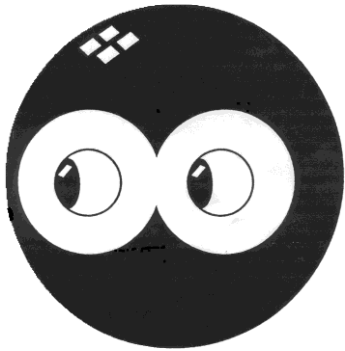




# BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL



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The Quarterly Newsletter for the 8 RAR Association Incorporated  
PO Box 4989 Forest Lake, Qld 4078

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ISSUE No 133  
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All articles and letters published in this newsletter are from the members. The views and opinions expressed are not necessary those of the Association. The 8 RAR Association, its committee and members accept no responsibility for information and articles appearing in this newsletter. *Members are encouraged to submit articles, photographs and items of interest. The editors reserve the right to decide on the publication of any article or item for any issue of "Behind the Eight Ball"*

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### LAST POST

Rest ye, oh Warrior, you'll battle no more no longer to live the horrors of war your duty was done, with honour and pride' farewell! Oh brother, until we march by your side.

“Well done thou good and faithful friend.”

**Anthony John (Tony) Kingdom A Coy Vietnam**

**Peter John Phillips SP Coy Vietnam**

**Leslie Roy Maynard A Coy Vietnam**

**Timothy Charles Pilcher A Coy Vietnam**

**Robert Reed D Coy Vietnam**

**Richard Herbert “Dicky Bligh B Coy Malaysia, Vietnam**

**Robert “Bob” David Dangaard D Coy Vietnam**

**‘WE CAN NEVER FORGET’**



### *President Report*

By the time you get to read this issue of our battalion magazine, it will be less than a month to go before we commence coming together at our planned Cocktail Reception on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

Unfortunately, I have to report that at this stage, registrations have virtually stopped, and we have topped out at about a total of 200 registrations, which I find sadly disappointing after all the efforts of the Victorian Reunion Committee, who will present what I believe will be a very vibrant and rewarding experience.

Three years ago, upon my secondment into the role as your National President, based upon my naivety in suggesting our next reunion to be held in Melbourne, one of my first actions was to nominate that the reunion be held during the Anzac Day period, rather than our normal Long Hai Day commemorations which are held in February of each year.

As your President, I felt it my duty to represent ALL members of the battalion. As previously identified at least one-third of our membership served with 8RAR well before February 1969 when others like myself commenced training in preparedness to be shipped off to SVN in November 1969. And others were still attached to 8RAR after our return in November 1970 until 8RAR were decommissioned in mid-1972, upon the formal cessation of Australia's involvement in the war in South Vietnam.

Hence, I was aiming to have all our members who have solely served 8RAR in Malaysia and Australia with great honour and dedication, to have a chance for their "day in the sun" and gain some further recognition they deserve.

So, apart from having the opportunity to partake in our photographic exercise on the steps of the Shrine of Remembrance, then taking part in the Anzac Day March from Collins Street to the Shrine, they will gain the appreciation of the Australian public simply expressing them a "thank you for your service" because we are all Anzacs.

Upon further reflection, I have no idea of how much the Covid-19 closures over the past 3 years in Victoria has affected the reunion attendance, but other factors such as the cost of accommodation, and especially air-fares may have played a large impact upon our poor numbers for the reunion. The other main factor

may be simply that we are now another three years older, and possibly individuals have increased health concerns. However, be that as it may, it would be remiss of me not to mention the fantastic support I have received from my three other Reunion Committee members:

Lt. Col. Neil Smith (Retired) who has put together our Commemoration Service at the Shrine, as well as marshalling for our group photographs.

Wayne Maschette, who has done all our organisation and videos for our visit to Phillip Island and the National Vietnam Veteran's Museum.

Bruce Lankford who served with 8RAR in Malaysia, who is the manager in charge of both the Cocktail Reception and Battalion Gala Dinner.

Thank you, gentlemen, for all your assistance and support, and I trust all the delegates to this once off April reunion will be able to fully appreciate all your efforts, simply by taking part in all the functions we have arranged.

Finally, for those unaware of the process, we have planned for the Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at the Beer Deluxe, to hold our Annual General Meeting, after which a Special General Meeting will be held to discuss primarily our Future Directions proposal.

As is the current standard of our Constitution, I will be standing down at the AGM, so I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of all 8RAR members who have ably supported me through my three year tenure, and especially the National Management Committee, and in particular Ted Forward, who as your Vice-President was always available to provide me guidance (in particular on military matters), and Tom Lyons, our Assistant Secretary, who had to continually keep me in line when conducting our Management Committee meetings by Zoom.

Furthermore, at the Special General Meeting it will be announced that in conjunction with the 8RAR NSW Branch our next reunion will be held in Sydney NSW in February 2025, and Ray Richardson has been nominated as your next President. As such, I wish Ray the very best in taking the role as your next President, and I feel the seasoned 8RAR members of the NSW Branch will produce an excellent program.

So, in closing, I thank all 8RAR members for allowing me to have this opportunity to be your President during these past three years, and I trust I have undertaken my duties in accordance with the high ranking of such a position, and I now look forward to catching up with many of those registered to attend the reunion in person.

Kind Regards

**ARTHUR KOO**

**National President**

## Secretaey / Assistant Secretary



On behalf of Des Evans and myself, we find that another Xmas has come and gone. Covid restrictions have abated and not many of our members caught the 'bug', we are happy to say.

War rages on in Ukraine and it is saddening to see the graphic TV footage and the carnage shed in modern day warfare. It is very noticeable the vast difference of jungle warfare to today's City by City shelling and aftermath with Civilian casualties in the thousands. The fight for Freedom is endless and we have nothing but admiration and respect for the Ukrainian Freedom Fighters. God help them!

To matters at home, the 2023 Reunion is almost upon us.

It appears everything is 'in-place' and rearing to go. The numbers are not as good as we had hoped and are down on what was promised to Arthur Koo at Tweed Heads in 2020. Arthur has tried his very best and I'm sure what does happen next ANZAC Day period will be well organized and fit for purpose. We are all 'over the hill' gang now and it is imperative that we spend as much quality time with our old mates and their families as possible.

I attended Epping RSL for NSW's Long Hai Day Ceremony where we honored 8RAR's Lt. Bernard Garland a former Epping High Schoolboy. Epping High School was well represented by three young men who laid a wreath on behalf of the school. The Catafalque Party was mounted by James Ruse School Cadets who acquitted themselves very regimentally. A lone piper played a lament while wreaths were laid, which was very moving as always.

We then retired to Epping RSL for lunch. As tradition dictates there was a lone setting for our Fallen Mates and the Tankard Ceremony, where we toast all our KIA. I was honored to be make a toast to one of our KIA, for which I thank NSW for affording me that honor.

In regard to the survey, we sent where we went to great expense and trouble to garner the members views on what YOU expect/want in the future, the outcome is disappointing. We only received 100 answers out of a possible 600 (with emails). Have a deeper thought about our Future Directions and raise those suggestions at the Special General Meeting which will be held straight after the 2023 Melbourne AGM. We can't run this show without YOUR INPUT.

If you haven't booked into Melbourne Reunion, please do so and if I can change your mind, I'd like to do

so. Even if it is to come along and bite my ear about something I've done wrong or against your wishes. We are not mind readers and are only as good as You make us so speak-up!

Tom Lyons,  
Asst Sec

## Queensland



I begin this report with the news that Klaus 'Tanky' Scheuermann has stood down from the position of Qld Branch president after some sixteen years at the helm, at both Qld and National level, but his overall involvement with the Association goes right back to its very beginning. As the newly 're-treaded' Qld president I want to publicly acknowledge the power of work Tank has put in over those years, and the commitment of his time to ensuring the Association has remained active and effective, both locally and at the National level. While Tank is taking a well-earned rest, he is remaining active here in Qld as our social member.

Another of our stalwarts who is in need of a rest is Ken Falvey, our secretary here in Qld for many, many years. Ken too needs a break but at our February meeting no-one was willing to put their hand up to replace him. I appeal to everyone in the Qld Branch to seriously consider whether you could take on this role – it need not be onerous and you do not even need to live in the Brisbane area – with the miracle of email and the internet you can carry out the job from anywhere – we desperately need a secretary to give Ken a well-earned break.

## Long Hai Day

We normally hold Long Hai Day here in Qld in conjunction with the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, however, this year the Battalion's training commitments precluded this. After three years of almost no military training due to Covid support responsibilities, the unit has begun a heavy training programme which saw almost the whole unit deployed throughout Australia and overseas in late February.

Nonetheless, before their departure the CO, LTCOL Ben Watson, ensured that the Battalion's traditions were kept alive, with the unit holding their own Long Hai commemoration in conjunction with a unit pre-deployment 'Family Day'. At this function I was honoured to present a cheque from the Association of \$2,400 to the Battalion to go towards kitting out the unit Pipes & Drums with new ceremonial uniforms.

Our Association Long Hai Day commemoration was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February at the RAR National Memorial Walk in Enoggera Barracks. Despite Covid and other illness keeping a number of people away we still managed some 38 people in attendance, including the CO 8/9 RAR, and the ADJT Captain Matthew Lambert. Unfortunately, a family bereavement prevented the RSM joining us.

The Battalion further supported us, providing a Catafalque Party and Piper, and a work party who arranged the post-service luncheon.



'Tanky' Scheuermann, CO 8/9 RAR LTCOL Ben Watson, Ron Goward



The 'Tankard Ceremony'



Marg Corliss, Val Picton, Alan Corliss  
**ANZAC Day**

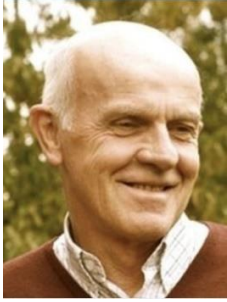
For those not attending the National Reunion in Melbourne, the Association will still be participating in the Brisbane ANZAC Day March. The RV for the march is the corner of George and Charlotte Streets and the 8 RAR Assoc is fifth in the order-of-march, behind 7 RAR and the Brisbane Boys College Pipe Band. You should be at the RV by 1000hrs as the anticipated step-off time is 1015hrs.

The post-march function will be held at Johnny Ringo's, 560 Queen Street. If you haven't already advised Ken Falvey of your attendance at the March please do so ASAP on [thefalveys@bigpond.com](mailto:thefalveys@bigpond.com) or 0407 148 345.

#### **Presentation of 8 RAR Colours**

This year, 31<sup>st</sup> October, is 8/9 RAR's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday; many 8 RAR officers and soldiers went on to serve in 8/9 RAR so the date has special significance to our Association. In conjunction with the 8/9 RAR Association, the Battalion is planning a big celebration, the highlight of which will be a 'Freedom of the City Parade' in Brisbane's King George Square on 28<sup>th</sup> October and the presentation of the new 8 RAR Colours to the Battalion. This will be the first presentation of the new King's Colour to an Australian unit; all former members of 8 RAR are invited to this historic occasion. More details will follow but mark the date in your diary and plan to be in Brisbane for that date!

## Victoria



Welcome to the Victorian branch update for. Judging by the renewed traffic congestion near Melbourne the festivities around Christmas and New Year have all been forgotten and mayhem ensues on the roads. Nonetheless, warmest best wishes to all for the New 12. A rather special year it is too with the National Reunion preparations in full swing. Mind you, there are a number of our folk who are yet to respond. Please do so soonest as numbers are important for planning purposes regardless of whether there is an intention to intend any number of activities or not. For instance, due to capacity limits the National Vietnam Veterans Museum may need to close its doors to anyone who hasn't 'booked in' for the Reunion tour. More on that sort of matter to follow, but before we forget the Museum, please note the attached Donation Form. Rather than throw out memorabilia of your service in Vietnam and elsewhere, please consider donating it to the Museum where it will be welcomed and actually seen by others with an interest for years to come, as displays will be rotated. You won't get that in other major repositories. The world being what it is today, there are rules and regulations for even giving your stuff away, so please do identify items, ephemera and the like for the Museum then digest the requirements of the attached Donation Form. Having done that, you may as well bring the donations and completed form with you to the Reunion. Sadly, the 8 RAR section of the Museum is sorely lacking. Only you can fix that.

Turning to recent Branch activities. We had a successful luncheon for the Christmas Break-up at Waverley RSL on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022. It was a tad noisy in the venue and Dennis Moss is going to try to obtain a function room next year. Nonplussed by the racket, Arthur Koo resorted to using tourist Whispers type R/T devices with only limited success. In any event, the proceedings were graced by the presence of Dennis and Cait Moss, welcome newcomers Jim and Paula Corcoran, Bruce and Marilyn Lankford, Jane Andropof, Connie O'Dea, Geoff Ravenscroft, Ken and Ros Emmett, Alan Holland, Ralph Miller, Paul and Sue Fraser, Peter and Janet Fraser, Jim and Elka Pleasance, Geoff Hopkins, Julie and Graeme Agnew, John and Hilary Cooper, Christina and *Buzz* Kennedy, Grant Coultman-Smith, John Betts, Bill and Lyn Westhead, Bruce and Joy Seater, Jim and Dawn Brown, John Onrust and Arthur Koo. A great turn-out and pleasing to see John Betts, Bill Westhead and Ken Emmett back

following recent medical issues. Thanks to Bruce for calling the roll too.

Apologies for the 27<sup>th</sup> were received from Peter Luttick, Allan and Joyce Small, Joe and Connie Azzopardi, Wayne and Vera Maschette, Mike Prendergast and Warren and Joy Gilliland who were crook with Covid – yes, it is still around it seems. A very late apology was received from Neil and Sylvie Smith. Apparently, while putting the finishing touches to their finery, Neil's hearing aid fell to bits in his left ear. Ignoring the yelps and obscene language, Sylvie grabbed what Neil insists was a chop stick or something similar and attempted to remove the offending bits. Sadly, she merely succeeded in ramming them further into his ear where there seemed to have been little resistance – something was cruelly said by an 8 RAR man about the absence of any matter between his ears. In any event, a visit to the local Emergency Department resulted and solved the problem, although the wonderful Nurse Practitioner who attended was sure to advise no washing of hair for two weeks to avoid infection of the damaged ear hole. Washing of hair! If you know Neil, that will never be an issue.

This warrants a paragraph all by itself. Arthur Koo took the opportunity at Waverley to brief all present on the Reunion preparations and especially to call for volunteers. VOLUNTEERS. Did you copy that? More are needed to help out. Let Arthur know.

Bruce Lankford and Marilyn represented the Branch at the RAR Association dinner on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at the Waverley RSL. Attendance was disappointing although happily some younger RAR men were in attendance. Bruce and Arthur went to the most recent RAR Association meeting at the new meeting venue, the Kew RSL. Disturbing news from the meeting is that the venue is struggling to find the necessary membership numbers – Covid being one reason, and may not be viable in the future. So the RAR Association might be looking for yet another venue even before the dust is settled from the last move from the Tramways/East Melbourne RSL where there are still unresolved issues with Association memorabilia lodged at the venue. Life wasn't meant to be easy some say. Association numbers are also languishing and while the Regimental Dinner is still an annual highlight it is not as well attended as most would like. Also, the RAR Association is very conscious of the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicides but has neither the manpower nor expertise to become involved.

Touching on the Reunion once again, the RAR Association meeting discussed the matter, especially in relation to the position of 8 RAR among the RAR group in the Melbourne ANZAC Day March for 2023. Our preferred option is to be last ('rules' ensure first is out of the question) and close to a band to help marchers keep in step and therefore put our best foot forward, so as to speak, it being the Reunion March. It seems the jury is still out on where our position will be. Never fear though,

you will be briefed before the actual March. Remember, ANZAC Day is the last day of the Reunion.

News about the traps then. With Paul Gallagher pulling the strings Bravo Company are holding a reunion in Bendigo for Long Hai Day this year which has received considerable interest from all accounts. Wayne Maschette has been feverishly progressing the place of 8 RAR at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum. Dennis Moss has been flat out attending to his SES responsibilities, all exacerbated by floods and carnage on the roads while Neil Smith has become a familiar face at The Shrine, as has Adrian Lombardo where both are kept busy with Governor duties, in fact Life Governor duties for Adrian.

Looking further down the track we have the annual Long Hai Commemoration Service at The Shrine at 1145 on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The format will be similar to past years with some extra consideration of and discussion on the conduct of our Reunion Commemoration Service which is scheduled for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> with the Gala Dinner that evening. Also, two years ago, it was suggested that as part of the Long Hai Commemoration Service the names of those Battalion members known to have died over the previous two years would be read out during the service, so this is the intention this year. If anyone objects to this, please let the writer know and the matter will be further considered.

Returning to the National Reunion Commemoration Service, for your planning purposes please note that participants will be asked to assemble at the city end extremity of the Shrine Lower Forecourt, near St Kilda Road and the entrance to Government House, at 1030. For those who can march – remember it is a taxing climb for some, the group will form up with our banner and step off at 1100 behind the Rats of Tobruk Pipes and Drums – so there is no excuse for sloppy drill. Those who can't march can join the parade after it has formed up in front of the Eternal Flag and the seated guests and spectators. Be advised the activity is filmed and can be seen on You Tube and elsewhere, so look your best and tell family and friends to have a look. A standard service will follow with components such as a formal Welcome, Shrine Welcome, Speaker/s, National Anthem, Prayer, Wreath laying, The Ode, Last Post, Silence, Rouse, Poem, Honour Roll and Closure. The parade having Fallen Out in situ, everyone will be invited to refreshments from the Salvation Army between the three main flags and Birdwood Avenue. Don't forget to give the Salvation Army folk a gold coin for their support. When invited, groups will need to assemble on the Shrine steps for photographs. Following refreshments and photographs everyone is encouraged to enter the Shrine which is a magnificent building and suited to the reflection of our military sacrifice and service. Whilst not a museum per se, the displays in the Shrine are world class and should be seen. Take the opportunity if you can. There are guides about the place.

Just a brief word on the Melbourne ANZAC Day March. It is too early to detail form-up areas in the CBD but the March is similar to those most have experienced elsewhere. Note that it is a lengthy route, down Swanston Street, then along St Kilda Road and finally the longish rather demanding climb up the aforementioned forecourt to the Shrine, past the Eternal Flame (which always receives an Eyes Right and Front). Just before reaching the Shrine steps the column wheels off as directed and falls out in the nearby grounds. Now, for those with mobility issues, please do let us know so that arrangements can be made. Cars and the like are usually provided by the RSL but are limited in number.

After ANZAC Day and the National Reunion the Branch will hold the usual mid year luncheon, this time at the Ringwood RSL on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023 starting about midday as usual. For the Battalion birthday the Frankston RSL is the venue once again, this time on 6<sup>th</sup> August while the final end of year function will be at the Glen Waverley RSL on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Make sure they are in your diary.

Finally a few wise words from yesteryear. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire. Another one - make it tough for the enemy to get in, and you won't be able to get out.

Finally, hot of the press. Regardless of what you might read elsewhere, the fact is that 63,718 Australian Defence Force members served in the South Vietnam conflict, with 18,807 being National Servicemen – not the 15,000 or so which is commonly reported.

Cheers,  
Neil SMITH

### *ACT/Monaro*



Greetings from the Capital.

A Long Hai Day commemoration was held in Canberra on 28 February. Some members were away and some were not well on the day so I did have some apologies. As per our custom, Brian Gair and I laid a wreath on the grave of Phil Richter on behalf of the President and members of the 8RAR Association. Phil was KIA on 28 Feb 70. We took two roses from the wreath and laid them on the nearby grave of our friend and colleague Wilf Hedley, remembering all that he did for the association over many years, and in particular establishing the ACT Branch.

Final details have not yet been received from the RARA ACT but the following information from the RSL and AWM is provided:

A Dawn Service will be held at the AWM at 0530. This is to be preceded by diary readings and letters

from 0430. A veteran's march followed by the Anzac Day address will commence at 0930. The march will be in the western area of the AWM and finish in the Reg Saunders courtyard. It is noted that only current and former ADF members and veterans are permitted to march - no families. At 1645 the Last Post ceremony will be held at the AWM. Attendance at this event requires a ticket which can be booked online at the AWM website.

I will pass on any further updates to the ACT group. You can also keep a watch on the AWM, RARA ACT and RSL websites.

Best wishes are extended to all attending the association reunion for a successful and enjoyable time.  
Tony Sillcock

### *New South Wales*



#### **Long Hai Day at the Epping Club.**

This Day turned out to be absolutely terrific.

From the Unveiling of the Bernie Garland Plaque in Boronia Park to the Luncheon after, everything went to plan.

The Park itself had been so well prepared by Parramatta City Council who deserves a big pat on the back for all the effort. The crowd in attendance was large and was a credit for the occasion. The unveiling and service was very moving with Bernie Garland's sister Jennifer Thummler unveiling the plaque.

It was a credit to all those who took part in the unveiling. The Epping Club and Epping Sub Branch must also be thanked for all the help they gave us prior to and on the day. I must thank the 8RAR NSW committee for proposing the plaque in the first place.

After the service it was back to the club for the luncheon where the Garland family had nine people in attendance. Graham Walker introduced our guest speaker, Historian Kel Robinson, who is writing an untold history of the Vietnam Veterans movement post 1970 to the present. His presentation was very interesting and entertaining.

We had our usual toasting to the fallen of 8RAR from Malaya and Vietnam which is always one of the highlights of our day. The luncheon itself was once again well presented with the food being of top quality, and deserved a bigger attendance. For those who were unable to attend you missed a memorable day.

As you can see below, we had a large guest list.

#### **LONG HAI DAY 2023 – GUEST OF HONOUR LIST**

Jerome Lazale MP Member for Bannalong  
The Hon. Damien Tudehope MLC

Councillor Donna Davis Lord Mayor, City of Parramatta

Councillor Lorraine Wearne City of Parramatta

Victoria Benz Deputy Commissioner (NSW) DVA

Reverend Martin Levine Padre

Mrs Jennifer Thummler Sister of Lt. Bernard Garland –

KIA Vietnam 22 April 1970 and family member

William (Bill) Roberts OAM JP National President

Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia and Mrs.

Roberts

Frank Cole and Mrs Cole President VVPPAA (NSW Branch)

David Taylor OAM President of the Epping Club

Brian Swan AM President Epping RSL Sub Branch

John Curdie OAM Vice President Epping RSL Sub

Branch and Sub Branch representatives

Representatives of Epping Boys High School – including 3 senior Prefects

Members of 101 Field Battery

James Ruse High School Cadet Corp Catafalque Party

Gordon Irving Piper

Graham Walker AM

Kel Robinson Historian

Those in attendance for the luncheon are as follows apologies for those missed. Frank Petersen and Aimey, Peter Kearns, Kevin and Erin Sullivan, Mick and Carol Carter, Barry and Janice Darr, Brian Leslie, Tom Lyons, Viki McQueen and Partner Scott, Terry Daniels, Jennifer and David Thummler, David Pankhurst, Ron and Margaret O'Connor, Ray Richardson, Frank and Sue Cole, Graham Walker, Kel Robinson, Bill and Christine Robert, Steve and Denise Borg, David and Barbara Taylor, David Kitt, Ian Abbott, Barry and Gillian Hall, Fred Harvison, John and Derrid Curdie, Brian and Jeanette Swan, Merv Fennell, Rod Cleggett, Paul Zaat, Lorna and Julie Bryant, Dot Haines

#### **ANZAC Day 2023**

We will kick off at Regimental Square 8-30 am for the Royal Australian Regiment Service. After the Service form up Bligh Street for March. Estimated time of RAR to step off is 10-40 a.m. Hopefully Fred Harvison will again be leading us out front and ahead of our new banner. The Sofitel Wentworth Hotel is in Bligh Street for anyone needing a drink before the march. Although it is a bit more expensive it is much more comfortable to get a drink than surrounding pubs. After the March our Reunion will be held in the Royal Exhibition Hotel at 88 Chalmers Street near Central Station. The pub has a new manager and the upstairs has already been booked out but he has got us into a private room downstairs which I looked at and is very good. It would be appreciated if people could let me know if you will be attending so that I can give the Hotel approximate numbers

Welfare Report: None I know of.

**NSW Branch AGM Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at  
10.00am The Epping Club**



The branch will hold our AGM at the Epping Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, please support your branch and turn up. You will not be roped into a position as all current committee members have acknowledged their willingness to remain on the committee. However, we would welcome with open arms any NSW member who would be willing to join the committee. The NSW Branch has put their hand up to run the next national reunion in February 2025 and look to your support during the organisation of this event over the next 2 years.

Regards Mick Carter



Table for absent friends

*"This small table set for one off on its own is reserved to honour our fallen comrades. This symbolises that they are with us, here in spirit. We should never forget these brave men who served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Australian regiment. We are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured the agonies of pain, deprivation, and death.*



The James Ruse High School Catafalque Party



The NSW Branch Tankard Toast to our Fallen Men



Long Hai Memorial Service Boronia Park Epping NSW



Students from Epping Boys High School giving an address on the contributions of their school during the Vietnam War.

**This is part of their address.**

Three of our old boys were killed in Vietnam; the 1st boy ever to enrol at our school, Allan Ahearn who died 14th May, 1970, Harry White who died 16th May, 1968 and Bernard Garland who died on 23rd April 1970. Also we remember that 83 boys (39 as conscripts) served in Vietnam.

*I am sure you would agree that Epping Boys High have more than played their part during the Vietnam War.*



Bernard Garland's sister Jennifer with students from Epping Boys High at the unveiling of Bernard's plaque.



Colonel John Bertram (Ret'd) from 101 Battery Association with Jennifer and David Thummler

**South Australia**



In perfect weather, six 8 RAR members and their partners attended the Long Hai Day commemoration in Adelaide. The group: Jim Stopford, Adrian Coles, John Kelly, Toby Tyler, Gavin Power, Simon Kleinig, and their partners, assembled around the battalion memorial on the Pathway of Honour, above the Torrens Parade Ground, and directly behind Government House. At 11.00 am, members shared in the solemnity of the occasion by reading out the names of all

8 RAR soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice, both in Operation Hammersley, and during our tour of Vietnam.

John Kelly then laid the wreath, after which all those present took turns in pinning a commemorative poppy to the wreath, and paying their respects to the fallen. The Ode to Remembrance was then recited, and a one-minute silence was kept. It was a small but intimate gathering of shared camaraderie, reflection, and respect to our fallen brothers-in-arms. Later, the group adjourned to the Cathedral Hotel in North Adelaide, to relax over a leisurely lunch and enjoy friendly conversation recalling the past, as well as catching up on everyone's news.

Regards  
Simon Kleinig



**Western Australia**



28<sup>th</sup> of February is once again has come and gone as remembered those who did not make back or were wounded. We had a great day although a small turnout,

but Dave Scott played the bugle for us and once again thank you Scotty. I did get apologies from Terry Scanlan and his wife who were travelling in Japan and elsewhere, I think. I also had apologies from Jim (Doc) Burton and his wife as they were up in Northampton playing farmers (looking after a friend's property) and how was B B B BaaaBarbara. Jim up there where the men are men and the sheep tremble! We had our service performed once again by Padre Steven Dillon others in attendance were Trevor and Ann Holtom, Doug and Antoinette Wendt, Jack Kupsch, Gordon Gillam, Kevin Tangney, Barry Stinson (who drove down from Geraldton) Llyod and Marilyn Montefiore and myself

As I write this it is a sad for all reading this as we lost a great mate in Dickie Bligh on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April someone who was dearly loved and respected not only by all his 8 RAR mates but he was respected by all who ever met him. We in WA and on behalf of all who served with him or ever crossed his path would like to our condolences to his family, his children, grandchildren and Kath who nursed and cared for him over the past 12 plus months.

**SO NOW WE MOVE ON TO MELBOURNE.**

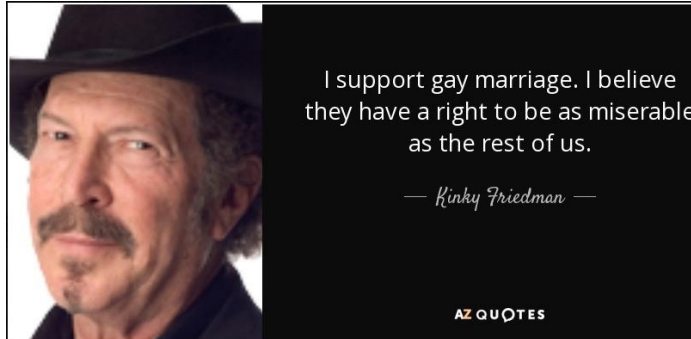
Everybody I have spoken with in WA and New South Wales are looking forward to this 1<sup>st</sup> Melbourne reunion and the opportunity to march together with mates they have never marched with and some may be pushed in a wheelchair or aided in some other way. Hang in brothers you are the next cabs off the ranks for the military vehicles that are used on Anzac Day.

While I am on the subject you may or may not have read this: I have attended every reunion since 2005 which is when I was first informed that they were being held and I am surprised at the amount of whinging that is going on this time about costs. Looking back from what I can see there is very little difference except for a bit of a rise in airfares and accommodation and realise that if you were on an aged pension, you wouldn't be able to afford it but my TPI pension has gone up every year and so has yours. I do understand it is more costly if you take your wife or partner. It is always more costly but for those who have done that before it is still not all that much different, yes, I know I don't take my wife. As I have stated in the past there is a valid reason for that, and I stand by that. I looked in my trunk and kit bag as I boarded HMAS Sydney, and she was not in there and she wasn't in the tent when I got to Nui Dat. So, I do not need to catch up with her every 3 or 4 years at a reunion, on the flip side I enjoy the escape. So, for me it is all about catching up with guys I served with and as we are no longer in the army, we have no officers that can order us around and tell us what we can and can't do, so Mrs Lieutenant Lines can stay at home and if I want to have a few extra beers and enjoy my six days of freedom I bloody well will.

A tip for you: if it's the money, keep what you save convert it into traveller's cheques ask someone to throw in your coffin so you can take it with you. Because may not even need to worry about the next one.

**ZIP UP YOUR MILITANT BOOTS LADIES  
YOUR GONNA LOVE THIS.**

No offence intended.



**A MUST SHARE**

There I was sitting at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker steps up next to me, grabs my drink, and gulps it down in one swig.

"Well, whatcha' gonna do about it?", he says, menacingly, as I burst into tears.

"This is the worst day of my life," I say. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting and my boss fired me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. I found my wife with another man and then my dog bit me."

"So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all, I buy a drink, I drop a capsule in, and sit here watching the poison dissolve; then you show up and drink the whole thing! But enough about me. How is your day going?"

See you there Linus

**Last Post**



**Anthony John "Tony" Kingdom**



**Anthony John  
(Poss) KINGDOM**

Tony Kingdom (A Coy) passed away at 7.00pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> January. He hadn't been well for a few months but he had a very sudden heart attack. At the young age of 75.

2790191 Anthony John (Tony) KINGDOM, born in Manilla NSW on 20 May 1947. A National

Serviceman served with 8RAR in Malaysia and then Vietnam (A Coy) from 17/11/1969 to 11/03/1970.

His Funeral was held on Wednesday 1 February 2023 at the Acacia Function Centre, Tamworth NSW, followed by a Wake and Tribute at the Manilla RSL.

*"It is with sadness that I announce the passing of Tony (Poss) Kingdom of A Company 8RAR on the 26th January 2023 (Australia Day)*

*The funeral service was held at the Acacia Function Centre Tamworth at 10,30 am Wednesday 1st February 2023. It was attended by many Dignitaries from the townships of Gunnedah, Curlewis, Manilla and Tamworth. He was friends with everyone.*

*A good sprinkling of 8RAR Vets including Bill Babs, Peter Molloy, Keith Sleeman and Les Wicks attended as well as many ex-service members from around the district who saluted a former Digger.*

*Poss's Army Career started when he was called up for National Service and presented himself to Marrickville Army Depot on the 1st May 1968 as part of 12th intake. From there he travelled to Kapooka for Basic Training and then to Singleton NSW for Infantry Corp training, He was then sent to Malacca Malaysia where he spent 6 months on Duty after which he returned to Australia and was based at Enoggera QLD, after extensive jungle training at Canungra he was posted to South Vietnam where he served with Distinction before being seriously wounded in the mine incident in the Long Hai's on 28th February 1969. Something he never fully recovered from but never complained about.*

*Tony's daughter Rebekah read the heartfelt Eulogy and then his Granddaughter, Emmielle read a stirring tribute to her grandfather - not a dry eye in the house.*

*At the end of the service those attending milled around outside telling stories and jokes on his life before moving off in a cavalcade of cars to Manilla Ex-Serviceman's Club for the wake - where a few bevies were sunk all the while stories were being told.*

*Tony was a great mate and friend over many years but could not tell a good joke if his life depended on it.*

*He was always a comedian but not a good one,  
May he Rest in Peace"*

*Kind Regards*

*Les Wicks*



**Peter John Phillips**



25 April 1948 – 25 January 2023

Lt Col Peter John Phillips served with both 6 RAR and 8RAR in Vietnam.

With 8 RAR served in Pioneer Pl Spt. Coy. he was 74. his service in the Army was from July 1968 until 2 October 1989.



**Leslie Roy Maynard**

15 December 1948 - 23 January 2023



Les (Known as Leslie Roy White) passed away at St. John of God Hospital Ballarat with loved ones by his side. A grave side service was held on Monday 6 February at Creswick Cemetery, Creswick. Vic. Leslie served in Vietnam with A Company



**Timothy Charles Pilcher**

2793851 Timothy Charles Pilcher was the twin Brother of 2793880 John Chesterton Pilcher who died on 27 July 2012 from the same disease as Timothy. Timothy served in A Coy and John served in B Coy. They both went into ARU in Vietnam on 14 May 1970 and they both then transferred to 8RAR on 18 June 1970 and they came home with the Battalion on 12 November 1970. They were born in St George Qld although they both had NSW Nasho number. At his passing, John lived in Inverell and Timothy lived in Buderim.



Robert "Snoopy" was laid to rest at Gin Gin, Queensland Keith Carl presented the 8 RAR Association sash to the family.



**Robert "Snoopy" Reed**

2 July 1949 – 13 January 2023

Robert joined 8RAR in Vietnam on 30 July 1970 and was posted to D Company.

He was 73 years old and lived at Drinan Qld. And passed away on January 13, 2023. Beloved husband of Frances (deceased). Dearly loved father of Scott, Robert (deceased). Loving grandfather of 3 and great-grandfather of 6.

His Funeral Service was held at the Gin Gin Lawn Cemetery on Monday, February 13, 2023



**Richard Herbert "Dick" Bligh**

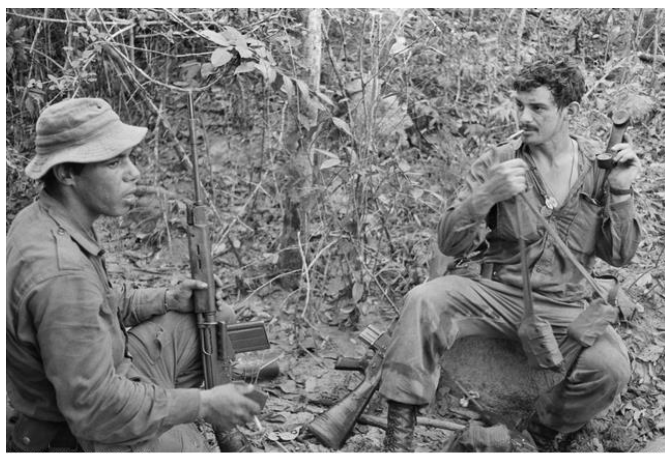
7 July 1946 – 12 March 2023

Dick was a proud Wakka Wakka man. He was a Corporal with 6 Platoon, B Company in Malaya 68-69 and Vietnam 69-70.

Dicks fought a courageous battle against the dreaded cancer particularly over the last 12 months.

Dicks funeral will be held on the 30 March and we will publish more regarding his life in the next 8 Ball.





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL WAR/70/0106/VN  
A great picture of two mates Dick and Joe Danyluk during Operation Hamersley in the Long Hais.

Bob passed away on 17 March 2023 after a very brief illness at his home town of Gordonvale Qld. His service in Vietnam was:

8<sup>th</sup> RAR 30 Jul 1970 till 04 Oct 1970 11 Pl, D Coy

7<sup>th</sup> RAR 05 Oct 1970 till 08 Feb 1971 D Coy

2<sup>nd</sup> RAR 26 Feb 1971 till 01 Jun 1971 Sp Coy

His funeral was on Tuesday 28 March 2023 at Gordonvale.



### Hilton George Ramalli



While not a member of 8 RAR but was one of our Supporting Arms soldiers during our tour Hilton George Ramalli recently passed away in Warwick Qld. Hilton was a Signalman with 104 Signal from 20 January 1970 till 3 Dec 1970

### Items of interest.

#### Remembrance Day 11 November 2022 Coorparoo RSL and Community Club (Ray Raines)

I'm a member of the above club and on Remembrance Day on behalf of the club obtained The Commissioner of the Queensland Police Katarina Carroll as our guest speaker.

I did a presentation on the conclusion of the Service as it was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Australians involvement in South Vietnam.

I purchased 6 sets of Vietnam Medallions (you can see in the photo with Katarina and I).

I dedicated the Medallions to the police that were conscripted via the National Service – during the Vietnam War “Conflict”.

I told the story of 2 of the young police who served in with 8 RAR in C Company.

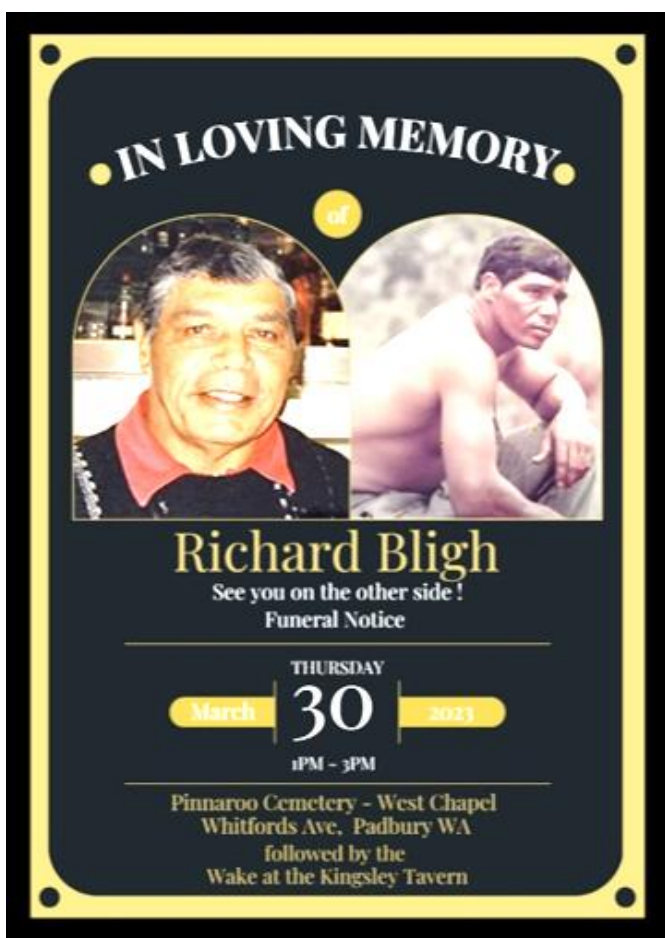
(a) Alan “Buzz” Rumbsey – served in Malaysia.

(b) Barry Stephens – served in Vietnam.

They served as 2 I/C 8 Platoon C Company 8 Battalion. These two served with distinction and honourable soldiers.

On the call up for National Service, the Australian Government mandated that one and all their employer re-estate them in the work force after serving their 2 years in the military. Alan and Barry went back to the police force. Were they were out of jungle green's to navy blue uniform. For many from one war zone to another. They excelled in the police force. Alan took his life many years after while serving in NSW. Barry, Viet Cong could not get him it took cancer. A great loss to their families and 8 RAR. Those that knew them to serving with them can confer.

Also, another non-NSW man who was a 2IC in Malaysia with 8 Platoon C Coy 8 RAR Jim Barrett. Jim took – applied for discharge, leaving the ranks



### Robert David Dangaard

2 June 1949 – 17 March 2023



of 8 RAR prior to 8 RAR's deployment to Nui Dat South Vietnam, I spoke to Jim and asked him what is he going to do in civi street? Answer if I was 2 inches taller (he stood tippy toe) I'd most probably join the police force.

8 RAR deployed to Vietnam and on 8 RAR's arrival at the task force who was in greens waiting, Jim Barrett. Jim was allotted to A Coy. We know his fate was on Operation Hammersley, 28 February 1970. About 15 months later Jim's sister Margaret gave birth to a boy. Margaret and he husband Barry named the new born James (James Corliss) after Jim. In my talk at the Remembrance Day Service, I spoke of this episode also, and noted to Katarina that James is a Senior Constable waiting for promotion to Sergeant. He is holding ground at Lowood Police Station Qld.

Now back to the Vietnam Medallion graphics displayed with them.

1 set in Katarinas office at Roma Street

1 set Queensland Police Museum

1 set Queensland Police Cadet Training Centre.

The commissioner was over the moon with my donation gifts.

Now you read this "How" the heck does Ranzee know her?

I play bowls with her husband Mick at Camphill Bowls Club here in Queensland.

Thank you for your time.

Raymond "Ranzee" Raines.

*Ranzee thank you for the great story and your generous gifts to the Queensland Police Service. Editor.*



### **Men and Women of Bravo Coy!**

On behalf of Vera and myself, I would like to officially welcome you all here today to this Long Hai lunch and to this reunion!

I would just like to say a few words in relation to this special day for us as members of 8 RAR bearing in mind, it is not a glorification of war but merely a recollection of an event that was part of our tour of duty in a war we fought in regardless of the politics of it!

It was 53 years ago today on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1970 that a Platoon of Alpha Coy walked into a minefield in the Long Hai hills near the end of Operation Hammersley, which was a massive Battalion operation trying to seek out and destroy the enemy with mixed results. Although it is correct in saying that history will show that every Battalion that went into the Long Hai hills had the same result as the enemy was far too entrenched in their bunker systems!

Most of us in Bravo Coy were oblivious to this incident as we were busy chasing D445 further north during which time another horrible, sad day happened on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March when 5 Platoon lost John Bressington and Snow O'Dal with many others severely wounded including our Platoon Commander Phil Thompson in yet another mine/booby trap incident!

After we came home and the 8 RAR Association was formed it was decided to honour this day as being significant in our tour of duty when we also honour all of the 18 men, we lost KIA in our tour! So, every year we gather mostly in capital cities to reflect and honour those who never made it home and also those who were wounded both physically and psychologically!!

It's funny about Australians that we sometimes honour battles or campaigns that we lost as we never really won in the Long Hais because we never routed the enemy out of their Minh Dam Secret Zone from where they rested up between operations against us! We never won at Gallipoli either! Maybe that is the Australian way

of 'cheering for the underdog'! Although, we all know that we are honouring the dead and maimed from that particular operation, regardless of the outcome as the operation was significant in the future course of our war!

However, history will also reflect that the leaders of our military personnel in those early wars had little regard for the lives of those beneath them. Fortunately, tactics have changed and man has become more cognisant of his fellow man and the value of Life! To that end, 8 RAR was extremely fortunate in having 'Peggy' O'Neill as our CO and it is a well-known fact that he always wanted to preserve the lives of his men and not put us in unnecessary danger with the odds stacked against us. 18 KIA in the whole tour bears testimony to his tactics which in essence, were that he stopped us from walking into bunkers systems in the jungle and getting cut to pieces by an entrenched enemy! Rather later on in the tour, we started to fight smart by ambushing around villages with good results and nil carnage for us!

As a Nasho, I was one of around 55% of us who made up the full complement of the Battalion who were blooded very quickly and efficiently into a world totally foreign to most of us! We soon learned that war was very real no matter how big or small the conflict is! When someone wants to kill you, it's very real and scary and not the same as playing war in your backyard with your other 'baby boomer' mates back in safe old Oz! The thing is we adapted very well and molded into the Battalion very easily as we mainly had excellent Officers and NCOs guiding us and it got to the point that no one could tell the difference between us and our Regular soldier mates!

I know that we are **all** proud Veterans! Proud to have been part of the Grey 8<sup>th</sup> and even prouder to have served with Bravo Company, otherwise we would not be here today mixing with the very men who 'had our backs' every minute of every day we were "In Country"! The mateship we have is second to none, as is the mateship every single Veteran in every unit in every theatre of war Australia has been in!

I made the mistake once of saying, under the influence of a strong cordial, that the closest people in my life were my 8 RAR, mates! Upon reflection, I should've said the 'equally' closest people! Maturity! Comes late for most males!

When you live constantly with men during a time of war, there can be times of upsets and stress but I believe B Coy bypassed most of that mainly through excellent training, excellent leaders, excellent fellow Diggers and most of all – humour!! I often reflect on how much nonsense myself, Meags and Bluey Lee got up to in the Dat, which, I believe, must've contributed to keeping the Company morale up!

Speaking of Leaders, we were blessed to have, in my opinion, the best Company Commander in Mike Jeffery who sadly passed away in December 2020! His wife, Marlina sincerely had to sadly decline our

invitation to attend today as she had a huge plumbing problem in her home while she was away and tradespeople cannot give her a definite time to repair it so she has to stay local!

Beneath Mike was a small band of Platoon Commanders who were also second to none and today we have three of them with us, which tells me that they love the Company and its men just as much as we do even though they went on to serve in other Units with distinction after our tour!

Then we had the backbone of any Infantry Battalion in the NCOs and in particular the Section Commanders and when I had to do the job in 5 Section after Al Walter went home, I quickly realised how 'shit scared' one can get with so much responsibility on your shoulders! We have quite a few of these men here today as well! Of course, the real backbone of any Infantry Battalion is the Diggers, the Grunts, the Private Soldier who carries out instructions and tasks which sometimes appear to be beyond their capabilities without question and they did it to perfection! Well done everyone!

A good mate of mine in Jeffery Mawkes who was the number 2 on the gun with Hero in 5 Section, sent me a couple of T-shirts with poignant messages on them which read – "We went as Strangers and came Home Brothers" and "Not everyone who went to Viet Nam came home and not everyone who came home, left Viet Nam" Enough said! The aftermath of war can be quite debilitating for Veterans depending on their personal experiences and personality type! However, we are blessed, I believe, to have very good support from DVA no matter what colour the Government is on the day and I am confident that everyone here has had that support and is in a position to cope with life now as best he can!

In finishing I wish to acknowledge those who have passed since coming home and the numbers are gradually increasing sadly! So, I don't need to remind you to think of these departed souls every now and then! Fortunately, we are still here! We are proud Bravo Coy 8 RAR Veterans and hopefully, we will continue to meet up like this and catch up from time to time somewhere!

This brings me to sincerely thank a few people for helping me make this happen! First and foremost, my dear wife, Vera! I can't thank you enough love and you should know that without your help and support, I would not have been able to get through as well as we did! Thank you so very much, Dar! On top of this Ted Forward and Peter Ball have contributed with their specialties!

Thanks for your attention and for making the effort to travel to Bendigo so that this reunion would be the success it has been! Apologies were received from Marlina Jeffery, Bluey Lee, Jeffery Mawkes, Cyril Elliott and John Cleary!

On behalf of Vera and myself, I hope you have enjoyed yourselves as well as the rest of your day here and in Bendigo and if you wish to go through the Military Museum in town, Peter (Yakka) Ball will be only too



pleased to speak to you about making that happen! On behalf of Vera, myself, and the RSL staff, I also wish you safe and trouble-free travel back to your respective homes and loved ones!

Until we meet again – Cheers!

Paul “Wombat” Galligher

### National Raffle Results



The winners were -

1st John Bath

2nd John Toonan

3rd Mark Munt.

Congratulations to our winners and thank you members for your support.

### The Tour

*Paul Zaat 8RAR 26-11-1969 – 10-11-1970*

We left our shores in '69, not knowing our fate at the time.

We were young and spirited, full of life.

This journey of ours would lead to strife.

The day had come to say goodbye, from airports and wharves the flag did fly.

Family and friends showed us much love, with tears in their eyes they looked above.

As the jets flew past, with such a roar. Would it be the last time they saw, their sons, brothers, fathers leaving for war?

As distance gathered between them and us, we looked at each other “Why all the fuss?!” Heading to a land far away, to an unknown war to this day.

The Reg's, the Nasho's together as one, carrying their packs and a brand-new gun.

After days at sea and hours in the air, we finally arrived glad to be there.

Looking in amazement with what we saw, this was the beginning of our tour.

As we moved to our base at Nui Dat, armoured vehicles to our back.

The war was near it could be seen; I heard a bang the truck did lean.

“How close was that?!” my mate did say, his safety re-assured without delay.

On arrival at Base Nui Dat, settled into my new flat.

Metal bed, metal locker, this old tent was a real shocker!

Wooden pallets for the floor, mouldy sandbags around the wall.

Home from home let's not complain, the mud, the heat and continuous rain.

14 days in country the task at hand, operations in Phuoc Tuy over a vast land.

The initial patrols were 5 days long, the Hamlets, the bunkers around Hao Long.

Protecting the farmers during the day, ambushing at night without delay.

Six months in country and operations grew long, five weeks at a time chasing Viet Cong.

Day after day the hardships abound, the killing and wounding, the shouting out loud.

Patrols continue around Xuyen Moc and Dat Do, the pain and suffering of mates I know.

Back in the lines another op complete at last a beer in my hand and weight off my feet.

It doesn't last long that's for sure, 10 days later back for more.

As the months go on nothing has changed, home soon hopefully can be arranged.

With casualties mounting and unrest at home, this television war can't leave us alone.

11 months in my tour I lost mate after mate, 18 in total, this war I do hate.

The day has come the news is here, 350 days in country and the end is near!

Finally, to leave this god forsaken place, the excitement could be seen on everyone's face.

We had served our “country” as requested, we fought and toiled and never rested.

By air and sea, we left for home, together as one and never alone.

We were brothers in arms to say the least, the mates we lost,

May they rest in peace.

On arrival home no words (of war) were spoken, some battered, some bruised with spirits broken.

Family and friends gave us support, with little knowledge of the war we fought.

With pain and anger in my heart, I longed for the day and a fresh new start.

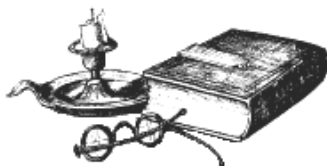
Lest we forget.

“To live in the present, negates the past.”

**National Reunion Melbourne ANZAC Day.**  
If you still are undecided regarding attending  
maybe Brig. "Warie" George Mansford AM can  
inspire you!

### **Memorable and Proud Gatherings**

*Old comrades, be they ghosts or living, are on parade  
Familiar smiling faces never to fade  
Once, all dressed in khaki, mottled cloth or jungle  
green  
Bent with heavy packs of Canberra's false promises, it  
seems  
Much laughter, and gone the sound of battle and its  
unknown  
No more hasty prayers or reaching out in sleep for  
loved ones at home  
Together again, no matter where the winds of war have  
blown  
Many empty pockets where Canberra gold coins should  
have been  
Troubled minds and wounded bodies beyond repair to  
be seen  
Others absent for years are coming by road, air and  
with the tide  
To be there with old comrades who gather from far and  
wide  
To embrace, and yarn with all who served, side by side  
To recall fond tales with happy banter galore  
Excited to be with each other; and--- just one drink  
more  
As shadows fall, silence hushes all  
They listen to a bugle sobbing for those who gave all  
Wet faces and memories flow with the sunset call  
The gathering ends with hugs and even more tears  
Promises to be at the gathering in following years  
To once more be on parade to answer "Present" at roll  
call  
Ghosts or mortals, marching in the column, in step and  
standing tall  
All for one and one for all  
George Mansford ©April 2020*



### **Editors Ramblings**

**2023 marks 60 years since the arrival of the  
Australian Army Training team (AATTV) in South  
Vietnam (SVN) on 3 August 1962 – and 50 years  
since the withdrawal of combat troops in 1972.**

### **Calling volunteers to visit all 523 Australian Vietnam KIA graves**

Here is an opportunity for all of us to assist the  
Vietnam Veterans Vigil (VVV) and get involved in this  
very worthy cause. If you can assist your State Branch in  
visiting any of our men who paid the supreme sacrifice,  
please contact them.

The ACT Branch have for many years under the  
leadership of their former President the late Wilf always  
gather at Philip Richter's grave on Long Hai Day and this  
tradition continues with Tony and is very commendable.

The Australian government intends to mark the  
occasion with a Commemorative Service, televised  
nationally by the ABC on 18 August 2023 from the  
Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial  
(AVFNM) in Canberra.

Many Vietnam Veterans and the next-of-kin of  
KIAs are too old or frail to attend this ceremony.

To account for this, the Vietnam Veterans Vigil  
(VVV) will provide surviving Vietnam Veterans and the  
Australian people the opportunity to participate in other  
meaningful ways right across the nation and overseas in  
recognising the national loss and paying their respects to  
those who were Killed in Action (KIA) 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 3 August  
2023.

The first being a Dawn Service Dawn Service,  
to be held at the AVFNM in Canberra.

Other Services will be held at 11am local time  
across Australia and in Malaysia.

The last Service, at Dusk, will be held in  
Scotland, where LCPL Robert Buchan is laid to rest  
with his Mum and Dad.

VVV is asking for volunteers to co-ordinate  
each Commemorative Service.

You can find more information on the VVV  
website – [vvv.org.au](http://vvv.org.au)

On the website is a list of all Australian KIAs, a  
map showing which towns across the nation they are  
commemorated in and detailed information on how you  
can help.

**(Below are our men with cemetery and grave details)**

There is even a suggested template for the  
prepared Commemorative Service and links to the  
sound recordings you may wish to include.

It is requested that every grave visited be  
photographed by those in attendance.

Those photographs can then be downloaded to  
the Virtual War Memorial of Australia website.

Full and easy instructions are provided.

This collated virtual Gallery of Remembrance  
will provide an enduring legacy of  
Remembrance for all Australians, now and into  
the future, to reflect upon.

**John Leonard McQuat** Albany - Allambie Park. 241  
Lower King Rd Walmsley WA 6330 Australia  
Area: Anglican Section: LAWN A Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: Grave: 0506

**Philip Earle** Centennial Park 760 Goodwood Rd  
Pasadena SA 5042 Australia Area: Derrick  
Gardens Section: Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: 017N Grave: 930

**Gary Maxwell West** Cornelian Bay Cemetery / Queens  
Walk Cornelian Bay Tas 7008 Australia Area: CL  
Church Of England Section: Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: Grave: 164

**Robert James Jackson** Greta Cemetery / Evans St  
Greta NSW 2334 Australia cemetery Area: Church of  
England Section: Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: E Grave: 1

**Larry James MacLennan** Keilor Cemetery /  
Cemetery Rd and Ely Ct Keilor East Vic 3033 Australia  
Area: Presb Section: A Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: Grave: 91

**Victor Neil Wagstaff** Maryborough Cemetery 0  
Bendigo-Maryborough Road Eddington Vic 3472  
Australia Area: Presb Section: Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: Grave: 7008

**Phillip Raymond Goody** Monto Cemetery (New)  
12959 Gladstone-Monto Road Monto Qld 4630  
Australia Area: Church of England Section: 4 Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: Grave: 160

**William Joseph Hoban** Mt Gravatt Cemetery &  
Crematorium 620 Mains Road MacGregor QLD 4109  
Australia Area: Lawn Section: ANZAC 2 Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: Grave: 242

**James Joseph Barrett** Mt Gravatt Cemetery &  
Crematorium 620 Mains Road MacGregor QLD 4109  
Australia Area: Lawn Section: ANZAC 2 Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: Grave: 263

**Alan William Ahearn** Northern Suburbs Crematorium  
199 Delhi Road 0 Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
Area: Undetermined Wall / panel: QE Side: Row: Niche  
number: 314

**Timo Esko A Pesonen** Queensland Garden of  
Remembrance - Graham Road Bridgeman  
Downs Qld 4035 Australia Area: Wall  
3 Wall: 3 Row: A Panel:

**Douglas Alfred Baker** South Australian Garden of  
Remembrance 760 Goodwood Rd Pasadena SA 5042  
Australia Area: Wall 13 Wall: 13 Row: H Panel:

**Barry John Munday** Springvale Botanical Cemetery  
600 Princes Highway Springvale Vic 3171 Australia  
Area: A. F. Alway Lawn Section: Sub  
section: Sector: Plot: Row: AN Grave: 60

**Stephen James O'Dal** Springvale Botanical Cemetery  
600 Princes Highway Springvale Vic 3171 Australia  
Area: Banksia Wall / panel: U Side: Row: Niche  
number: 67

**Daryl Paulson** Springvale Botanical Cemetery 600  
Princes Highway Springvale Vic 3171 Australia Area:  
Banksia Wall / panel: U Side: Row: Niche number: 88

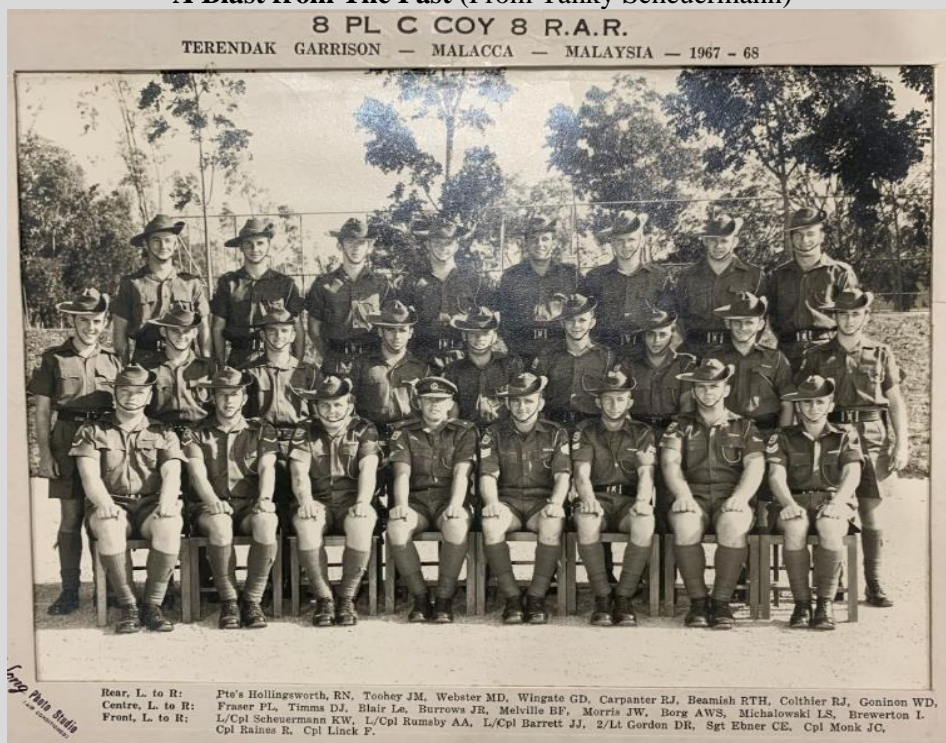
**Eric George Gould** Western Australia Garden of  
Remembrance adjacent to Perth War Cemetery Smyth  
Road NEDLANDS WA 6009 Australia Area: Wall  
10 Wall: 10 Row: I Panel:

**Philip Mackay Richter** Woden Cemetery 1 Justinian  
St Phillip ACT 2606 Australia Woden Area: RSL  
Section: Sub section: Sector: Plot: Row: X Grave: 268

**John Bressington** Woronora Crematorium 0 Linden  
Street Sutherland NSW 2232 Australia  
Area: Crematorium Wall / panel: S Side: Row: Niche  
number: 9

*Let's get involved. Sully editor*

### A Blast from The Past (From Tanky Scheuermann)



# 8RAR REUNION

21 TO 25 APRIL 2023

## COMMEMORATIVE CAP

A NEW CAP IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ORDER, COMMEMORATING THE 2023  
MELBOURNE REUNION.

**WEAR IT WITH PRIDE**



**HOW TO ORDER.** ORDER YOUR CAP NOW FOR PICKUP ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE REUNION AT THE  
REGISTRATION/MEET AND GREET VENUE.

TO AVOID HAVING EXCESS STOCK AFTER THE REUNION, CAPS MUST BE PRE-ORDERED USING THIS  
FORM.

IF YOU AREN'T ATTENDING THE REUNION YOUR CAP WILL BE POSTED TO YOU AFTER 25 APRIL. PLEASE  
INCLUDE \$10 POSTAGE

**CUT OFF FOR ORDERS IS 14TH FEBRUARY 2023.**

.....  
*ORDER DETAILS*

*FIRST NAME.....SURNAME.....*

*POSTAL ADDRESS.....*

.....

*PHONE.....EMAIL.....*

I AM ATTENDING THE REUNION AND WISH TO ORDER A CAP TO BE PICKED UP ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE  
REUNION AT REGISTRATION.

I AM **NOT** ATTENDING THE REUNION AND WISH TO ORDER A CAP TO BE POSTED TO ME AFTER 25 APRIL

*QUANTITY.....*

**PRICE \$30 EACH.**

*POSTAGE (ONLY IF NOT ATTENDING REUNION) \$10*

.....  
**PAYMENT DETAILS**

PAYMENT WILL BE BY BANK TRANSFER TO **8RAR ASSN INC. NAB. BSB 084283. ACCT 045098582**, OR BY  
POSTAL ORDER OR CHEQUE. DO NOT SEND CASH.

PLEASE COPY THIS ORDER AND EMAIL TO [treasurer8rarassn@hotmail.com](mailto:treasurer8rarassn@hotmail.com) OR POST TO: SECRETARY, PO Box 4989  
FOREST LAKE QLD 4078 BEFORE 14 FEBRUARY 2023

**EIGHTH BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED** ABN 12157362866  
**PO Box 4989 Forest Lake, Qld 4078 AUSTRALIA**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL**

SURNAME			GIVEN NAMES		
STREET NO. & NAME			POSTAL ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT TO HOME ADDRESS)		
CITY	STATE	P/CODE	CITY	STATE	P/CODE
SPOUSE/PARTNER NAME (OPTIONAL):		TELEPHONE (Home): (    )		(Mobile):	
EMAIL:					

**SERVICE DETAILS:**

RANK OF DISCHARGE:		SERVICE NO.:		COY:	PL:
DATE OF BIRTH:		DATE ENLISTED:		DATE DISCHARGED:	
AUSTRALIA:	MALAYSIA:	VIETNAM:		OTHER:	

*I hereby apply to join / renew membership of the 8RAR Association inc. and authorise the association to print my name in its correspondence, newsletters or any publication that the association may wish to publish from time to time, providing that the information or use of my name is not associated with or connected to any defamatory publication.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual subscriptions are \$20 for ONE (1) year or \$100 for FIVE (5) years: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (Optional)     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Remember that you can now pay for your subs or memorabilia directly to the association's bank account.*

**Account name: 8 RAR Association Inc. Bank: National Australia Bank; BSB No. 084-283; A/C; 045098582**

**Don't forget to put your name in the detail section on the Bank Deposit Slip**

*If paying by direct deposit to the Association's Bank Account, please scan and e-mail this page to John Weatherley  
E-mail: [treasurer8rarassn@hotmail.com](mailto:treasurer8rarassn@hotmail.com) or post to our Secretary, PO Box 4989 Forest Lake, Qld 4078.*

## MEMORABILIA ORDER FORM

FIRST NAME.....SURNAME.....

POSTAL ADDRESS.....  
.....

PHONE.....EMAIL.....

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QUANTITY	AMT
T SHIRT	CASUAL DESIGN FOR RELAXATION, GYM, AROUND THE HOUSE.	\$35 EACH. SEE SIZING CHART		\$
8RAR CAP (old design)	ONE SIZE FITS ALL	\$30 EACH		\$
DOG TAG/KEY RING	DOG TAG DESIGN WITH REGIMENTAL LOGO	\$10 EACH		\$
COASTER SET	SETS OF FOUR WITH REGIMENT LOGO	\$18 SET		\$
COOLER	GREAT NEW DESIGN WITH THE 8RAR LOGO	\$10 EACH		\$
WINDOW STICKER		\$5 EACH		\$
BATTALION TIE		\$35 EACH		\$
INFANTRY COMBAT BADGE LGE	NOW IN STOCK	\$10 EACH		\$
INFANTRY COMBAT BADGE SMALL	NOW IN STOCK	\$10 EACH		\$
REGIMENTAL LOGO (SKIPPY) BADGE LGE	NOW IN STOCK	\$10 EACH		\$
REGIMENTAL LOGO (SKIPPY) BADGE SMALL	NOW IN STOCK	\$10 EACH		\$
CITATION SMALL	SMALL QUANTITY IN STOCK	\$10	LIMIT 1 PER CUSTOMER	\$
CITATION LARGE	SMALL QUANTITY IN STOCK	\$10	LIMIT 1 PER CUSTOMER	\$
POSTAGE		\$15 FLAT RATE		\$15
			<b>TOTAL</b>	

### PAYMENT DETAILS

PAYMENT WILL BE BY BANK TRANSFER TO **8RAR ASSN INC. NAB. BSB 084283. ACCT 045098582,**  
OR BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER.

PLEASE COPY THIS ORDER AND EMAIL TO [treasurer8rarassn@hotmail.com](mailto:treasurer8rarassn@hotmail.com) OR POST TO: SECRETARY,  
PO Box 4989 FOREST LAKE QLD 4078

**ENQUIRIES?** EMAIL [KYM MCDOUGALL](mailto:kym.mcdougall@icloud.com) [memorabilia8rar@icloud.com](mailto:memorabilia8rar@icloud.com)



**We now have a brand-new range of memorabilia for our members. Use the order form over the page to order. All these items are in stock and available.**



**SPORTS T SHIRT.** This is a brand-new item based on shirts used by 8/9 RAR for exercise and relaxation. Made from cool micro mesh knit and proudly bearing the 8RAR livery, it is ideal for wearing while out on the road, in your van, at the beach, around the house, to gym or for any other casual activity. **\$35 each. SIZING CHART BELOW**

**Size (cm):**

Measurement	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
Full Chest	105	110	115	120	125	130	140
Length (Top Shoulder Point)	69	71.5	74	76.5	78	79.5	82.5



**CAPS.** Caps have always been popular items and we now have an updated design that includes the Regimental logo and the Vietnamese Presidential Citation on the front, with the Regimental slogan DUTY FIRST on the back. **\$30 each**



**DRINK COASTERS SET OF FOUR.**

Another new item, four clear acrylic drink coasters in a set with Regimental logo. Great for gifts. **\$18 per set of four**



**DOG TAG/KEYRING.** Brand new item, ideal as a key ring with Regimental logo on the front and our areas of service on the back. Great gifts for friends or family. **\$10 each**



**DRINK COOLER.** Sold individually, new design.  
**\$10 each**



**WINDOW STICKERS.** Now back in stock.  
**\$5 each**



**Battalion Ties.** Existing design.  
**\$35 each**



**Infantry Combat Badge** small and large  
**\$10 each**



**Regimental Logos,** small and large  
**\$10 each**



**VIETNAMESE PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS.** We have a small quantity of citations available, donated by 8/9 RAR. These are available for the cost of Postage and Handling, **\$10 each.**

For more memorabilia options **not specific to 8RAR**, members can visit the Vietnam Veteran's Federation of Australia website at <http://www.vfagranville.org/ecommerce/index.php>