



# VAMPIRE

Official Newsletter of  
**2 Field Ambulance**  
**Past Members Association**  
(Formed 1986)

JUNE 2010

**PATRON:** Dr Ted Heffernan MB, BS, FRCS, FRACS, FACS



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*Together Then*  *Together Again*

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2 Field Ambulance  
is proud to have served our nation in  
World War 1, World War 2, Vietnam, and UN Peacekeeping  
"Saluting Their Service"



**Your Committee:**

President	John (Joe) Cauchi-Gera JP(Qual) (07 3398 8117)
Vice-President	Peter Bowring (08 9246 1448)
Secretary & Vampire Editor	Phil Hay BA, MPubAd, MEdSt, AFAIM, JP(Qual) (07 3869 0250)
Treasurer	Rodger Eyles (02 6653 6927)

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WA	Peter Bowring (08 9246 1448)
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NSW / ACT	Rodger Eyles (02 6653 6927)
VIC / TAS	Brian Reeves (03 5821 6886)
QLD	John (Joe) Cauchi-Gera JP(Qual) (07 3398 8117)



**Disclaimer**

The **VAMPIRE NEWSLETTER** is published for the membership of the 2 Field Ambulance Past Members Association, with copies also sent to kindred organisations and ADF personnel. It is compiled with care, and in good faith, and from sources believed to be accurate at the time of writing. The views and opinions expressed by members may not necessarily reflect those of the association. Readers should not act, nor refrain from acting solely on the basis of information contained in the newsletter. The Association accepts no responsibility for actions taken by readers.

# President's Message



Greetings to everyone throughout Australia, and welcome everyone for this Edition of the Vampire Newsletter in 2010.

It is amazing to realise, that we are already in May 2010 and that this year seems to be passing by us all rather quickly. Daphne and I trust you all enjoyed a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Firstly, I must say that I am very proud to be in the position of President of our Association and feel privileged to have the opportunity to fulfil the role.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to the Executive Committee and your State Representatives who continue to do a marvellous job.

For those who may not know it, Malcolm Cheyne has gladly volunteered to be the North Queensland Representative to look after our Members up North. Malcolm served with 2 Field Ambulance Woodside in the Transport Section, and is also a Vietnam Veteran. He and his lovely wife Joan are attending our Coffs Harbour reunion which is now only a few months away (15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October).

Whilst I am on the subject of our reunion, I know very well that our Treasurer (Rodger and Betty Eyles) are working extremely hard to ensure all is ready for the reunion, and I am led to believe that there may be a few pleasant surprises in place.

Once again I urge all Members who can to attend the Reunion, and to please finalise arrangements as soon as possible as it would greatly assist Rodger to know the numbers definitely attending.

On a sad note the Association once again has lost some wonderful Members who have passed away in the last few months. I am certain that our Secretary Phil Hay will have their names in the Vampire which will be coming your way in the next few weeks.

I also know that some of our Members are suffering from health problems and to them on behalf of the Association we wish them well and a speedy recovery.

On a happier note some of our Members are off overseas to all parts of the World and to them we wish them a happy journey. We look forward to seeing you back in our wonderful country safe and sound.

I now would very much like to remind some of our Members that membership fees are due, and to those who are not sure if they are financial please telephone Rodger on the number listed in the Vampire. It would be very much appreciated if this is done as soon as possible as it would very much help our financial obligations. I do thank you for that.

I finally would like to thank all those who have already Registered and paid for all the social activities at the Reunion at Coffs Harbour. For those travelling by car please take care as we all wish you a safe journey to once again join in this very happy occasion.

Daphne and I are very much looking forward to seeing all those attending and spending some happy times together as I am sure you all are.

**John (Joe) Cauchi-Gera JP  
President**



# Secretary's Sitrep

A very warm hello to everyone once again.

## Members Passing

I am very sad to inform you that we have recently lost a number of people from our membership ranks: **Steve Francis, Noel Fraser, Bert Ferguson and Fred Russell**. May they all rest in eternal peace.

## 2010 Reunion

As President Joe has already mentioned, planning for our reunion is well advanced. If you are attending and haven't already told Rodger, please complete the blue form that has been sent with our previous issues and forward it to Rodger.

Because we have some new members, I have listed below the reunion program:

- Friday evening - Meet & Greet at the Ex-Services Club.
- Saturday morning - Coach Tour to the popular Bellinger Markets where you can buy lunch.
- Saturday night - Official Dinner at the Ex-Services Club.
- Sunday morning - Show & Breakfast at the *Pet Porpoise Pool* which recently won the award for the Best Tourist Attraction in Australia.
- Sunday afternoon - General Meeting and Farewell BBQ at the Club.

If you don't have a blue form and wish to attend the Reunion, you can get one from me, or you can call Rodger Eyles to make arrangements.

## Breakfast NOT Lunch

I made an error in the previous Vampire. The Sunday show at the pet porpoise pool is actually Show & Breakfast NOT lunch. Many apologies.

## Association General Meeting

Members are reminded that there will be a General Meeting of the Association at our 2010 Reunion. A separate notice to that effect appears in this newsletter including information on nominations for a number of positions.

## Message From Tony Gill

Tony Gill has asked that a message from him be passed on and I have included it in this newsletter. We wish Tony all the best and thank him for his support as HOC.

## RAAMC Tie

Just a reminder that the new RAAMC tie is now available from our Treasurer. The tie is a very good buy in corps colours with the RAAMC badge featured prominently. The tie is listed in the memorabilia section on the back of our (yellow) Membership Form.

## Contributions to Vampire

Once again, thanks to everyone who sent their various contributions to our Vampire, your efforts are very much appreciated. Until our Reunion, best regards and take care.

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**Secretary & Editor**



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# Treasurer's Report

Well, everything is under control for our reunion in Coffs Harbour. Our reunions are an opportunity for everyone to catch up and enjoy local pleasures, and I am sure that 2010 will be no exception.

If you intend coming to the reunion and haven't yet booked with me, please do so now so that I can finalize arrangements.

If you are arriving in Coffs by plane, train or bus, and will require local transport to your accommodation, please complete the blue form enclosed with this newsletter and forward it to me.

It is my intention that all those attending the reunion will have paid any outstanding fees and charges prior to the reunion. This will allow Betty and I to enjoy the reunion with

you and not be tied up over the weekend collecting money and worrying about its security. I know I can count on Members co-operation in this regard. Remember, it is just as easy to write a cheque/money order to send to me now rather than pay on the night.

Regarding our finances, a full Treasurers' report will be provided to Members at our General Meeting in October. Suffice to say that our national account is in a very healthy position.

On behalf of Betty and I, may I wish you all a most enjoyable trip for we are really looking forward to meeting up with everyone at the reunion

**Rodger & Betty Eyles**  
(We are the Treasurer)



A young digger was shopping in a supermarket when he noticed an old lady following him around. Furthermore, she kept staring at him. Finally she overtook him at the checkout, then turned to him and said "I hope I haven't made you feel ill at ease: it's just that you look so much like my late son".

He answered "that's OK". She said "I know it is silly, but if you would call out "good bye mum as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy". She then went through the checkout, and as she was on her way out the digger called out "Good by Mum". The little old lady waved and smiled back.

Pleased he had brought a little sunshine into someone's day, he went to pay for his groceries. "That comes to \$121.85" said the checkout clerk. "How come? I only bought two items". The clerk replied, "Yeah, but your mother said you'd be paying for her too".



# Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour offers practically any activity that you are looking for, both in the water, air and on dry land. The setting is attractive and the beaches are also good.

The main beach is Park Beach, just north of the town, which starts off a row of decent beaches all along the coast. Jetty Beach is the closest to the town and is good for both swimming and surfing.

However, if you want great surf then head to Diggers Beach, Headland Beach and Macauleys Beach.

Coffs Harbour also has several good diving spots in the area, particularly off of the Solitary Islands where there are a variety of unusual fish species. The Goolang and Nymboida Rivers are also popular, where white-water rafting is a speciality. There are also plenty of other tourist attraction companies in the area.

If you are looking for excitement but on a more relaxed scale then head to the gorgeous rainforest and gardens around Coffs Harbour. From the North Coast Botanic Gardens you can join the Coffs Creek Walk which takes you along the creek into the town centre. It is a very popular walk where you will see plenty of different species of plant life.

There are also numerous Aboriginal sites in the nearby rainforests which should be visited.

From the towns breakwater you can get to Muttonbird Island, aptly named due to the growing number of mutton birds on the island. It is also a great place to spot whales from during the migration both north and south along the coast.

The town centre is based around Grafton Street and High Street. Grafton Street joins the Pacific Highway, while High Street offers a large shopping mall and leads you to the jetty and beach areas. You can get around the town on the Coffs Harbour Coaches or Sawtell Coaches.

For travelling further afield go to Urara Park. Premier Motor Service can take you to most places both north and south along the coast, and has reasonable prices. You can also get buses to Grafton and Nabucca Heads from Park Avenue in the town centre. You can also catch the train from the train station on High Street.

Coffs Harbour offers a variety of accommodation, including hostels, hotels and motels. Entertainment is good in Coffs Harbour, although things really get going at the weekend, with live bands playing at the Plantation Hotel.

There are also plenty of cafes and restaurants to choose from if you want to eat out, as well as plenty of snack bars inside the High Street Mall.

The Big Banana has been a Coffs Harbour attraction for approximately forty years. The Big Banana measures a staggering 11 metres long, 5 metres high and 2.4 metres wide. This famous 'big' icon is home to a variety of attractions, including an elevated walkway through the banana plantation and a number of retail outlets and eateries.

The walkway provides access to the Coffs Coast Lookout, where migrating whales can often be viewed between July and October.



## Reunion Travel Advice

If you are driving to our reunion, watch out for these fellas:



and whatever happens, don't mumble !!!



# - NOTICE -

## Association General Meeting

A General Meeting of  
2 Field Ambulance Past Members' Association  
will be held at the Coffs Harbour Services Club NSW  
on Sunday 17 October 2010  
immediately prior to the Reunion Farewell BBQ.

An agenda for the General Meeting will be provided at the meeting. On the agenda will be the election of a committee consisting of the following committee positions:

President  
Vice-President  
Treasurer  
Secretary/Editor  
State Representatives

A Nomination Form for the position of President is included with this newsletter. Written nominations on the appropriate form should be sent to reach the Secretary by close of business 31 August 2010.

It intended that nominations for other positions will accepted from the floor of the meeting; however, written nominations for positions other than President will be accepted. These nominations should be on the appropriate form and should reach the Secretary by close of business 31 August 2010.

Address for nominations is shown on the nomination form.

*Only members who are financial at the time of the meeting  
will be entitled to vote at the meeting.*

Phil Hay  
Secretary  
7 Hartree Court, BRACKEN RIDGE, Q 4017



# Veteran's Retreats

I thank Jim Mogensen for the following information on retreats for veterans that may be of interest to Members who, at times, are on the move (Ed).

## QUEENSLAND

### Standown Park:

91 Radke Road, Kia Ora (halfway between Gympie and Tin Can Bay). Power, water, pets, open fire, showers, toilets, disable facilities, coin laundry, secure off the highway, restful surrounds. No cabins/onsite vans. Discount for veterans. Contact owners Rod (ex 9RAR) and Pam Elkington 07 5486 5144 or 0417 718 127

### Cockscomb Veterans Camp:

Located only 23km from Rockhampton, camp kitchen, showers, toilets, no power, \$5 donation. Contact Allan Evans 07 4934 4941 for directions.

### Pandanus Park:

Follow the three red stripes from Mareeba, no facilities, take all and remove your rubbish. This is an isolated retreat in Cape York.

### Sapphire Gemfields:

Located behind the post office at the RSL. Power, toilets, showers, water, and barbecue. The Club bar is open Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. \$5 per night Contact Peter Johnson (ex 6RAR) 0439 797 175.

### Alaric Homestead Veterans Retreat at Quilpie:

The Homestead is fully furnished and managed by a Veteran Duty Officer. Very low nominal fee charged per day. Caravans and camper trailers can be parked at a low daily fee. Booking is essential for the Homestead but is not necessary for caravans/campers. Contact the Duty Officer 07 4656 4740.

### Rocky Creek War Memorial Park:

This camp spot is located at Tolga. The Atherton Shire Council maintains it. There is a 72-hour limit and a gold coin donation. There are toilets, barbecue, and non-potable water. It is a memorial site to all soldiers, who trained on the tablelands before being sent overseas. There is a caretaker on site.



## NEW SOUTH WALES

### Raymond Deed Retreat:

This retreat is located at Dareton. There is power, water, pets for \$10 per night. Phone the caretakers Col and Robyn Dunkley 03 5027 4983.

### Murraguldrie Veterans Retreat:

Situated on the edge of Murraguldrie State Forest about forty minute drive from Wagga Wagga, and approximately seven kilometres from the Hume Highway turn off point to Tumberumba on the Tumberumba Road. It is only a new enterprise and the group are still working on the venue. Contact Barbara Davie 02 6922 3855.

### Murrurindi Vietnam Veterans MC Retreat

Situated south of Murrurindi at Blandford on the New England Highway. Turn off at the park (Camps Australia book site 164 NSW) and follow VVAAMC signs. Clean amenities, power, beautiful setting, animals welcome, caretakers on site. Donation. Contact: Paul Cook (caretaker) 02 6546 6107 or Blackie Read (secretary) 02 4982 5367.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### Bubblagowrie Vietnam Veterans Village:

Located between Stansbury and Giles Point Yorktown. Three Veteran Museums. \$5.00 admission. Cabins \$40 per night, vans \$8 per night. There is power, water, restaurant, and vets memorial plot. Contact owner Chris Soar (ex vet of Malaya) 08 8853 4379 or 0419 853 294.

## TASMANIA

### Tasmania Veterans Retreat:

Offers House accommodation in the remote Central Highlands area, 20 minutes from Bothwell. \$30 per double + \$5 per extra person. Bookings made through the State RSLA Headquarters, Hobart.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### Camp Hart:

Camp Hart is a combination of private and crown land vested with the Shire of Kulin. It is situated 3.5 hours south east of Perth, 14kms east of Kulin. Camp Hart is a memorial park located next to Lake Jilakin and in the shadow of Jilakin Rock. It offers shade, ablution block, sheltered barbecue and bush kitchen. Donations are welcome. Open to all ADF Veterans. All inquiries are to be made to Roger Lingard 08 9527 8000 or 0419 944 627. Email: [lingard@istnet.net.au](mailto:lingard@istnet.net.au).



# Message From Tony Gill

Dear all

It is with great pleasure I can announce that Chief of Army has chosen MAJGEN Paul Alexander to replace me as Head of Corps RAAMC on my departure from the full-time Army in January 2010. MAJGEN Alexander will be known to most of you for his current position as SGADF and Commander Joint Health Command. Previously he has been RMO 3 RAR, RMO SASR, CO 11th Field Ambulance, CO 1st Military Hospital, SMO HQ 1st Division and Senior Army Reserve Health Officer in SE QLD prior to recommencing in the ARA in July 2008.

As the senior currently serving full-time RAAMC officer he will enable the Corps to continue to be represented at the highest levels.

As I come to the end of my tenure as Head of Corps can I thank you all for your support to the Corps and knowing the changes occurring in Army Health I can only see the RAAMC moving from strength to strength in the good hands of the current members. One of the great things that has occurred during my tenure has been the development of the various Corps associations, as well as the integration across associations, through the website, leading to a connecting of our "old and bold", which I am about to join!

I am sure you will all support MAJGEN Alexander as well as you have supported me over the last 6 years.

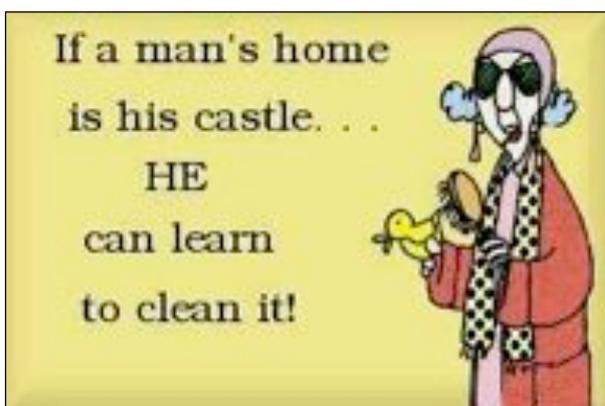
Please pass this around to all RAAMC staff.  
Paulatim

Tony

**A.J. GILL**  
**BRIG**  
**Head of Corps**  
**Royal Australian Army Medical Corps**



# A Woman Will Understand



Three males, one Irish one Mexican and one Blonde Aussie were doing construction work on the 20th floor of a building. They were eating lunch and the Irishman said, "Corned beef and cabbage! If I get corned beef and cabbage one more time, I'm going to jump off this building." The Mexican opened his lunch box and exclaimed, "Burritos again! If I get burritos one more time I'm

going to jump off, too." The Aussie opened his lunchbox and said, "Lamb again! If I get a lamb sandwich one more time, I'm jumping too."

The next day, the Irishman opened his lunch box, saw corned beef and cabbage, and jumped to his death. The Mexican opened his lunch, saw a burrito and jumped, too. The blonde Aussie opened his lunch, saw the lamb and jumped to his death as well.

At the funeral, the first wife said, 'If I'd known how really tired he was of corned beef and cabbage I never would have given it to him again.' The next wife said, 'I could have given him tacos or enchiladas. I didn't realize he hated burritos so much.' The blonde Aussie's wife said, 'Don't look at me, he makes his own lunch.'

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www.glasbergen.com



**"I'm going to order a broiled skinless chicken breast, but I want you to bring me lasagna and garlic bread by mistake."**

# Queensland Report



Greetings Everyone. As this is my first Queensland Report for 2010 Daphne and I sincerely hope that the year has been a good one for you all.

I say all because unfortunately we have once again started the year by losing some of our fellow Members who have gone hopefully to a better world than the one we are living in at present. I do not intend to name the ones that have passed away as I am sure our Secretary Phil Hay will have done so in his report.

Daphne and I have had treatment for various medical conditions and understand what this is like. So I know how it is, and wish a good recovery for everyone who has had to undergo medical treatment.

Also, I am aware that some of our people are still undergoing treatment for serious illnesses, and so to them on behalf of all Queensland Members I wish a speedy and complete recovery.

Please remember, we are here to help in anyway possible and personally, I am only a phone call away.

I now wish to thank all those that helped in the selling of ANZAC badges and RSL memorabilia at the Alexandra Hills and Capalaba Central Shopping Centres. Along with me and my wife Daphne, they are Phil and Diane Hay, David Aurisch, Fred Gross and Bob Menadue. Others did ring to apologize and say that unfortunately they could not help this time due to medical and family reasons. Money raised this year was a clear profit of \$5,151:35.

Whilst I am on this subject, would anyone who can help with selling badges prior to Remembrance Day 2010, please phone me of their availability.

The dates which have been booked for selling prior to Remembrance Day 2010 are as follows:

- Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre from Thu 28 Oct to Sun 31 Oct inclusive.
- Capalaba Central Shopping Centre from Wed 3 Nov until Sat 6 Nov Inclusive.

I do not need to remind you that the selling of badges is where we obtain our finances that enable us to discount attendance at major functions such as our Christmas lunch, and also to help the national Association when required.

Upcoming social events between now and Christmas are not yet booked, but bear in mind that we have the Reunion in Coffs Harbour in October. I will endeavour to book the Merthyr Bowls Club for a get together sometime for late June.

Incidentally, our 2010 Christmas lunch is once again at the Kokoda Room at the Redcliffe RSL, and it has been booked for Saturday the 4th of December 2010. More on this function and an attendance form will be sent to you later on this Year.

ANZAC Day has come and gone and to those who attended the march I do thank you. Our numbers this year were down on last year, but just the same we proudly marched with our banner together with other medical units. Hopefully next year will see a better turn out. On completion of the march some of us retired to the Grand Central Hotel where we enjoyed lunch and just a few ales.

In closing I do thank you one and all and take care,

**John (Joe) Cauchi-Gera JP**  
**Queensland Representative**



# Queensland Financial Report

From 21/4/2009 to 16/4/2010

Previous Balance		10,271.37
Plus Receipts		
Selling of Badges and Memorabilia	8,546.95	
Anzac Day Trust Disbursement 2009	1,000.00	
Defence Credit Union Shares	2.00	
Defence Credit Union Interest	8.00	
Christmas Lunch	1,660.00	11,216.95
		<u>21,488.32</u>
Less Debits		
Administration Costs *	445.20	
Purchase of badges & property from RSL & ADCC	4,920.93	
Christmas Function	3,618.80	
Membership Fees transferred to national acct	60.00	9,044.93
Balance of Queensland Account		<u>12,443.39</u>

\* Administration costs include postage of Queensland Newsletter, purchase of wreaths, paper, stamps, paper, Appreciation Certificates and frames, and phone calls, petrol for hospital visits and delivery of badges etc, and wreaths.

Please note that it mustn't have been all work and no play at the selling of badges, as this photo of David "snake" Aurisch and Joe "crocodile" Gera shows.



And below is a photo of some of our crew assembled for the Anzac Day March in Brisbane.



# Victoria & Tasmania Report



Greetings everyone. This report is prepared in the knowledge that there are still many past members of our unit out there who have not shown their hand for whatever reason. Some have passed on, some have moved and others have changed address or phone number.

So far, my efforts have located a small number who are keen to be recognised and regain membership status. If any Victorian or Tasmanian members know of ex-members of our unit who are not Members of our Association, please pass on my contact details, or give me a ring so that I may contact them.

During December 2009 I was given the privilege and pleasure of presenting the Terry Woolmer Memorial Trophy on behalf of our Associations to the leading instructor at the School of Health.

Unfortunately, despite my best efforts, I have no photos to show. I had made arrangements with *Army News* to provide copy and photographs of the event, and they were quite happy to do so. However, they were unable to attend the day, and gave me the necessary instructions for the School of Health to follow. If this was followed through, I would have given us a boost in publicity and may have had some impact on membership. But – the School erred somehow and nothing was done – a great shame.

The presentation itself went very smoothly, and School staff are to be congratulated, for the event was enjoyed by all those who were present. The School have suggested that the event be held two or three weeks earlier in future. The Committee will look into the situation and try to make any necessary adjustments to ensure that the event is well publicised.

Whilst in the area I had an opportunity to visit the RAAMC Memorial in the grounds of the ordnance precinct at Bandiana. The memorial is well maintained by the ground staff who are doing a great job.

I can report that the RAAMC Association in Victoria is up and running, and I will have more information to share with you in the near future. In the meantime, some minor meetings have been held with a view to setting up a more permanent meeting structure, a meeting venue, and tidying up of some of the necessary administration details.

It has been suggested that an RAAMC Corps Day may be held on 3 June 2010. Also, the Association is organizing a dinner/dance to celebrate RAAMC Corps Day 3 July 2010.

On a personal note, I have had a couple of personal setbacks since my last report, the sorry one being health. However, the specialists are, like me, please with my progress. Having slowed down somewhat, I remain active.

For Members wishing to contact me about RAAMC Association or matters relating to this Association, my details are:

Unit 14  
60 Poplar Avenue  
Shepparton Victoria 3630  
Phone: 5821-6886

I am looking forward to meeting up with you all in Coffs Harbour.

**Best Regards,  
Brian Reeves  
VIC & TAS Representative**



## DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?

On Sunday 40 members of the 2nd Field Ambulance, Royal Australian Medical Corps, moved into Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital to understudy the hospital for two weeks.



**A**  
**m** ● SENIOR SISTER MARGARET HAYES watches with a critical eye  
**i** whilst Private Kerry Freeman, 20, of 2nd Field Ambulance Unit  
**c** Royal Australian Medical Corps, records the pulse of Mr. J. Strachan  
**b** of North Altona, at the Repatriation Hospital during his unit's first  
**p** day of understudy duty on Monday.

## The Badcoe Club

For those who can remember the Badcoe Club (Back Beach Vung Tau) – the top picture is one of army engineers constructing the Badcoe Club, and the bottom picture is one of what later-day engineers have constructed at the site.



## Our Cannon

I have received a request to provide information on "The 2 Field Ambulance Cannon" for another publication.

I wasn't in the unit at the time, but in trying to find out what happened, I found this news article from a Townsville newspaper. However, even I know that this is not the real story, so I asked around for some factual information.

Stretch Harper agreed to throw some light on the event, and I thank Stretch for his down-to-earth style of relating what is actually an historical event for our unit.

### Cannon

WHEN 2 Fd Amb holds its inaugural parade in Townsville later this month, the unit will be equipped with an unusual piece of ordnance.

Recently, the School of Army Health at Portsea returned a small muzzle-loading cannon which had been in the school's care since the ambulance unit was disbanded in 1971.

Following the decision to re-raise 2 Fd Amb, the school was obliged to return the gun of unknown origin.

It is believed the cannon first was presented to the unit by the SA Police when 2 Fd Amb was based at Woodside.

Since then, the cannon has travelled to Puckapunyal, Townsville, Healesville, Portsea and now back to Townsville.

### Acquiring Our Canon (by Stretch Harper)



In 1963 whilst a Pte Driver in 2 Fd Amb Woodside I remember the relocation of the canon from the Police Barracks in Adelaide to the unit at Woodside.

I was a member of the footy team that used to play under the name of Woodside/Army although the team was mainly Army. I believe blokes from all the Corps that made up the unit were represented, including cooks. This team was ably coached by a Cpl Gordon Simms RAEME who was also quite religious as any one who knew him will attest.

We were invited one Wednesday sportie to play the coppers down at their Academy or Barracks or whatever at Thebarton. Between twenty and twenty five of us were picked to play that day so we had an early lunch and got down there about one o'clock and the game got going around two. We were flogged with yours truly getting only two kicks and then being "dragged" midway in 3rd quarter, and I thought I was one of the better ones



on the day so you can see how good the police were. Our excuse was we were only down there for a fun game anyway.

As usual the invite to partake of an ale or two after the game was accepted willingly by all the thirsty combatants. Whether it was the weather or something else it was getting pretty dark by the time Simmsy and the driver of the bus got us aboard but I know I was fairly merry along with the rest.

My favourite seat in a bus apart from the drivers is at the very back in the centre where you can stretch out your legs. Reaching the rear I had some difficulty climbing over all the footy gear that had apparently doubled in size since our trip down that arvo. Surprise, surprise what do you think was under all the gear. There were a few sssh ssshs from a few blokes (who will remain nameless to all but anyone in the know) up at the rear also. Laying on the back seat was what appeared to be a small oxy acetyline cylinder, what I found out later on was something else.

When we arrived back the same sssh sssh blokes were extremely helpful in passing all the gear forward, something they wouldn't normally have done. I believe Simmsy was not aware there was extra contraband even though he made sure no one took on any extra drinks. Once back, everyone went their separate ways, to bed, the canteen or wherever but a few stayed on the bus to help clean it out, these were the nameless ones I spoke of earlier.

Up in the morning and off to work until about 11 o'clock when we were told that the footballers from the previous day were to parade outside the Orderly Room because the C.O. wanted to speak to us. No doubt a pat on the back for a job well done and all the good PR we had promoted and all that stuff.

After we were shunted and un-shunted by the RSM, I think Namatjira, it wasn't Col Avery as I remember, Lt Col "Porky" Meyer started his spiel about "if the guilty persons owned up and returned some certain equipment that had been purloined from the coppers the day before all would be forgiven and it would be their little joke, nothing more said ha ha".

Everyone looked around at one another but said nothing. Half of them standing there would have been perfectly innocent and wouldn't have known what Porky was talking about anyway, but a lot did and they weren't saying a thing. We were warned that we could be in really big strife if we didn't



come clean and were informed that the area would be searched and the item found. After about half an hour, we were sent back to work. Obviously the demons had rung the unit and accused us of the dastardly deed.

I asked one of the nameless blokes what they had done with the item we had brought back the day before and was told where it was but if I shot my mouth off it would be a result worth than death or something similar.

Things went back to the same old grind, painting rocks, marching around in circles and looking over your shoulder and making sure you just acted normally because there were a couple of people in the unit who weren't averse to dobbing you in.

Maybe the search of the area went ahead but I and anyone I knew weren't roped into it or knew about it and the furore died down. Everything seemed to come back to normal.

Three or four days later the canon appeared outside Headquarters and all the fun started again with parades and threats etc but no one squealed and the perpetrators escaped scot free.

I heard some time later that the Police head honcho took it as a big joke and said if it was possible to steal it from under their noses it was worth forfeiting. Well, I hope that was the case because I can't imagine our HQ staff keeping mum and not offering it back. And.... as they say..... the rest is history.

Thanks Stretch for a really enjoyable story. As reported in an earlier edition of Vampire, our cannon now resides in the Army Museum at Bandiana.

I would now appreciate hearing some detail about the raid itself from someone who was actually in on it. If you were in the raiding party, please send me your story.

Alternatively, I understand that "Shorty" Edwards and "Spanner" Davies may have been in the raiding party, but don't quote me. I don't have any contact details for these people so I would be very happy if anyone can get a hold of them and let them know that I am looking for their story.

Otherwise, if you could let me know of their address or email, I will contact them direct (Ed).



## Who Is That?



Above photo courtesy of Brian Reeves.



## Membership List

<p><b><u>31/12/2008</u></b>  <i>Harry Butterworth</i>  <i>Max Lethlean</i></p> <p><b><u>31/12/2009</u></b>  <i>Trevor Atkinson</i>  <i>Frank &amp; Lorraine Baker</i>  <i>Alan Bartram</i>  <i>Richard Bright</i>  <i>Rex Bullock</i>  <i>Ross Clelland</i>  <i>Margaret Connelly</i>  <i>John Fitzgerald</i>  <i>Brian Havers</i>  <i>Russell &amp; Joan Kay</i>  <i>Frank Lindsay</i>  <i>Minas Mina</i>  <i>Jennifer Nicholls</i>  <i>Ian Reschke</i>  <i>Kevin Richardson</i>  <i>Ray Sutton</i>  <i>Phil Voss</i>  <i>Brian &amp; Esther Wade</i>  <i>Peter &amp; Jan Williams</i></p> <p><b><u>31/12/2010</u></b>  <i>David Aurisch</i>  <i>Dave Bowman</i>  <i>Peter &amp; Beverly Bowring</i>  <i>Scott Bray</i>  <i>Trevor Budge</i>  <i>Egil Bugis</i>  <i>Michael Butterfield</i>  <i>Peter Callanan</i>  <i>Ted Castledine</i>  <i>Daryl Chamberlain</i>  <i>Eddie Chapman</i>  <i>John Chopping</i>  <i>Brian Connelly</i>  <i>Nev Cullen</i>  <i>Bob Dally-Watkins</i>  <i>Joe Doak</i>  <i>Monica Doyle</i>  <i>Rodger &amp; Betty Eyles</i>  <i>Trish Ferguson</i></p>	<p><b><u>31/12/2010 (Cont'd)</u></b>  <i>Tony Gill</i>  <i>Shorty &amp; Elaine Graham</i>  <i>Jim &amp; Geraldine Gregory</i>  <i>Norm &amp; Rita Guest</i>  <i>Susan Hanisch</i>  <i>Des &amp; Patty Harper</i>  <i>Ray Hehr</i>  <i>Gary Hickey</i>  <i>Jim Hoggart</i>  <i>Brian Joyce</i>  <i>Jean Lamensdorf</i>  <i>Mick Lanigan</i>  <i>George &amp; Kay Marsden</i>  <i>Lindsay McCoy</i>  <i>Bob Menadue</i>  <i>Ian Merrilees</i>  <i>Roger Mitchell</i>  <i>Jim &amp; Juanita Mogensen</i>  <i>Les Phillips</i>  <i>Robyn Raftery</i>  <i>Brian Reeves</i>  <i>Bill &amp; Susan Rodgers</i>  <i>Dave Salter</i>  <i>Len Starkey</i>  <i>Gerry Stevenson</i>  <i>John Taske</i>  <i>Jim Townson</i>  <i>Colleen Willis</i>  <i>Gayle Voss</i>  <i>Brian &amp; Dell Warnes</i>  <i>Ray Wilson</i></p> <p><b><u>31/12/2011</u></b>  <i>Daphne Cauchi-Gera</i>  <i>Lillian Chapman</i>  <i>Don Colbran</i>  <i>Marie Connell</i>  <i>Tony Egan</i>  <i>Bill &amp; Pamela Gleeson</i>  <i>Mal &amp; Maureen Hatwell</i>  <i>Bruce Illingworth</i>  <i>Doug &amp; Fay Johnston</i>  <i>Mick &amp; Diane Larkin</i>  <i>Brian Mortimer</i></p>	<p><b><u>31/12/2011 (Cont'd)</u></b>  <i>George Nicholls</i>  <i>Daryl &amp; Joan Smith</i>  <i>Len Waddington</i></p> <p><b><u>31/12/2012</u></b>  <i>John &amp; Lorraine Bellert</i>  <i>Gary Chessum</i>  <i>Mal &amp; Joan Cheyne</i>  <i>Neil Clarke</i>  <i>Kevin &amp; Karen Crawford</i>  <i>Graeme Crombie</i>  <i>Ken &amp; Delma Dean</i>  <i>Fred Gross</i>  <i>Doug &amp; Donata Harper</i>  <i>Phil &amp; Diane Hay</i>  <i>Alan Krikke</i>  <i>John Neenan</i>  <i>Lyn Spragg</i>  <i>John Tinkler</i></p> <p><b><u>31/12/2013</u></b>  <i>Ted Heffernan</i></p> <p><b><u>31/12/2014</u></b>  <i>Clive &amp; Sandra Craig</i></p> <p><b><u>31/12/2015</u></b>  <i>Rod Guerin</i></p> <p><b><u>31/12/2016</u></b>  <i>Tom McLanders</i>  <i>Win Palmer</i></p> <p><b><u>Life Members</u></b>  <i>Joe Cauchi-Gera</i>  <i>Rob Willis</i>  <i>Terry Woolmer (Dec'd)</i></p>
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