemy lay.*

*We remember our general's orders
those hills must be taken today.
So forward we went into battle
our faces unsmiling and stern,
for we know as we charge that hillside
there are many who shall not return.*

*Some thought of their wives and sweethearts,
some thought of their mothers so fair.
Yet others who plodded and stumbled
were softly saying a prayer.*

*There is blood on the hills of Korea
'tis the cost of the freedom we love.
May their names live in glory forever,
while their souls rest in heaven above.*



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.



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



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



2



II



Veterans Matters

Modernising Veteran's legislation

Australia's veterans deserve a support system that matches their sacrifices and reflects the evolving nature of their service. The current veteran's legislation is complex and adversarial and legislative reform is urgently required.

Current legislation fails to address the diverse operations our Defence forces engage in, including peacekeeping and disaster relief. All injuries sustained during service should be treated equally regardless of the operation.

The adversarial process of seeking claims approval is often detrimental to veterans' health and well-being. The Association provide a reply to the Government's proposed reform pathway of harmonising the acts under the proposed MRCA legislation. The reply can be read in full on page 13.

All the 2RAR Association asks for is clarity regarding changes to be implemented, transparency and communication to ensure veterans understand the reform's impact and benefits and most importantly a fair and comprehensive support framework for all veterans.

Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Fundraiser

A fundraiser has been set up to help deliver a National Memorial on the AWM grounds that reminds Australia of the service and sacrifice of the men and women who served in the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) during the Malayan Emergency 1955-1960 and Indonesian Confrontation 1962-1966. Further details can be found here - [Proposal for Financial Support to build a Memorial within the Australian War Memorial Precinct \(Canberra\) to recognise the men and women who served in the Malayan Emergency & Indonesian Confrontation \(fesrmemorial.org.au\)](https://fesrmemorial.org.au)

DVA Support – Diabetes Services

As a Veteran Gold Card holder, you are eligible for a range of fully funded Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) diabetes services and supports, including diabetes products, to help you manage and live well with diabetes. Access to this is through the following:

DVA Delivered products – You require to make an appointment with your health professional, either a doctor, a diabetes clinic, endocrinologist or a registered nurse, who will:

- Discuss your health needs with you
- Complete and submit the Diabetes Product order Form on your behalf to access DVA-funded diabetes products and consumables. These will be delivered to your door at no cost to you.

The DVA order form is valid for 2 years, and your health professional will provide you with a copy. This form will allow you, your healthcare professional, or your nominated representative to order 3 months supply of diabetes products. At the end of the 2 year period, your health professional will reassess your needs.

Your health professional can find a copy of the Diabetes Product Order Form at:

www.dva.gov.au/DPOform

Local Pharmacy and registration with the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) – Products and consumables can also be accessed from your local pharmacy, using your NDSS membership. If you are registered there will be no out of pocket costs for diabetes consumables that you order through your pharmacy. If you are not an NDSS member and wish to register, you can do so at www.ndss.com.au/about-the-ndss/registration

In addition to funding for diabetes memberships and diabetes products, DVA also provides:

- Participation in the Coordinated Veterans Care Program for Veteran Gold Card holders.
- Diabetes management and medicines information through the Veterans Mates program.

To find out more, see DVA website at www.dva.gov.au/diabetes or call 1800 838 372.

Weapons of the Australian Army

OWEN GUN



The Owen gun saw service with the Australian Army, Royal Australian Navy, and Royal Australian Air Force during World War II. It continued to be used by Australian forces in subsequent conflicts, including the Korean War and the Vietnam War. It was also exported to other countries, such as Papua New Guinea and Thailand.

After World War II, the Owen gun remained in service with the Australian military for several decades, eventually being phased out in the 1960s as more modern firearms became available. Today, the Owen gun is highly regarded as a symbol of Australian ingenuity and military history. It is often featured in museums and collections dedicated to firearms or military artifacts.

(Information attained from <https://VeteranWeb.asn.au/news> – Article by Ian Skennerton)

The Owen gun, also known as the Owen Machine Carbine, is an iconic firearm from Australia's military history. It was the only mass-produced Australian-designed submachine gun used during WWII and in subsequent conflicts.

The Owen gun was created by Evelyn Owen, an Australian soldier and inventor, in the early 1940s.

The design of the Owen gun was unique compared to other submachine guns of the time. It featured a top-mounted magazine, which allowed for a more compact and ergonomic design. The weapon had a distinctive look with its long, tubular magazine positioned above the barrel. This design made it easier for soldiers to fire from the prone position or in close-quarters combat.

The Owen gun had a reputation for its reliability and effectiveness in combat. It was particularly well-suited for the harsh conditions of the Pacific Theatre during World War II, where its open-bolt design proved resistant to jamming caused by sand, mud, or other debris.

Merchandise item of the Month

2 RAR Enamel Mug \$25



Support Services

AWARDS

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION - SOMALIA

Australian Defence Force personnel who served in Somalia in the 1990s performed extraordinary work in very challenging conditions and have been recognised for this effort.

The following ADF units who served in Somalia between 1992 and 1995 have been recommended for the award Meritorious Unit Citation:

- 1st Btn, Royal Australian Regiment Group (which consisted of 2 RAR soldiers)
- HMAS Tobruk
- The four UNISOM Australian Service Contingents (ASC)

Service in Somalia represented the ADF's largest land and sea operation since Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Further information about the citation is available at <https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/honours-decorations/australian-gallantry-distinguished-service-awards/meritorious-unit-citation>

The Govt will make an announcement later this year on how current and former ADF members can receive the insignia of the Meritorious Unit Citation.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM UNIT CITATION

Veterans who served in eligible units in Vietnam in 1955-66 may be entitled to the award. For more information on eligibility and how to apply for this award please visit:

<https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/medals/foreign-awards/republic-vietnam-cross-gallantry-palm-unit-citation>

Never Leave a Mate Behind

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

2RAR Association, Inc response to Australian Government proposed pathway to simplify current legislation for veteran's compensation and rehabilitation:

The proposed pathway to combine all acts under the MRCA legislation: As these proposed changes will now affect veterans who's claims are yet to be approved/submitted will this now mean there will be a 'GO SLOW' approach by DVA to arrest the current backlog of claims so that they will not be approved in time thus now forcing these claims to fall under the new MRCA banner.

Improved MRCA as the sole ongoing scheme: How is MRCA going to be improved? Yes there will likely to be greater clarity and consistency around how a claim is to be processed, however this Legislation reform booklet has no information on how the current MRCA system will be improved but to say that all other acts will be rolled into the one pathway. In this single act what are the enhancements that recognise the special nature of military service for future claims. Is there going to be improvements with how the points system for sustained injuries/illness is determined. Is the GARP going to be reviewed and improved.

Improvements to Veteran Support System: This indicates a veteran will no longer be requested to provide as much, or any, evidence in order for a claim to be accepted for certain commonly claimed and accepted conditions – Are these conditions the current injuries/illnesses that can be accessed for veterans who have just left Defence or is it a new system. This has the potential then to open up additional backlog for claims in that now all servicemen/women can claim for these certain commonly claimed and accepted conditions. What system would be put in place to stop veterans rorting the system.

Context of Budgetary constraints: As with any Government Legislation there will always be budgetary constraints placed on any new proposed system. Can this new legislation confirm that any budgetary constraints will not have any negative implications on a veteran and a veteran's claim? Would budgetary constraints make compensation claims longer or less likely to be approved? Will there be no change in the number of consultation visits or medical services provided to the veteran. Budgetary constraints have already been implemented onto other services such as education pathways, can this reform guarantee no changes to services provided to veterans.

Current Veterans Gold Card/White card: Information provided indicates that all benefits under existing schemes will continue unaffected. Therefore does the facts remain that there will be no change in the Veterans card system. Can the Legislation reform pathway provide a guarantee that the veterans cards will remain as is or is this reform now opening up for the Government to make proposed changes such as the abolishment of the Gold Card in favour of a new style of Veteran Private Health Insurance where the veteran will be forced to pay for extra's cover.

Veteran's Review Board: Would there be any improvements made to DVA claims decisions prior to going to a Veterans Review Board. Currently veterans receive a piece of paper with the claims outcome which is usually vague in the reasoning why a claim was not successful. Has consideration been given to earlier consultation process where a DVA representative sits with the veteran and discusses the reasoning why a certain claim was not approved prior to the requirement to go further to a Veterans Review Board. This earlier intervention will help the veteran better understand the reasons why a decision/non approval were made.

Veteran's Benefits: If all legislation is to now fall under MRCA, is there going to be changes to current veteran benefits that fall under the different acts. Benefits such as household services, medical devices and items for support around the home etc. Can this new pathway guarantee that these benefits and support systems won't change/be reduced/or cancelled. Currently this legislation only discusses financial matters and not benefits that support the veteran in their day to day lives.

Questions to be answered and explained in detail to all veterans: HOW? How will it be implemented, what changes will occur for existing DVA clients? How will the continued delay in processing claims be handled and how will DVA remain accountable to the veterans they serve? Any changes will always have a MAJOR impact, particularly for Veterans physical, emotional and financial wellbeing – how will this be managed or is it expected the veteran will need to read 500 + pages of legislation to know what the impacts and changes are.

Advocates: With the new proposed legislation how will current advocates continue to be able to provide sound and qualified advice especially in the transfer/changeover period. The current amount of legislation for an advocate is that immense, over complicated and large that you would need to seek legal council just so you can fully understand all the required processes. How will this new legislation make it easy for advocates to apply this legislation affectively?

For your consideration
2RAR Association, Inc



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				

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Would you prefer to receive your copy of **SUBSCRIPTIONS** Membership RINGO via email or post
 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 Rick Avery M: 0419 415 365