



ANZAC DAY NEWSLETTER

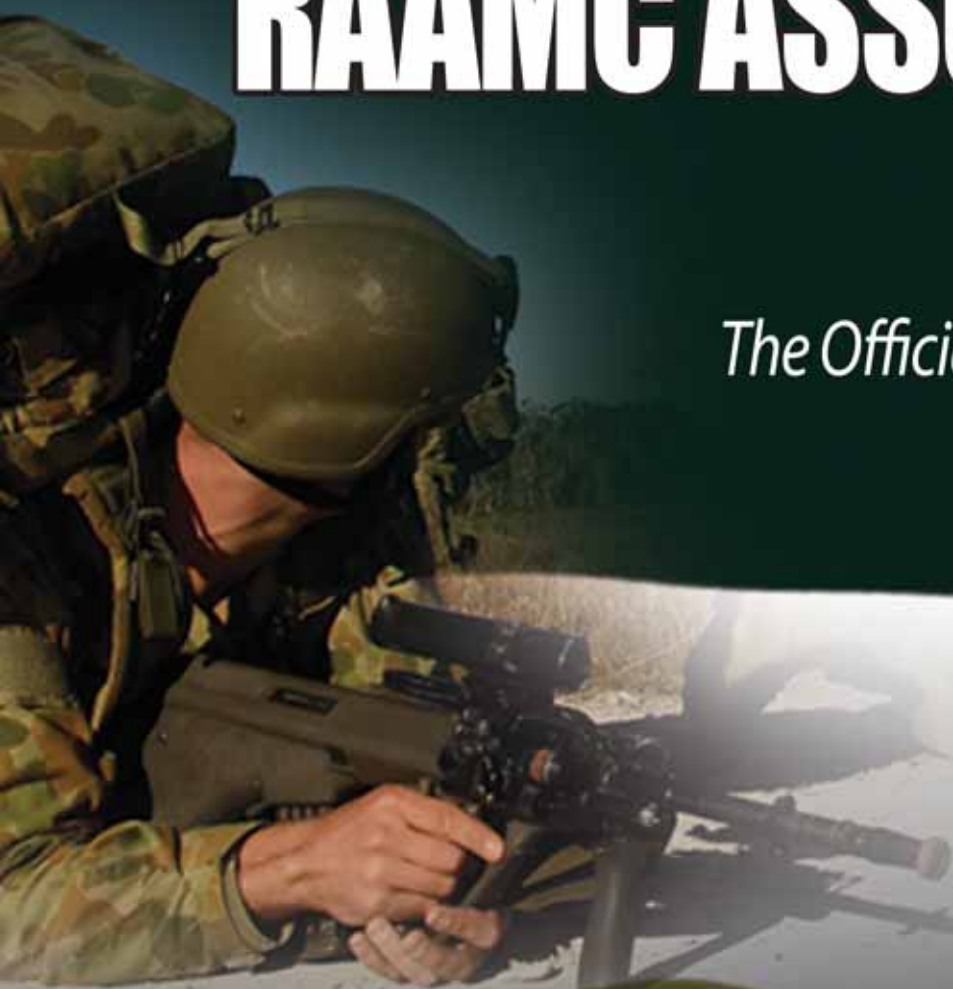
APRIL 2011

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VALE ~

John WHERRETT----- ?/8/08
Steve BALDICK-----7/12/10
Miles HAVYATT----- 10/12/10

Ray GRANT-----30/12/10
Terry CRAWLEY-----10/1/11

John Wherrett joined us as an Associate Member in 2002. I wrote in our AUGUST Newsletter of that year that John's dad was (the late) LTCOL Reg Wherrett, a past CO of 5th Field Ambulance (1948-54).

I can't explain what happened to John. He passed away in August 2008 but the first I knew of it was when our Christmas Magazine (2010) was returned with "Deceased—passed away August 2008"!

I immediately rang around a number of funeral parlours in the Newcastle area and was eventually informed that John was cremated at Lake Macquarie Crematorium in 2008.

I left my contact number with the Crematorium and Funeral Director, for the family to ring me but word came back that the family did not wish to make contact. Due to "Privacy Laws" the Crematorium/Funeral Parlour would not even divulge his date of death to me!

It is sad to think that one of our members passed away and we weren't informed, and weren't even there to say farewell, nor able write to any of John's family.

I don't know if John had children but if so, and they happen to read this small tribute, we pass on our sincere sympathies. Likewise, if any of our members knew John personally and would like me write about it, I would be very happy to do so. I did not know John's age.

Steve Baldick took a turn for the worse in November last year and was admitted to Sutherland Hospital to undergo tests. The tests revealed advanced tumours in his body which were inoperable.



He was then moved from Sutherland Hospital to the Calvary Hospice in Kogarah, in late November, where he faded away peacefully on the 7th December. Steve was born on the 24/12/1934.

I had an opportunity to visit Steve on the Friday (3rd December), when I was in Sydney, and was allowed to stay with him for a few minutes. He could not talk but indicated that he was not in any pain and he gently squeezed my hand when I told him his many friends were asking about him.

Steve suffered a severe illness some few years back and was in hospital for

many, many weeks, hovering between life and death in Intensive Care, but he pulled through and although not as robust as he once was, he always came to our marches, parades and functions.

Steve was always a "Message" source for me. Our members would have read his articles and comments in quite a few of our Newsletters and magazines.

I think the recent "house" move, from his unit in Sutherland to Miranda, took its toll on Steve.

Steve's funeral service was held at Woronora Crematorium on the 16th December and was ably conducted by the Miranda Sub Branch Welfare Officer, Mr. Bruce Grimley. I can't speak highly enough of the Miranda Sub Branch.

Their President, WO 11 Warren Barnes, who is also one of our committee members, immediately asked Bruce to do what he could for Steve, and between his Sub Branch and the NSW RSL it was arranged for Steve to have a dignified funeral.

I was surprised to see the number of people who came to pay their last respects, because in speaking to Steve's good friends, Peter Leitch and Peter's nephew, Petty Officer Rodney Cohan, I was led to believe that there would only be a handful of people present.

Steve's wife, Joan, had passed away some 20 years ago and there were no children to the marriage and his mum and dad had also passed away many years ago, with Steve being their only child. It appeared that he did not make much, if any, contact with aunts or cousins etc, so it was a nice surprise to learn afterwards that some cousins attended his service. I was pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call from our member, John Roche, to ask me to talk to an aunt of Steve—Mrs. Mary Hammond (*see also Dr. John Roche in "Messages from Members"*). I duly spoke to Mary, who is in her 90's, and she enlightened me to a lot of Steve's personal life. I was appreciative of her telling me about her nephew, Steve.

The RSL Ceremony conducted by Bruce, heard that Steve's army service started when he was "called up" for National Service.

He was drafted into the 2nd Intake of 1953 to 13 NS Bn at Ingleburn on the 28th April. He then transferred to the CMF on the 5 August 1953.

On completion of his NS obligation on the 27 April 1958 he then transferred

to Full Time duty in the CMF on the same date, and discharged with the rank of Captain on the 22 April 1969.

The units Steve served in were;
 13 NS Trg Bn, 5th Field Ambulance and HQ 2 Div.

Steve was awarded the Reserve Force Decoration with 1st, 2nd and 3rd Clasps, The National Medal with 1st Clasp, The Australian Defence Medal, Efficiency Medal and the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal.

Our Association kindly thanks the following members who came to the funeral and paid their respects; *Derek Cannon, Barry COLLINS OAM, Alan CURRY, John de WITT, Edwin LOWERY, Bill MOLLOY, James ROCHE OAM, George SIP, Brian TAMS and Warwick WILKINSON AO.*

Miles Havyatt took sick in late November 2010 and was admitted to hospital where his condition gradually deteriorated, and after two weeks he passed away peacefully with his family by his side, on the 10th December 2010. Miles was 89 years of age.

His wife, Eleanor, wrote to me. I received her letter on the 13th January and she said it was Miles's wish to have a private funeral with no Public Notice.

Eleanor said Miles's first wife, Betty, passed away eleven years ago and that she and Miles have been happily married for the last nine years.

Eleanor said Miles had a long and very busy life and was a very successful dermatologist.

He is survived by Eleanor, three sons, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

When I notified our (email) members of Miles's death, a number of them emailed me back to say they knew Miles and to pass on their sincere sympathies to all the family. No doubt, when our other members read this sad news, they also will remember Miles with very fond memories.

Miles's Army Record shows he enlisted in the CMF on the 4th December 1941 until the 11th February 1942.

He re-enlisted in the CMF 1st December 1948 until the 29th April 1958.

He re-enlisted again, in the CMF, on the 5th May 1961 until discharged on the 13th June 1972 with the rank of LTCOL.

Miles served in the following units;





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Miles was awarded the Efficiency Decoration with 1st Clasp.

If any member would like me to write about any of their connection with Miles, I would be very happy to place it in our next newsletter.

Ray Grant was a well-respected and distinguished soldier and friend, and he had made a great many friends and comrades in his 35 year's army service.



It was a big shock to me when I heard the sad news of his death from his daughter, Helen. Ray passed away from a sudden heart attack, on the 30th December 2010. He had only just moved into a Nursing Home in nearby Mount Waverley the previous week, and I was waiting to get his new telephone number from Helen.

Our Association sincerely thanks Kevan (Bat) Andrews, President of the RAAMC Association Inc. (Vic Branch) for organising the RSL Ceremony for Ray and his family, which was held on the 7th of January 2011 at the Springvale Pioneer Chapel.

Eulogies were given by his son, John, and his son-in-law, Jason.

There were a number of Sydney friends who were not able to be present and I was very thankful that our Victorian member, Mrs Rayda Noble, was able to represent our Association.

Ray's daughter, Helen, and her family—husband Jason, daughter Victoria and son Charles, wrote this beautiful tribute;

A ship sails and I stand watching till he fades on the horizon and someone by my side says he is gone. Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all.

He is just as large now as when I last saw him. His diminished size and total loss from my sight is in me, not in him.

And just at that moment, when someone at my side says he is gone, there are others who are watching him coming over their horizon and other voices take up a glad shout---There he comes! That is what dying is. A horizon and just the limit of our sight.

Thank you for your love and support.

Ray's Army Service shows that he enlisted in the CMF on the 17th September 1941 and after 3 months training he

went on to Full Time Duty in the CMF until 30 September 1942.

He joined the A.I.F. on the 1st October 1942 until 30 June 1947, then enlisted in the Interim Army on the 1st July 1947 until 8th August 1948.

Ray then enlisted in the Regular Army on the 9th August 1948 until his discharge, on retirement, with the rank of LTCOL on 5th July 1976.

Ray saw Operational Service in Singapore from 25th September 1957 to 24th December 1958 and in Vietnam (visit) 27th May 1970 to 6th June 1970.

Ray served in the following units;

2nd Australian Field Ambulance Train, 3rd Australian Field Ambulance Train, 2/14th Australian Field Ambulance, 2/2nd Australian Hospital Ship, HQ Eastern Command, 2nd Camp Hospital, 13th NS Training Bn, 8th Australian Field Ambulance, 16th Commonwealth Field Ambulance, HQ Western Command, 5th Field Ambulance, Army Headquarters and Personnel Branch.

Ray was awarded the following;

War Medal 1939-45, Australian Service Medal 1939-45, Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasps Malaya and Vietnam, Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal, Defence Force Service Medal with 1st, 2nd and 3rd Clasps, National Medal with 1st Clasp, Australian Defence Medal and Pingat Jasa Malaysia.

If any friend of Ray would like write a tribute about him I would be pleased to put it in our magazine.

Terry Crawley passed away peacefully in the Royal North Shore Hospital (Sydney) on the 10th January with his family by his side. He took ill with a respiratory condition in early January from which he could not recover. Terry was 71 years of age.

Terry, since joining our Association in 2008, would always rush out to greet us when our Association passed his "post" on the ANZAC Day march.

Terry had a large gathering of family and friends to farewell him at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in North Ryde on the 17th January.

He was a long-serving member of the St John's Ambulance Brigade and he had a large Honour Guard made up of its members. This included our own good member, MAJGEN Warren Glenny AO, who is also the present Commissioner of the St John's Ambulance Brigade in NSW.

Terry was also involved with Legacy and it was nice gesture for seven ladies

from the Burwood RSL Club Legacy Branch to be present to pay their final respects.

Eulogies were given by Geoff Gilchrist, Malcolm Little and Kevin Brady and each in their own way described a man who contributed much to his community and to his family.

Terry was a member of the Burwood RSL Sub Branch and their President, Alex Pirie and Treasurer, Kevin Brady, conducted the RSL Ceremony.

Terry's army service shows that he enlisted in the CMF on the 21st October 1963 and discharged on the 23rd December 1968 with the rank of Sergeant. He served with 1 General Hospital and 5 Field Medical and Dental Equipment Depot.

Terry was awarded the Australian Defence Medal. After the service, Terry was interred at the Macquarie Park Cemetery in North Ryde.

I sincerely thank our member, Michael Moroney, for sending me all the information. He remarked that the Church Service and the graveside Service was most dignified and was thinking that the people who attended would have recollected Terry's contribution to society

A "Wake" was held afterwards at the Burwood RSL Club and a large number of people, including representatives from the St John's Ambulance Brigade (cadets also) were in attendance.

Michael remarked that he left the Club about 3.30pm and there was still a large crowd in the private room.

I sincerely thank MAJGEN Warren Glenny AO and Michael Moroney from our Association for their representation, also on behalf of Terry's friends who were not able to be present. (*My apologies if I have omitted any other member who may have attended.*)

Terry is survived by his wife, Anne, and children, Adrian, Judith and Anthony and their partners and family.

Anne wrote this lovely tribute to her husband, Terry:

My darling Terry, I married my best friend, the one I laugh with, live for, dream with and love.

Love doesn't end with dying, or leave with the last breath,

For someone I've loved so deeply, love doesn't end with death.

In God's care you rest above, in my heart you rest with love,

Memories of you are mine to keep, my words are few but my love is deep.

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+ Mr. Neil	BARRIE	Mr. Nick	MARSHALL
Mr. Fred	BELL	Dr. Helena	MARTIN
Mr. Don	BOOTH	# Mr. Don	MELVILLE
* MAJGEN John	BROADBENT CBE DSO ED	COL Bill	MOLLOY RFD ED
Dr. Harding	BURNS OAM	COL G.R.W. ("Roy")	McDONALD (Rtd)
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Mr. John	CHARTER	WO 1 E. (Bill)	O'KEEFE (Rtd))
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LTCOL Andrew	ELLIS OAM	WO 1 Ken	PHILLIPS OAM
* LTCOL James	ELLIS	Mr. John	PRICE
Mr. Phillip	FAGUE	Dr. F.G. (Geoff.)	PRIOR
* WO 1 Bert	FERGUSON	+ Mr. Thomas (Tom)	PRITCHARD
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Mr. George	HARRIS	Sr. Elizabeth	SHEARD
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LTCOL Edward ("Ted")	KREMER OAM	Mr. Arthur ("Bubby")	WALTON
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Message from the President

Welcome to the 2011 Anzac Day Newsletter of 5 Field Ambulance RAAMC Association Quarterly Magazine.

I trust you all enjoyed the Christmas break and are now getting up to speed in 2011.

To our sick and elderly members I hope 2011 brings you greater fulfillment than in the past year. A special thought for John deWitt who is having a tough time and currently recovering from a hip break in St George Hospital Sydney.

On behalf of our Association may I convey our deepest sympathy to the next of kin of one of our staunchest members, Steve Baldick, who recently sadly passed away. Also to other members' next of kin whose obituaries are included in this Magazine.

It was a great pleasure to be able to send a 100th Birthday Card to life member Sn Florence 'Sue' Thompson who celebrated this milestone on March 28th. See further details from our secretary Alan Curry.

The first Reserve Forces Day Meeting in 2011 took place on Thursday 3rd March of note was the awarding of 5th place Certificate of Commendation to 5 Field Ambulance Association for the 2010 RFD March awards "As the Unit Association considered to have just missed out on the top awards" obviously a little unlucky considering the strength of our front rank comprising Brig Brian Pezzuti, Col Bill Molloy, Col Frank Lang OAM, Col Suresh Badami OAM and Lt Col Michael Campion It is most likely we would have scored higher if our Patron Col Ray Hyslop OAM who kindly joined us at the form-up but had to leave for a prior engagement had been in our ranks.

Still something to aim for at this year's RFD Parade on 3rd July.

With Anzac Day approaching I urge members to register their intentions to March or attend the after March Lunch at the Paddington RSL, with our secretary Alan Curry (02) 4982 4646.

I attended the bi-monthly meeting of the New South Wales RAAMC Association on 4th February 2011 at

Victoria Barracks. Items of business included:

1. Aust Fd Hosp Issues: Maurie Sainsbury reminded us that 1AFH will be holding a Reunion in Canberra over the Easter Anzac Day Weekend.
2. National President John Straskye gave us an update Re: the Corps Banner which will be presented by the Governor General at this stage it is to be on the 10th Nov 11 in Brisbane and that it will be a big show with the Army Reserve and Unit association having a prominent role, with a Dinner being planned. John will post more information on the website as it comes to hand.
John also mentioned that the Canadian Medical has been in touch asking how we have set up our Association and if he could assist with information that may help them. (Nice feather in John's Cap)
3. Roderick Bain gave a quick overview on Chronic Pain problems, John Straskye asked Rod to give him all the information so that he can put it on the Website.

The next meeting of the NSW RAAMC Association is Friday 1st April 2011 at Victoria Barracks Building 11 commencing at 10-30. 5 Field Ambulance members are encouraged to attend if possible.

Edna and I were able to spend a wonderful holiday in Tasmania recently with my younger very white skinned brother from England. The weather was great but unlike all my previous visits to the Apple Isle I did not do any serious trekking. It was good to escape (for a while) from the climatic and geological dramas besetting our part of the world as well as the North African powder keg.

Good reading and best regards and hope to see you on Anzac Day.

Derek Cannon



Derek Cannon

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Message from the Secretary

Dear Members,

My sincere good wishes to you all for 2011.

I send our apologies for not being able to have our **Christmas Magazine** in your possession prior to Christmas. It was not possible due to the "work-load" of our printers. I can only trust it made a bright start to your year.

To our members who are on our "**Sick Parade**", we are thinking of you and pray that this year will see you back to your "old self".

A **special thought** goes out to our good friend and committee member, John de Witt. John was admitted to hospital just after that bad "heat wave" in February and was subsequently transferred to "Respite".

He had only been there a matter of a few days when he fell and broke his hip; he was then admitted into St George Hospital (Kogarah) where he was operated on.

John is now recuperating and the physio's are trying to get strength back into his legs so he can walk. As of the **27th March** he is still in **St George Hospital** awaiting a transfer back to 'Respite' when he is well enough.

The **early part of January** brought **no good news**, first with our "**VALE**" section in this issue of our magazine and then the **devastating floods** in **Queensland** and parts of **northern NSW** and **Victoria**. What a sad month!

This was followed in **February** by the most powerful cyclone (Cyclone Yasi--category 5) to ever hit Australia. (Ruth and I were in the middle of it! *See my story further on*).

And then, those **deadly bushfires** that endangered lives and destroyed many, many homes in the suburbs of **Roleystone** and **Kelmscott** in Western Australia.

On top of all this, in **March**, we had those devastating **earthquakes**, again, in Christchurch on the **South Island of New Zealand** and that '**monster**' one still unfolding in **Japan**.

Just about all of our **resources**, including the use of our **ADF**, are assisting our own countrymen as well as our friends across the **Tasman** and in **Japan**.

Our prayers are with them.

On a **lighter note** I was looking for some photos to post onto our web site (and I have quite a lot) and got side-tracked by reading two "Visitor's Books" I have in my possession.

They were both from **1 General Hospital**. One was from the **Officers' Mess** and the other one from the **ORs' Mess**.

The **Officers' Mess Book** was presented to them by Nursing Sisters **York, Olive** and **Witham** (I wonder

what has become of them?).

The **FIRST entry** was made by a ? **W. Monthui Quinlan** with the address of; **CMFM AHQ ACT** and dated **27/5/1959** and there followed a lot of names and occasions up to the very **last entry** of the event—"AFT '87-EX "DRY RUN"-7-22 MARCH '87. **TALLAGANDA STATE FOREST**". Signed on the **17 March 1987** by **WO 1 Scott, WO 1 QMS Hlth Mat-DGAHS, Canberra**.

The **ORs' Mess Book** may have been donated by **F513253 PTE Marion Stewart** (of WA) because hers was the very first entry, dated **31 August 1981** and there was a small, signed message on the inside corner of the front cover which read;

To ORs Mess, thank you all so much for an enjoyable stay and making me more than welcome on my "breaking in" night to 1 General Hospital, 31 August 1981.

The last entry was signed by **Tony Burgess** with his address as--*Officer's Mess*.

The two **good pieces news** for this magazine was the award of the **Victoria Cross** presented to a very brave and heroic soldier of the **SAS Regiment-- CPL Benjamin Roberts-Smith VC MG**.

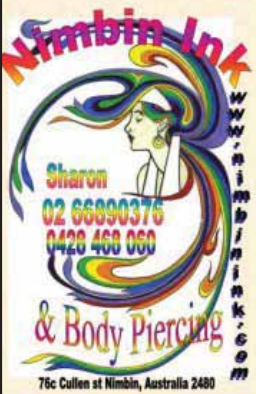
Our Association sent him a letter of gratitude (Copy enclosed in this Magazine) and I have also placed his "**Citation**" for the **Victoria Cross** and the **Medal for Gallantry** in our magazine.

And the other piece of good news was our good member **Sister Florence ("Sue") Thompson** who celebrated her **100th Birthday** on the **24th March** (See our "**CONGRATULATIONS**" article in this magazine)



Alan Curry





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ANZAC Day March Details

(Monday, 25th APRIL)

Our Association cordially welcomes you to participate in this year's ANZAC Day March.

If this is your first appearance, we thank you for taking part. Look for our Banner.

We march proudly behind our own Banner and when we pass the Cenotaph we give an "Eyes LEFT" and solemnly remember those brave Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, men and women, who paid the supreme sacrifice fighting for the freedom you and I enjoy today.

We will march behind the RAAMC Banner in medical unit Order of Battle i.e. Field Ambulances, CCS's, Field Hospitals, General Hospitals.

If you are not a member of an Association but have served in a medical unit you are more than welcome to march with us.

FORM UP: Corner Spring and Bent Streets, Sydney.

TIME: 10.15am

DRESS: ADF Personnel—Ceremonial. Men—Lounge Suit or Jacket and Tie, Beret and Name Badge. Women—as appropriate.

MEDALS: Approved Government issue only, to be worn.

After the march the RAAMC Association Inc. (NSW Branch) has "booked" Paddington RSL Club and you are cordially invited to join us with your friends.

The cost is \$40 per head for a 2-course meal with tea/coffee. The meal is either meat or fish (alternate servings)—Vegetarian is available, if requested.

If you are unable to march, we would still like your presence for lunch after the March. Please be at the Club (in Oxford St., Paddington—nearly opposite Victoria Barracks) by about 12.30pm. Bus 378 departs from Eddy Avenue every 20 minutes (from 11.50am) and bus 380 departs from Circular Quay every 15 minutes (Stand "E").

Those wishing to attend for lunch, please RSVP as soon as you read this.

Either phone myself (Alan Curry) (02) 4982.4646 or Mobile 0427.82.4646 OR Theo Dechaufepie, President—RAAMC Association Inc. (NSW Branch) (02) 9603.1883 or Mobile 0408.781.717, for your meal choice (meat/fish/vegetarian).

Either of us will collect your \$40 on the day. We look forward to your company.

AHS Centaur Memorial Ceremony

(Thursday, 12th May, 2011)

DATE and TIME: 12 May at 10.30am

PLACE: Concord Repatriation Hospital, CHAPEL.

DRESS: ADF—Ceremonial; **Males**—Lounge Suit, Medals and Name Tag, **Ladies**—as appropriate.

Members are cordially invited to attend this moving Ceremony in memory of all who lost their lives when the AHS Centaur was torpedoed and sunk, by a Japanese sub, off the Queensland coast in the early hours of the morning of the 14th May 1943.

There were 332 people on board, made up of the Captain and crew, doctors, nurses, orderlies and drivers. 64 survived — 33 medical personnel of 12 Field Ambulance, 30 merchant seamen and 1 nurse.

If you would like a seat and to join me it would be an honour, as we pay our deepest respects to all the relatives and friends who lost loved ones at the sinking of the AHS Centaur. Please contact me if you would like to attend.





RF Day "Update"

As of this magazine I have received 9 Application Forms from Members to have their partners recognised with a beautiful memento Medallion. This medallion will be presented, IN PERSON, on RF Day (Sydney Domain, Sunday, 3rd JULY about 10.30am).

They are from the following members:-

David CAVANAUGH (for Nancy), Ron FOLEY (for Adrienne), Jim ILIOPOULOS (for Natalie), Natalie ILIOPOULOS (for Jim), Anthony JORDAN (for Enid), Frank LANG (for Valerie), Barry PERIGO (for Heather), Peter SULLIVAN (for Robyn), Brian TAMS (for Gail).

There is still time left to apply. These Application Forms were emailed/posted early in the year but if you haven't yet applied, I have placed the Application Form below BUT you must have them to me by 29th APRIL!

I thank those members who have applied and hopefully, I have not left your name off the list above—if so, please contact me ASAP.

We have "booked" a room at the Paddington RSL Club after the Parade.

Would you kindly let me know ASAP if you would like to join us for lunch. The cost for a meal and drink will be \$25 per head.

Completed Application Forms from Members

The following members' forms were received after our December 2010 magazine "cut-off" date.

Our Association sincerely thanks the following members for returning their completed forms.

Barry COLLINS OAM, John DAVIES, Laurie FARRUGIA, Garry FLOOD, Richard FORD, MAJGEN Warren GLENNY AO, John GORRELL, Victoria GORRIE, Stuart JONES, Kathleen LOADSMAN, Robert LOVE, Michael MORONEY, Dr. Phillip McGRATH, Trish McGRATH, John McKEOWN, Eugene ("Bill") O'KEEFE, MAJGEN John PEARN AO, Dr. Robert ("Bob") REID, Dr. James ROCHE OAM, Michael ROWLEY, Robert STEWART, Brian TAMS, Peter THOMPSON and Gordon WRIGHT.

(Although most members signed them with a November 2010/or 2011 date, there were many who are inaugural members—we never initiated a "formal" application form to fill in, in the early days).

Any remaining members' forms that are received after this "Issue", will be acknowledged in our next magazine.

ONLY COMPLETE THE DETAILS BELOW IF YOUR SPOUSE/PARTNER IS ABLE TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL RFD PARADE AT THE SYDNEY DOMAIN ON SUNDAY 3 JULY 2011 or the parade in your local city.

AFTER COMPLETION THE FORM SHOULD BE RETURNED TO YOUR ASSOCIATION SECRETARY FOR PROCESSING ASAP - AT THE LATEST BY 15 APRIL 2011

DETAILS OF THE PERSON BEING NOMINATED:

Spouse/Partner's Title/Rank Given Name/s SURNAME.....

Address.....P/code.....Mobile Ph No.....

NOMINATED BY – RESERVIST'S NAME:

Reg't No./PMS Keys.....Title/Rank Given Name/s..... SURNAME.....

The person I have nominated supported me during my Reserve Service : From.....ToTotal years

These are the dates the person you have nominated supported you during your service in the Reserves.

(The award is to recognise your spouse/partner for their significant contribution and support in caring for the family etc. while you were actively engaged in attending training exercises, camps, and courses. It does not include service on a Reserve list where no training was undertaken or where you could be called back to duty e.g. National Servicemen had to stay on a Reserve List for 3 years without a training commitment.)

Relationship of person nominated to Reservist:.....(e.g wife, husband etc)

Association/Organisation Name.....

Mobile Ph No:.....Home No:.....Signature.....



Dates to put in your diaries for 2011

RAAMC Assn Inc. (NSW Branch) FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER, DECEMBER.
(First Friday at 10.30am, Bldg. 11 in Victoria Barracks, Sydney. An "OPEN" Invitation is extended to our Members. Please advise me if you would like to attend.

14 FEBRUARY

National Servicemen's Day

(We have no Official involvement but if any member attends a Ceremony and represents us, would they be kind enough to write/email and let me know so I can put an article in our MARCH magazine.

25 APRIL

ANZAC Day

12 MAY

AHS CENTAUR Service (Concord Hospital TBA)

2 JULY

Reserve Forces Day --- NEWCASTLE

3 JULY

Reserve Forces Day --- SYDNEY

7 SEPTEMBER

Battle for Australia Commemoration (Martin Place, Sydney)

26 NOVEMBER

Annual "Mixed" Re-Union Luncheon (Paddington RSL Club)

Cut-Off dates for articles for our quarterly magazine.

MARCH 30, MAY 26, AUGUST 1, NOVEMBER 30.



Happy Birthday

- JANUARY:** Colin KLINE, Don JARMAN, "Bill" O'KEEFE, Barry PERIGO, Albert PERRY, Ken PHILLIPS OAM, Chris STRODE.
- FEBRUARY:** Harding BURNS OAM, Gavin DRISCOLL, Brett FERRARI, Terry FRY, George HARRIS, Michael MORONEY, Peter PAISLEY, Brian TAMS, Peter TRALAGGAN.
- MARCH:** Barry COLLINS OAM, Ron FOLEY, Kevin HURRELL, "Roy" McDONALD, Yvonne McLEAN, MAJGEN John PEARN AO, Charles O'MEALLY, Dianna ROTHFIELD, Ross SMITH, Florence ("Sue") THOMPSON.

Our Association wishes each of you "All the Best" on your "special" day –
Have you given me your month of birth?



BOER WAR DAY

The Boer War (1899-1902) ended on the 31st May 1902, and the Federal Government has gazetted (in 2010) that the Sunday prior to the 31st of May each year would be set aside for relatives and friends to attend any Ceremonies in their region.

I wrote a small piece in our June 2010 newsletter (Page 8) where I said that I would endeavour to place the "Commemoration Address", given by MAJGEN David Morrison AO, Commander, Forces Command, in a future newsletter.

I had misplaced the "Address" but I am hopeful I can have it re-sent to me (with kind thanks to MAJGEN Morrison's staff) in time to have it placed in this magazine.

I would ask you to reflect on his words as we pass another Anniversary of a conflict, that occurred many years ago, which involved the services of our men and women (nurses).

This was the **first conflict** that saw the need to use of our Commonwealth troops.

Address to the Boer War Commemoration Service

Minister, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to have been asked to give this commemorative address today. As Army's Forces Commander, I am lucky enough to work and live in Victoria Barracks Sydney. It is the "home of the Australian Army" and I am deeply conscious of its long and proud history. From its gates have marched thousand of men and women to the Nation's wars. Soldiers from the NSW Contingent left Victoria Barracks for the Boer War in 1899, and on its parade ground in 1902, the recipients of the Victoria Crosses won during the war were invested with their medals.

We are gathered here to honour the memory of over 16 thousand Australian men and women who took part in a conflict that ended almost one hundred and ten years ago. It was a war fought by nations for causes that engender some disquiet in our modern age: imperial concerns on the part of Britain, most certainly fuelled by a strong desire to exploit valuable raw materials, including gold, and on the part of the Boers a desire for an independent homeland that was certainly based on the concept of racial superiority over black Africans.

It was a war, fought bitterly between two implacable foes, which saw in its latter stages the deliberate concentration of civilians into camps where many women and children were to die of lack of proper care. While the conflict was overshadowed soon enough by the horrors of the First World War, it left deep divisions in both South African and European societies and it added greatly to the growing antipathy between Britain and Germany.

Those who fought lived in societies that were in many ways different to our own. Our countrymen and women, who left these shores before 1901, represented their States as much as they did the idea of the Nation of Australia. They departed, fought and returned without the scrutiny of media and many of their actions went unreported and unnoticed in a Country that was coming to terms with itself as a constituted Federation while at the same time struggling to come out of a debilitating economic recession and drought which resulted in severe unemployment and truly hard times for many.

Placed as it was in that great sweep of history between

depression, federation and the tumult of the First World War, and fought for causes that struggled for enduring resonance, the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans did not receive the national recognition and public commemoration that has been accorded to other conflicts. The work done to redress that imbalance by the members of the Boer War Memorial Association is to be applauded and valued greatly by this generation of Australians.

Because the men and women who participated in the war deserve that recognition. They were all volunteers of a vibrant and democratic country that rightly prided itself on the egalitarian nature of its society. Indeed, one source of reference I looked at in preparing this address quoted the fact that one in five Australian men sought enlistment in either the colonial or Commonwealth forces in the years between 1899 and 1902. They were motivated certainly by a sense of adventure, but also by a desire to see Australia take its place in the world. That many fought for Britain and Empire is entirely understandable given the country's history of settlement and its own contemporary geo-strategic concerns. The soldiers who wore for the first time in conflict the slouch hat and the rising sun badge, both of which I am very proud to have inherited from them, were men and women of their time, proud of their heritage but prouder still of their new Country and its future. They fought gallantly, winning six Victoria Crosses and numerous other awards for bravery; and many, almost six hundred, did not return, claimed by enemy fire or by illness and disease.

They left a legacy of endurance, innovation and mateship that provided the foundation for those who were to follow soon after. They were the original members of the Australian Defence Force and their legacies are the men and women who are serving this Country now in Afghanistan, Timor, the Solomons, in the Gulf and in the seas to our North. That their place in our history is now receiving the recognition and commemoration it deserves is a credit to those who have fought to make it so. The Ode to the Fallen reminds us that such commitment must not be forgotten and now we are remembering them. Lest we forget.





TWO ITEMS—(1) RAAMC Application Form and (2) RAAMC Banner Presentation

(1) Just a friendly reminder to ask you to complete **their Application Form** (see *Application Form* towards the end of this magazine) so as to join this worthwhile organisation—**IT IS FREE**, but if you wish to donate to it they would be grateful for any money received BUT REMEMBER, there is **no obligation whatsoever**.

If you serve, or have served, in a medical unit, irrespective of your main Corps i.e. RAASC/RAC, RAEME etc, **The RAAMC Association Inc.** want you to feel that, because of your involvement, you are, or were, a part of the **entire Medical Corps 'family'**.

They also have a wonderful web site for those on the internet; www.raamc.com

(2) **Presentation of the Governor-General's Banner and the Laying Down of HM The Queen Mother's Banner: Friday, NOVEMBER 4 at 10am—Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Queensland.**

4 days of Celebrations are planned for this momentous event.

The **highlight** being the presentation of the Banner at **Gallipoli Barracks**.

Celebrations will **COMMENCE** on **Thursday, 3rd November** and **CONCLUDE** on **Sunday, 6th November**.

An **"All Ranks" Dinner** will be held in Brisbane, after the Presentation, and hosted by **MAJGEN Paul Alexander**. As you can imagine, this will be a **HUGE** event and probably one that our **RAAMC members** will not witness, or be able to be present, again, in their **lifetime**.

If you wish to be part of this great event, I need the **following details ASAP**;

- (a) *Your name and who will be accompanying you (if anyone).*
- (b) *Whether you will require Accommodation and for how long?*
- (c) *Whether you will be attending the Presentation?*
- (d) *Whether you would like to attend the Dinner?*
- (e) *Whether you require transport?*
- (f) *Whether you would be interested in coming, as a group, in a 12/20 seater bus (me driving) and sharing the cost of bus and fuel etc. Cost TBA.*

The **Dinner reservation** will probably be a case of **"First In, First Served"**.

The **COST of the Dinner** has not been finalised, as yet, but will be about \$100 per head.

All details should be available in our *next magazine* (Reserve Forces Day –JUNE 2011).





"Semper Paratus"

5 FIELD AMBULANCE R.A.A.M.C. ASSOCIATION

Patron: Colonel Ray Hyslop OAM RFD

President: Lt.Col. Derek Cannon RFD

WEB SITE: www.5fdamb.com

A proud member of the RAAMC Association Inc.

**CPL Benjamin Roberts-Smith VC MG
C/- The Chief of Army
Russell Offices R.1.
CANBERRA ACT 2600**

23 JANUARY 2011

Dear CPL Roberts-Smith,

I would like to congratulate you, on behalf of our President, Patron and committee and our entire Association, on being invested with the bravest of all awards.

It is an honour to write to you.

On reading the events of what you did and what took place on June 11 last year, one can see that you are a dedicated soldier not only in your manner and bearing but most importantly working in a team environment and looking out for your fellow soldier mates.

Undoubtedly, the action you took on June 11 helped to save any further injury and possible loss of life of your fellow unit members.

It takes a very brave man to disregard his own safety, in the face of certain death, to do what you did.

Our Association, and I, sincerely hope the wider community thanks you for what you did and the efforts that you, and all your fellow ADF members, are doing, in Afghanistan and all the other areas where our troops are deployed, to restore peace and democracy.

Yours Sincerely,

Alan Curry

Hon.Sect.

6 Reliance Bvd.,

TANILBA BAY NSW 2319

(ph/fax: (02) 4982.4646 Email: curry36@bigpond.net.au



CPL Benjamin ROBERTS-SMITH VC MG

(Australia's most highly decorated soldier)

CITATION for the AWARD of the Victoria Cross for Australia

On the 11th June 2010, a troop of the Special Operations Task Group conducted a helicopter assault into Tizak, Kandahar Province, in order to capture or kill a senior Taliban commander.

Immediately upon the helicopter insertion, the troop was engaged by machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire from multiple, dominating positions. Two soldiers were wounded in action and the troop was pinned down by fire from three machine guns in an elevated fortified position to the south of the village.

Under the cover of close air support, suppressive small arms and machine gun fire, CPL Roberts-Smith and his patrol manoeuvred to within 70 metres of the enemy position in order to neutralise the enemy machine gun positions and regain the initiative.

Upon commencement of the assault, the patrol drew very heavy, intense, effective and sustained fire from the enemy position. CPL Roberts-Smith and his patrol members, fought towards the enemy position, until at a range of 40 metres, the weight of fire prevented further movement forward. At this point, he identified the opportunity to exploit some cover provided by a small structure.

As he approached the structure, CPL Roberts-Smith identified an insurgent grenadier in the throes of engaging his patrol. CPL Roberts-Smith instinctively engaged the insurgent at point-blank range resulting in the death of the insurgent.

With members of his patrol still pinned down by the three enemy machine gun positions, he exposed his own position in order to draw fire away from his patrol, which enabled them to bring fire to bear against the enemy.

His actions enabled his Patrol Commander to throw a grenade and silence one of the machine guns. Seizing the advantage, and demonstrating extreme devotion to duty and the most conspicuous gallantry, CPL Roberts-Smith, with a total disregard for his own safety, stormed the enemy position killing the two remaining machine gunners.

His act of valour enabled his patrol to break-in to the enemy position and to lift the weight of fire from the remainder of the troop who had been pinned down by the machine gun fire. On seizing the fortified gun position, CPL Roberts-Smith then took the initiative again and continued to assault enemy positions in depth during which he and another patrol member engaged and killed further enemy.

His acts of selfless valour directly enabled his troop to go on and clear the village of Tizak of Taliban. This decisive engagement subsequently caused the remainder of the Taliban in Sha Wali Kot District to retreat from the area.



CPL Roberts-Smith's most conspicuous gallantry in a circumstance of extreme peril was instrumental to the seizure of the initiative and the success of the troop against a numerically superior enemy force. His valour was an inspiration to the soldiers with whom he fought alongside and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

CITATION for the AWARD of the Medal for Gallantry

On the night of the 31st May 2006, LCPL Roberts-Smith was employed as a patrol scout and sniper in a patrol which was tasked with establishing an Observation Post near the Chora Pass in extremely rugged terrain overlooking an Anti-Coalition Military sanctuary.

Early in the patrol, after an arduous ten-hour foot infiltration up the side of a mountain, the patrol was required to coordinate offensive air support to assist a combined Special Operations Task Group and other Special Forces patrol who were in contact with the Anti-Coalition Militia in the valley floor to their north.

Following this engagement the patrol remained in the Observation Post to continue providing vital information on the Anti-Coalition Militia in the area. This comprehensive reporting had a significant effect on shaping the local area for the subsequent coalition forces operation.

On the 2nd June, the Observation Post had become the focus of the Anti-Coalition Militia force and repeated attempts to locate and surround the position ensued.

In one particular incident the Militia attempted to outflank the Observation Post. LCPL Roberts-Smith was part of a two man team tasked to move out of their relatively secure Observation Post in order to locate and neutralise the Militia and regain the initiative. This task was successfully achieved.

In another incident, two Anti-Coalition Militia attempted to attack the Observation Post from a different flank, LCPL Roberts-Smith again moved to support and neutralise one of these Militia. LCPL Roberts-Smith then realised that the forward edge of the Observation Post was not secure and made the decision to split the team and take up an exposed position forward of the patrol so he could effectively employ his sniper weapon. Whilst isolated, and in his precarious position, he observed a group of sixteen Anti-Coalition Militia advancing across open ground towards the Observation Post.

LCPL Roberts-Smith effectively employed his sniper rifle to stop their advance whilst receiving very accurate small arms fire from another group of Militia to his flank.

Through his efforts, LCPL Roberts-Smith maintained the initiative and ensured that his patrol remained secure by holding this position without support for twenty minutes. He was eventually reinforced by his original team member



and together they continued to hold off the Militia advance for a further twenty minutes until offensive air support arrived.

LCPL Roberts-Smith's actions on the 2nd June 2006, whilst under heavy Anti-Coalition Militia fire and in a precarious position, threatened by a numerically superior force, are testament to his courage, tenacity and sense of duty to his patrol.

His display of gallantry in disregarding his own personal safety in maintaining an exposed sniper position under sustained fire with a risk of being surrounded by the Anti-Coalition Militia was outstanding. His actions, in order to safeguard his patrol, were of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions of Special Operations Command Australia, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

PERSONAL

CPL Benjamin Roberts-Smith was born in Perth on 1st November 1978. He enlisted in the army at 18 years of age and after Recruit Camp at Singleton (NSW), was posted to 3 RAR as a rifleman in "C" Company.

He advanced to become a Section Commander in the Direct Fire Support Weapons Platoon.

Whilst with 3 RAR he had two deployments as part of Rifle Company Butterworth, Malaysia and also two Operational Tours of Duty to East Timor, including INTERFET in 1999.

In 2003 he completed a SAS Course and was selected to commence with the Special Air Service Regiment reinforcement cycle. On completion of this cycle he was posted to 3 Squadron, serving as a member of the Tactical Assault Group West and the Contingency Squadron.

He was deployed on operations to Fiji in 2004 as well as on Recovery Operations and a number of personal security detachments in Iraq throughout 2005/2006.

In 2006 and 2007 he was deployed as part of the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan. On his return he was posted to Operational Support Squadron as a member of the selection wing, where he took part in the training of SASR Reinforcements.

In 2009, he was posted to 2 Squadron he was deployed again, to Afghanistan. On his return home he completed the SASR Patrol Commanders Course and in 2010 was again deployed with the SOTG in Afghanistan.

CPL Benjamin Roberts-Smith is currently posted to the SASR. He is married to Emma and they are the proud parents of twin daughters, Eve and Elizabeth.

The VICTORIA CROSS *(With kind thanks to this article, and all above, to the Defence.Gov website)*

The Victoria Cross is the pre-eminent award for acts of bravery in wartime and is Australia's highest military honour. It is awarded to persons, who, in the presence of the enemy, display the most conspicuous gallantry; a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice; or extreme devotion to duty.



The Victoria Cross was created by Queen Victoria in 1856 and made retrospective to 1854 to cover the period of the Crimea War.

Until the Victoria Cross for Australia was created in 1991, Australians were eligible under the Imperial System of Honours.

The **Imperial Victoria Cross** has been awarded to 96 Australians—91 received it whilst serving with Australian forces and 5 Australians received it whilst serving with South African and British units.

In the BOER WAR, 1899-1902, SIX were awarded. *Capt. Neville HOWSE VC KCMG CB KStJ was the first ever Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross (in 1900 during the Boer War).*

In WORLD WAR 1, 1914-1918, SIXTY-FOUR were awarded. *(Nine were awarded in Gallipoli)*

In NORTH RUSSIA, 1919, TWO were awarded.

In WORLD WAR 2, 1939-1945, TWENTY were awarded.

In VIETNAM, 1962-1972, FOUR were awarded.

The most recent (Imperial) Victoria Cross was awarded to **Warrant Officer Keith PAYNE VC OAM** for gallantry during the Vietnam War (24 May 1969). *Under heavy enemy fire WO Keith Payne instigated a daring rescue of more than forty men, many of them wounded, and led the party back to the battalion base.*

The Victoria Cross for Australia **replaced** the British or Imperial Victoria Cross on **15 January 1991**.

CPL Mark Donaldson was the first recipient and **CPL Benjamin Roberts-Smith** the second.

The Governor-General awards the Victoria Cross, with the approval of the Sovereign, on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence.

The Victoria Cross may be awarded POSTHUMOUSLY.

Any **subsequent award of the Victoria Cross** to the **SAME PERSON** is made as a BAR to the Cross.

The post-nominal is; VC or VC and Bar

The Victoria Cross is in the form of the Maltese Cross; in the centre of the medal is a lion guardant standing upon the Royal Crown. The words "FOR VALOUR" are inscribed below. On the reverse side is inscribed the Date of the Act of Bravery, together with the NAME, RANK and UNIT of the Recipient.

POEM

(Author unknown! Sent in by an email member, with kind thanks)

MEDALS

*Go and put your medals on! Be proud, they're to wear.
Put you shoulders back a bit and let the youngsters stare.*

*They are yours by right of war, by service to the Crown,
They are symbols that you did not let your country down.*

*Wear them proudly on your chest and let who will, deride.
They are yours by right of war so carry them with pride.*



Congratulations

Sister Florence ("Sue") Ella THOMPSON is wholeheartedly congratulated on reaching a mighty milestone in life.

"Sue" was 100 years young on the 24th March and celebrated it twice!

She was feted at her Nursing Home – The Big Sister Hostel in Miranda – on her birthday, by all the staff and family and again on the 28th March at the Penshurst RSL Club to a huge gathering of family and many, many friends.

"Sue" is a Life Member of our Association and has always been a welcome attendee at our gatherings and functions until a few years ago when her eyesight got worse and she had to more or less cease her social engagements.

Those of us in the Association who know her will attest to her beautiful nature and what a pleasure it was to be in her company.

The photos below will bring back some happy memories for Florence.



Picture taken at a 5 Field Ambulance Ball (Circa 1956)

Front Row: Ray Jones, "Molly" Mills, Tom Ritchie, Pat Cross, Arthur Hutton and Gerry Clinch.

2nd Row: "Sue" Shaw, Arthur Gough.

3rd Row: John Roche, Steve Baldick, Len Boothman and Max Gordon.

Top Row: Allan Crossley and Barry Collins.



"Sue" Shaw becomes "Sue" Thompson.



With Steve Baldick.



With Betty de Witt and Diana Rothfield



Our Association has purchased one of the print paintings **"Sudan to Afghanistan"** by noted artist Martin Campbell and we intend to make this our major prize.

It is a "Special Numbered Edition" No: 55 (of 200).

The print overall measurement is 33 ½ inches x 23 ½ inches and the actual painting measures 22 inches x 16 ½ inches. It will be framed for the winner.

The tickets will be \$5 each and we will draw the winner **ONLY** after we recover the cost. May we count on your support?

As of this Magazine we have sold \$255 worth and sincerely thank the following members; Warren BARNES, Fred BELL, Scotty BOYD, Derek CANNON, David CAVANAUGH, Alan CURRY, Gavin DRISCOLL, Robert GLOVER, Bryan LINDSAY, Rayda NOBLE, Chris O'REILLY, Barry and Heather PERIGO, James ROCHE, John ROCHE and John SMITH.

We will still run our "Yearly Raffle" for \$1 per ticket. The winner will receive 50% of the money raised and will be drawn at our Annual "Get-Together" in November at the Paddington RSL Club.



5 CSSB Health Company NEWS

Our Association wishes the unit and the Health Company in particular, a very happy and productive 2011.

The start of the year has seen the transfer of a new Training Warrant Officer.

As we "farewell" SGT David Grace, who transferred to HMAS Cerebus, we sincerely wish him all the best and thank him for his help and assistance during his tenure.

We now formally "Welcome" WO 11 Jim Scott to the Health Company.

Jim is well and truly a "career soldier" who is now into his 34th year.

Jim is married to Jane and they have four

children, a son, Jordan, and three daughters, Rose, Julia and Heather. Our Association wishes them all a happy and contented future whilst Jim is with 5 CSSB.

Jim was re-posted from 1 HSB and has stepped right into preparing some of the Unit, including three Health Company personnel, for pre deployment on "Operation Annode" as part of RAMSI—Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands. This includes, among many other preparatory tasks, the conduct of Combat First Aid Courses.

Jim had a "Tour of Duty" to Bougainville in 2000.

SICK PARADE

Warren BARNES, Neil BARRIE, Don BOOTH, Scotty BOYD, Derek CANNON, Kevin CARTER, David CAVANAUGH, Barry COLLINS, John DAVIES, Vic ("Bluey") DAVIS, John de WITT, George DONNELLY, Nelson FIORENTINO, Eileen HENDERSON, Kevin HURRELL, Neville JOHNSON, Sir Keith JONES, Wilfred (Bill) JONES (*Calvary Nursing Care, CESSNOCK*), Anthony JORDAN, Ted KREMER, Bob LEECH, Bryan LINDSAY, Robert LOVE, Huss MAHOMET, "Roy" McDONALD, Bob McINERNEY, Rayda NOBLE, Charles O'MEALLY, Chris O'REILLY, Barry and Heather PERIGO, John PHILLIPS, Maurice PORTER (*Hayfield Court, Baptist Community Village, Carlingford*), Tom PRITCHARD, Harley RODD, Sr. Elizabeth SHEARD, Rob STEWART, Chris STRODE, Brian TAMS, Peter ("Tommo") THOMPSON, Sr. Florence ("Sue") THOMPSON (*Big Sister Hostel, Room 216, 2c Kanimbla Rd., Miranda*), Arthur WALTON, John WEAVER, Bruce WHITTET, John WOODHEAD (*Lourdes Nursing Home, Room 27, Stanhope Rd., Killara*).



KIND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(Of monies received since last newsletter of December 2010. Please contact me if your name has been omitted.)

- "Scotty" BOYD (Cheque \$35) for Subs \$15 and 4 "Sudan Painting" Raffle Tickets \$20.
- Laurie FARRUGIA (Cheque \$15) For Subs 2010.
- Richard FORD (M/Order \$15) for Subs.
- MAJGEN Warren GLENNY AO (Cheque \$50) for Subs to 2014.
- Robert GLOVER (Cash \$20) for Subs \$15 and Raffle Ticket in Sudan Painting.
- John & Margaret GORRELL (Cheque \$30) for Subs for 2011.
- Brian HARTLEY (Cheque \$15) for New Member Subs.
- Brian HOGAN (M/Order \$15) for New Member Subs 2011.
- James HOOLAN (Cheque \$100) for Life Membership.
- James JORDAN (Cheque \$15) for Subs.
- Geoffrey LINDSAY (Cheque \$15) for Associate Membership.
- John McKEOWN (Cheque \$100) for Life Membership.
- Don MELVILLE (Cheque \$125) for Life Membership \$100 and Coin & Token Set \$25.
- Rayda NOBLE (Cheque \$20) for New Member Subs \$15 and Ticket in Sudan Painting \$5.
- Chris O'REILLY (M/Order \$20) for Subs \$15 and Raffle ticket in Sudan Painting \$5.
- MAJGEN John PEARN AO (Cheque \$100) for Life Membership.
- David PORTER (Cheque \$50) for additional Christmas 2010 Magazines.
- Dr. James ROCHE (Cheque \$100) for 10 Tickets in Sudan Print \$50 and Donation \$50.
- Dr. Peter TRALAGGAN (Cheque \$100) for Life Membership.
- Thomas VELLA (Cash \$15) for Subs.
- Don WIKNER (EFT D/D \$200) for Life Membership \$100, 10 Tickets in Sudan Print \$50 and Donation \$50.
- Gordon WRIGHT (Cheque \$15) for Subs.
- Federal Govt. GRANT. (D/D \$204) "Saluting their Service" (see article Dec '09 pages 27/28)



NEW MEMBERS

Brian HARTLEY is warmly welcomed to our ranks. He came across our newsletters whilst visiting the army museum at Bandiana last year and was given a couple of past copies (which he thoroughly enjoyed reading).

When he entered the museum he noticed the misspelling of the word "Aesculapius" on the "Notice Board" in the foyer and informed the grateful curator.

Brian served with the Allied Forces in the UK. He was in the RAMC from 1948 to 1950, mostly in Greece, Egypt and Cyrenaica.

Brian expressed an interest in joining the RAAMC Association Inc. to which I posted out our Christmas 2010 newsletter with the said Application Form to join.

He has since emailed me to thank me for our "Welcome" letter and that he has filled in the form to join the RAAMC Association Inc. Thank you, Brian, for joining our Association and we look forward to meeting you in the future.

Brian HOGAN is sincerely welcomed back to our Association. Brian was a past member of 5 Field Ambulance in the 1960's and was a very competent corporal in RAEME.

He was always a much needed member of the team whether we were on camps, bivouacs or "exercises", and was always there to help us sort our mechanical or electrical problems! (*I think, from memory, he did a bit of cooking for us also!*)

It is good to welcome you back, Brian. We look forward to your company in the future.

James HOOLAN Jr. is a good friend from the United States.

Although we have never met personally, we have always been in touch with each other since our working days on the waterfront. I can't put my finger on the first time we made contact—but I'm glad we did.

I was a Tally Clerk and later elected as a union official with the Waterside Workers Federation in the late 1970's and James was a Supervisor/Clerk with his Longshoremen's Union in Oakland, in the US.

We have been sending Christmas cards/letters/emails to each other for almost 20 years.

James has been in and out of the army since 1956 and served with distinction in Vietnam in 1967. He was in HQ Company of 1 Bn, 1st Regiment of 1st Marine Division. He rose to the rank of Major and is also a qualified pilot.

I invited James to become a member of our Association and he gladly accepted and just recently sent me a donation for Life Membership.

Who knows, one day we might get to meet James and his lovely wife, Gia. They live in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA. Welcome aboard James, and thank you very much for your generous donation.

Geoffrey LINDSAY is warmly welcomed as an Associate Member. Geoffrey is another son of our late member, Mrs Estelle Lindsay, and brother of our current Associate member, Bryan.

When I met Geoffrey at their mum's funeral he remarked

how he and his wife, Stephanie, always enjoyed reading our magazines whenever his mum or Bryan posted them down to him. I placed Geoff on our mail list and he filled in an Application Form to join.

Thank you, Geoffrey, we welcome you and look forward to meeting again in the near future.

Don MELVILLE has been sending our Association some interesting articles for quite some time so I invited him to join as an Associate Member.

Not only did Don accept but he donated a Life Membership — we sincerely thank you for this gesture, Don, and your purchase of a "Coin and Token" set.

Don's association with us started because his dad was in WW1 in 5 Field Ambulance.

He was concerned that the only military service he has been involved in was his school cadets. (*Don, we are proud to think you want to join us through the involvement of your dad—we welcome you most sincerely.*)

Don wrote that his dad enlisted in Sydney in February 1915 and was posted to 5 Field Ambulance as a driver (horse-drawn ambulances). He sailed from Alexandria to Lemnos on the "HMT Melville" (what a coincidence—he wrote) and re-posted as a stretcher-bearer and then landed in Gallipoli in the "Big Break-Out" attempt in August before withdrawing in December, 1915.

He subsequently went to France for the rest of the war, surviving several health scares, including gas. He attained the rank of sergeant before being repatriated.

He "drew" a soldier settler orchard block at Griffiths (NSW) in 1919 but he always suffered the effects of France for the rest of his life. He passed away in 1957.

Don also wrote that he had two stepbrothers who served in WW 2—one started out in an Armoured Division in the Kimberley's before transferring to a Construction Company and serving in Moratai and Borneo—the other one (younger) was in Infantry and arrived in Borneo not long before the Japanese surrender.

Don was born in 1938 and never met his stepbrothers until they were repatriated and de-mobbed in 1945. Until then they were "myths" to him and his siblings.

He has a lot of memories of childhood experiences during the latter years of WW2, and the years thereafter.

Don's father was the local Air-Raid Warden and his mother was heavily involved with various support organisations.

Don "registered" for National Service in 1956 but as a student in the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, was granted a "deferment" until the course was completed.

He said the nearest he, or any of his colleagues, came to service was during the "Suez Crisis" later in 1956. He remembers the large gatherings of students discussing the situation and the "pro's and con's" of enlisting "now" or finishing college first, then signing up.

Fortunately, said Don, the crisis subsided reasonably quickly and they were relieved of the necessity of making the decision.

He wrote that as a group, who had all been granted "deferment", they decided that as the college course finished



in December 1957, they would spend a month or so on Bondi Beach and be ready for the January 1958 "Nasho" intake.

The entire "Scheme" was ended in late 1957, along with the "Bondi" idea!

Don said his "age group" also missed any involvement in later "Call-Ups" (Vietnam etc) and as a consequence, very few of his contemporaries have any military history.

Don has enjoyed researching and re-tracing his dad's war footsteps but his last journey in 2005 to Gallipoli for ANZAC Day has left his partner, Janne, with some mobility problems, so any further travel plans have been put on the "back-burner" for now.

Rayda NOBLE is warmly welcomed as an Associate Member.

Rayda is a good friend of our Association and has been a long time contributor to our newsletters, mainly through her involvement with the Rats of Tobruk Association (Vic Branch), as the Assistant Secretary, along with her other friends, some of whom are "currently serving" in the ADF.

Rayda is the very proud daughter of the late Charles (Bernie) Prain who was a Rat of Tobruk with the 2/1st Australian Field Workshops.

Her dad originally named her "Radar" —after the WW2 detection device—but mum subsequently changed the spelling—he also named my middle name Bernette because dad's Christian name was Bernard!

Rayda has two sisters, Sandra who was born in 1940 and did not know her dad until the war finished, then Rayda in 1945, then later, their last sister, Valda, who was born in 1952.

Their mum, Mena, became an invalid, due to an illness, and the family nursed her until her death in January 1985. Their dad passed away in December 1989.

Rayda had three children to her first marriage, (which ended in divorce), Michelle, sadly died of SIDS at 11 weeks old, then came Shaun and Bernette.

She later met her late husband, Allan, at junior football and they eventually married in May 1979. Allan was a widower and had two children, Stephen and Andrea.

He was a National Serviceman and although no children came from their union, they were a very happy family unit.

Allan, sadly, was struck with cancer and died in January 2009.

At this present time, Rayda is most upset, as are other like-minded relatives and friends, that the Victorian Branch of the RSL is refusing to allow Rats of Tobruk descendants to march behind their forebear's Banners.

She marched last year behind her (late) dad's Banner and proudly wore his medals (on her right breast).

This emotive issue that has erupted in Melbourne, has seen many protest letters written to the RSL and the newspapers.

(A friend of Rayda's wrote... "this ANZAC Day every child should say;

"Dad... today I walk beside you cos I'm proud of you... if you stumble I'll be there. If you have to rest I'll wait with you. When you cry I'll cry with you... and dad... when you're gone, I'll be right back here for you... I'll know what to do, you told me. I'll know where to stand... you showed me. I'll know when to set off on the March, you taught me. I'll know which of the boys you always stood beside, you introduce me every year... and dad, I'll walk in your footsteps and teach my kids what to do 'till my last ANZAC Day on this earth. Trust me dad, I'll know what to do when the time comes, mate."

(Rayda asked me to write an "Apology" for incorrectly naming the wrong person in the group photo (see *Christmas Magazine 2010*— p35). Her ADF friend, Bombardier Brad Marshall, is on the left of the photo NOT on the right.)

Thank you, Rayda, for becoming one of us. We look forward to greeting you in the near future.

Ross SMITH is sincerely welcomed to our Association.

Ross is a WW 2 veteran and a very good mate of Charles Dobson (whom I wrote about in our June 2010 Newsletter— page 25)—they have been mates for over 60 years.

Charles had passed our magazine on to Ross and he filled in the Application Form in the magazine, to join us.

Along with his application was a wonderful read of what happened to him after the war—I have passed it on to our publishers for inclusion in one of our newsletters, when space permits.

Thank you, Ross, for your words. I hope when you read this that you and your wife, Jean, are in good health. Welcome.

Dr. Peter TRALAGGAN is warmly welcomed to our Association.

Peter is a past member of 5 Field Ambulance and served some of his army experience with our President, Derek Cannon, in the 70's and 80's.

Thank you, Peter, for joining our Association and most especially for your very generous donation of Life Membership. We look forward to meeting you in the near future and sharing some of those army, or other, experiences.

Come and try the real fires fitness test with the team at PMC College on Sat 7 May 2011 from 9am to 12noon



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MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS

Bruce WHITTETT wrote to say he enjoys reading all the news and passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

He recently developed shingles a few months ago which affected his sciatic nerve. The affliction left him with hardly any strength in his left leg and he fell over three times and hit his head on the pavement—the last time was outside his doctor's practice and it caused some panic because he "blacked out".

Bruce said everyone thought it was a stroke! He has been on crutches for some time and has undergone many CT and MRI scans with all the tests confirming that shingles is the culprit.

He is thankful he is still allowed to drive his car for short distances.

(Thank you, Bruce, for your letter. I received it too late to include in our Christmas (2010) magazine but we hope that when you read this you will be back to your old self.)

Bryan LINDSAY wrote to tell me that his mum's (the late Estelle Lindsay) estate is in the final stages of being resolved.

He has now moved away from Epping to a nice quiet part of Failford (situated on the eastern side of the Pacific Highway and just north of Nabadac, on the North Coast).

Bryan has been coming to this part of the coast, on and off, since the 1960's and he has a good mate (from his days in Seven Hills many years ago) living nearby.

He has found a beautiful home on almost 1 and a half acres of undulating land where he will have great pleasure growing his orchids again and with "Tiddles" his little faithful dog to keep him company, he is looking forward to his new lifestyle.

(Thank you, Bryan, for giving me your new contact details. It seems that you have now found a small piece of heaven.)

Vic ("Bluey") DAVIS sends his good wishes to the members in the Association, especially to his good mates from the 2/5th—Neil Barrie and Tom Pritchard.

I had rung Bluey early in the year to see if he could help my niece's daughter, Emily (Pearse). She is 15, and her dad and step mum had moved up to Upper Kedron in Queensland, from Williamstown in Victoria (her dad is a Major in the Artillery and was being transferred) and Emily is a "mad AFL Collingwood supporter"—like Bluey.

Anyway, all their material possessions were in a container and got ruined in the recent Queensland floods and part of Emily's destroyed "prized possessions" was a large "signed" poster/photo of the Collingwood footy side.

Enter Bluey—he is a Life Member of the club and he is endeavouring to replace Emily's "lost" poster.

Last year, prior to his 91st birthday, and the "Pies" winning the AFL Premiership, he penned this very apt verse;

*Tomorrow isn't just a day, it's when I'm 91,
And I thank my dear wife, wife, Betty,
who helped this day to come.*

*There is, of course, my relatives, also my good mate, Trevor,
And these I see 3 times a week 'round at Physica.*

*So in conclusion, may my hopes, go higher than the skies!
And bring this year's Premiership to the "mighty Magpies."*

Bluey Davis (8/9/10)

He wrote, among other matters, about their other good mate, Terry Wade.

Bluey said that Terry served with the 2/5th and was a "Rat of Tobruk" and then in the New Guinea campaign in the Ramu Valley and Milne Bay during WW 2.

Unfortunately, he did not get to Borneo as he contracted cerebral malaria and was discharged as a TPI.

Bluey said that when he and Betty moved into their retirement village 11 years ago, they were at a 2/5th Re-Union and telling Terry and his wife, Margo, how good it was in their village—a week later, Terry and Margo came and had an inspection and shortly afterwards, they also moved to the village.

Bluey said about 6 months ago, Terry and Margo had to move to a full time care facility where Terry contracted pneumonia and sadly, died in hospital.

Bluey said Terry was 90 years of age, walked a lot and was physically fit but unfortunately, the malaria affected his mind. Bluey was saddened by his passing and said he will be very much missed.

Bluey also happily wrote about winning a brand new TV! It appears that he was judged the best "race caller" on one of the radio stations in Melbourne.

He and Betty had only just bought a new TV so they gladly gave it to a nephew who was in the process of buying one for his family. They were very pleased to do this because this nephew and his family have been a wonderful help, over many years, to both he and Betty.

Bluey finished his letter with a New Year verse;
*Now Christmas time is over, and New Year vows been made,
And presents bought on credit cards now surely
have been paid.*

*With floods both here and Queensland,
we mourn the loss of life,*

So let's donate a plenty, to ease their awful strife.

(Bluey Davis, 17/1/11)

(Thank you, Bluey, for your very informative letter. Our thoughts are with you and your friends at the recent sad loss of your friend Terry—Lest we Forget.)

Chris O'REILLY sends his good wishes to our members. He thanked us for posting him his "Raffle Prize" of the book "The 39ER'S" which he read and thoroughly enjoyed.

He since re-posted it back to me in the hope that a member/s may wish to read it.

Chris says this could be the start of a "little library" for our Association.

(Thank you, Chris, for your very kind gesture. I will make it available to any member who may wish to read it and return it later.)



“Scotty” BOYD emailed me to say he enjoys reading all the news.

He asked what the “Application Forms from members” was all about and the SGT’s “Honour Boards?”

Scotty says his hand is healing nicely and hopefully he should be free to embark on his 20 day holiday to Singapore, Vietnam and Hong Kong in mid-February.

I asked Scotty if all goes well to drop me a line and let me know about his holiday.

(Thank you, Scotty, for your email. I trust the replies were ok and we hope your trip comes to fruition.)

Michael MORONEY passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association and was one of a number of members who returned their “missing” Application Forms, together with the following additional information for our benefit.

Michael’s Army Reserve Service began in 1979 until his discharge, with the rank of Corporal/Medical Assistant, on the 12 July 2007.

He served in 1 Gen Hosp, 5 Fd Amb, 5 BASB and 5 CSSB.

Michael’s wife **Aurora** obtained a Degree in Humanities, and also taught, at the University of the Philippines. She obtained her Masters in Town Planning at Sydney University.

Michael is married to Aurora and they have four children, 3 daughters and a son;

Roxanne, the eldest, is a chiropractor and has a Degree in Bio Medical Science. **Michael** attended and qualified at the Australian Defence Force Academy, he is currently serving in the RAAF and stationed at Victoria Barracks in Melbourne.

Michelle studied and passed two Degrees (Economics and Business) at Macquarie University. She has now completed her Masters in Economics and speaks and writes French fluently. **Camille**, the youngest, is currently studying psychology at the University of NSW.

Michael (dad) is a committee member of the Burwood RSL Sub Branch and is their First Aid Officer and has already had 6 other members of the Sub Branch trained in First Aid.

He has also been co-opted as their “Historian” and part of his duties are to look after and arrange their Display Cabinet, especially for certain events.

Among the mail he sent me was a series of 7 old photos titled “The Making of the ANZACS”.

They range from a group (about 25) of farmers and shearers, roughly marching along a dusty road in the bush—with an Officer at the head.

Then, gathering numbers along the way, they reach what looks like Martin Place in Sydney, to a huge, massive crowd of people—in the distance, erected along the façade of a building is a large banner which reads...“ENLIST THE EMPIRE CA—(probably read... CALLS)”.

The 2nd last photo shows a Review of the Troops (looks like the Domain) prior to embarkation.

The last photo shows “The Review of the Troops” and then a “shot” of their camp in Egypt, prior to the attack on Gallipoli.

Michael is actively encouraging his Sub Branch fellow members to donate any “Service Memorabilia” they may have, for fear they may be “binned” or lost to a private

collector. He said that he has already donated WW 1 and WW 2 memorabilia of the army to the Australian War and Bandiana Museums and some Air Force memorabilia, also to the Australian War Museum.

He urges any of our Association Members, who may also possess “war memorabilia”, to consider donating it to their local Sub Branch/The Australian War Museum or our own Association, when that time arises.

He remarked that RSL HQ does not have a policy or guidelines to follow, as to what happens to a Sub Branch’s memorabilia when a Sub Branch becomes defunct!

He stated that any of our members who have served in the ADF should be encouraged to join their local Sub Branch—especially the younger ones.

It is a fact that Sub Branch numbers are declining and new members are needed because the significance of the supreme sacrifices made by our ADF personnel must **NEVER be forgotten**.

(Thank you, Michael, for your letter and your personal details. You are doing a great service for your Sub Branch.)

John ROCHE enjoys reading our newsletters and passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

He recently wrote me on two occasions. The **first** was enclosing some “extracts” from the September (2010) edition of “**DIGGER**” – the official newsletter of the “Family and Friends of the First AIF Inc.” and also a page on **Battlefield Basics** concerning Tourniquets—an “extract” from the 14/1/11 edition of “**Australian Doctor**”.

There is some poignant reading, about WW 1, in what John sent me.

(He also pointed out that there was an article on a **Basil Vincent HILL** (Page 15 of “**DIGGER**”), who was a lawyer. He left on the “**HMAT Ajana**”, with other attached 5 Field Ambulance personnel, from NSW, in 5th Brigade.

He landed at Gallipoli in August 1915. He lived and survived the war and later graduated from Sydney University Law School).

The **second** enclosed envelope contained another letter, and with it was the very informative, 74 page magazine, “**Hardnbold**” **April 2011**—which is the name of the magazine of the **57/60th Bn. Association**.

John and his brother, Jim, are both members of this Association.

He pointed out a poem on page 48/49 and another item (page 50) re the story behind “The playing of The Last Post” these are ones that have been sent to me a few times by various members, and I have them in my “to do” list!

John wrote that the 57/60th Bn were the successors of the 15 Brigade from Fromelles and further on. Their step father was **Marlo Hayres**, of whom they were very fond.

He was wounded at **Courtney’s Post** and had to be taken to **Malta** where he would tell them later...“**The blue waters of the Mediterranean healed my wounds**”.

*(John had been reading an account by the war historian **C.W.Bean**, regarding all the wounded in Alexandria and on the hospital ships—all were full.)*

If any member would like to read any of the above information I would be very happy to post it to them—please contact me if interested.



John also wrote that he was at church a while back and saw **Steve Baldick's** death in the Moss Vale Parish Bulletin—it just read...“recently deceased”. He went home to check the SMH Death Notices ...“to see if I was there!” but instead saw Steve’s name. He saw that the notice was placed by his aunt (**Mary Hammond**).

John promptly sent a Christmas Card to Mary to say he was a good friend of Steve’s and Mary contacted John to find out more. John then gave me Mary’s phone number.

John also wrote about the passing of **Miles Havyatt**. He recalled being with Miles on a CMF camp at Singleton, when they were with 5 Fd Amb.

John said he was left in camp to “look after” the health of the troops that were not required with the rest who were on exercise at Mt Royal.

John arrived a few days later to find the marquee full of beds with white sheets and full of patients! (“great experience for **Sr. “Sue” Thompson** and “her boys””, he wrote), he said ...“*Miles was a dermatologist and I was a GP—so the sight of a big syringe, full of local anaesthetic and a needle, emptied the beds in a short while. Sleeping out in a cold trench gave them “bad backs”! so we sent the CMF blokes back to their units and then the tent was virtually empty.*”

John remarked that when he was **RMO for 5 Field Regiment** he wondered why so many “ack ack boys” from the next door unit attended his Sick Parade.

He found out that their RMO gave a dose of **castor oil** to anyone who reported on Sick Parade. He used to go off to Singleton each day and John said he actually bought a pub while they were in camp!

John said the day he went to Government House to receive his **OAM**, he sat next to a lady from **Broke** who was also receiving her award and she told John that her husband had been the Mayor of Singleton and had received his **OAM** some years before.

She told John they were on a dairy farm but their sons had talked them into planting **grapevines** and she had been organising the “**Broke Festival**” for some years—hence her award!

John concluded by saying he was still enjoying a drink from our pewter mug. He said he has just bottled “**brew No: 200**” of his “**home brew**” which is a total of **6,000 “long neck”** bottles---“*I must give a lot away*”!! he wrote.

(Thank you, John, for your very welcome letters and the copy of “Hardnbold”—keep up the home brews!)

Don WIKNER passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

He was saddened to hear the news of death of his army friend, **Miles Havyatt**. Don said has some very strong and happy memories of his old CO, Major **Miles Havyatt**.

Don recalled when they were on an **Annual Camp** in Mt Royal and **Miles** gave Don a thorough grounding on the **preservation of wild flora and fauna**—Miles, at the time, had a very strong passion for flowers.

But Don said he will be forever remembered by him for the advice he gave me –and I have followed this advice all through my working life.

Don **concluded** his email with...“**Farewell, Miles, Sir**”.

(Thank you, Don, for some of your thoughts on our good (late) member, Miles Havyatt. Our Association also sincerely

thanks you for your very kind EFT donation of Life Membership and the Sudan Raffle, it is very much appreciated.)

Ray HYSLOP (Our Patron) passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

He was also saddened to read about the passing of Miles Havyatt.

Ray said he still remembers the night (in the 1950’s) when they were in camp at Singleton. They were both asked to “**leave the Mess**” after a “**Dining In**” night because it was **0430hrs** and the cooks and orderlies said they had to prepare **breakfast**!

(Thank you, Ray, for sharing a memory of our friend, Miles.)

John DAVIES passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association. He sent me an email thanking me for thinking of him and his family during the recent flooding in his locality (Wagga Wagga)—all was good!

John returned his Application Form and, like a number of other good members, included some past history which I shall place in one of our future magazines.

He just sent me another email and along with other matters, he apologised for not being able to be with us on **ANZAC Day** but with great pride he said that his 6 year old grandson came home from school that other day and asked his mum if she could take him to the (local) **ANZAC Day** march. John is going to approach the local RSL Sub Branch to get permission for them both to participate in the March.

He was also remarking on the catastrophies that have occurred around the world and said he has a friend who is a paramedic and just returned back from the Japan earthquake. His friend said the devastation was indescribable. Their job was to recover casualties from the coastal regions, and from an area that housed 10,000 people they only recovered 3 bodies.

John has been trying to research some WW 2 info on his late uncle Doug (a POW) but more pressing personal problems have put this on hold, but John’s brother was amazed with what John has uncovered so far and he is going to assist to piece the puzzle of their uncle Doug.

(Thank you, John, I hope by the time you read this magazine you are feeling much better and that your doctor has been able to ‘cure’ your last ‘set-back’ and that all the rains have gone! I hope that Moira’s ‘set-back’ is temporary and that she gets better soon—you are both a great couple.)

Harding BURNS passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

He sent a **message of condolence** to me, for Miles Havyatt’s wife, Eleanor, when he received my message about his death.

He said that Miles was 2 years ahead of him in Graduation, and he remembers Miles during his time at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Harding recently returned from Melbourne where he proudly told me his eldest daughter is now a Professor at Deakin University.



He said he enjoys reading our magazines and “catching up” on all the news.

(Thank you, Harding, for your email and our congratulations on your 86th Birthday—well done.)

Sr. Elizabeth SHEARD enjoys reading our magazine and passes on her good wishes to her friends in the Association.

Elizabeth was another member who kindly sent her Application Form back to me and I noticed on the back she had written...*“I joined the Defence system in 1953 and became a member of 5 Field Ambulance in 1957”*.

(Thank you, Elizabeth, for returning your form and for that little extra info.)

Gordon WRIGHT is another good member who returned his Application Form. He had written on the back...*“I’m still hoping to make contact with any old 5 Field Ambulance boys. Our ranks must be getting thin as I am now 92. I was a sergeant in HQ 14 L of C and stationed at Noonamah, NT.”*

(When I looked at the map of Australia to see where Noonamah was, all I could do was try and place myself there in 1942 to ? and imagine the huge activity that would be taking place. And Gordon was in the thick of it!

Noonamah is on the Stuart Highway between Cox Peninsula Road and the Arnhem Highway in the Northern Territory)

(Good on you, Gordon, who knows—there may be someone out there among our readers who had/has a relative of friend who served in your unit—Good Luck, Gordon and thank you.)

Ken PHILLIPS recently returned his completed Application Form and wrote on the back that he joined the **Regular Army** on 29th April 1975 and was later allocated to the Medical Corps.

Ken was awarded the **OAM** in **1985** for Health Support to the cyclone ravaged Vanuatu Island.

He progressed through the ranks to become **RSM of 5 Field Ambulance** (which later was re-organised with other units to become 5 BASB) from 1995 to 1997 when he subsequently **discharged** and **transferred** to the **Army Reserve**.

Ken is **currently** the **RSM** at **8 CSSB** Timor Barracks, Dundas (NSW).

He and his partner, Karen, reside on the Central Coast of NSW.

(Thank you, Ken, for some of your personal information. I am sure our members will enjoy your “bicycle trip” saga—it was a great read.)

Laurie FARRUGIA enjoys reading all the news and passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

When he returned his Application Form he wrote a note on the bottom saying that *“all is good up here” except for all the rain* (referring to he and his family’s recent move to Palm Beach on the Gold Coast (Qld) and the enormous amount of rain they were getting up there at that particular time.)

(Thank you, Laurie, for your ‘form’ and we are all glad for you and your family in your new home.)

MAJGEN John PEARN passes on his good wishes to his friends in the Association and enjoys reading our magazine.

(Thank you, John, for your note of kind words of encouragement and you very kind donation of Life Membership.)

Victoria GORRIE (through her mum, Joan) sends her good wishes to her friends in the Association.

Joan kindly completed Victoria’s Application Form and noted on the bottom...**“Victoria is currently working in Darwin with CAREFLIGHT”**.

(Thank you, Joan, for returning the ‘form’—when Victoria reads this she might send me an email to tell me a little of her routine with Careflight! We all hope she is well and happy.)

Philip FAGUE sends his good wishes to his friends in the Association and enjoys reading all the news. He has been keeping busy but hopes to ‘catch up’ with us soon.

(Thank you, Philip, for returning your Application Form. I never discard any notes/letters etc from any member as they are all filed under each member’s name and acknowledged in our next newsletter—I did not have an A/F from you until now, and yours is very much appreciated.)

Barry & Heather PERIGO send their good wishes to their friends in the Association.

Barry kindly sent me an **‘Obituary’** Notice regarding the death of **Mrs. Fanny Broadbent, at age 98**. Mrs. Broadbent was the late **MAJGEN John Broadbent’s** wife.

John was our inaugural Patron and he passed away on the **27 October 2006**.

Our Association offers its sincere condolences to their surviving daughters, Jillian, Francis and Meagan and their families.

(Thank you, Barry, for this sad news.)

Robert LOVE kindly returned his Application Form and wrote on the back...*“I work as an A.I.N. in a local Nursing Home and really enjoy what I do. I am single and live with my best friend, Rae and my Goddaughter, Milly.*

I love war movies and have a great collection of War Books. I am planning on visiting Pearl Harbour within 12 months and Gallipoli and the war zones when I turn 60. I am a real “aussie” and love all sport, especially cricket and footy.”

(Good on you, Robert, we are glad you are happy and we hope by the time this reaches you, your shoulder injury has fully recovered.)

Robert STEWART is also thanked for returning his Application Form. He sends his good wishes to his friends in the Association.

Robert wrote on the back of his form...*“In 1966 I entered 1 RTB Kapooka to undergo basic training with 8 Platoon “B” Company. On completion I was transferred to Bandiana, Victoria, on the border, to complete Corps training at the RAAOC School.*



I was then transferred to Queensland and posted to 1 BOD, Gaythorne, near Enoggera.

After my National Service I applied to join 5 Field Ambulance when it was located in Carrington Road, Randwick. At that stage I became employed with the NSW Ambulance Service but the shift work affected my ability to attend parade at the Depot, so, reluctantly, I resigned. In latter years I am pleased I had the opportunity to return as a member of the Association."

Robert has recently moved from Randwick to the ACT.

(Thank you, Robert, for your short summary, it is much appreciated. We hope when you read this magazine you will have "settled in" at your new surroundings.)

Frank LANG passes on his kind regards to his friends in the Association. He was one of many who applauded the Reserve Forces Day committee on the idea of presenting a Medallion to their partners.

Frank gladly nominated his good wife, Valerie, whom he credits with 'looking after' their family whilst he was away, so much, on army duties for all those years.

Frank and Valerie were married in 1962 and are the proud parents of 5 children.

(Thank you, Frank, for your words. You are so right, if it wasn't for our spouses (mainly) standing by us, it would have been very difficult.)

Brian HOGAN sent me an email in response to the one I sent to our members regarding those American G.I. stats during the Vietnam conflict.

He had been 'cleaning out' a heap of 'stuff' he had been collecting over the years and came across an old National Geographic magazine dated May 1985 and an article in it was "To Heal a Nation"—(apparently about the way Vietnam Veterans were vilified at that time), Brian said he has two close friends who still experience bad reactions from the mid to late 1960's.

Brian was a pastor (he is now retired) and had occasions to deal with veterans who still suffer from what they were exposed to in Vietnam and Iraq.

He is thankful for having been in 5 Field Ambulance because a common response he used to receive was...*"You at least understand"*, Brian said he finds this a very humbling statement.

He said that one man said to him...*"I can talk to you, but I can't talk to my wife or my mates, about these things because they don't want to know or just walk away."*

Brian remarked that it saddens him to think they don't seek more professional support.

Brian concluded by passing on his good wishes to any of our members who may remember him.

(Thank you, Brian, for your email, and yes, it would be good to get your history.)

Thank You (From your Committee)

Thank you Members, for your yearly dues, donations and LIFE MEMBERSHIPS, they are so very much appreciated.

....for giving your "unwanted Magazine" to your local doctors/hospital waiting rooms/ Nursing Homes/local chemists/RSLs/etc "Reading Rooms" for their enjoyment.

....To all the businesses who have paid our publishers to have their advertisement placed in our magazine.

....To our members who pay by EFT, thank you for identifying yourself. (There are some members who are a little behind with their Subs—any little effort is much appreciated.)

Your contributions, letters and emails are enjoyed by us all and are an encouragement.

Members on the Internet—don't forget our own site (see Front Cover of our magazine) and also "surf" the RAAMC website:- www.raamc.com

If you do visit our website, please feel free to write a comment in our "Guest Book".

5 Field Ambulance RAAMC Association is also a proud member of the RAAMC Association Inc.

NB: Some of you reading this magazine may decide you may now wish to discontinue to be on our Mailing List. We hope this is not so, but if it is please let me know and your wishes will be respected.



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Stems of Interest

- (1) **BOFORS Newsletters from the 18 LAA Regt. Association**, has been kindly sent to me for **December 2010 and February 2011**, by their secretary.

If we have any old gunners, or indeed any interested member, who would like to read these issues please contact me and I will be happy to post them to you.

- (2) **Brigadier-General Thomas Henry FIASCHI:** *(My sincere thanks to the Hawkesbury District Independent News—Dec '10/Jan '11 and story by Michelle Nicholls and Jonathon Auld—and to our President, Derek Cannon for posting the article to me.)*

I was recently sent the following article, which I have edited, about **Dr. Thomas Fiaschi**--soldier and winegrower!

(The Eastern Region History Committee have now finalised the "Honour Board" of Brigadier-General Fiaschi's medals—which is a wonderful achievement. The story below gives a little piece of history into the man himself.)



Thomas Henry Fiaschi was born in Florence, Italy, in 1835. He studied medicine at the Royal University of Turin and later travelled to Australia on board the "S.S. Francisco Calderon", arriving in Brisbane in 1875.

He journeyed further north to Cooktown to practice medicine in the gold rush community of Palm River.

He later came to Sydney and worked at St Vincent's Hospital, and it was here he met and fell in love with Sister Mary Regis (formerly Catherine Regis), who was a member of the Sisters of Charity Order.

They eloped and married in 1876 and moved to Windsor to escape the controversy of their marriage.

Dr. Fiaschi then commenced a practice, in a room, at the Macquarie Arms Hotel until later moving to premises in Thomas Square.

In 1877 they sailed back to Italy so Thomas could finalise his studies. It was here their first child, a son, Lodovico, was born.

When Thomas finished his degree in 1879, they returned back to Windsor to Thomas Square. Two more sons were born here, Piero in 1879 and Carlo in 1880.

Dr. Fiaschi was appointed surgeon to the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society and Hospital in Windsor.

He introduced a range of innovations to the hospital including surgical procedures which improved patient's survival; he also enhanced the hospital's administrative aspects.

When Joseph Lister introduced antiseptic surgery in 1867, Dr. Fiaschi had learned these techniques in London and he introduced this pioneering work in Windsor. He also did ground-breaking work in anaesthesia, for use in surgery.

Dr. Fiaschi also established the Australian Trained Nurse's Association and was involved in teaching and lecturing many aspects of medicine.

He also spoke seven languages and was President of the School of Arts in Windsor, and in this capacity was able to influence several major theatrical productions to come to Windsor, after successful seasons in Sydney and Melbourne.

It was around this time he applied for, and received, his Certificate of Naturalisation. This allowed him to purchase land.

He bought a property at Sackville Reach and by 1882 he had established a winery, which he named TIZZANA.

As well as being an "Award-winning" vineyard it also had prize poultry, horses and dogs.

Tizzana hosted many social events, parties, regattas and Annual Harvest Balls.

In the early 1880's, Thomas moved his practice to Sydney and it was here their two daughters were born—Clarissa in 1885 and Eleanora in 1893.

He always took an interest in the Hawkesbury rural enterprises and became a major shareholder in the Hawkesbury River Steam Navigation Company in 1887, which aimed to provide better transportation for the farmers.

As well as being a pioneer in the wine industry when he founded Tizzana, he also established the Mudgee Vineyard in 1919. It was Thomas who introduced the "wire and trellis" system of planting vines.

He became President of the Australian Wine Producers Association of NSW and a councillor for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

Thomas wrote numerous articles about the value of wine as a health remedy, he won many awards, both locally, nationally as well as internationally.

His workforce at Tizzana consisted of locals including members of the Sackville Aboriginal Community, plus Italian and French immigrants.

During his time in Sydney, between 1894 and 1913, he was a surgeon at Sydney Hospital and was made honorary consulting surgeon, until his death in 1927.

Thomas was also involved with the NSW Lancers and during 1896 served a period of time with the Italian Army in Abyssinia.

He received "The Knight of the Order of St Maurice and St Lazarus" and a "Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy", bestowed by the Italian Government and being the only Australian to have received these awards.

Thomas and his son, Carlo, both served in the Boer War, 1899-1902, and whilst in South Africa, Thomas managed the NSW 1st Field Hospital and was promoted to Major.



Thomas was "Mentioned in Despatches" and also awarded for his bravery—receiving the DSO.

In 1911 he was promoted to Colonel, and when WW1 began, he commanded the 3rd Australian General Hospital in Lemnos.

When he returned to Australia he joined the Australian Army Medical Corps Militia. He retired in 1921 with the rank of Brigadier-General.

Thomas's wife, Catherine, passed away in 1913 and 12 months later he married nurse Amy Curtis in Bundaberg. Thomas and Amy had two daughters—Eliza, born in 1915 and Olivia, born in 1919.

Both of Thomas's wives took an active role in the running of Tizzana and Mudgee wineries, as well as "Fiaschi's Wine Bar" in Sydney.

Dr. Thomas Henry Fiaschi is interred at Waverley Cemetery (NSW).

(3) The Search for Warriors

This was a 2 part documentary, shown on SBS TV on the 7th and 14th December 2010.

It showed the selection process for candidates for the Special Air Services Regiment.

What a harrowing series to see these candidates put to the test. Those chosen are a brave, courageous and tenacious group of soldiers and this does NOT detract from the ones who did not make it—they tried their guts out.

I understand this documentary was a **FIRST** for the unit.



(4) MEDIA RELEASES *(With kind thanks to the Dept. of Defence—edited for space and in no particular date order)*

(A) "SARBI"—the E.D. (Explosive Device) Dog returns to Australia.

Members may recall the item I wrote about in which Trooper Mark Donaldson VC was involved and "Sarbi", an E.D. dog, was lost in this "fire fight". That was in 2008.

Now, 14 months later, the story that told of her being found was very heart-warming. She is now safely back in Australia and after an inspection and quarantine period she has now re-entered service as an "E.D.D."

(B) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder—DVD release.

The Chief of Army, LTGEN Ken Gillespie, "launched" a new PTSD DVD titled "Dents in the Soul" in early December 2010, at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville. He said that..." he and his commanders take very seriously our responsibility to ensure our soldiers are prepared, both physically and mentally, for the rigors of training and service operations."

He added that the DVD will play an important role in bringing PTSD into the spotlight. He also said Army's value of courage, initiative and teamwork

are built on the real tenet of "looking after your mates"—"We do this in training, in barracks, on operations—we need to do this with PTSD."

Soldiers and families attending the "launch" were treated to a concert performance from John Schuman and the "Vagabond" crew!

"Dents in the Soul" is also available 'on-line' at www.defence.gov.au (see quick links).

Defence commissioned Professor David Dunt, from the University of Melbourne, to conduct a major review of our Mental Health Services. His findings were heeded by Defence and the Government has allocated \$90 Million over 4 years to reform and enhance the ADF Mental Health Strategy.

(C) Army Reserves to Deploy to EAST TIMOR.

For the first time since 2002, the ADF will deploy an army reserve force element of Company size to East Timor in December 2010.

(Army Reservists are currently deployed and serving with distinction in East Timor, The Solomon Islands and Afghanistan.)

The Reserve contingent, numbering 160 personnel, will come mainly from the Queensland-based 11 Brigade and consist of a Rifle Company group, HQ Staff and Logistic Support Troops.

They will be integrated into the existing Force structure of the ISF and will assume full responsibility of the Regular Army Group they replace.

The Commander of 2nd Division, **MAJGEN Craig Williams**, welcomed the large increase of Reservists to be deployed.

(D) MTF-1 RETURN HOME.

About 800 Members of Mentoring Task Force-1 were re-united with family and friends in October 2010. They had been on an **8 month deployment in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.**

MTF-1 is a combined contingent from the Brisbane-based **6 Bn RAR, 2/14th Light Horse Regt, 2nd Combat Engineer Regt, 1st Field Regt, 139th Signals Sqn and 7th Combat Service Support Bn.**

They had departed in January 2010 and assisted with Mentoring, Reconstruction and Security Operations in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

It was tasked with delivering training to the 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army with the aim of equipping the ANA soldiers with the skills and experience to conduct their own security operations.

(E) WELCOME HOME PARADE — 7th BRIGADE (Brisbane-based)

On Saturday, 20th November 2010 at 10am, approximately **2,500 men** from the **7th Brigade**, marched proudly from the South Bank Cultural forecourt, across Victoria Bridge and concluded at 157 Anne Street.



The march was led by their **C.O. BRIG Paul McLachlan** and celebrated by hundreds of family and friends.

Dignitaries included the **Deputy Prime Minister**, Mr Wayne Swan, the **Parliamentary Secretary for Defence**, Senator David Feeney, **Queensland Senator**, Russell Trood, the **Honourable Member for Brisbane**, Teresa Gambaro MP, **Brisbane Lord Mayor**, Campbell Newman and the Commander, Forces Command, **MAJGEN David Morrison**.

The parade was to celebrate the conclusion of their operations in **Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor during 2010**. The **2/14th Light Horse Regiment** conducted a concurrent parade to mark their **150th Anniversary**.

(F) Australian Medical Task Force "WELCOME HOME" from Pakistan

A "Welcome Home" for the remaining 70 members of the AMTF was held at the RAAF Base, Amberley, on Friday, 29th October 2010 after 10 weeks deployment in the recent flood-ravaged area of **KOT ADDU**.

A total of 180 ADF personnel, which formed the force deployed on **"Operation Pakistan Assist 11"**, comprised a Medical Task Force which included 36 Defence and 28 Civilian health specialists.

Specialist engineering capabilities supported the delivery of clean water to the task force and construction of accommodation and other buildings.

As well, **six RAAF C-17 Globemasters** delivered, over 6 days, the following; *201 family tents, 9,126 tarpaulins, 10 rolls of plastic sheeting (to shelter more than 10,000 families), 24 portable generators, 7,420 water storage containers and water purification tablets to provide 30 days of safe drinking water for more than 7,000 families, 1,962 birthing kits to pregnant women to support the birth of their child, ADF Medical Supplies to assist with immediate health needs, Medical Support in treating around 250 patients a day, totalling 11,375 patients and the treatment of more than 3,000 cases of malaria.*

(G) ARMY CADETS in Annual Team Challenge.

80 Army cadets, their ages ranging from **15 to 18** year old, came from units across Australia and competed in the **Annual, Chief of Army Cadet Team Challenge**.

It was held at the **Kokoda Barracks, Canungra, Queensland** from Thursday 3rd March until they returned to their respective units on Sunday, 6th March.

The tests included; *knowledge and skill, including quick decision-making exercises, Ceremonial Drill, field craft, navigation, first aid, engineering tasks, leadership and teamwork.*

In a hotly contested competition, the **Chief of Army, LTGEN Ken Gillespie** announced that NSW was the Champion Team, closely followed by **WA in 2nd place**.

WA won the **Regimental Sergeant Major-Army Ceremonial Drill Trophy**.

The **Parliamentary Secretary for Defence**, Senator The Hon. **David Feeney**, and the **Chief of Army, LTGEN Ken Gillespie**, both spoke highly of the effort and commitment of all the competing teams.

They said that the Army Cadets are delivering what will be Australia's **next generation** of leaders—whether they are in uniform or other walks of life.

(H) Government accepts offer of Japanese WW 2 records.

A group of **FIVE former POW's** and their carers recently visited Japan under the auspices of the **Japan-POW Friendship Group**.

Accompanied by our **Foreign Affairs Minister**, Mr. Kevin Rudd, and our **Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence, Science and Personnel**, Mr. Warren Snowden, the former POW's and their carers **accepted an apology**, made in the **spirit of reconciliation**, from **Japan's Foreign Minister, Maehara**.

Mr. Maehara also offered to hand over **historical records of POW's from WW 2**.

Our Government accepted this offer because in recent years, the **RABAU and MONTE VIDEO MARU Society** have pressed the Australian Government to seek access to the Japanese WW 2 card system, in the hope it will shed some light about family members of **LARK FORCE**.

Many of these members perished on the ill-fated **Monte Video Maru** when it was **torpedoed** by an **U.S. Submarine in 1942**. There are also some family members concerned about their relatives during their time in captivity, by the Japanese, during WW 2.

It is expected that the 'returned records' will be housed in the **Australian War Memorial**.

(I) INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY celebrated by the ADF.

The **8th March** each year is the day chosen to celebrate **International Women's Day** and it has been celebrated since the **early 1900's**.

213 women are deployed in **Afghanistan** and a large number of these women are successfully engaging the local population, facilitated by the **Female Engagement Teams (FET's)** which are a part of the **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)**.

In a significant **milestone for women** in Afghanistan, the **Uruzgan Province Governor, Mohammed Omar Shirzad**, recognised the role of women in Afghanistan by 'hosting' over 150 Afghan and Coalition Defence servicewomen at an International Women's Day function on the **6th March**.

The FET's support *education programs, economic development and the provision of health services, as well as providing an opportunity for local Afghan women to discuss openly with the female soldiers,*



their concerns and needs for improving their lives and those of their families. They also provide school supplies and medicine to the villagers.

One of the FET's, **CPL Jenny Sapwell** of **MTF 2** has participated in a FET patrol where she and a **female interpreter** went to the village of **Sorkh Lez** to meet with, and talk to, the local female population.

CPL Sapwell said there was no problem entering the qualas (compound) and speaking to the women. She said it was **rare** to see females out of their homes—let alone being able to speak to them.

CAP Sarah Vesey of **JTF HQ** regularly attends activities and development project sites in Uruzgan and is encouraged by the increasing numbers of females taking an active role in the community. CAP Vesey said a simple measure of progress is the number of women doing their **shopping in the bazaar**—it has gone from **very few to about 100 a day!**

(J) FAREWELL Parade for personnel deploying to the MIDDLE EAST.

Family and friends gathered at **Vung Tau Lines**, which is 'home Base' for **9th Force Support Battalion, Amberley in Queensland**, to say 'farewell' to around **160 Navy, Army and Air Force personnel**.

The personnel departed in late 2010 for an **8 month "Tour of Duty"** as **Force Support Unit-4** and will be part of **OPERATION SLIPPER**.

Their Commanding Officer, **LTCOL Ron Armstrong**, said...

"There is a pride we share when we step ashore in another country wearing the uniform of the Australian Defence Force. We know we are a part of a rich and proud tradition and it is up to every man and woman in our unit to honour this legacy.

We are going to the Middle East to make an important contribution to maintaining stability in that region and in doing so, enhancing the security of Australia.

Australian soldiers, sailors and airmen and airwomen are among the best trained in the world. Family and friends can take comfort in the professional capabilities of Australian military personnel. Preparation for this deployment has been long and intensive.

While we know the risks associated with military operations, we also know how to do our jobs and we look forward to embracing our families when we return home."

Our Government was represented by the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, **Senator David Feeney**.

FSU-4 is tasked with the provision of force **induction training and logistical services support** to Australian operations in the **Middle East Area** of Operation.

This support covers the provision of most

resources required by Australian operations including **fuel, vehicles, food, ammunition and postal services**.

FSU-4 also includes '**specialist personnel**' from the **RAN** and the **RAAF**.

(K) Trial of NEW Combat Uniforms.

Our Government is to extend the trial of the new '**Multicam**' combat uniform. It has been trialled for over a year, by our Australian Special Forces in Afghanistan and the '**feed-back**' **will continue for another 12 months**. The '**feed-back**' to date has been extremely **positive**.

The **camouflage pattern** provides troops with a greater level of **concealment** across the range of terrains in **Afghanistan—urban, desert and green**.

The shirt and trousers;

- *have elbow and knee pads built in to reduce soft tissue injuries,*

- *they are cooler and designed to be worn under body armour,*

- *they also have a padded waist-band to make it more comfortable under webbing or a field pack,*

- *have more pockets and a 'stretch' fabric at the joints.*

The Government will pursue the purchase of a licence to provide for the potential manufacture of this uniform in Australia, if the extended trial is successful.

(5) Charles MURRAY is a good friend of our Association and a noted poet (Charles kindly sent me his poem "The Christs of Fromelles" which I placed in our April 2010 magazine).

He kindly sent me a wonderful book by Garrie Hutchinson titled "**PILGRIMAGE**" –*A traveller's Guide to Australia's Battlefields*.

It is a poignant journey from Gallipoli through to Vietnam, with an Introduction of 18 pages. The book is interspersed with coloured maps and pictures.

If any member would like to "borrow" this book I will gladly post it to you for your enjoyment. You can return it to me when you have finished it.

(6) Battle for Australia "Inaugural" Newsletter:

The BFA committee has sent me their 1st newsletter (and to other members who joined this worthy organisation) and if any member of our Association would like to have me post it to you, please contact me and I will do so, better still, why not "join" their organisation for \$10 per year and be a part of always commemorating the "Battle for Australia"—contact me for an Application Form!

(7) 25th Bn Association Centenary Committee are looking for our financial support. They are raising funds to build their Memorial, to be located in East Creek Park, Toowoomba in Queensland.

Their Vice President and committeeman is **Alan Beckerleg**, he is also one of our good members.

This is to Commemorate the Battalion's Centenary in



2015, and to this end they are selling **raffle tickets @ \$5 each**. If you are able to assist their Association by buying a ticket, it would be gratefully appreciated by them.

Cheque/Money Order to made out to; 25th Bn Association and posted to; Mr. A. Beckerleg, C/- 20 Prowse St., Toowoomba. QLD 4350 OR

EFT/DD to; BSB:803205, Account Number: 27338, Account Name: C.A.Beckerleg, Bank: Defcredit –Please **identify** the transfer as 25th Bn Centenary Raffle.

Their prize is a "Basket of "Goodies" which includes a bottle of Jack Daniels.

(They sincerely thank you in advance for your support and will post/contact you with your raffle ticket number/s.

(8) Eastern Region History Committee (Feb 2011 Meeting)

One of the major items was the 'tabling' of a report from "The Australian" newspaper of Jan 22nd 2011 entitled '**Doctors desert Army in droves—the Defence Force is driving medical officers from its rank**'.

The story was written by Leigh Dayton reportedly from allegations by an army medical doctor-- **Captain Julian Fidge**.

Captain Fidge is reported as saying he was frustrated by the military's refusal to acknowledge inappropriate treatment of specialist service officers—doctors, nurses, dentists and other health professionals—thus his reason for going public.

Captain Fidge wrote in '**Insight**' –*the Medical Journal of Australia's electronic Newsletter* ...*"I've witnessed contempt displayed towards, and poor treatment of, specialist officers by general service officers, which appears to be instilled at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and fostered in other training centres such as the Army Logistics Training Centre."*

He also is reported as saying that during training at Duntroon, experienced health professionals, including **doctors and trauma surgeons** are required to 'sit through' 20 hours of first-aid training.

The article also stated there were problems of bullying behaviour by Defence staff at HMAS Albatross Medical Centre.

In replying, the ADF's **MAJGEN Paul Alexander** rejected Captain Fidge's argument of health professionals being harassed. He said that there is **no evidence** to suggest that there is a morale problem among ADF medical officers or that there are widespread concerns that **medical officers** are treated poorly.

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ADF Higher Education Advanced Standing Scheme (ADFHEAS Scheme)

What is the ADFHEAS Scheme?

The Scheme offers ADF members (current, past and Reserve), pathways into specific higher education courses with defined advanced standing for their Defence provided education, training and development.

Who is it for?

The Scheme is for current, past and Reserve ADF members, who meet the entry requirements specified by each participating university for the qualifications on offer, to undertake Undergraduate or Post Graduate studies.

Which universities are involved?

Currently we have 29 universities that offer pathways with agreed levels of "advanced standing" toward a number of their awards for defined Defence education and training. 24 of these universities focus on pathways for undergraduate studies *, (11 on line at time of printing * *) with the all 29 offering Post Graduate pathways.

The amount of advanced standing given does vary from university to university, and from award to award.

Participating universities are:

- Australian Catholic University **
- Australian National University
- Charles Darwin University
- Charles Sturt University **
- CQ University *
- Deakin University *
- Edith Cowan University
- Griffith University *
- La Trobe University **
- Macquarie University
- Monash University (Faculty of Business and Economics) *
- Murdoch University *
- Open Universities Australia *
- RMIT University *
- Southern Cross University *
- Swinburne University of Technology **
- The University of Queensland *
- University of Adelaide **
- University of Canberra *
- University of Newcastle **
- University of New England *
- University of NSW@ADFA **
- University of South Australia **
- University of Southern Queensland **
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Tasmania * (inc Australian Maritime College)
- University of Western Sydney *
- University of Wollongong **
- Victoria University **

Make sure you check out the website for new additions to the list of universities involved in the ADFHEAS Scheme and the qualifications with advanced standing available!

<http://www.defence.gov.au/adfheas/>

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CYCLONE "YASI"

(2/3 February 2011)

*An "eye witness" account
by Alan Curry*

Some Background:

Some months ago, my wife Ruth bought two cheap airfares from Sydney to Cairns and return. The dates were from Wednesday 25th January to 7th February. Ruth was very much looking forward to "spoiling" our three great grandchildren, twin boys Manu and Marley who are three years old, and Macey, who turned two on the 28th December 2010.

We duly arrived in Cairns about 9.00am and hired a car, and I asked Ruth if she would like to visit our good members Don Booth and Terry Langworthy, who live in the nearby suburb of Bayview Heights.

Ruth said she thought that I should go while she purchased some provisions and "goodies" for the kids.

I had rung Don and asked him if it was OK to "pop in" because Don is still undergoing treatment for a tumour. They were delighted that I came and sorry that Ruth was not with me. I only stayed about half an hour and we all "chin wagged".

Don asked to be remembered to all his friends in the Association and we bid farewell to each other and I drove to the shopping centre to collect Ruth and her parcels.

We arrived at our son's home at 53 Conch Street, Mission Beach, about 1.00pm, and everyone was delighted and excited to be with us again.

They rent a lovely, spacious four bedroom home and the added bonus is that it has a beautiful, big, salt water swimming pool. The grounds of their home are immaculately kept and mowed, with beautiful palms and shrubs. The rear of the house is protected by huge secondary growth rain forest (about 15 metres back).

We were greeted by Carol (our daughter-in-law), Abby (our granddaughter), Manu, Marley and Macey.

Our son, Stephen, was working away in PNG, and Abby's husband, Tawhai (*pronounced Tarf-eye*) was also over there working for him.

Tawhai came home on 26 January and Abby and I drove to Cairns to pick him up at 6.30pm. His family were ecstatic to have him home (especially when they woke up the next morning to see "*my daddy, my daddy*!").

Then, on the Saturday (29th) it was Stephen's turn to return home from PNG and we all decided to go to Cairns in our vehicles to meet him.

The kids had a lovely morning with their mum and dad, swimming at the Esplanade which is a great, free and safe, facility for families.

Ruth, Carol and I went in Steve's Ute to pick him up at Cairns airport at 11.30am and we arranged to all meet at the big shopping centre for lunch.

After lunch we all headed back for home at Conch Street, all looking forward to a cool swim in the pool—not a worry in the world—all carefree and happy!

By Monday the 31st we had only had 6mm of rainfall since our arrival (I used to check, then empty, the rain gauge every morning—if needed).

In the evening we learned of Cyclone YASI and its intense fury and the possibility of it striking the Queensland coast somewhere between Cape York and Townsville around midnight on the 2nd February!

On Tuesday the 1st February, the news on the "Yasi" was not good and getting worse! It could now be a category 4 or 5 and was now likely to strike Cairns with its full force.

We all decided that we would "bunker down" in Stephen and Carol's main bedroom, in the walk-in wardrobe.

Carol and Ruth set about stocking up on food, water, batteries and candles -- we even filled the spa bath with fresh water! We were also prepared with blankets and mattresses.

While Carol and Ruth were shopping, Tawhai and Abby were dismantling the trampoline and keeping the kids busy.

We also dismantled a large shade cloth and a large sail cloth that covered the pool and the back patio. These items were attached to the roof and would have been a "hazard" in a big wind!

We taped all the windows and climbed on the roof and secured the 2 "whirly birds" with glad wrap.

Stephen and myself then drove to Mission Beach (a couple of minutes away) to help friends sand-bag the frontage of all their shops—which are about 1 & ½ metres above sea level, on the high side of the main street, (Stephen and Carol's friends own the 100th Monkey café).

The village was sombre and quiet. The people we spoke to were apprehensive and concerned.

When we finished sand-bagging we bought some more gas bottles for the bar-b-q and more cans of fuel and headed back to Conch Street.

Worse and conflicting reports were coming in all afternoon, especially about tidal surge. It was reported that Mission Beach was the likely main area that would be hit first!



Tawhai and Abby then decided they would take the children and head south to Rockhampton, after dinner.

We all decided to have our last dinner together, at the local restaurant in Wongaling (about 10 mins drive away).

After dinner we all hugged and kissed each other (the kids thought they were going on “another” holiday!).

They departed at 8pm.

We came home and “glued” ourselves to ABC 24 news—it was sounding more ominous—the worst part was the emphasis that was put on “TIDAL SURGE”, with varying reports of between ½ a metre to 10 metres—this “freaked” many people—and rightly so.

From our point of view, there was no central point to gather for safety, and orders were filtering through that MISSION BEACH was to be EVACUATED and that final decisions should be made by 8am the next day (Wednesday 2nd February).

Ruth and I slept like babies and so did Stephen—but Carol walked the floor most of the night worrying.

The day of the cyclone: (Wednesday, 2nd February)

Carol, Ruth and Janine (she is the wife of Alan Taylor—they are the new owners of the 100th Monkey café and friends of Stephen and Carol) made the decision to evacuate to Tully, about 30 mins drive, west from Mission Beach. They were invited by their neighbours from across the road to stay with them (and their dogs) at the 7th Day Adventist Church. We all hugged and kissed again and then they left by car about 8am.

Stephen, myself and Alan Taylor (and his 12 year old shiatsu “cross” dog—“Barney”) decided that our safest place was 53 Conch Street—in the “walk-in”.

We had no friends who could offer us any better than what we had—some of them (Norm and Brenda Kempshall, in particular) lived in Wongaling in a 3 story block of units right across the road from the beach! They told Stephen they were going to stay in their stairwell on the 2nd floor but said most of the occupants had evacuated. —We stayed in our home.

I had repeated concerned calls, all day, from our daughter, Julie, and younger son, Gregory, and from friends and neighbours from Lemon Tree Passage and Evans Heads, begging us to evacuate.

Once we had made our decision, we never thought of evacuating but we were concerned about reports of the “tidal surge”, which was a worrying warning.

We are about 300 metres from the beach and on the “high side” of the street. We said we would look at “Plan B” if the water started to flood into the house—unfortunately, we had no “Plan B” other than Stephen’s 4WD ‘ute which we left close to the house with the keys in it and locked in 4 WD—I dread to think what would have happened if the water rose to about 10 metres above street level!

At 4pm, we lost all power to the home BUT our home phone (and our mobiles) was all good.

However, Cyclone Yasi was now a category 5 and was destined to be the most severe and destructive cyclone ever to hit Australia.

“Yasi” was due to strike about 10pm (on a receding high tide, which was 9pm) and that the full brunt of its awesome and destructive power, when it lands, was going to be at MISSION BEACH!

It was a long wait as we prepared ourselves to meet “Yasi”. We had a bar-b-q meal of steak and eggs, mushrooms and toast. After we cleaned and tidied up we had a couple of beers and WAITED! And WAITED!

By 8.45pm there were huge wind gusts and we kept shining our heavy torches out on to the road to see if we could see any sign of tidal surge—nothing, thank goodness.

We moved into the main bedroom and shut all the windows/doors that were taking the brunt of the wind, which was coming from the street side of the house. We left slightly open, the other windows/doors on the opposite side of the house.

The wind and rain had increased enormously and with much ferocity.

As it lashed the windows it was forcing water through the sills and onto the carpets. The taped windows held fast but it was scary to see them “bulge” every now and then when hit by a “blast” of wind.

The height of the storm was about **11.15pm** and just before this we heard heavy “banging” noises coming from the garage.

(The house has a double garage with two Rolla Doors fitted. *The L/H side (furthest side from the home) housed Stephen’s covered-in work trailer, 2 garbage bins, the kids toys (little trucks etc) and a heavy (about 100 kilos) metal profile structure (Stephen’s Building Company) and on the R/H side was Carol’s Volvo motor car. One side of the garage is protected by gapped, hardwood paling fence and the rear is the same but has a gate).*

Stephen and I cautiously opened the laundry door and went in and closed it behind us and then opened the opposite door, which leads into the garage.

The force of the wind was something I had never encountered but when we peered quickly into the garage we could see the wind was forcing the L/H side Rolla door out of its tracks, as though a giant hand was pushing and pushing. We only watched for a couple of seconds and retreated very quickly back to the main bedroom.

The very “funny” part of all this was that “Barney” and his master, Alan, slept through the vast majority of the storm, wedged in the walk-in, laying on the mattresses—Alan said he did wake at some stages!

At 12.10am (Thursday, 3rd of Feb) it suddenly all abated! It was dead calm!

Stephen and I went outside to check the street for any sign of tidal surge but there was none. I looked up into the sky expecting to see the stars but all I saw were ominous, rolling, black clouds.

The cyclone had “blown” both garage Rolla doors out of their tracks, the L/H one was on the ground and wedged tight into the doorway, its fittings had been wrenched off the wall also. The R/H side door had “blown” out of its tracks and was thrown over the top of Carol’s Volvo and wedged between the front of the car and the rear paling wall. The two garbage bins were laying on their sides with the kids toys strewn around. The trailer was not damaged.

Outside the home, the cyclone had ripped the entire guttering from the front of the house. One section (about 30 metres) had collapsed in the centre and was wedged in a “V” formation, against two stone pillars that were situated along the front tiled walkway.



The other section was torn away from the front of the garage and hanging down on the ground.

I checked the rain gauge—chockablock full (750mm). It was an eerie feeling being out in the “eye”!

At 12.40am, whilst we were still outside, light rain began to fall and we knew that stage 2 was about to descend on us so we hurried back inside just as “Yasi’s” fury began again.

At 12.45am, it was so furious and seemed a lot fiercer than before the calm. It came with a vengeance from the new direction at the rear of the house.

Strangely though it may seem, Stephen and I had some fitful sleep—Stephen in his double bed, myself on a “blow-up” mattress near the hallway.

We would both suddenly jump up when we heard a “crashing” sound and we would gingerly search the house, with torches, to see if all was ok—The house held fast!

We both awoke at **3.50am** to hear that the worst of the cyclone had passed and was easing. The other “strange” thing that was noticeable were the FROGS! They never shut up—no matter how hard “Yasi” blew they continued croaking—the whole time!

We all slept rather peacefully and arose about 6.30am.

The “Aftermath”:

The most damage caused by “2nd hit” was the gable at the far end of the garage was destroyed, the swimming pool was covered in branches and a thick carpet of leaves covered every inch of the water, every wire screen was covered in leaves and small debris, the TV aerial was twisted and bent and when we climbed onto the roof to straighten and temporarily secure the aerial we also noticed that the cyclone had “stripped” all the glad wrap from the “whirly birds” and wound it so tightly around the TV aerial stays that I had to get a knife to cut the glad wrap away! The “whirly birds” were intact but distorted and not working. The rain forest at the rear of the house was all gone! It was very sad to see.

To our amazement, we still had Telstra phone coverage. We contacted all our family members to say we were all safe, which of course included Ruth, Carol and Janine, in Tully. They told us they were all good.

We reported in to Mission Beach Police that we were ok. They asked if we could check our immediate neighbours to see if all was good—it was.

Most of our neighbours had vacated but we came across 3 neighbours up the top of the street and they assured us all was ok—they, understandably, looked “shell-shocked”—I suppose we did to them also!

We drove down our street toward the beach and could see a lot of superficial damage. We could not get near the beach as fallen trees and power lines were entangled with each other. This is where Alan and Janine’s 2 story unit was—facing the beach! He eventually got in to find only minor damage!

All around us the trees, rain forest and bush were stripped bare. Street signs and other signs (Give Way, Stop, etc) were either bent to the ground or pulled right out of the ground (some were untouched).

We drove down to the Mission Beach business area, a couple of minutes’ drive from home, wending our way around fallen trees and power lines, to see a few people out

surveying the damage. Two young “surfie types” were walking along the street and taking photos on their mobile phones.

Alan and Janine’s café had a little damage on the roof where flashings had been torn off. Some water came in but did no real damage. The worst damage was to their fridge and freezer goods—when power was lost, they lost all their frozen and perishable foods.

The sand-bagging was very effective against the lashing rain. We saw no sign of tidal surge near his shop and we did not venture through the other shops across the road on the beach side, to look and see what had happened along their shoreline. There were a lot of trees down in this area.

The home next to the 100th Monkey café (a good friend of Stephen, Carol and Alan and Janine) was almost demolished.

The owner, Johnny, was an in-patient in one of the hospitals undergoing treatment—this was prior to Cyclone Yasi’s arrival—he would be in great shock to learn about his loss. He has lived in Mission Beach all his life and was on a disability pension. I understand his home was not insured.

When Alan was surveying his shop he noticed that the Surf Shop, which is at the end of the other shops, had sand-bags placed in front of his doors. The owner (presumably) had removed sand-bags from the front of the adjoining shops and used them to sand-bag his doors!!

This in itself may have been ok but what rankled Alan (and others) were 2 things;

On Australia Day, Alan approached the owners of the adjoining shops to “put in” a couple of dollars each to have a “sausage sizzle” for customers, and any money made was going to go towards the Queensland Flood Appeal.

All the shop owners thought it was a great idea EXCEPT the Surf Shop owner—he said it would not be worth the effort and declined to be involved.



The other thing was, when it was apparent that Cyclone Yasi was going to lash the coast, the other adjoining shop owners were pitching in to go to the beach to fill sand-bags to place in front of their shops (100 sand-bags—2 trailer loads and very arduous work)—the Surf Shop owner did not help and was nowhere to be seen!

How would one describe the person who undertook this very sneaky and selfish act?

We came back home and “fired” up the bar-b-q for breakfast and then decided to head off to Tully (if possible) to surprise and collect the “girls” and bring them back home.

We made our way up to Wongaling fairly safely and drove around the area to Stephen’s friend’s (Kempshall’s) unit—the 3 story units. They were safe but the devastation of the trees and power lines and road subsidence was massive. Tidal surge came into their basements.



Wongaling area

There was a lot of damage to some shops and homes, and as we made our way along the Tully/Mission Beach road to Tully it was a very sad sight. The entrances to some properties were unrecognisable because of fallen trees and debris. It was as though a huge scythe had been taken through the landscape.

Whole banana plantations of acres and acres were just cut to ribbons—and no signs of their leaves or produce to be seen anywhere.

The only animals we saw was one wallaby by the side of the road and one dazed cassowary. There was no bird life or snakes to be seen anywhere.

It was most pleasing to see road plant moving along and pushing trees etc off the road to try and make it passable for the incoming emergency teams that would soon arrive in the coming hours and days.

We got to the outskirts of Tully and had to negotiate two large bodies of water that covered the road for about 100 metres in the two places. The waters came up to the bonnet of Stephen’s ute and the road markers were just visible. We kept to the centre of the road and travelled about 2kph, the waters were not flowing and we negotiated them safely and continued in to Tully.

The TULLY experience:

What a sight greeted us!

Although the bells weren’t ringing, the flashing lights at the rail crossing were down on the ground and flashing red. The ‘Big Gumboot’ Monument was still intact. It was



Driving to Tully

surreal. There was enormous damage everywhere we looked—houses smashed and trashed, roofs off, building facades destroyed. People were moving gingerly about and just surveying all the damage.

We managed to wend our way around the area and found the “girls”. They got a huge shock to see us—and us them. There were hugs and kisses all round as they told us their story of survival—and of others also!

They were grateful they did not stay in the church, only because they would have just been a small group of 5 people.

They eventually were guided to the Tully Sugar Mill Recreation Hall which eventually housed about 70 other people (and their pets).

The girls told us they had heard that the Tully Jeweller’s shop was “robbed” during the storm!!

As we were preparing to leave for Mission Beach three young English backpackers asked if they could get a ride back. Stephen of course, said yes.

Stephen drove with Janine and her dog “Barney” on her lap, next to him. In the rear seat was Ruth, Sarah (the English backpacker), and Carol. In the back of the Ute was Alan, the two young backpacker boys, myself, and everyone’s gear.

Our first obstacle was to cross the bridge and the first body of water. Halfway across, Stephen moved slightly to the left to allow another vehicle on its way to Tully, to pass, and at that point our vehicle veered off to the edge of the road and leant on a precarious angle with water coming into the cabin on the passenger’s side. All attempts to



All evacuated from vehicle





Second body of water from Tully

reverse back (in "low,low" range) were futile so everyone except Stephen quickly abandoned the vehicle fearing it was going to tip over.

Ruth was the most traumatised. The water was up to her knees and her handbag, with her mobile phone in it, was submerged. She thought she was going to die.

My vision of all that was happening was to see a single file of people all carrying gear above their heads, carefully wading in the middle of the road, thigh deep in water, to reach the safety of dry land some 50 meters away. Carol told us later how Ruth was very frightened and clinging on to her hand tightly as they crossed.

Stephen kept the motor going and me and Alan stayed with him until a truck, on its way to Tully, stopped to help. He reversed back, hooked up a tow rope, and pulled us safely back onto the road (about 2 meters). After thanking him, we drove on to meet up with the others on the dry part of the road and loaded up again.

There was no way Ruth was going to get back in the cab whilst we negotiated the second body of water.

She sat in the back of the Ute with the two young backpackers and myself. We continued back to Wongaling through very heavy rain and dropped the backpackers off safely. They were very well mannered and ever so grateful.

I wonder if they thought the incident in the Ute was worse than "Yasi"?

Some observations I have made:

1. There is too much conflicting and contradictory information. One body should be responsible for relaying disaster information. The media "sensationalise" their reports.
2. Small communities like Mission Beach, Wongaling, Bingle Bay etc. need a cyclone proof facility/ies to cater for however many people it can "house"--with all that that entails.
3. There should be a "NOTICE BOARD" in this facility to show current information (as it pertains to their community), and the time of the next bulletin. *Rumours and the like need to be quashed quickly. Fear quickly turns to panic if not allayed.*
4. This facility should also be equipped with emergency power and communications, among other necessary items, to be operated by the person/s in charge of the facility. (Pets should also be catered for).

SCOUT CAMP

Dear Mum and Dad,

Our Scoutmaster told us to write to our parents in case you saw the flood on TV and got worried. We are okay. Only one of our tents and 2 sleeping bags got washed away. Luckily, none of us got drowned because we were all up on the mountain looking for Adam when it happened.

Oh yes, please call Adam's mother and tell her he is okay. He can't write because of the cast. I got to ride in one of the search and rescue Jeeps. It was great. We never would have found Adam in the dark if it hadn't been for the lightning.

Scoutmaster Ted got mad at Adam for going on a hike alone without telling anyone. Adam said he did tell him, but it was during the fire so he probably didn't hear him. Did you know that if you put gas on a fire, the gas will blow up?

The wet wood didn't burn, but one of the tents did and also some of our clothes.

Matthew is going to look weird until his hair grows back.

We will be home on Saturday if Scoutmaster Ted gets the bus fixed. It wasn't his fault about the crash. The brakes worked okay when we left. Scoutmaster Ted said that with a bus that old, you have to expect something to break down; that's probably why he can't get insurance.

We think it's a super bus. He doesn't care if we get it dirty, and if it's hot, sometimes he lets us ride on the bumpers. It gets pretty hot with 45 people in a bus made for 24. He let us take turns riding in the trailer until the policeman stopped and talked to us.

Scoutmaster Ted is a neat guy. Don't worry, he is a good driver. In fact, he is teaching Horace how to drive on the mountain roads where there aren't any cops. All we ever see up there are huge logging trucks.

This morning all of the guys were diving off the rocks and swimming out to the rapids. Scoutmaster Ted wouldn't let me because I can't swim, and Adam was afraid he would sink because of his cast (it's concrete because we didn't have any plaster), so he let us take the canoe out. It was great. You can still see some of the trees under the water from the flood.

Scoutmaster Ted isn't crabby like some scoutmasters. He didn't even get mad about the life jackets. He has to spend a lot of time working on the bus so we are trying not to cause him any trouble.

Guess what? We have all passed our first aid merit badges. When Andrew dived into the lake and cut his arm, we all got to see how a tourniquet works.

Steve and I threw up, but Scoutmaster Ted said it was probably just food poisoning from the left-over chicken. He said they got sick that way with food they ate in prison. I'm so glad he got out and became our scoutmaster. He said he sure figured out how to get things done better while he was doing his time. By the way, what is a pedal-file?

I have to go now. We are going to town to post our letters and buy some more beer and ammo. Don't worry about anything. We are fine and tonight it's my turn to sleep in the Scoutmaster's tent.



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A Doctor's Advice for Weight Loss

*(I don't think he was one of our members?
But kind thanks to my email friends)*

- Q. Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life, is this true?**
A. *Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it...don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.*
- Q. Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruit and vegetables?**
A. *You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay and Corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef is also a good source of field grass (green, leafy vegetable). And a pork chop can give you 100% of your recommended daily allowance of vegetable products.*
- Q. Should I reduce my alcohol intake?**
A. *No, not at all. Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine, which means they take the water out of the fruity bit so you get even more of the goodness that way. Beer is also made out of grain. Bottoms up!*
- Q. How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?**
A. *Well, if you have a body and you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.*
- Q. What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?**
A. *Can't think of a single one, sorry. My philosophy is; No pain...GOOD!*
- Q. Are fried foods bad you?**
A. *You're not listening!!! Foods are fried these days in vegetable oil. In fact, they're permeated in it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?*
- Q. Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?**
A. *Definitely not! When you exercise a muscle, it gets bigger. You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.*
- Q. Is chocolate bad for me?**
A. *Are you crazy? Hulloo...cocoa beans! Another vegetable!!! It's the best feel-good food around!*
- Q. Is swimming good for your figure?**
A. *If swimming is good for your figure, explain whales to me?*
- Q. Is getting in-shape good for my lifestyle?**
A. *Hey! 'Round' is a shape!*

Remember, Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways—a glass of wine in one hand—chocolate in the other—body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO, WHAT A RIDE!"



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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the RAAMC Association is open to all members who have served either full or part-time in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. Membership is also available to those who have served in a RAAMC Unit who belong to another Corps and members who have served in the Medical Services of another country who are allied to Australia.

First Name: _____ **Surname:** _____

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Membership Category (Tick Applicable Box)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinary Member	Members or Former Members of the RAAMC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Member	Members of the ADF Health Service other than the RAAMC Unit. Members of an Allied Country who have served in an RAAMC Unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate Member	Members of the ADF Health Service other than the RAAMC. Members of an Allied Country Health Service. Spouses or widows of a member.

Service (Circle Relevant Service) RAN | Army | RAAF. If you have served in the Medical Service of another country specify: _____

Are you entitled to wear the Return From Active Service Badge?

(Please circle one) Yes | No (Required for Veterans' Entitlements and Legacy)

Is/was your service **Full-time** or **Part-time**? (Full-time includes National Service Members)

(Please circle) Full-time | Part-time | Both | Still Serving

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What was/is your trade/employment in the RAAMC or RAAMC Unit (other than RAAMC Members)



List the last three Units which you have served:

If granted membership have you any skills that you wish to provide to the RAAMC Association that could benefit the membership. (Please circle one). Yes | No. If you have indicated Yes please advise below.

List the Military Associations to which you belong. (e.g. Callsign Vampire or 5 Field Association)

I understand membership to the RAAMC Association is free, however, I wish to make a donation of \$_____ to cover administration costs. Please make cheques payable to the RAAMC Association. Donations to the RAAMC Association are **VOLUNTARY**.

In applying to join the RAAMC Association I hereby confirm that I will abide by the Constitution of the RAAMC Association and continue to hold the values I have served under whilst a member of the Australian Defence Force and the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.

Signed_____ Date:_____

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I hereby apply to join 5th Field Ambulance RAAMC Association as (Please mark “X” in the appropriate box below)

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- ☐ **AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER** (never served in the A.D.F. --Australian Defence Forces)

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