

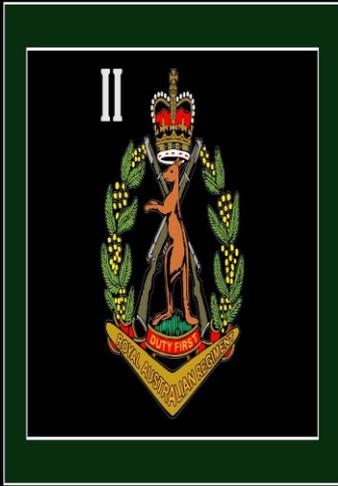


15 Aug 1973 – 01 Feb 1995

50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION- Townsville 15-20 Aug 2023

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

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

Cover Image: 2/4th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment Guard Room - See page 6 for a short history of the 2/4th Battalion.

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.

President's Report

A new year brings new challenges and new beginnings. Firstly the 2 RAR Association would like to welcome the new CO of the 2nd Battalion LTCOL Jon Wick. This will be the Commanding Officers first posting to the mighty 2nd Battalion and we wish him well during his tenure.

The Association also welcomed in two new volunteers onto the Management Committee with Will Norval and Rick Avery officially joining the team. Rick has been working as our Membership member and is now formally voted onto the Management Committee. Look out for his emails in your inbox for Membership renewals.

As with all new challenges it is also a time to reflect on our successes and shortcomings as a Management Committee. There are many items on which we can do better and we value our member's feedback on how to improve in the running of the Association. Please drop us an email or ring anytime as we appreciated the feedback.

The year ahead:

There are many events occurring around the country through 2023 with the more notable events being:

27 Jul – Korean War 70th Anniversary and signing of the Armistice (unveiling of the Korean War Memorial at Kings Park, WA)

18 Aug – Vietnam Veterans Day – Vietnam 50 commemorations for 2023 to mark 50 years since the 1973 proclamation of the end of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War. A broad awareness campaign will be conducted with a documentary to be screened on the ABC, culminating in a national commemorative service on 18 Aug in Canberra to recognise the service of all Australians who served in Vietnam to honour the sacrifices that they and their families made.

Final Word

2023 is also going to be a big year for our fellow brothers from the 2/4th Battalion with the 50th Birthday and reunion activities planned from 15-20 Aug in Townsville NQLD. We wish them all the best and hope to catch up with many of you during these celebrations.

Association State Representatives

ACT –	Michael KRUGER M: 0419 773 331
NSW –	Vacant (volunteers requested)
NQLD –	Daniel ANGUS M: 0407 449 141
SQLD –	Matt KILGOUR M: 0418 795 261
VIC –	Shaun HUGHES M: 0421 546 494
SA –	Mal ALLEN M: 0451 374 133
WA –	Alexander NIE M: 0417 993 751
NT –	Wayne WOODHOUSE M: 0499 432 315
TAS –	Vacant (Volunteer requested)

All States/territories have an unofficial Old Boys Facebook page. Search – 2RAR Old Boys and then your state/region and ask to join.



'Second to None'

Robert Althofer

President

2RAR Association, Inc

2RAR CO BIO

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JON WICK

LTCOL Wick commenced his current appointment as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (Amphibious) in December 2022. A career infantry officer, LTCOL Wick is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy, the Royal Military College and the Australian Command & Staff College.

LTCOL Wick's regimental service has focussed on command and operations appointments in the Royal Australian Regiment, specialising in parachute and amphibious operations. He has been fortunate to undertake operational service throughout the Indo-Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean, and Middle East regions. Across each deployment, LTCOL Wick has gained significant exposure to the full spectrum of operations conducted by general purpose and special operations forces.

His training experience includes a posting to the Royal Military College, where he was responsible for the instruction of warfighting theory to enable the next generation of Army's junior leaders. LTCOL Wick's representational experience includes an exchange posting with the USMC, where he predominantly served as the Assistant Operations Officer of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Following Staff College, LTCOL Wick was appointed as Staff Officer Grade 2, Domestic and Regional Operations within the Directorate of Land Operations, Army; a period which saw him manage Army's contributions to multiple disaster relief operations throughout 2019. He also commanded the Australian contingent of peacekeepers in Cyprus while fulfilling Military Assistant duties to the Force Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force.

Prior to command, LTCOL Wick was appointed as Deputy Director - Plans in the Effects branch of Military Strategic Commitments. This role placed him at the forefront of a raft of sensitive strategic matters, and saw him involved in complex decision making alongside representatives from Australia's national security community and Five-Eyes forums.

LTCOL Wick is married to his long-term partner, who has demonstrated exceptional resilience through multiple deployments and postings. Together, they are committed to the future challenges and opportunities of service.





MEMBERSHIP *your membership matters!*

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

You can renew membership on the website at:

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

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

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



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

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

Communications with the Association

*All matters are to communicated through
the Secretary.*

CONTACT DETAILS ARE:

Telephone: 0428 588 431

Email: 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

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

Postal address:

PO Box 2352, Idalia QLD 4811

MERCHANDISE ITEM OF THE MONTH

Battalion Rum – Delivered via Post: **\$95**

Battalion Rum – Pick up Townsville: **\$70**

A sweet delight for the tastebuds



2/4 RAR – A Brief History

15 Aug 1973 – 01 Feb 1995

After the War in South Vietnam ended and the cessation of National Service the Army underwent a major reorganisation. 2 RAR and 4 RAR were linked on the 15 August, 1973 to form 2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (2/4 RAR). They were the first two of the Regiments nine battalions to do so.

The Battalion was formed up on the 4 RAR parade ground by the RSM WO1 W.T.C. (Wally) Thompson. Members leaving the Battalion for other postings fell out and marched off the parade. WO1 Thompson marched the remaining soldiers to 2 RAR's parade ground and handed them over to WO1 Hall, RSM 2 RAR.

While they were away from the old 4 RAR lines the unit signs were changed to 2/4 RAR. The combined soldiers from 2 Battalion and 4 Battalion were marched back to their new lines where 4 RAR had previously resided under the direction of WO1 Ken Hall the new 2/4 RAR RSM.

The new 2nd/4th Battalion was lead off the parade ground by the Pipe Major WO2 Doug Thorenson to the 4 RAR tune of "Inverbrackie" and "Ringo" the 2 RAR Battalion quick march.

The new Battalion was charged with the task of preserving the traditions, associations and museums of the two Battalions from which it was formed.

In 1980 the unit was reorganised and trained as part of the Operational Deployment Force (ODF) in close country and conventional warfare operations.

During its time 2/4RAR deployed soldiers to areas such as Zimbabwe & Rhodesia as part of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force (3 soldiers deployed), Rifle Company Butterworth from 1975 until 1989 (12 Company rotations).

From 1990-1993 individual soldiers from the Battalion served on **OP GEMINI** with the United Nations in Cambodia as well as soldiers also serving as part of the Force Communications unit (FCU – 13 soldiers deployed). In May 1993, 2/4 RAR was tasked to provide a Rifle Platoon (12pl Delta Company) for the purpose of providing local security for Australian Army Aviation assets to OP GEMINI.

In 1993, 54 soldiers from the 2/4 Battalion were detached to 1RAR for operational service in Somalia as part of OP SOLACE. This intervention in Somalia was unique in that, not only was it the first time the United Nations had ever intervened without permission in the affairs of an independent nation it was also the first time that a Battalion Group of Australian soldiers had deployed on active service since 4 RAR/NZ had commenced its tour of South Vietnam in 1971. The Australian operation was called **Operation Solace** and involved the deployment of a Battalion Group of some 900 personnel, the majority from 1 RAR. Their mission was to provide a secure environment for the distribution of humanitarian aid, within the Humanitarian Relief sector (HRS), Baidoa, a total area of some 17000 square kilometres.



2/4RAR – Brief History cont.

During the period August 1994-August 1995 Australia deployed two contingents as part of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). A Coy 2/4 RAR deployed to Rwanda as part of the Australian Medical Support Force with the task to provide security of the base of Kigali and escort protection for the medical teams.

On 1st February, 1995 the Battalion was de-linked, with 2 RAR remaining in Townsville, Queensland and 4 RAR being formed in Holsworthy, New South Wales.

Three separate parades were conducted simultaneously with one taking place in Townsville, QLD for BHQ, Support Company, Admin Company, Alpha Company and Charlie Company, the second occurred in Butterworth Malaysia for Delta Company who were deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) and finally the third parade took place in Kigali, Rwanda for Alpha Company who were deployed as part of UNAMIR II.

Birthday: 15th August, 1973.

Motto: “Second to None” and “The Fighting Fourth” were the individual Battalion’s mottos.

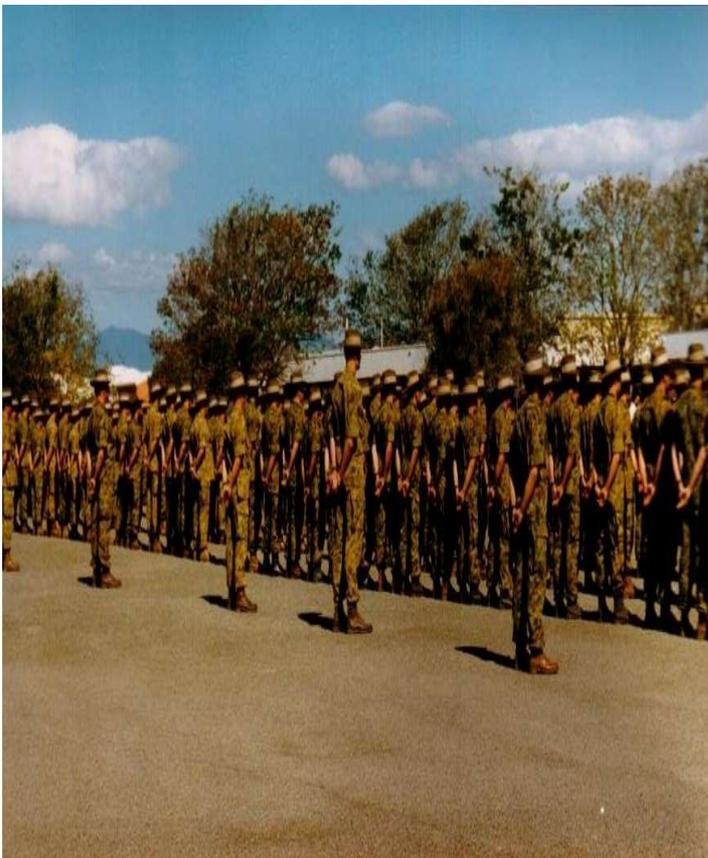
Alliances: 2 RAR - The Coldstream Guards, 4 RAR - The Irish Guards.

Band: 2 RAR - Drum and Fife (originally) and presently Irish Pipes and Drums, 4 RAR - Irish Pipes and Drums.

March: 2 RAR - 'Ringo' and 'Back in Black' for Pipes and Drums, 4 RAR - 'Inverbrackie'.

Meritorious Unit Citation: OP GEMINI (Cambodia) – Force Communication Unit (FCU) (13 soldiers)
OP TAMAR – UNAMIR II (Rwanda) – Issued to those who deployed on this operation over the period July 1994 to March 1996.

REUNION: The 2th/4th Battalion will be celebrating their time in service with a 50th Anniversary Reunion in Townsville, NQLD from 15-20 Aug 2023. Please reach out to 2/4RAR Association for more details of this event at committee@24rarassociation.com



Warriors Who Have Marched Out

12466 Lt Col David Norman CANDOW, served as Rifle Plt Sgt with 2 RAR in Korea (17 Mar 1953 to 06 Apr 1954, promoted to Captain was 2IC A Coy 2 RAR's Second Tour of Malaysia 1961-63, as OPSO (Major) with 3 RAR (12 Dec 1967 to 15 Oct 68) and had a role in the defence of FSB Coral, in the Bien Hoa Province of South Vietnam, during May 1968. He retired from the Army as a Lt Colonel. David passed away on 22 October 2018, aged 85+, A Service was held at Franklin Grove Centre, Youngtown, TAS. David is commemorated on the Townsville Grammar School War Service Honour Roll. KVAA - The Voice, August 2020.

235340 Lt Grant Alexander Charles CHASLING, Platoon Commander 5 Pl B Coy 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn in South Vietnam until September 1970 when he was promoted to Captain and appointed Adjutant for the remainder of the Battalions tour. Grant passed away on 18 Oct 2022, peacefully following a battle with liver cancer, aged 75+. Grant's wake was held on 4 February 2023 in Toowoomba QLD attended by many Army friends and colleagues. Thank you, Paul "Cowboy" Jones

3400530 Pte Harold Ernest "Harry" KNAGGS, served with 1 RAR (24 Jul 1952 to 21 Mar 1953) and 2 RAR Korea (22 Mar 1953 to 25 Jul 1953). Passed away peacefully early on 5 July 2022, aged 92+. A service honouring Harry's life was at the W.D. Rose Chapel, 221 Charman Road, Cheltenham (Private Cremation). KVAA – The Voice Dec 2022

221123, 2400687, 2411009 Pte John Joseph LEE, joined the Army in 1951 and saw Active service in Korea with 1 RAR (6 April 1952 to 06 April 1953). On RTA he was posted to 4 RAR, then 2 RAR (1957-1959) before retiring in 1960. John passed away at Goonellabah NSW on 22 November 2022, aged 91. 2 RAR Assoc Hon Chaplain Rev Graeme R Davis OAM CSM JP assisted at John's Funeral Service at Parkview Funeral Home, Goonellabah.

43427 Graham "Macca" Leslie MCLEAN, served with 4 RAR in Borneo, in South Vietnam A Coy 2 RAR (May 67 – May 68) and then 6 RAR from 1973 as Company Clerk and Orderly Room Sgt until retiring as a WO2 Chief Clerk in 1984. Graham passed away on 19 Nov 22, aged 76+. His funeral was held at Stafford Qld and a 2 RAR Banner was placed on his casket by Allan Whelan, Secretary 6 RAR Assn.



*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**

53411 WO2 Robert "Bob"/"Boof" James MILLWOOD, served with 2 RAR in Malaya 1961-1963 and 9 Pl C Coy South Vietnam 1967-1968. Bob passed away on 17 December 2022, aged 82+. Funeral service for Bob was held at Launceston RSL Club.

5714772 Sydney Alexander RILEY, Syd was a proud veteran of the 2nd Battalion in Vietnam 1967/68. Syd had been ill for several years, he passed away peacefully on Friday 06 Jan 2023.

2784084 Pte Bruce Anthony WILBY was a member of Anti-Tank Pl, 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn 1967-68. Bruce Passed away on 19 December 2022 at Claremont QLD, aged 77+. Bruce's funeral was live streamed on the 6th January 2023. Thanks to Geoff Cantrill.

We Brave Few

**5/7017 LIEUTENANT BRUCE GORDON FORDHAM BOYS,
United States Distinguished Flying Cross and United States Air Medal**

Place: Korea-1953

Lieutenant Boys, 2 RAR, distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement during a flight as an observer in an unarmed T-6 aircraft while serving on temporary duty with the 6147th Tactical Control Group, Fifth Air Force, on 26 June 1953.

During a tactical control mission to the western front in Korea, Lieutenant Boys expertly directed four flights of fighter-bomber aircraft in attacks on enemy strong points from which more than ten thousand enemy troops were attacking friendly forces.

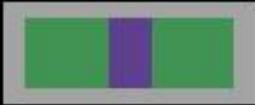
After making a low altitude reconnaissance of the target area, Lieutenant Boys contacted the fighter-bombers and led them to the targets.

Despite intense and accurate flak and small arms fire, Lieutenant Boys remained at low altitude over the target for more than one hour and thirty minutes directing the sixteen fighter-bombers in their attack runs.

The strikes effectively destroyed twelve bunkers, seven personnel firing bays, four personnel shelters, and also damaged two mortar positions, five caves and two hundred yards of trenches and cut a vital supply road.

Through his high personal courage, keen airmanship and devotion to duty, Lieutenant Boys was instrumental in the successful defeat of an enemy attack and was a source of inspiration to those in the Far East Air Forces and the Australian Regular Army





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



Veterans Matters

Veterans' Legislation Reform Consultation Pathway

Australian Government has announced that an undertaking consultation process will take place with the veteran community about a proposed pathway to simplify the veterans' legislative framework.

As you all know, the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide found that the complexity of the veterans' system is adversely affecting the mental health of veterans.

The proposal being put forward for consultation from the Government is for a future model where all claims would be considered under the existing Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) rather than three legislative schemes as is currently the case.

Information about the consultation process can be found at <https://www.dva.gov.au/legislationconsultation2023> with written submissions to be provided back by 12 May 23.

So what does this mean to the veteran?

- Establishing an improved MRCA as the sole ongoing scheme.
- Closing VEA and DRCA to new compensation related claims.
- Grandparenting all existing arrangements to ensure there is no reduction in entitlements currently being or previously received by veterans. Current payment rates are maintained and indexed normally.

-A single ongoing Act covering all future claims for compensation from a future date, irrespective of when and where the veteran served, or when their injury or illness occurred.

The 2RAR Association intends to provide a written submission on behalf of our veterans and any feedback you may have in this process is appreciated.

Volunteers Wanted – Vietnam Remembrance

2023 marks 60 years since the arrival of the Australian Army Training Team (AATT) in South Vietnam on 03 Aug 1962 – and 50 years since the withdrawal of combat troops in 1972.

The Vietnam Veterans Vigil (VVV) will provide surviving Vietnam veterans and the Australian people the opportunity to participate in meaningful ways right across the nation and overseas in recognising the national loss and paying their respects to those who were Killed in Action and to show solidarity with their loved ones for their loss.

It is intended to hold a Service of Remembrance at every grave or Commemorative plaque site across the nation and overseas on 03 Aug 2023.

VVV is asking for volunteers to co-ordinate each Commemorative Service. More information can be found at vvv.org.au for those who wish to volunteer support to this collated virtual Gallery of Remembrance to serve as an enduring legacy of Remembrance for all Australians, now and into the future.

PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM

Legacy VEA and DRCA

Existing claims under the VEA and DRCA before the specified commencement date would remain under grandparented provisions of those Acts

The single ongoing Act

New claims from a specified commencement date irrespective of when and where the veteran served, or when their injury, illness or death occurred

Veterans Matters

YOUR NOT IN THE ARMY NOW – STEPS TO TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE



Front Cover of RINGO Jun 10th 1967

Serving Members - Planning for civilian Life

When considering separation from Defence the following steps will help guide you through your transition journey:

Step 1: Talk with DVA on base or the 2 RAR Association about available DVA programs, help for you and your family to gain access to support networks and assistance with online services, such as claiming for injuries/illnesses sustained during service. Visit www.dva.gov.au/obas or call DVA to make an appointment.

Step 2: Register online with My Service where you can lodge and manage your claims, update contact details and view your digital Veteran Card. Visit www.dva.gov.au/myservice.

Step 3: Apply for a Stepping out program through Open Arms – gives you and your partner information and skills to manage your transition to civilian life. Visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

Step 4: If looking to transition into employment check the Veterans' Employment Program website for information on translating your military skills, businesses that support the employment of veterans and provide career opportunities to veterans. Visit www.veteransemployment.gov.au

Step 5: Talk to a respected advocate or to the 2RAR Association about your entitlements. We recommend you lodge any claims as soon as possible prior to leaving the service for any health conditions you believe have been caused by your service, from minor to series injuries. You may be also eligible for compensation payments if you have a physical or psychological impairment or experience a loss of earnings due to your Defence service.

Making the transition from military to civilian life can be a big change for you and your family. DVA and the 2RAR Association is there to help with:

- Planning ahead
- Regular health checks
- Individual and family counselling
- Accessing your entitlements
- Online claiming
- Wellness Information
- Health Treatment
- Employment Resources
- Rehabilitation

Support Services

Never Leave a Mate Behind

Korean Lament

Just over the Manchurian border, Korea is the spot.

We are doomed to our lifetime, in this land that God forgot.

Down with the snakes and lizards, down where the men are few.

Right in the middle of nowhere and a helluva way from home too.

We swear, we sweat, we grumble; it's more than we can stand.

We're not a bunch of convicts, but defenders of our land.

We are soldiers of an active force drawing our monthly pay,
defending our people and country for thirty three bob a day.

Living on our memories or our waiting gals,
hoping that while we're away they haven't married pals.

The time we spent in the Army, the good times that we missed,
Boys, we hope the draft don't get you, for God's sake don't enlist.

Now when we get to heaven, St. Peter will surely yell:
they're REOS from Korea Lord and they've seen enough of hell.

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





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I also encourage all to find H-Hour With Hawks on Facebook or Instagram and give me a like, I may be able to make some money one day if enough people like the Podcast.

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

H-Hourwithhawks@bigpond.com

Cheers
Hawks
"Second to None"




CUSTOM HAND MADE KNIVES

Find us on Facebook : facebook.com/gunnyforged
Find us on Instagram: [@gunnyforged](https://instagram.com/gunnyforged)





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

Email: 2rarassoc@gmail.com

(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: _____

Years Served in the Bn

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

Deployments

Year				
AO				

Honours and Awards

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

Would you prefer to receive your copy of RINGO via post or email

SUBSCRIPTIONS (Membership Year: 1 November to 31 October) yearly or

Multiple-Years \$20, \$40 (2 yrs), \$60 (3 yrs), \$80 (4 yrs), \$100 (5 yrs)

Applicant's Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Receipt Required? YES/NO

Hard copy send to: **The Secretary, 2 RAR Association, PO Box 2352 Idalia, QLD 4811**

Email 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.