

# February 2017 Centurion

## 1ST ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment deploy to Iraq to task Group Taji 4, being the first time the Regiment has served as a unit commanded by 1AR Officers since 1968 during the Vietnam war.



Commander of the 1st Brigade, Brigadier Ben James, along with Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Brigade, Warrant Officer Class One Matt Sullivan, recently farewelled members of Task Group Taji 4, as they begin their journey to Iraq to start their new roles, training the Iraqi Army, as part of Operation Okra.

Task Group Taji 4 soldiers, sailors and airmen, have worked hard over the last few months, undertaking realistic training scenarios to prepare them for their roles overseas. The combined Task Group consists of around 300 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel drawn largely from the 1st Brigade, alongside approximately 100 New Zealand Defence Force personnel.

Images by Craftsman Priyantha Malavi Arachchi



### Theatres of Operation

Japan

Vietnam - Battle Honours  
◦ Coral - Balmoral  
◦ Hat Dich  
◦ Binh Ba

Rhodesia

Cambodia

East Timor

Iraq

Solomon Islands

Afghanistan

Our Soldiers Today  
click on

<http://armynews.reelviewdigital.com/#folio=1>

### Newsletter Contributions

The views and comments expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributor and not necessarily endorsed by the current committee.

Whilst every care regarding all information is exercised, it should not necessarily be taken as absolute historical fact.

#### Important:

If you change home, postal or email addresses, please advise Treasurer.

If at all possible please provide an email address for Newsletter distribution.



Paratus

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**“2017 Membership Fees are now due. Please help us by paying on time”**



Junior leaders or Non-Commissioned Officers are essential elements of an Army. Warrant Officer Class One Jason Robinson (RSM 1AR) from Task Group Taji 4 discusses some of the finer points of leadership with the Iraq graduates of the junior leaders course at Taji military complex, Iraq.



The Deputy Commander of joint Task Force 633 Brigadier Neil Sweeny (left) with Commanding Officer of Task Training unit Lieutenant Colonel Chris Gardiner (CO 1AR) at Taji Military Complex Iraq.



Mark Reid (SA Rep 1AR Association) presents a farewell gift to the deploying group from A Squadron. "On behalf of the Commanding Officer and the soldiers of the Regiment we would like to thank the Association for this very thoughtful gift."

## Care packages to our troops overseas

This is the first time the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment has been deployed as a unit since 1968, during the Vietnam War



Important Message  
from  
Operations Manager  
Michael Dunn

Now is the time to support and recognize our fellow Black Hats at the pointy end.

The association is embarking on a project to send what we believe are quality care packages to our troops overseas.

Ideally we would like to get them there in the days leading up to ANZAC day.

We have sourced items from local manufactures including Association labelled products such as:

- Stubby coolers
- Beanies (ideal for the cold conditions over there)
- As well as some snack foods.
- Vegemite
- Razor blades

Kevin Bell (President) has written an open letter, which will go into every package, along with a membership form etc.

Your help in this venture will go a long way to making our soldiers feel they still have a connection with home, so we are asking for a donation from all ex members

of the Regiment whether you are in the association or not, it doesn't matter.  
Many thanks

*Mick*

Please send all donations to:

### On Line banking.

BSB 033 682 Account 147333

Include your **NAME** and the word "**CARE PACKAGE**".

### Cheque / Money Order made out to 1st Armoured Regiment Association

Include your **NAME** and the word "**CARE PACKAGE**".

And mail to:

Treasurer

75 Bluehills Blvd

Pakenham VIC 3810



Delivering the Care Packages at Edinburg SA to WO 2 Justin Hogg

A Special thank you to our Care Package Donors For their outstanding generosity towards the service members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment currently deployed on active service in the Middle East.

## The Dollar Shave Club

<http://au.dollarshaveclub.com/>



Ivan Eckermann – Merchandising Manager – Drakes Foodland, receiving Certificate of Appreciation from Mark Reid SA Rep. (left) and Mick Dunn Ops Mgr. (right) 1ARA



Task Group Taji 4 members take time to talk to their loved ones while waiting for their flight at Darwin International Airport Northern Territory

A message to the soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment currently deployed in the Middle East



## The First Armoured Regiment Association



### From the President's desk....

As a Nation we have provided many brave young service men and women to many conflicts around the world over the last 150 years. Australian Service men and women have distinguished themselves in many conflicts over the years. Bravery, courage and sacrifice are common features of Australian Service. The men and women of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment are amongst the best trained Tank Soldiers in the world.

An overseas deployment is a serious challenge for all and we as the Association feel the need to reach out to our regimental soldiers of today and offer both our support and a care package that may give each of you some comfort during your deployment. A little bit of Australian products will remind you all of home. We hope and pray that you will all come home safe and sound and share your experiences and stories with the Association for many years to come.

You will no doubt encounter some difficult situations but we hope you all will overcome these situations. We understand the arduous conditions that you will work under. We as an Association wish you every success and we hope that we can bring a smile to your day.

One of the great aspects of Regimental Service is camaraderie. We are a band of brothers across the decades and generations who share our friendship and loyalty. We need to look to the future for the next generation of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment soldiers and to have an Association that can support these soldiers in to the future. We need to have a vibrant membership of all generations to lead us into the future. Attached is a membership form. Please consider the membership option as we all need to support each other.

From our Patron and every Association Member, our message is to Stay Safe.

Regards

*Kevin Bell*

Kevin J Bell  
President  
1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association





## Patron

MAJGEN Craig Orme DSC, AM, CSC, (Retd)



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### Association Web Site

<http://www.paratus.org.au>

## ACT, Queensland and Far North Queensland (new position) Representatives Wanted !!!!!

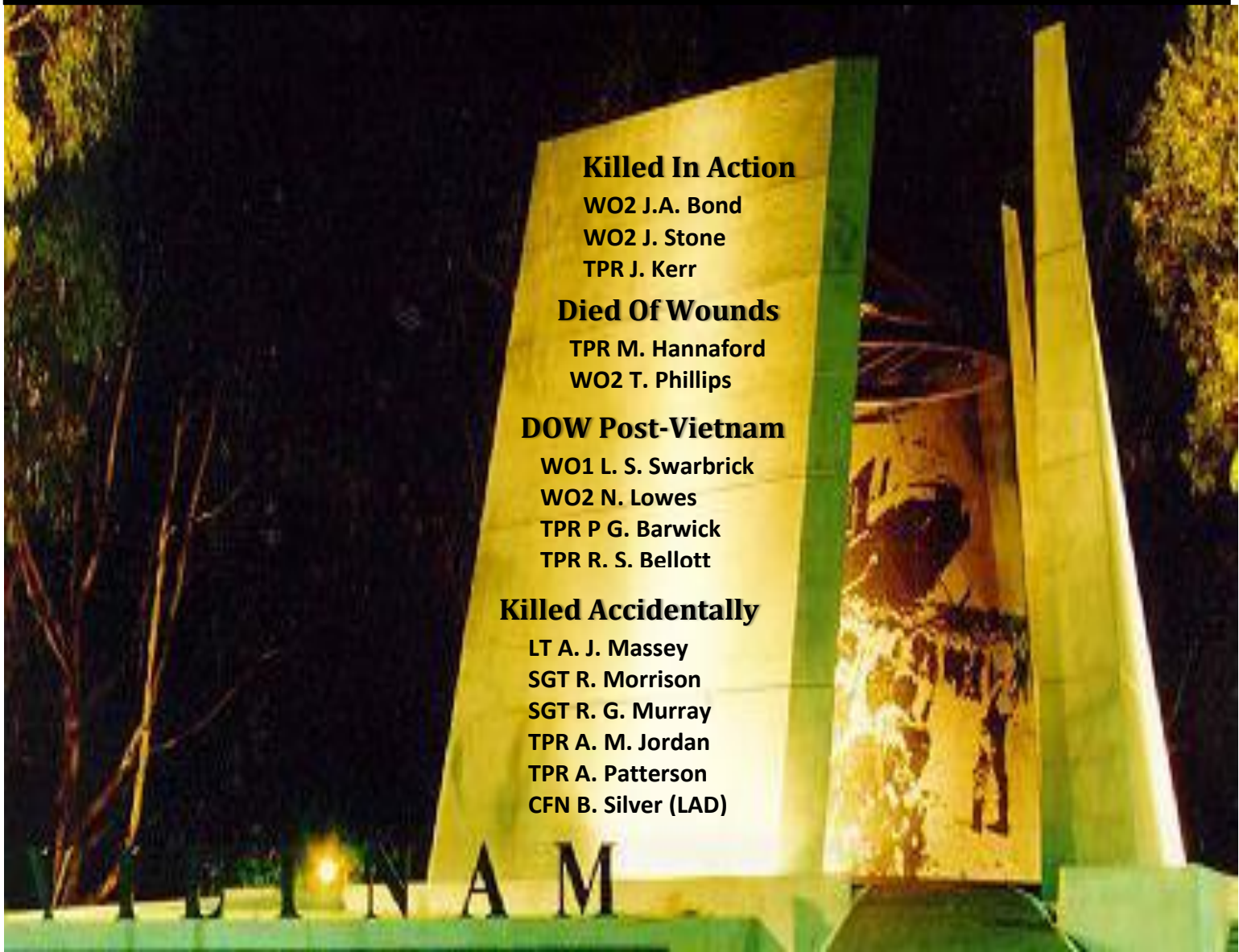
Michael Dunn has volunteered to take over the position of Operations Manager. Richard Stanios has volunteered to take over position of Treasurer. Peter Still has volunteered to be the NT Rep., Kevin Briant WA Rep., Jim Soul Tasmania Rep. and Mick Payne NSW Rep. They have been approved as stand in positions, until all positions are advertised and voted on at the 2017 AGM. ACT and QLD Reps, Currently vacant

**All State Rep positions will be advertised prior to 2017 AGM.**

Expression of Interest to the Secretary Trevor Watts 0467 327 562 or [secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)



The following Honour Roll is dedicated to those 1st Armoured Regiment soldiers that have made the ultimate sacrifice



**Killed In Action**

WO2 J.A. Bond  
WO2 J. Stone  
TPR J. Kerr

**Died Of Wounds**

TPR M. Hannaford  
WO2 T. Phillips

**DOW Post-Vietnam**

WO1 L. S. Swarbrick  
WO2 N. Lowes  
TPR P G. Barwick  
TPR R. S. Bellott

**Killed Accidentally**

LT A. J. Massey  
SGT R. Morrison  
SGT R. G. Murray  
TPR A. M. Jordan  
TPR A. Patterson  
CFN B. Silver (LAD)

**New members:**

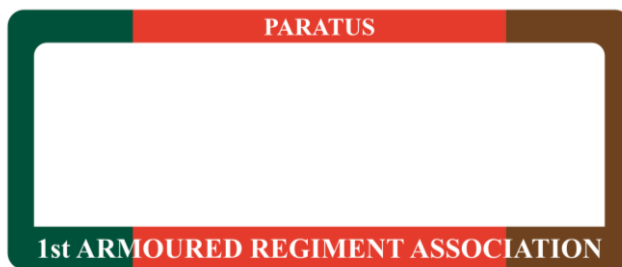
Trevor Hyde  
Francis Bongiorno  
Robert Pidgeon  
David Thevenet  
Gavan Vigar  
Tim Wood

**Donations 169005:**

Robert Jay  
Kevin Jaenke  
Ivan Maher  
Bruce Holt  
Rob Millstead.

**Association Number Plate Frames**

\$18 - one number plate frame plus \$10 postage.  
\$33 - set of 2 number plate frames plus \$10 postage.



Contact the Treasurer  
Richard (Dick) Stanios  
0488 026 881

**Vale:**

Craftsman Peter Raymond BASSETT (NS)  
Bede McKenzie former RAAC Officer  
Billy Waldock, Vietnam Vet  
Nathan Shanahan A Sqn 1 AR.

For all other items see Web Page  
<http://www.paratus.org.au/store>

## Reflections of a trooper during one day of Operation Hammersley

Hi Peter,

I recently attended an A Sqn parade to commemorate Cambrai Day at Edinburgh Barracks and had the pleasure of presenting an Operation Hammersley award to one of the diggers on behalf of the association. It prompted me to put pen to paper (so to speak) and write a piece about my reflections of one day of Operation Hammersley.

I have attached my reflection for your consideration for inclusion in the next issue of Centurion.

Regards

Ken Beatty

18<sup>th</sup> February 1970

A Sqn lines, 1ATF area, Nui Dat

I was Trooper Beatty then. My unit at the time was Forward Delivery Troop. A holding unit for A Sqn 1ARMD Regt and B Sqn 3 Cav Regt reinforcements.

Daily routine commenced as normal – clean personal weapon, 1<sup>st</sup> parade vehicles, have breakfast etc. Very early in the day the SSM (John *Nobby* Hawton) called for hands to the ammo magazine to load trucks and Chopper slings with 20 pounder main armament and MG ammo. 2Tp had been in heavy contact late yesterday and evening. As a trooper you only know what flows from the CP officially or unofficially.

Consequently the morning was fairly active for those back at the Sqn. 2 Tp was in heavy contact again around a VC bunker system and more ammo was required to be delivered by slung loads under a Huey chopper.

After the morning's physical work lugging 20pdr ammo, lunch was a welcome break. While I was consuming roasted roll of turkey loaf covered in lashings of mint jelly (US rations – never seen mint jelly before) I was tapped on the shoulder by an NCO telling me to get my butt over to Zero Bravo (an SHQ M113) as I was now the designated driver for that vehicle and that it was leaving in 30 minutes to the Long Hais. With globs of mint jelly blending with my shirt I took a handover from the driver who had only 7 or so days before returning to Australia and was therefore considered "too short" to be heading out on operations.

So there I was at the controls of Zero Bravo charging off down the road towards a serious "shit fight" as was obvious to me now as it was coming through the Sqn and Tp net. On board Zero Bravo was Crew Comd LCpl Peter Best, Sqn 2IC CAPT Ben Bowd and Sqn SSM WO2 John Hawton. The convoy also included 4Tp (Lt Dick Cumper) reacted to support 2Tp and a composite Tp of SHQ tanks (Lt Angus McNeilage).

When the convoy moved onto the fire trail we were being directed towards 2Tp by Sqn OC, MAJ Jack Chipman who was overhead in a Bell helicopter.



I was carefully tracking the tank in front to avoid running over a mine. There were a number of creek crossings along the way and the M113 had no trouble with these and generally got through them quicker than the Centurion..... until coming out of one of these crossings, while following the track of the vehicle in front, I managed to belly Zero Bravo on a tree stump. There we were rotating left or right depending which stick I pulled but going nowhere.

Eventually the tank behind gave us a push off and away we went. Now, as we had been left behind, it was easy to follow the trail of the leading tank until I came to a fork in the fire trail. Left or right? Both trails had tank tracks. I took the left of the fork. Wrong decision as eventually the OC overhead said that that fire trail had not been cleared, "Turn right now" he said, "and to cut across the scrub and catch up with the lead tank of 4Tp".

On arrival at the 2Tp location we found a high level of activity. Tanks were being re-bombed. The grunts of C Coy 8RAR and 2Tp B Sqn 3Cav preparing for another assault into the bunker system.



83 Alpha – a mortar track had been destroyed with 2 crew KIA and 5 WIA. The vehicle was still in the bunker system and the purpose of the next assault was to recover 83 Alpha as light would soon begin to fade. It would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that 2Tp would assault that bunker system that day.

At the FUP, I recall 8 or 10 tanks in line abreast about 5m apart. A company of infantry 2 platoons up behind the tanks. Sqn 21C CAPT Ben Bowd dismounted with a radio on his back and alongside the Infantry Coy OC to assist with Inf/Tk coordination. 2Tp B Sqn 3 Cav was to protect the flanks of the assault group. Cobra gunships were to attack the bunkers and flanks. Artillery was pounding in.

At H Hour the assault started with tanks moving forward at walking pace firing main gun and machine guns.

Traverse fire, traverse fire - until the tanks had advanced past 83 Alpha allowing the tank dozer to come around and push the still burning carrier away from the bunkers. Lt Brennan (2Tp) jumped off his tank and recovered a 50 cal MG that had been blown off the mortar carrier earlier in the day.

With the carrier recovered we all withdrew 300m from the bunkers to a clearing and formed all round defence. It was almost dark and the perimeter was cleared by fire. I saw Lt Brennan with a number of wounds to his hands, his crew told me they were shrapnel from the 9 RPGs fired at them earlier in the day. When he saw them coming he

ducked down but left his hands up on the cupola ring. I remember that night of the 18<sup>th</sup> February vividly. Continuous indirect fire was called onto the bunker system and surrounding area. We had at call artillery as well as US Navy gunfire, US air force Phantom fighter bombers and Snoopy gunships. To assist aircraft in targeting, two tanks at either end of the leaguer would pinpoint a location with their spotlights. This went on all night.

That was my day on Operation Hammersley, my first day. Apart from my recollections of that day in February, A Sqn suffered 2 WIA while 3 Cav suffered 2 KIA and 14 WIA. C Coy 8RAR 11 WIA. As a result of their actions on that day, Lt Jack Brennan, Cpl Garry Gott and LCpl Peter Moore of A Sqn were mentioned in despatches. Garry Gott was injured when he and Peter Moore dismounted and while under fire, attempting to attach a tow cable to the destroyed mortar track.

As always – A Sqn got the job done.

**Possumus**



**THE RAAC CORPORATION**  
(ACN 156 250 958)  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

**Noel Mc Laughlin**  
**Chairman**

1 October, 2016

**GENERAL**

Since the 2015 AGM, the Corporation has been working quietly but effectively on a number of matters, not necessary big ticket items but very important nonetheless, including involvement in a number of advocacy matters on an individual basis; viz

**Single Path Appeals Process**

Member Associations will recall my earlier emails regarding the single-path (VRB) appeals process for current and former AFD members subject to the jurisdiction of MRCA 2004.

The reporting period resulted in a very successful venture for the Corporation in terms of it taking a leadership role for the legislative amendments related to the implementation of a single path appeals process for current and former AF members subject to the provisions of MRCA 2004. Unfortunately, before the draft Bill became law on 1 May 2016, the prorogation of Parliament in April meant the Bill came off the table and it was back to square one. The Corporation has since then, been requested by the National President DFWA/ADSO David Jamison to pursue this issue again and rally all ASDO members behind us. That was done at the August pre-ESORT meeting.

On 1 September 2016, Parliament passed the **Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Single Appeal Path) Bill 2016** which contains **Schedule 24** containing all provisions sought to have the single-path appeal process enshrined in law to give serving and former ADF members access to a more equitable merits review appeals process via the VRB and the AAT and access to the provision of costs being awarded in the event of a successful AAT appeal in

Gentlemen of Armour,

I am pleased to present to the Corporation's Member Associations, Advisory Board, and the Corps, my Annual Report, for the reporting period 6 October 2015 to 5 October, 2016.

**FIRSTLY**

**My sincere and warmest congratulations** to all current and former RAAC members who received awards in the 2016 Australia Day and 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours. Your awards are thoroughly well-deserved and reflect great credit upon each and every one of you.

**Changing of the Guard**

The posting chain has struck with the HOC Brig Mark Brewer handing over the reins to the incoming HOC, Brig Chris Mills, WEF 30/9/16.

I shall miss the outgoing HOC very much. He has, since taking the reins of the Corps proven to be a very good friend and ally to the Corporation.

I wish Mark very success in his future appointments and welcome his successor

Brig Mills. I look forward to continuing good relations between the new HOC and the Corporation.



certain circumstances. That does not apply to legal Aid. The commencement for the provisions of **Schedule 24** is “later of 1 January 2017 and after the Bill receives Royal Assent”.

### **Mefloquine and Tafenoquine Veterans Group**

The issue of Mefloquine (Lariam) and Tafenoquine toxicity and its catastrophic effects have been transmitted to all Member Associations and Advisory Board members. The Corporation continues to take a leadership role in this matter.

In May this year, I approached Roger Powell to seek his assistance in reaching out to his colleagues at level, to enquire if they were in a position to assume the role of Champion/Patron of this veterans’ group to help them gain traction and provide a degree of strategic advice and support.

I am pleased to report that Roger has spoken to **Maj Gen Ian Gordon AM (Ret’)** who is the National Patron of the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans’ Association (APPVA) and Ian has agreed to come on board.

Equally pleasing is the fact Roger has also agreed to come on board and assist as well. Both eminent persons have a considerable knowledge of bureaucracies and the Defence bureaucracy, in particular.

Roger’s and Ian’s support will also be governed by their available bandwidth given their other commitments. Their roles will not conflict with the ongoing overarching lobbying support currently being undertaken by ADSO.

Their role will essentially be that of Senior Advisors/Mentors to Dr Jane Quinn and her veteran stakeholders and will include assistance with development of a business plan and other related matters.

The group now has a formal title – the **Australian Quinoline Veterans and Families Association (AQVFA)** and in August, prepared a draft Strategic Plan to govern their future activities which will be proofed by their two Advisors.

The Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) has developed a 10-page SOP for Suicide and attempted suicide for both operational and non-operational service.

### **Defence Reserves Association (DRA)**

In April, I made representations on behalf of the Corporation to the Chief Executive of ADSO Alf Jaugietis, to having the DRA given a place at the Ex-Services Round Table (ESORT). The corporate influence both military and civilian, that senior members of DRA can bring to the table is considerable. From the Corporation’s perspective this additional firepower can, from a lobbying point of view, be to the advantage of current and former RAAC members.

I was informed that in 2015, senior ADSO members were unanimously in support of this occurring. The concern was that the table could get too crowded and unwieldy which could present a problem. ESORT is a creature of

of DVA and is overseen by the Departmental Secretary Simon Lewis and the Deputy President Repatriation Commission Craig Orme. The Department has the final say in the composition of ESORT.

I have continued to lobby on behalf of DRA’s admission and in August was informed that all senior ADSO members remain overwhelmingly in support of DRA’s admission and that the Secretary and Craig Orme are also still in support. I was advised there may be good news closer to the end of the year. I am pleased to now advise that DRA is now a member of ADSO.

### **Senate Matters**

In September, the Corporation was requested by both the National President and Executive Director ADSO/DFWA to take a leadership role in drafting a statement for tendering to the Senate Inquiry into Suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel. That has now been completed and submitted.

The fact ADSO/DFWA specifically requested the Corporation to “take the lead” on such a hugely important document, is clear evidence of the respect in which the Corporation is held by ADSO.

### **Veterans’ Advocacy**

The Corporation undertook to provide advocacy support to ex-Sgt John ‘Tiny’ O’Shea in respect of a decision by Defence Honours and Awards to refuse his application for issue of the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm Leaf Citation (CGWP).

A detailed submission seeking an internal review accompanied by a considerable body of evidence was, based on the Advisory Board’s recommendation, submitted through the Corps RSM to HOC with a request that HOC act as an intervener in this matter. The decision was subsequently overturned on 15/9/16 and Tiny will receive his award in due course. The Corps RSM has generously undertaken to have this arranged and has been in contact with Tiny.

It’s a matter of great pride that the Corporation has been able to go into bat successfully, for members of that iconic Troop, both at an individual and collective level in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Consistent with all Member Associations’ focus on Welfare for their members and the wider Black Hat family, the Corporation actively and successfully pursues matters related to veterans’ advocacy not only at an individual level but as a whole of Corporation level through ADSO/DFWA for the betterment of former RAAC members and in particular, our key stakeholder base of all serving RAAC members from the HOC down.

### **Hinton Scholarship**

After two years, the matter of the Hinton Scholarship coming within the umbrella of the Corporation has been concluded. I wish to express my deepest appreciation and

sincere thanks to Peter Still and Graeme Browne for their unstinting efforts in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion. In addition, I also wish to express my sincere thanks to Peter Branagan, Ian Smith and the other RAACA Trustees who took part in this exercise. It has been a long road.

The Trust now has a new home and will continue to be managed and operated by the RAACA Trustees, so appointed. A new 28-Clause Trust Deed has been drafted by me for use by the Trustees. The Corporation as represented by the Board of Directors, will act as Appointor.

The Trustees will be required to provide at the end of each Financial Year, an Annual Report on the financial position of the Fund to RAACA Member Branches and the RAAC Corporation.

## **ATTENDANCES**

**February 2016** – Melbourne, attended in company with Tony Crook, the ADSO National Leadership Group Conference. This is the first time since November 2013 ADSO has conducted this conference. Being an election year, it was considered a priority to meet in order address in fuller detail, matters that have been exercising ADSO's thoughts over the past two years. The issues discussed enable ADDSO/DFWA to put matters to the ESO Round Table (ESORT) leaders group for them to address at senior ADF and Ministerial/Departmental level.

**March 2016** – School of Armour, attended the Corps Capability Conference and Dinner.

**May 2016** – Brisbane, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regts Assn EGM in Brisbane, which was called to discuss winding up or retaining the Assn. The Assn is to continue and remains a Member Assn of the Corporation.

**June 2016** – Mulwala NSW, represented the Corporation as part of *Operation Reunite*, the funeral and re-interment at Mulwala of Tpr Tony Holland 1 APC Sqn, tragically killed in SVN in 1966.

**July 2016** – Seymour/Puckapunyal, attended the 1AR Assn 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration and AGM in Seymour.

**August 2016** – School of Armour - represented the Corporation at the presentation of the Student of Merit award for the 1/2016 APC Section/Patrol Commander's Course. This included a presentation to the Student of Merit of a book donated and sponsored by the 3 7 4 Cav Regts Assn.

Townsville - Represented the Corporation at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Long Tan. Townsville is considered to be the spiritual home of 1 APC Sqn and 3 Cav Regt, post-Vietnam.

**August 2016** – Attendances at the pre-ESORT meetings continue.

Member Associations have received reports stemming from my attendance at this venue.

**September 2016** – Beaudesert, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Cav Regts Assn AGM.

The decision was taken to rename the Association to B Squadron 3/4 Cavalry Regiment Association – a move considered by the Association's leadership to be more in keeping with the post-1980 service of the Sqn, its future plans for standing the unit up at SOA and to give the former members of the Squadron a rallying point for membership, support and camaraderie.

The change will require an alteration to the Constitution's Rules and final approval from the Qld **Office of Fair Trading (OFT)**. Action on that will commence in November for submission after the Christmas holidays. Until such time as OFT approve the name and Rule changes, the Association will continue to operate under its current name.

There will be changes to the Corporation's Liability Insurance Schedule as a consequence and also to the Licensing Agreement related to accessing the SOA Sgts Mess which comes within the purview of Defence's Property Managers DTZ and the SOA Sgts Mess, to enable the Association to hold approved commemorative functions.

Canberra – attended HQ DVA in company with VP DFWA Advocacy, DFWA Executive Director and the RAAF Assn's VP Advocacy, Entitlements and Support RAA. Met with Deputy Secretary DVA Ms Liz Cosson AM CSC, to discuss the Senate Inquiry into Suicide by Veterans and Ex-service Personnel and the Lighthouse Project.

## **A Personal Commentary**

If one examines the contacts each Member Association of the Corporation has and multiply that by 12, add to the mix of contacts, those of the Advisory Board and the Directors, taken individually or collectively, that equates to a considerable amount of firepower. That firepower plus that afforded to the Corporation through its membership of ADSO and where required support from the Corps, is increased further.

It is not an exaggeration to contend, the Corporation is eminently well-placed in terms of being able to punch above its weight just by the sheer volume of contacts all of which give the Corporation significant leverage and lobbying power. This has in my view, been amply demonstrated by not only the Senate submission but other matters addressed in this report.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

It is with great pleasure I acknowledge with deep gratitude the contributions of the following persons:

### **The Representative Honorary Colonel RAAC.**

Again, Roger Powell has continued to be a Godsend to me as a mentor and spiritual adviser. Our monthly Toast and Vegemite sessions, continue to be a tremendous source of sound and cogent advice to me. I remain deeply grateful to Roger for giving so generously of his time.

### **The HOC and Corps RSM**

The support of the current RAAC leadership in the form of the outgoing HOC and the Delegate to the Corporation, the Corps RSM, continues to be nothing short of outstanding. I am greatly indebted to both gentlemen for their continued support and advice. In his capacity as the Delegate of the HOC to the Corporation, the Corps RSM continues to be an excellent sounding board for me and a very valuable source of advice and wise counsel.

We are truly blessed with the quality and level of support from both gentlemen throughout the reporting period and look forward to continuing good relations with the Corps RSM and the new HOC.

### **The Directors - Peter Still, Graeme Brown and Tony Crook**

The level of communication between myself and my fellow Directors remains high and intense. Their support, sound advice and deep involvement in managing the affairs of the Corporation is something all Member

Associations and Advisory Board members can be very proud of and have complete confidence in.

### **The Advisory Board**

Communications between myself and the Advisory Board is remains high and is utilised as and when required. Thank you gentlemen from the bottom of my heart for your support, wise counsel and invaluable advice throughout the year.

### **The Executive Council**

Gentlemen, what can I say other than to express my sincere thanks to all Council members for your continued support over the past 12 months.

As stated in my 2015 report and restated here again, you are exemplary ambassadors for your constituent Associations, all of whom can be comfortable in the knowledge you continue to do good things on behalf of your Ordinary Members.

That concludes my report. I commend it to you all and I my fellow Directors and Advisory Board members, look forward to continuing to being of service to you, in the coming year.

**Noel Mc Laughlin**  
**Chairman**  
**RAAC Corporation**

**From:** Haynes, John COL

**Subject:** Attendance at the Boer War Memorial Dedication

Please ask all Black Hats to look at the Web Site [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au). Page 1 has a form which on the reverse has a tear off slip to send in to our office. An admittance card will be returned.

Just to reiterate this memorial commemorates the predecessors of our RAAC troopers of today, almost all the Ozzies who went to the Boer War were mounted troopers.

Cheers JH



*Renowned Melbourne sculptor, Louis Laumen completed the first of four statues and has started on the second. NBWMA President, Colonel John Haynes (OAM) Ret'd. Stands in front of the 1.5 times life size Mounted Trooper which also features Detailed and accurate Boer War kit and equipment*

**Now Completed**  
**For details of Dedication**  
**Ceremony see**  
**[www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au)**



# 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

## President's Report

Kevin Bell

February 2017

When I was elected to the position of president back in July 2016 we had many challenges ahead of us as a committee.

We had been advised by a group of members that they believed our 2015 "Own Rules" constitution was invalid. This matter was a serious concern for the committee. We received advice from Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) that the 2015 own rules constitution was not valid due to procedural and process errors. We sought independent legal advice from a randomly selected lawyer of three recommended by CAV. His advice was supportive of the view expressed by CAV. This meant that we reverted to the "Model Rules" constitution and therefore the 2015 Disciplinary decision to expel Mr Bruce Cameron MC from the association was invalid as per previous information sent to all members. Bruce has been reinstated as a member and retains his life membership.

Now we all move on. We have many things to do for the future. Under the guidance of Mark Reid and Committee the planning is well under way for the 2018 Adelaide reunion. This will be an outstanding event. The main function will be at the Adelaide Cricket ground. We aim to try a range of different cities and venues over the next few years e.g. Sydney, Brisbane. I would appreciate feedback on this approach? Mark is doing a great job setting out the foundations of the organisation for 2018.

Mick Dunn our Operations Manager is organising the care packages program for the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment soldiers serving in the Middle East. There are several companies that are sponsoring products for the care packages. We hope these packages will bring a smile to our gallant diggers serving overseas.

These packages will be in place for delivery on or about ANZAC Day. This process will be repeated for the Christmas season for our current soldiers serving overseas and will be on going whilst we have 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment soldiers serving overseas.

The association has an important role to play in supporting our returned veterans both young and old in to the future. Our Operations Manager has been given the task of engaging new members. The membership is growing slowly and all former Regimental members regardless of corps are welcome.

Our constitutional review committee appointed in the later part of 2016 has made some significant recommendations to assist us in the development of a new own rules constitution which will be presented to all members well prior to the July AGM.

There are a number of areas where the Model Rules constitution is silent and the subcommittee has investigated this at my request to deliver a more balanced and fair constitution.

The association has its annual Dinner at the Seymour Club 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Simon Williams, our Vice President, is leading the organisation of this event. See following pages for Update and Registration form

We are progressively improving our communication process which now includes using 'MailChimp' to distribute our emails and Newsletter to all members who have access to the internet. If any member has recently changed their email address please contact the secretary to update your information.

At the AGM a motion will be moved to give all State Representatives the right to vote as a part of an expanded committee. This I believe will improve the flow of information back to members and encourage State Representatives to become more involved.

Best Regards to all our Members

*Kevin Bell*

Kevin Bell  
President  
1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association



# 1AR Association 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Weekend

7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017

See costs on the following Registration form



Puckapunyal

**Friday 7 July:** For those arriving early, there will be a Meet & Greet from 1800, in the upstairs bar of the Seymour Club. Drinks will be at member's expense. If you plan on attending the Meet & Greet can you please advise the treasurer Richard Stanios at email address:

[treasurer@paratus.org.au](mailto:treasurer@paratus.org.au) The M & G will also enable you to collect your name tag. The name tag also doubles as a ticket for the dinner plus you will also be able to collect your tickets for the Saturday BBQ and Sunday breakfast if you have paid for them.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of July:** At 10:00 be at the front gate, then at 10:30 there will be a visit to the Australian Army Tank Museum and a tour of the tank hanger to see our current armoured vehicles. A BBQ lunch will be served at the Waler Club where you can also buy drinks. **Lunch will only be available for those that have pre – paid. We will only be catering for those that have already paid,** you will need to produce your ticket to get served. The AGM will be held in the SOA SGTS mess at approx. 1400hrs. Dress for this activity, neat casual. It could be cool so be prepared with warm clothes.

**Instructions for getting onto the base:** If you have indicated you are coming out your name will be on a list at the front gate, you will need to produce a photo ID (drivers licence) to get on the base. You will need to arrive between 10.00 and 10:30. The front gate will match your ID to the list. If you haven't indicated to us you are coming out your name will not be on the list and it may take you extra time to get in. **You will be directed to go straight to the museum, resist the urge to go touring around the base, if you are caught you could be removed from the base.**

**Saturday night July 8:** 1800 for pre- dinner drinks in the upstairs bar of the Seymour Club, dinner from 1900. The birthday dinner, will be ala-carte, **drinks will be at members own expense.** Dress for the dinner is coat and tie with miniatures. Ladies always know what to wear. You must wear your name tag to get in. Once you are in if you wish you can remove the name tag. You can book a table by contacting Richard Stanios email address: [treasurer@paratus.org.au](mailto:treasurer@paratus.org.au) the tables will only hold six we can't accommodate any more than six per table.

**Sunday morning 9 July:** from 09:00 there will be a breakfast at the Seymour RSL. Once again this is only available to those who have paid you will need to produce your breakfast ticket.

Cut off for dinner **June 24, 2017.** Any payment not received by that date will see your name/s removed from the attendee list, **unless another arrangement for payment has been discussed with the treasurer**

**Note there will be no walk up starts to any of the functions.**

Accommodation self-book at the range of Seymour Motels and cabins listed below

#### **Auto Lodge Motor Inn**

20 Emily Street, Seymour

Phone: 5792 1700

E: [autolodgesseymour@gmail.com](mailto:autolodgesseymour@gmail.com)

#### **Best Western New Crossing Place**

53 Emily Street, Seymour

Phone: 5792 2800

Email: [newcrossingpace@bestwestern.com.au](mailto:newcrossingpace@bestwestern.com.au)

#### **Comfort Inn Coach & Bushman's**

66 Emily Street, Seymour

Phone: 5792 3744

Email: [info@coachandbush.com.au](mailto:info@coachandbush.com.au)

#### **Seymour Motel**

144 Goulburn Valley Hwy Seymour

Phone: 5792 1500

Email [jilldoolan@yahoo.com](mailto:jilldoolan@yahoo.com)

#### **Wattle Motel**

9 Emily St Seymour

Phone: 5792 1743

Email [wattlemotel@eck.net.au](mailto:wattlemotel@eck.net.au)

#### **Goulburn Tourist Park - Cabins**

30 Trevan St Seymour

Phone: 5792 1530

Email: [goulburnrivertp@gmail.com](mailto:goulburnrivertp@gmail.com)

#### **Highlands Caravan Park - Cabins**

33 Emily St Seymour

Phone: 5792 2124

Email [stay@highlandscaravanpatk.com.au](mailto:stay@highlandscaravanpatk.com.au)

**Be quick as Motels close walking distance to the Seymour Club will fill fast.**

# Registration Form



I ..... and my partner .....

Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Will be attending the following functions:

(Please circle your preference)

|                               |                  |                 |         |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Meet & greet Seymour Club.    | (Me only / both) | Nibbles \$10 pp | \$..... |
| Puckapunyal museum.           | (Me only / both) | Lunch \$5 pp    | \$..... |
| AGM Sgts Mess SOA.            | (Members only)   |                 |         |
| Birthday Dinner Seymour club. | (Me only / both) | Dinner \$45 pp  | \$..... |
| BBQ breakfast Seymour RSL.    | (Me only / both) | Breakfast \$5pp | \$..... |
|                               |                  | Total cost      | \$..... |

If you are attending the Museum or AGM your car rego. No. is .....

And your driver's licence number is .....

## Methods for payment and Registration:

### On Line banking

BSB 033-682 Account Number 147333, Reference "your name" and the word "Birthday"  
then **Mail this completed form to the Treasurer** (Don't forget!!!!!!)

Treasurer

75 Bluehills Blvd

Pakenham VIC 3810

Or you can scan it and Email it to [treasurer@paratus.org.au](mailto:treasurer@paratus.org.au)

Or

### Cheque/Money Order

Made out to 1st Armoured Regiment Association,

Then **Mail this completed form to the Treasurer** (Don't forget!!!!!!)

Treasurer

75 Bluehills Blvd

Pakenham VIC 3810

Or you can scan it and Email it to [treasurer@paratus.org.au](mailto:treasurer@paratus.org.au)



# Reunion 2018 - Adelaide

Friday 16th, Sat 17th and Sun 18<sup>th</sup>, November 2018



The 2018 Reunion will be held in Adelaide. Details such as they are at this stage are contained in this brief. These are correct at the time of printing, but be aware some may change slightly as the planning process continues.

## ***Functions & Venues:***

**Fri 16 Nov:** Registration 1100-1600 Registration Intercontinental Hotel.

Meet & Greet 1800-2230 Intercontinental Hotel. Cost: **\$80 pp, food & drinks.**

**Sat 17 Nov:** Back to the Regiment Edinburgh military precinct. Exact details of the visit will be released closer to the event once the Regiment releases the day's activities. At this stage all attendees will be bused out and back to the Regiment, due to base security arrangements, (**\$15-\$19 pp, for bus.** TBA closer to the date), if any other costs are incurred they will be passed on in due course. There is a plan B, if for some reason the regiment can't host on base, but at this stage it is unlikely this would happen.

**Sun Nov 18:** Gala Dinner William Magarey Room Adelaide Oval Cost **\$125 pp, food & drinks.**

1830-1900 Pre Dinner Drinks.

1900-2359 Seated Dinner.

Accommodation and Function pricing will be placed on the association web site as soon as they are confirmed by the SA organising committee.

***See you in Adelaide***



Contact for registration and payment is:

Mark Reid – reid54@bigpond.com.au – 21 James Harrold Court Golden Grove SA 5125

Des Thompson – desthomo@bigpond.com – 18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella SA 5161

BSB 065112

Account No 10229270

Table bookings – [reid54@bigpond.com.au](mailto:reid54@bigpond.com.au) and Grant Lane - [grant.lane@outlook.com](mailto:grant.lane@outlook.com) – tables of ten only please.

## Adelaide Reunion 2018 Registration Form

| PARTICULARS           | Given name | Surname/ Post Nominal | Preferred Name |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Title: Rank/MR/MRS/MS |            |                       |                |
| Member Name           |            |                       |                |
| Wife / Partner Name   |            |                       |                |

### CONTACT DETAILS

|               |           |        |
|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Address:      | Phone     |        |
| Suburb / Town | Mobile    |        |
| State         | Post Code | Email. |

**REGISTRATION FEE \$50.00**, Is non Refundable. Make cheques / Money orders payable to

1st Armoured Regiment Reunion 2018

Direct Debit to BSB 065112 ACC 10229270

I /we would be interested in attending all /some of the following events

| Event  | Number Attending |
|--|------------------|
| Meet & Greet, Intercontinental Hotel \$80.00pp     |                  |
| Trip to 1AR Bus fare approx. \$15.00-\$18.00pp TBC |                  |
| Reunion Dinner Adelaide Oval \$125.00pp            |                  |

Note: All accommodation will be self-book.

|                    |     |    |
|--------------------|-----|----|
| Association Member | Yes | No |
|--------------------|-----|----|

Any special diet / accessibility requirements

Return all registrations and payments by cheque/Money Order to:

1st Armoured Regiment Reunion

18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella SA 5161

### Disclaimer

All members and or their partners attending the 1st Armoured Regiment Association Reunion, Adelaide 2018 do so at their own risk. The reunion committee accept no responsibility for personnel injury, property damage or any other loss that may be suffered through participation in any event/s comprising the 1st Armoured Regiment Reunion, Adelaide 2018

SQN FOR NAME TAG CIRCLE ONE ONLY

HQ SQN A SQN B SQN C SQN TSS OSS LAD

Dates Served in SQN

Corps RAAC, RAEME, ORDNANCE, TRANSPORT, CATERING, MEDICAL, SIGS

Other list.....

**REGISTRATIONS CLOSE  
16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**



## David Key

### *What makes a hero?*

Article by Anthony Souter, David Patterson  
and John Sylvester THE AGE

#### **Anthony Souter**

Dave joined ARA in April 1974 and went to Armoured Centre and trained as a M113 driver then posted to Recon Troop 1AR RHQ Tp as Lt Col Jarratt's driver.

From there did the second Leopard conversion course and then went to A Sqn. where promoted from Trooper through to Sergeant and was at B Sqn. For 2 years then SOA as a Schools Instructor Gunnery.

In 1984 discharged on a Friday and joined Victoria Police on the Monday.

In 1987 joined C Sqn Army Reserve on Leopards and served as a Troop Sergeant for 20 years until 2005 when C Sqn was disbanded in Darwin.

From there joined 4/19 PWLH and got promoted to WO2 and was SSM B Sqn and is now still serving as the Unit Safety Advisor in 2016. In 1980 travelled to Germany and the U.K. on Longlook and in 1996 was a Prince of Wales award recipient and travelled to the USA and served with Charlie Company 1st Tank Battalion and also served with the Los Angeles Police Department and Aero Bureau.

*"Then came the news no one wanted to hear."*

#### **David Paterson**

"Friends, I have been in to see Dave Key this morning and his health continues to improve following his recent stroke as does his morale. He laughed and was encouraged by the messages of support and encouragement I read out to him from you all. Thank you for your care. I will keep relaying messages and updates as I get them."

#### **Anthony**

"A big congratulations once again to David Key for receiving yet another bravery award and citation today. Dave is a quiet achiever who doesn't make a fuss about the number of awards he has received while serving as a Victorian Police Officer. He doesn't write books or expect people to bow and scrape to him. He is exactly what a true hero should look like. Well done old mate!"

"Dave is not only my friend but is family to me and I stand ready to help him and Vicki in any way I can. Gifts and messages can be sent to Epworth Hospital in Richmond. Vicki will need as much help, understanding and support as we can muster in the coming months."

#### **Dave**

"This week has seen him make an inspection visit for the first time in nine weeks to his home in the company of some of his medical team. Vicki tells me he ran the white glove over everything, checked the hospital corners on the bed and generally did his best RSM impersonation reporting that standards had been maintained in his absence and he felt it would be acceptable for him to



return home in the near future. All jokes aside, his medical team agreed and Dave and Vicki are working towards that next goal in the near future."

"Ok as some of you are aware Dave Key is not traveling very well. What is needed is that both he and his wife Vicki know that all of our thoughts and prayers are with them and that every member of our assn is there if needed. Dave has given many years faithful service to our beloved assn, regiment, and also served the Victorian public as a very highly decorated serving police officer."

"David after his first full on day at "finishing school" aka Rehab after his brain bleeds resulting in a stroke. His Physio believes everyone has a Zen animal, David has chosen the Honey Badger as they are stubborn creatures amongst other attributes. He has a long hard rehab road ahead and it is five weeks today since he was admitted to Hospital. Still limited visitors as he is tiring quickly, so if you want to send him message just let me know. Hope you all understand this request, also please do not phone the Hospital as he cannot hear conversations on the phone due to his limited hearing. Hopefully his eyesight will improve and he can get rid of the eyepatch."

"Dear Friends,

Caught up with Dave Key this afternoon following a few days of me doing exams and pleased to report, what a difference! No one is pulling any punches here, Dave is recovering from a very bad place and to my eyes, he was unrecognisably better compared to last week. I read your messages to him one by one and he stopped me after each one with an anecdote about each of you. Whatever this event has taken away it has not been Dave's warm affection for his mates and the stories that made them so. He says "Thanks."

He has a program that he explained to me, of his making, for getting better. His mind may have created this challenge but he has shown to me that that same mind will overcome it.

"He is hoping to be moved to the rehab ward shortly and is on "1 minutes notice to move". Another step in the journey. Many of you have recognised the heroism in things Dave has done for others during his life to date. I looked into his eyes tonight and while still somewhere

short of where he wants to be right now, I saw a greater heroism than took him into a boiling sea in the dark in 1998 or into the eye of the fire in 2009.”

“Thanks to all those who came to work at the Tank Museum today. The weather was kind and even an industrial strength influx of aggressive mosquitoes couldn't dampen the camaraderie between old mates and new. These vehicles are link between the past and those of us that were part of that and the present and future soldiers of the RAAC. The work done on these days is of real value: thank you on behalf of all who will benefit. Next opportunity planned for February 2017. Hope to see many of you then. Dave Key will be back to reprise his Gandalf impersonation.”



David Key, retiring policeman, is a hero of Black Saturday and the 1998 Sydney to Hobart race in which participants encountered savage weather. Photo: Police Life



Article by John Sylvester “The Age” August 21<sup>st</sup> 2016

### What makes a hero?

Most of the time it is a spur of the moment reaction when a surge of adrenaline sparks deep, hidden instincts.

### Retiring policeman involved in 800 rescues

One of Victoria Police air wing officer Dave Key's most memorable rescues was during the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009.

They call it the flight or fight response – a split-second reaction to a confrontation with danger.

For Sergeant David Key it was always more calculated. For on most days of his working life he knew he might have to risk his to save someone else's.

There is nothing in law that says a police officer must risk death to do the job and that is why bravery medals are awarded for going above and beyond the call of duty.

If a gunman starts firing cops are entitled to hide rather than become targets.

So it is a source of wonder how often the fight, rather than the flight, response kicks in.

But Key's career was not about taking on gunmen – it was way more dangerous than that.

By the time Key came to policing he already had an intimate knowledge of danger, having served in the army from 1973 until 1984, working as a Leopard tank commander. He left the army on a Friday to join the police academy on the Monday. He expected to work in general duties but after four years moved to the Air Wing.



After four years in the police Key moved to the Air Wing. Photo: Police Life

Since 1988 his main job has been to dangle from a bucking helicopter at the end of a wire no thicker than a drinking straw to rescue those who have run out of options.

In about 800 rescue missions he has been on the end of the thin metal wire about 400 times and the winch operator in about the same number of operations.

And always there has been one rule: Nothing justifies endangering the aircraft. If things go bad the officer on the end of the line is expendable and will be cut free.

He has been the last chance for yachties, boaties, lost bushwalkers, snowboarders, skiers, and surf fishermen trapped by rising tides.

Some have been grateful while others allowed their anxiety to get the better of them with bushwalkers grabbing him by the legs as he descended and those caught in water trying to use him as a floating stepladder, clambering to try to climb the rescue cord.



He has a dry message for those drawn towards water-based recreations: "Learn how to swim." He is amazed how many of his aqua-rescues involve non-swimmers.

He says a good rescuer needs to be a good actor. "No matter what you feel you can't show it. You keep smiling and talking and don't show any fear," he says.

The life and death career that will end when he retires in a few days took him from the middle of mountainous seas in the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race to the inferno that was the 2009 Black Saturday Bush Fires.

During those February 7 fires the police helicopter was reporting to ground units when they received a call of four people caught in Kinglake West surrounded by exploding bush.

As he sat on the edge of the helicopter about to be wedged into the cauldron, he thought there was next to no chance of saving those below but knew they had to try. The burning hot air he gasped into his lungs was high-altitude thin as the fire drew the oxygen to feed the flames.

Below were Juliet Moore and three friends. They were in Coombs Road, where 11 people would perish in fires that would take 173 lives.

Somehow Key made it to the ground and placed Moore and her dog, Poncho, in the harness.

However the fire was sucking the air from the helicopter's blades putting it in danger.

"I knew if they tried to winch us up I could bring the aircraft down."

As per the drill he was cut loose to save the helicopter even though the odds were he would die with the others.

Key stood there with four people, three horses, a dog and a bushfire of apocalyptic proportions bearing down.

He marshalled his team into three cars, one pulling a double horse float, with Poncho in with Moore and the last horse led by the reins out the window of the leading vehicle.

With trees crashing, winds roaring like jet engines and fire heading up the hill it was impossible to see a way out from the ground but this group still had eyes in the sky.

Leading Senior Constable Bryan Norman and Pilot Constable Warrick Young saw a sliver of a chance directing the team through down a track to the road before the front closed in again.

"It was a real team effort," says Key.

Moore says the first thing Key gave them was a belief they would survive. "Dave was amazing, he remained so calm. "He risked his life just to come down from the helicopter. We have stayed friends ever since. To some extent he is my hero and he is just a nice, normal bloke as well."

### **Epic Sydney to Hobart rescue with waves six storeys high**

It was the day after Boxing Day 1998 when the crew of the ageing police Dauphin twin-engined Air 491 received a call of multiple emergency beacons in Bass Strait.

Five yachts in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race had sent mayday messages with two reported sinking.

As they flew to Mallacoota the strength of the winds became apparent. The helicopter had a top speed of 240km/h but the gauge showed 420km/h.

As a tailwind it was an aid but when they had to fly back to land it proved to be potentially deadly.

Seattle resident John Campbell was no deep-water novice. He crewed in two previous Sydney to Hobarts but both times the yachts retired through gear failure.

This time he was on board the heavy-weather specialist Kingurra when it was swamped by a giant wave and rolled before righting itself.

Campbell was knocked out and washed away.

Attached by a lifeline but temporarily lifeless he slipped out of his harness. By the time he regained his senses he had swept away dressed in a T-shirt, blue long johns with no life jacket.

But for a moment the winds that could kill him were on his side. The 120-kilometre trip that should have taken Air 491 30 minutes from shore took just 10.

When Key was winched into the near freezing water, he was hit by 25-metre waves (the size of a six-storey building) whipped by the 160km/h winds.

This wasn't a rolling swell but angry, irrational waves that came from any direction – powerful enough to crush an ocean-going yacht let alone a policeman hanging from a thread.

The helicopter above dragged him along the surface of three waves the size of small hills – because the remaining crew, pilot Darryl Jones and winch operator, Barry Barclay, could see their target in the water.

They tried to hover about 30 metres above Campbell but rogue waves meant they had to power up to stop being swallowed by the giant seas that peaked just two metres under the craft.

Key was blown off course and carrying 15 kilos of rescue gear, had no chance of swimming to Campbell. "When I hit the water I just kept going down," he says.

Instead they dragged him like a fishing lure 100 metres to Campbell who was just minutes from death.

"I just saw this bloodless face. I grabbed him and he was like an eel to touch, he was that cold," Key recalls.

Once harnessed they were winched up – that is until it stopped just a metre from the craft. Finally they were dragged in to safety – or that's what they thought.

But the wind that blew them there in record time now blocked their escape.

The 160km/h headwind meant the helicopter was moving at a mere 40km/h and was swallowing one litre of fuel every 10 seconds.

They were 32 kilometres from shore when the five-minute fuel alarm activated and the crew prepared to ditch.

"I thought we would be going for another swim," says Key.

Barclay and Key tied themselves to Campbell, freed the life raft and opened the rear door then tensed for the jump order.

At a height of 50 metres Jones waited for a wave peak to minimise the drop. He would then bring the helicopter down 50 metres away to protect the others from shrapnel when the rotors smashed on impact.

Just as the three-minute fuel warning sounded the wind died as the helicopter fell under the protection of the shore cliffs.

Nursing the craft Jones landed the Air 491 on the sand with the tanks virtually empty.

Rather than count their blessings Key and the crew were back in action and the next day rescued four sailors from the Midnight Special – the last plucked from the sea as the yacht sunk.

In later years Key went to visit Campbell in Seattle. "He named his daughter Victoria and had three goldfish named Dave, Darryl and Barry after us."

Having turned 60 Dave will retire next week as the longest serving member of the Air Wing.

And how will the former thrill seeker fill his days?

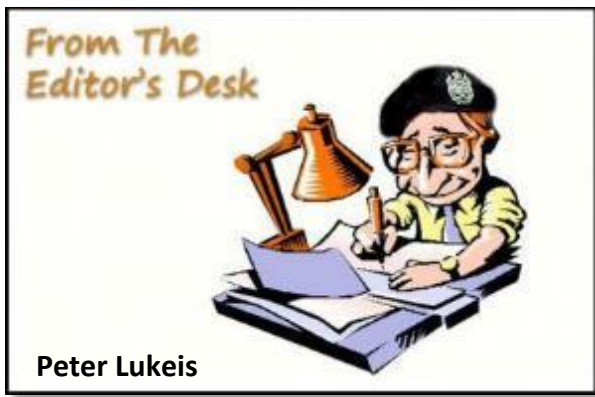


He intends to help his wife Vicki (a former police officer) help ex-cops suffering depression and stress.

He is also planning a cruise on the Queen Mary – a maritime vessel where the greatest adrenaline rush will come from a vigorous game of deck quoits and his biggest plunge will be on the roulette table.

Editor's Note:

I hope to meet Dave Keys one day. He is truly a remarkable man and a person you would certainly want in your foxhole.



Following on from the recent update from Jack Parr (Chairman of the UCG Committee) with the progress of the UCG submission, Trevor Watts has received a couple of enquiries as to what UCG represents/stands for as mentioned in the update.

**So in order to keep members informed of the history and current status please read on:**

There has been a move to award those units and people who served at Coral and/or Balmoral with a new decoration, the Unit Citation for Gallantry. Even though it has been gazetted since 15 Feb 1991 not many people it would seem, know much about it.

## UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

### SIGNIFICANCE

The Unit Citation for Gallantry recognises extraordinary gallantry in action. It is one of two Unit Citations that acknowledge the value of collective effort in military operations. The other award is the Meritorious Unit Citation.

### HISTORY

The Unit Citation for Gallantry and the Meritorious Unit Citation were introduced into the Australian honours system in 1991.

Unlike awards for individuals, recognition of group endeavour has little history in honours systems around the world. The relatively recent tradition of unit citations introduced by the United States in 1942, has prompted broader recognition of collective endeavour.

The Unit Citation for Gallantry was formally established on 15 January 1991 by Letters Patent.

### HOW IT IS AWARDED

The Governor-General awards the Unit Citation for Gallantry on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence.

Each award consists of a certificate of citation to the unit signed by the Governor-General and insignia for each recipient.

The citation may be awarded posthumously. There are no post-nominal entitlements.

Members who join a unit after the citation is awarded are entitled to wear the insignia but without the Federation Star.

### MEDAL DESIGN

The medal of a Unit Citation for Gallantry is a gilt sterling-silver frame with a design of flames emanating from the edge to the centre. The frame surrounds a ribbon bar of deep green, which displays a gilt sterling-silver Federation Star at its centre.

Members who join a unit after the citation is awarded are entitled to wear the insignia but without the Federation Star.



Part of the update sent to members on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016 from Jack Parr

“1. We have received advice from the Chief of the Army (CA) Angus Campbell that he has decided to ‘... not to proceed with any action...’ on our submission for the UCG.

We anticipated this as it is the same result of all submissions sent to Defence Honours and Awards (DHA.) He suggested our course of action is to appeal to the DHAAT. (Appeals Tribunal) which is an independent body. Hence the CA does not have to make a decision.

Acting on other advice we will not be appealing to the DHAAT but intend to APPEAL DIRECT TO THE MINISTER with a request for an INQUIRY.

You can check out all their inquiries and reports since they were set up in 2008 on their website.

As Canberra 'Shuts Down' during December and January this will give us 2 months to get our grounds for appeal together and to construct the appeal. .... GAME ON!!!!!!.....

2. In the meantime we will strive to increase the public awareness of the Battle of Coral Balmoral. This will mean that all of us need to get active in lobbying and on social media.”

Yours Faithfully,

*Peter*

Peter Lukeis

Editor, Newsletter

E: peter.lukeis@bigpond.com

M: 0407 382 384

PO Box 154, Mount Macedon.

3441. VIC





# 1 AR Association - South Australia - State News

**Mark Reid**

Members attending the Long Lunch at the London Tavern.

Ted Turner, Stan Iry, Mick Dunn, Des Thompson, Geoff Baker and of course the guy with the camera seen in the mirror at the back, Mark Reid. →

Next SA get together will be 10 March 2017 at the Wellington Hotel North Adelaide. Will invite members from A Sqn to that as well.

Cambrai Day – Parade and receiving awards





# 1AR Association - Victoria - State News

**Ian Reynolds**  
**Upcoming events**

## 2017

ANZAC Long Lunch Friday 21st April 2017

ANZAC Day March Tuesday 25th April 2017 with drinks afterwards at the Palmerston Hotel

Tolmie Grand Final Camping Trip (Dates for AFL Grand Final TBC)

Cambrai Long Lunch Emerald Hotel South Melbourne Friday 17th November 2017.

On the 11th November 2016 we held the Cambrai Long Lunch. Several members attended the Shrine of Remembrance for the Remembrance Day service before heading to the Emerald Hotel for Lunch. We had 19 members attend the lunch, including 2x from South Australia & 1x from Queensland. The lunch went well with all having a great time. The staff of the Emerald making us feel welcome as always.



I am inviting you to the ANZAC Long Lunch at 12:00 on Friday 21st April 2017 at the Emerald Hotel, 415 Clarendon Street South Melbourne.

This event will be a mixed lunch for Serving & Association members, so feel free to bring your wife, husband or partner along for lunch.

Simon Williams will be taking seat reservations for the lunch as I will be heading overseas but will be back for the long lunch & the Anzac march. If you are intending to come along please email or phone Simon Williams to reserve a seat & Simon will be taking numbers for me. Members wishing to bring a guest along for lunch are also free to do so, just let Simon know.

Simon Williams email: [mwill@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mwill@optusnet.com.au) or Mobile: 0422-282-234

At this stage we don't have any details for the ANZAC march (FUP or Step off time etc.), but myself or Simon will send off an email to members when we receive more information. After the march we will be gathering for drinks at the Palmerston Hotel 51 Palmerston Cres, South Melbourne.

Regards

*Iain Reynolds*  
0411-066-704



## 1AR Association - ACT - State News

### Ian Cummings Upcoming events

"In The ACT we rounded out the year with Cambrai Day black hats drinks afternoon down at the Dock, on the lake at Kingston, which was well attended, even the ex Hon Col Roger Powell dropped in for a beer on his bike and in his MAMIL gear (Middle Age Man in Lycra!). Like other states our first activity for the year will be

ANZAC day, Starting the day off with a post Dawn service breakfast at the Dock, We will then join the other Black hats for the March and national ceremony at 1000hrs. This will be followed up with a gathering for all Canberra's black hats once again at the Dock, Kingston to enjoy Two up and catching up with old mates."



## 1AR Association - WA - State News

### Kevin Briant Upcoming events

**14 Aug:** A small group of members attended the VVAA WA organised Vietnam Veteran's Day at the State Vietnam WA Memorial in Perth

**18 Aug:** Vietnam Veteran's Day in Mandurah (locally organised by the RSL) and will involve our members from this area.

**20 Nov:** Cambrai Day Commemoration, in conjunction with RAACA WA, at the RAAF Association Function Centre, Bullcreek

More to follow for 2017 but the basic plan is - ANZAC Day, Regt Birthday Lunch, Vietnam Vets Day and Cambrai Day.



From Barry Kappler:

It was an honour and privilege to provide a guard of honour today to farewell our fellow Vietnam vet and great mate Billy Waldock. To Bill's family Loris, Paul Waldock, Lisa Semmens, Gary Waldock, and Brett Waldock thanks for the privilege.

No State News submitted from



New South Wales



Queensland



Northern Territory



Tasmania





## DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

A member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations

### CHRISTMAS UPDATE – December 2016

**‘UPDATE’ is an e-letter produced by the Defence Force Welfare Association to inform the Service and ex-Service communities of those current issues that are of most concern to them. Distribution is intended to a wide audience that includes all members of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations, and their families and supporters.**

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### INTRODUCTION

Christmas yet again is almost upon us. The best wishes for a safe and festive season is extended by not only our National President, David Jamison, but also by his team of mostly volunteers to all members of the Australian Defence Force and their families, and to the veterans’ community as a whole.

That team is conscious that, although its work of fostering the best interests and welfare of each and every member appears a never-ending one, some satisfying glimmers of success have nonetheless come in the relative recent past. A major one was the overturning last year of an initial morale-sapping pay offer of 1.5% to ADF members and retraction of the notion that any pay rise had to somehow come by way of losing some previously hard-won conditions of service. Action is in train to avoid a disastrously similar first round offer at the looming Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) hearings scheduled towards the end of 2017 – a update on DFRT is contained in the paragraphs below.

### ELECTION YEAR POLICY OUTCOMES

This year was of course heavily focussed on a Federal election that not only resulted in the incumbent Coalition Government barely scraping in by the skin of its teeth to once again sit on the Treasury benches but bore witness to yet more churn within the ranks of Ministers holding a Defence Personnel or Veterans Affairs portfolio. What chance could there have been of some firm and consistent policy outcomes under those circumstances? In reality, few if any policies saw the light of day. Those that did were arguably meagre in substance, albeit important nonetheless. Perhaps a First Principles Review of Veterans’ Affairs was an exception. The review was long overdue. Too many administrative, governance and process failings over time demanded it. Critically important too was a program involving the States to tackle homelessness among veterans, including suicides. The latter being the subject of a Senate Inquiry that is on-going.

Another exception was the Government’s initiative to extend non-liability health care to all current and former members of the ADF. They are now eligible to have treated such conditions as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and alcohol/substance abuse. Disappointing was the exclusion of readily treatable potential causes of anxiety/depression, namely hearing devices other than basic level ones free to clients. If a diagnosed clinical need exists, higher performance devices should be provided.

Thereafter, there was little or no positive movement during the election campaign on advancing the unique nature of military service to a proposed Australian Military Covenant that articulates the Nation’s obligations to its service personnel and their families; there was no advance on a policy that gave hope to the most disabled veterans in the land by restoring their loss of value in their disability payments, nor an advance in a policy that provided our most disabled veterans with an income level enabling them to live with dignity. As to the well-documented discriminatory provisions of DFRDB/MSBS military superannuation schemes, there was no sight of any policy shifts there either.

### WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2017

Despite some successes that could be logged as achievements in 2016, many issues remain to be tackled and hopefully well on the road to being redressed in 2017. The key issues are as follows:

#### **SERVING COMMUNITY ISSUE** [Current ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangement \(WRA\)](#)

Perhaps as a reminder to serving ADF members, the current WRA is still in force with the last pay rise of three coming into effect under the original Arrangement on 3 November 2016. That increase was as a result of two factors, the first of which related to the terms of the original WRA in October 2014 awarding 4.5% over three years (2014-2017). The second related to the post outcome of our pro-active campaign throughout Nov and Dec 2014 to battle the paucity of the original 1.5% per annum offer that amended the original WRA decision by increasing that award by 0.5%: that is, a 2% increase in November 2015 and a 2% increase in November 2016.

As an Association we are beginning to gear up to make submissions next year when the 2017 to 2020 WRA will be negotiated and put before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) for decision. While the DFRT will consider positions put by the Commonwealth and the ADF, it will also listen to the position put by DFWA. As an independent third party in the DFRT process, working outside of the Defence bureaucracy, the Association can directly represent the views of serving members to the Tribunal.

When the 2011 - 2014 WRA was decided in 2011, the DFRT accepted the position of the ADF and the Commonwealth and approved the new salary arrangements. At that time, the DFWA informed the DFRT of both the feedback it had received from ADF members indicating the offer was strongly opposed by a majority of ADF members and of the implications of imposing an unsatisfactory outcome.

ADF members may recall their disappointment when in late 2014 the DFRT endorsed the Commonwealth/ADF agreed position to award the ADF an annual 1.5% pay increase during 2014-2017. Following widespread public dissatisfaction and strong lobbying by the DFWA, the Prime Minister announced that 2% per annum ought to be awarded to ADF members. The upshot was that the DFRT reconvened in April 2015, and in June 2015 announced its decision to agree to the increase. This was a significant victory for all serving ADF members and their families.

ADF members are encouraged to keep monitoring the DFWA website ([www.dfw.org.au](http://www.dfw.org.au)) for updates as the WRA case progresses in 2017.

### EX SERVING COMMUNITY ISSUES

DFWA, together with its partner organisation that make up the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO), will continue throughout 2017 to lobby and fight for those policy objectives articulated to all sides of politics during the lead up to this year's Federal election.

The Alliance, now numbering 17 ex service Associations, will seek to be inclusive and work with other national ESOs. It will remain non-partisan and look to provide an independent and unified voice on behalf of its serving and veterans constituencies.

ADSO's targeted objectives, in broad terms and not all inclusive at this time, they will be as follows:

#### Military Superannuation

- **Defence Force Retirement Benefits Legislation Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2014.** Adjust to include superannuants under 55, in particular priority be given to those on DFRDB invalidity superannuation pensions.
- **Indexation.** All military superannuation payments (DFRB/DFRDB/MSBS) to be indexed twice each year by the same percentage adjustment incorporating the CPI, PBLCI with reference to the MATWE. This is the fairest way to maintain purchasing power. Should apply to all components of military superannuation pensions, including preserved funds and the total reversionary pension for partners of deceased military superannuation pensioners.
- **Access to Employer Benefits.** MSBS members no longer serving but with "preserved employer" funds to be given the opportunity to roll over their benefit into an accredited superannuation fund of their choice.
- **DFRDB Commutation.** The Government to adopt up to date life tables in calculating commutation and fortnightly payments for all new DFRDB superannuants. Rectify the injustices with the application of inappropriate life tables over the life of these schemes.

#### Other Key Objectives

- **Veterans' Disability Payments.** The economic loss component of Veterans' Disability compensation payment for TPI/SRDP and Intermediate Rate is inadequate - the economic loss component to be tied to the minimum wage (100% TPI/SRDP and 50% Intermediate Rate).
- A single **compensation** regime for all serving and former members of the ADF that recognizes the unique nature of military service.
- **Veterans' Mental Health.** Additional Government funding and DVA support for appropriate community **accommodation** to meet the needs of veterans with mental health issues as well as younger veterans in need of care.
- **Use of Anti-Malarial Drug Mefloquine in the ADF.** There is a need to formally recognise that many ADF personnel who took Mefloquine and Tafenoquine may have suffered physical and mental harm. Urgent assistance to those in need must be provided.
- **Military Covenant/Accord** that places on public record the Nation's enduring obligations to its service personnel and in turn the latter's obligations to the Nation.

- Government provide support to the care and accommodation needs of **homeless veterans** as identified by the combined ESOs Homeless Program
- The Government **accredit ESO's active mental health support programs** that are evidenced based or at least evidenced aware and where appropriate fund their programs.
- **Defence Housing.** A key issue in 2016 – not to privatize DHA and to protect an important condition of service that provides quality housing to Defence families.

### THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS

Having received thanks from many quarters for the work that DFWA performs, a big thanks in return is proffered to the many full time members of all our ADSO member organisations for your support in this a busy election year. Your membership subscriptions have been incredibly important for that work to be continued into the future. Without that support, none of our associations could properly function. DFWA and certainly not ADSO would exist as entities or provide a collective voice that even the most senior of decision makers within Government concede is not only loud and powerful but is reasoned at the same time

Thanks also to the thousands of DFWA virtual members who did make a difference by way of your voices when it mattered. The Association makes sure that your voices are heard at the highest levels of Government. Your feedback was all-important in that context. Into next year, please encourage others of your colleagues not yet members to join as well. It costs nothing, albeit in time we will encourage you to become full members either before you leave your uniformed service or soon thereafter.

### CORPORATE SPONSORS

To our corporate sponsors, a big thanks too. The key ones are:

#### InvoCare

Australia's largest provider of funeral services and well known for its commitment to family care and community engagement, has been our valued supporter for a number of years now. Not only has the company given us considerable financial stability when, as a Not-For-Profit Organisation, we needed it most but their offered discounts has benefited DFWA and Alliance members directly.

#### The Bradford Exchange

The Bradford Exchange are producers and marketers of high quality collectable memorabilia, particularly ones that are relevant to this the ANZAC Centenary Year.

#### Storage King;

Storage King is Australia's largest self-storage company. It already is a Defence contractor but is even better known for its ability to provide serving men and women with either temporary or more permanent storage solution to meet posting needs.

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas now truly looms in sight. Our respective families have already gathered together or will do so very soon. Their shared love is all-important, as is the friendship of our old colleagues and friends.

A special Christmas wish – may this coming festive season to be a merry one to all. If traveling, please return safely from your journeys; if merely staying at home, may it be restful.

And save a little thought for those who are serving our country in operations overseas. And who can't be with their families. A very special Christmas wish is extended to them as well.

| <i>Contacts</i>   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Executive Director:</b><br><b>Alf Jaugietis</b> (0438) 282 284 | <a href="http://www.dfw.org.au">www.dfw.org.au</a> | <b>National President:</b><br><b>David Jamison</b> (0416) 107 557 |

### ADSO comprises:

The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), Naval Association of Australia (NAA), RAAF Association (RAAFA), Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARC), Australian Special Air Service Association (ASASA), Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA), the Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Service Men and Women, the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia, Partners of Veterans Association of Australia, Royal Australian Armoured Corps Corporation (RAACC), the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA), Defence Reserves Association (DRA), Australian Gulf War Veterans Association, Australian Commando Association, the War Widows Guild of Australia, Military Police Association Australia (MPAA), and the Australian Army Apprentices Association.