



The Scheyvillian

Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee

OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 1, 2020

Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, NSW 1965-1973
A Newsletter for all Scheyvillians

In this Edition: Aviators, Chalkies and the passing of Tony Beddison



The 1st Aviation Regiment 'Griffin' Award, Chalkie Jim Murray (1/67) in PNG and Tony Beddison (3/69)

Editor's Note:

Actions to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus throughout Australia have been justifiably stringent. Accordingly, before planning to attend any future event detailed in this edition, members are advised to confirm with the appropriate organiser as to whether it is to go ahead or has been cancelled. – Ed.

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THE SCHEYVILLE TAPES – Still Available! A good watch!

The Association received from the late Tony Sonneveld a set of Video Tapes and DVDs on Scheyville that were recorded for the NSW National Parks Service. There were 17 tapes and all, and the interviews carried across a number of tapes. These 17 tapes have been re-recorded onto 10 DVDs with the one interviewee/s on a DVD.

The Recordings are of:

The First Commandant, Ian Geddes	Max Almond (RSM)
The Sonneveld Brothers John (2/68) & Tony (1/70)	Tim Fischer (3/66)
Vic Lampe (4/69)	Gary McKay (2/68)
Turk Ellis (1/70)	Various Interviews at Scheyville

A Windsor Church Parade & Return to Scheyville (2 DVDs)

The DVDs are available from The Editor at \$10 each incl P&H – or \$60 the set incl P&H!

OTHER DVDs AVAILABLE

A must for all Reunion Coordinators or even for Scheyvillians.

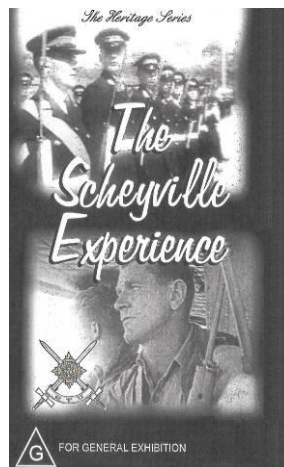
National Service Officer and the Don Keyes (4/69) produced 'The Scheyville Experience'

\$10 incl P&H

Also available from The Editor!



The NS Officer Recruitment Film shown to all Recruits in the first two weeks of the Recruit Training Course at
1 RTB Kapooka,
2 RTB Puckapunyal, or
3 TB Singleton.



THE SCHEYVILLE INTERVIEWS

Including:
Colonel Ian Geddes, first Commandant
WO1 Max Almond, RSM 1968 – 71
Tim Fischer (3/66)
Gary McKay (2/68)
John Sonneveld (2/68)
Vic Lampe (4/69)
Turk Ellis (1/70)
Tony Sonneveld (1/70) and more!



Transferred for the OTU Association
by
Redwood Entertainment, Ballarat

THE SCHEYVILLIAN NEXT EDITION

Due Out August 2020: It is planned to have Edition 2 of 2020 of *The Scheyvillian* in August 2020. Submissions need to be received by 20 July 2020. If you have any contributions: current stories (eg. Reunions, dinners or other get-togethers) or memorabilia stories, please email them to The Editor, The Scheyvillian, at nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au or post to Unit 3 / 519 Peel Street North, Black Hill, Vic, 3350. **Preferably photographs should be sent separate to the articles.** If you have large file size photos, please send individual photos to nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au or send a disc/USB Stick with multiple photos. Photos are preferred in jpeg format and should be named.

As seen in this and other recent issues, the Scheyvillian is about those who attended Scheyville in one capacity or another.

We all have stories to tell! Please keep the stories coming and keep the standard of this publication high!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (Graeme Chester, 2/67) as at 11 March 2020

Number of Graduates	1881			
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	2006			
Number Financial		612		
Number Honorary/Life		27		
Widows		8		
Number Deceased			220	
Number Unfinancial (Not Renewed)			961	
Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact)			178	
Totals	1881	2006	647	1359

Percentages: Of the names on database 32.2% are financial/honorary/life/widow.
 Of the names on the database 11% are deceased.
 Of the names on the database 47.9% are unfinancial (not renewed)
 Of the names on the database 8.9% are unfinancial (do not contact)

We now have **647** financial members, well above the 573 we had at the end of last FY. This result has been due, in no small way, to the production of the OTU Scheyville Coffee Table Book. Previously unfinancial members purchased the book and gained first-hand experience of what the OTU Association is doing for its members and this, together with a spate of 50th Reunions, has rekindled support for the Association, resulting in a significant increase in financial membership. Our next challenge is to get our financial membership back up to **728**, a level last achieved in 2004.

For all those who have not renewed your membership, if you are enjoying participating in the Association's activities, ie the Coffee Table book, Q Store merchandise, reunions, dinners, luncheons, ANZAC Day etc, and intend to attend our National Reunion in October this year, please support our efforts to 'keep the blokes together' by becoming financial. If you are uncertain whether or not you are financial, you can check via the website. Just enter the website and click on **Membership Renewal** on the Home Page and a statement will appear advising you whether you are financial or not. Should you wish to join, a Membership Renewal form is attached to this newsletter, or you could renew using PayPal via our website.

Regarding the website, as any of your contact details change, please update your profile. Simply go into **Profile** on the Home Page and update your information. Don't forget to click on the '**Update**' button (bottom left of page) to ensure the database is changed. Keeping our database updated and accurate will greatly assist classes when organising future reunions, particularly as a lot of us are coming up to our 50th Anniversary years.

If something has happened to change your mind about membership of the OTU Association, we would be interested to know. Just send me an email at graeheath1@bigpond.com and I will remove your details from our membership database.



From 'the Collection':

Above: a Les Myers (2/65) photo taken on a Navigation Exercise. Can you name any of these Cadets?

WEBMASTER'S REPORT (Ian Kelly, 2/67)

All invalid email addresses are being corrected wherever possible, and the quality of email addresses has improved dramatically in the past 12 months. Please note again that if you do not have an email address on your record (ie. it is blank), we will not receive notification of a "bounce" and you will not receive the information that other members are receiving. Please update your own records where possible.

It is important to keep your contact details updated on the OTU Website!

The website continues to be a source of information, and enjoyment one might say, to association members. It is used to send out emails either to the whole association membership, state chapters, Class groups or individuals. Some of the National newsletters and emails distributed through the OTU website since the last Scheyvillian have been:

"Danger Close" on Foxtel in March
A Walk in the Light Green – I was a Only Nineteen (now in Gallery)
Army Museum, Duntroon – Help needed.
Military History Research. The Scheyvillian 3 of 2019.
Funeral Details For Peter Fox. Death of Bill Watson 2/69.
Coffee Table Book. Passing/celebration of the Life of Ray Dousset.
Plus Invitation to visit the Lord and Lady Somers Camps (Vic) & Upcoming Events – NSW Chapter

New National Treasurer – OTU Association
Passing of Peter Jones Aust
Military History Tours – R Margetts, G McKay & N Leckie
Celebration of Life of Bill Watson
Funeral Details
Membership Reminder FY19/20



WEBSITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Class 3/69 at Singleton

The Hondo Gratton photo at left was taken at Singleton when Class 3/69 visited and undertook some instruction of soldiers there. Some of Class 3/69 have confirmed that it is Max Fraser on the left and John Wedgwood on the right.

The consensus is that the tall members of the class were Cooper, Harvey and Reid. Using 'March In' and 'Graduation' photos we have 'ruled out' Cooper and Reid, so it looks like it must be Harvey.

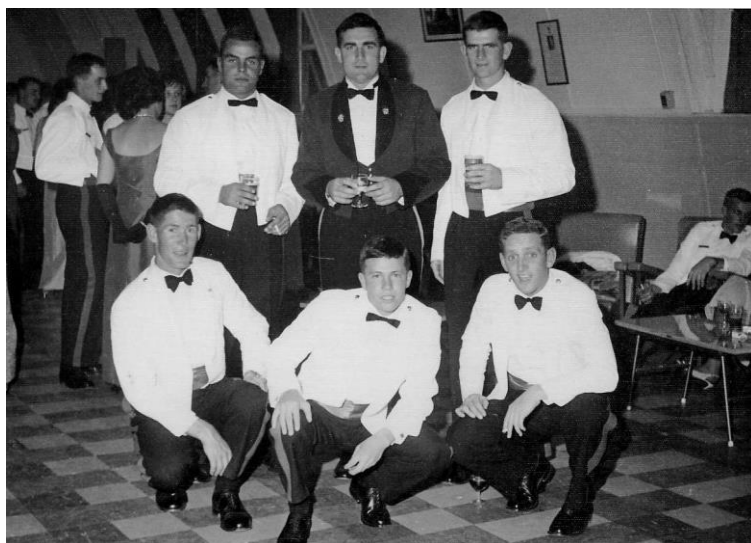
If any member of Class 3/69 can confirm it is Harvey, we can leave the photo in the Class 3/69 Gallery on the Website labelled as Harvey.

Class 1/66 at OTU

The photo at right is taken from the Website Gallery for Class 1/66.

If anyone can identify the five Cadets and the officer, please advise The Editor.

Through Peter Whitelaw (3/66) we have the A, B and D Class 'March In' photographs for Class 1/66, but we *do not have a copy of the C Class 'March In' photo*. If you have a copy of the C Class photo, can you also please advise The Editor?



There are many photographs in the OTU Website galleries that are un-named. If you know the names of any of people in these un-named photos, you can make a comment on that photo on the website! – Ed!

APPOINTMENT AS BUSHFIRE RECOVERY COORDINATOR, STHN NSW MR DICK ADAMS APM OAM RFD JP (3/72)

On 3 January 2020 the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and Acting Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Anthony Roberts, announced the appointment of Mr Dick Adams as Bushfire Recovery Coordinator for Southern New South Wales.

Mr Roberts said Mr Adams' stewardship would ensure a coordinated and consistent recovery effort. 'Mr Adams retired as a Deputy Commissioner of the NSW Police Force after thirty-five years in the force. He was a former State Emergency Operations Controller and has extensive experience as a Recovery Coordinator having led the bushfire recovery efforts in Wyong, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens in 2013.'

Frank Miller (4/67), Chairman OTU Association, said: 'The OTU Association sincerely congratulates Dick on this most significant appointment. It is well deserved and very much in keeping with his exemplary capabilities. We wish him well with the task ahead.'



On 8 March 2020 Adams (above left) met with another Scheyville graduate, Tim Overall (2/69) (above right), now the Mayor of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, at a Bushfire Community Recovery Meeting at Braidwood.

Cr Overall served as the Mayor of Queanbeyan City Council from 2008 to 2016. He was the appointed the Administrator when the QCC amalgamated with Palerang Shire in 2016. In September 2017 he was elected as the first mayor of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.

RECENT NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4/67 Mini Reunion

OTU Class 4/67 members living in Melbourne recently heard that classmate Phil Warwick would be visiting Victoria in mid-December. Phil and wife, Lyn, live in Cairns and do not get to Melbourne very often. A very enjoyable lunch was arranged at RACV Club in the city.

Phil and Lyn met in Canberra in 1966. Phil was a Constable in the then ACT Police Force while Lyn was a public servant working at the Army Office.

Phil was called up for National Service, commencing his service at 1 RTB on 4 October 1967. He was selected to attend the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, and commenced with Class 4/67 on 27 October. Phil graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant on 11 April 1968 and was allocated to RAAPro (now RACMP) and attached to the Eastern Command Provost Company. Shortly after Phil was posted to HQ 1 Communications Zone Military Police but was loaned to the Southern Command Provost Unit. In March 1969, during this posting, Phil and Lyn were married in Canberra. On 5 May 1969 Phil transferred to the ARA. Phil served in Vietnam from 4 June 1970 to 21 April 71 with the AFV Provost Unit. Back in Australia Phil served in Central Command, Southern Command, Army Headquarters in Canberra and various other RAAPro postings. On leaving the Regular Army with the rank of Major in 1990, Phil and

Lyn moved to Cairns where they remain today. Post-discharge Phil served for 5 years in the ARes with the 51st Battalion, FNQR.

Lyn's interest in politics saw her win the State seat of Barron River in the 1995 Queensland State election only to lose by a narrow margin in 1998 when One Nation burst onto the political stage.

Phil was a Director of the Cairns RSL Sub-Branch for five years to 2017 and Vice President for the last two years.

Photo: The happy group (left to right) are: Harry Moyle, Lyn Warwick, Janice Miller, Frank Miller, Phil Warwick, Ian Tucker and David Maddison. Ron Bates was a late apology.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Class 1/70 50th Anniversary of Graduation Reunion, Canberra, 23 – 25 April 2020 Bill Moss

The Class 1/70 50th Anniversary Reunion will be **POSTPONED from April 2020 to April 2021.**

Although the Australian War Memorial (AWM) is not yet taking firm bookings for the 2021 year, until the coronavirus situation becomes clearer, it has confirmed that we have a tentative reservation for 24 April 2021 for the Last Post Ceremony (LPC) for 2Lt Ian George Mathers. The LPC will **not** occur on 24 April 2020 as planned.

Class 1/70 will hold its 50th Anniversary Reunion in Canberra over the ANZAC Day period in April 2021. As part of this reunion, it is now likely that the AWM will hold a LPC on the evening of 24 April to honour our classmate, Ian Mathers, who was Killed in Action in Vietnam on 7 June 1971. Ian was the last Scheyville graduate to die in the conflict.

Assuming that the AWM can organise it, an invitation to attend the LPC on 24 April 2021 will be extended to all OTU Association members, especially to those former RAA comrades who served with or knew Ian. If you are aware of anyone who served with Ian or knew him through other connections but is not an OTU Association member, please extend this invitation to them. For further information, please contact Reunion coordinator Bill Moss billmoss19@bigpond.com or 0438 601 761.

ANZAC Day

Marches and Services have been cancelled in the major cities.

However: The Australian War Memorial is to broadcast an ANZAC Day Ceremony to the Nation

The RSL and the AWM have advised that the Australian War Memorial will go ahead with a private, nationally televised ANZAC Day commemorative service on 25 April 2020.

The traditional Dawn Service, National Ceremony and veterans' march will not take place.

An assessment was made by the Memorial Executive and Council and the decision taken in conjunction with the RSL (ACT Branch). This revised Dawn Service will be held in the Commemorative Area and Hall of Memory of the Memorial at 5.30 am on ANZAC Day. The event will not be open to the public but will be broadcast live across Australia by the ABC and streamed online.

Acting Memorial Director Anne Bennie said the Memorial is committed to providing an opportunity for Australians to commemorate ANZAC Day through the televised ceremony. "ANZAC Day is a symbolic day for Australians and New Zealanders, with the Australian War Memorial being the centre of Australia's national commemoration. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that ANZAC Day commemorations adhere to government advice on gatherings of large groups. The Memorial Council has approved a revised commemorative ceremony format, to be held within the heart of the Memorial,"

President of the ACT Branch of the Returned and Services League, Mr John King, said ‘We have an obligation to look after the safety of the veteran and wider communities. In these exceptional circumstances, the RSL feels the course of action decided by the Australian War Memorial is the most appropriate way to mark ANZAC Day, with due consideration for public safety.’”

It’s anticipated the event will be attended by dignitaries representing the Commonwealth of Australia, the people of New Zealand, and current and former serving veterans. Full details are being finalised, the televised ceremony will be held in the Hall of Memory and will retain a number of traditional elements. The ceremony will provide an opportunity for Australians to safely pause in their homes, uniting in remembrance and celebration of the Australian spirit.

A revised format of the Last Post Ceremony will take place at the end of Anzac Day.

CONTACT: Media team 02 6243 4575 0409 600 038 media@awm.gov.au

As a result of the COVID-19 virus (especially the greater impact and risk of death for older people and the requirements for social distancing) the following is the status of OTU activities at this time:

1. The OTU Scheyville monthly lunches at RCGC have been cancelled until further notice.
2. The OTU Scheyville contingent will not be able to march on ANZAC Day as the National March will not take place in 2020 and the afterwards get together lunch has thus been cancelled.
3. The tie presentation ceremony for the RMC-D Cadets going to compete in the Military Skills contest at West Point has been cancelled as that trip has been blocked by the USA restrictions.

There are still some unknown factors:

1. The status of Class 1/70 holding a reunion in Canberra over the ANZAC period is now not known. We are awaiting on advice from their Class Orderly Craig Lee.
2. At this time the Last Post Ceremony at the AWM on 24 April 2020, for 2Lt Ian Mathers (1/70) KIA in Vietnam, appears it will proceed but it is not yet know what restrictions will be placed upon attendance to comply with public distancing requirements.

OTU National Reunion 2020

With the current Coronavirus situation Association members can expect details in mid-July advising whether the National Reunion from Friday 16 October to Sunday 18 October 2020 will be held.

As publicized in recent Scheyvillians a National Reunion is to be held 16 – 18 October 2020. The Windsor/ Hawkesbury area of New South Wales was chosen for the activities involved.

The reunion is to comprise two functions – a National Mixed Dinner to be held at the Hawkesbury Race Club on 16 October 2020 and a Picnic BBQ lunch at the Scheyville site on 18 October.

Saturday 17 October has been set aside for class reunions. Class Coordinators are asked to consider planning for their 17 October activities. The reunion provides an excellent opportunity to schedule in any National Class gatherings that may have been on the drawing board for around that time of the year.

The National Executive has agreed to a generous subsidy for the reunion as it fits well within the Association’s Constitutional objectives.

The present intention is that an on-line facility be created for bookings and payments through the OTU Website www.otu.asn.au Further details will be made available through email and on the Website in due course. Frank Miller (4/67), National Chairman, OTU Association.

STATE ACTIVITIES:

ACT Chapter Les Boag (4/68) Refer to the ANZAC Day report.

NSW Chapter

The NSW Chapter celebrated the Yuletide of 2019 on Wednesday 18 December with a terrific lunch at the Kirribilli Club that included a competition to help the lift the standard of those who in the past have been found wanting at mixed events. The winner of the best bowtie was awarded a serious bottle of red and a lucky door prize for the ladies saw the winner get a beautiful bottle of bubbles. As usual the Club hosted with great food and service but far too many beverages according to some sources.

Phil Paddison, the leader of the eclectic Novocastrian paragraph (too small to be a chapter), has had several functions and his report is below. Paddles has now cemented that gaggle of Scheyvillian stalwarts in a manner becoming the workers of that great ship building city.

The NSW Northern Paragraph held two events in Newcastle since the last report. The *first*, in a major lead up to the Melbourne Cup, the OTU Stakes were held again in 2019 at Hamilton, Newcastle. Most of the acceptances (OTU graduates) finished the punishing distance. Weights were right in very few cases and the stewards are still investigating. As for many country meetings, some participants travelled considerable distances to join in the action.

The *second*, in February 2020, saw 12 good men gather for lunch at the Albion Hotel at Wickham, beside the marina, including Peter Webb (4/68) and Booka Bushell (4/69) who travelled from the Far North. Paul (Pontius) Rees (3/68) travelled from the little-known Singleton district. Matt Fawkner (4/67) swapped the waters of Nelson Bay for the Hunter. The balance was made up by Geoff Bennett (2/66), Terence Pitkin (1/67), Ian Brien (2/67), Grahame Charge (2/69), Stu Jones & Phil Paddison (both 2/70), Lou Buzai (1/71) and Mike Waters (3/72), We had a large list of apologies and look forward to catching those in the next group of red wine samplers.

On 20 February John Marsden (2/68 - a confidante of the Chairman and advisor as part of the NSW Branch Kitchen Cabinet) hosted a monthly lunch at the Crown in the CBD on 19 March with 14 present. A phone call from John to the Chair (McKay) - who was doing quality control surveys of the Margaret River wine industry at the time - revealed that we were all having a good time!

Youth Leadership Presentation to Scouts



Left: John Marsden (2/68) with Bel Francis, Phil Crutchley and Ian Petty at the cheque presentation.

(From Neville Tomkins OAM, JP Chief Commissioner Scouts Australia (NSW Branch))
‘We were delighted to have your OTU Association cheque for \$3,410 presented to us last Saturday night, 15 February 2020, at our Gala Dinner and Auction for our Bushfire Recovery Fund. On your behalf, John Marsden presented your most generous cheque to my two Region Commissioners, Phil Crutchley (South Coast & Tablelands) and Ian Petty (Riverina) whose

Regions were most severely impacted by the fires. Bel Francis, my Deputy Chief Commissioner, who is also helping to co-ordinate our drought and bushfire recovery campaign, was also on stage to receive the cheque. John spoke eloquently to our 141 guests about the work of the NSW Chapter of the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, Association. There was a lot of interest around the room in your association’s work. On behalf of Scouts NSW, I sincerely thank you for your association’s most generous donation. Every dollar will be used to support our bushfire impacted families across NSW.’

Celebrating with Corona (John Marsden. 2/68)

With most of the regulars having to travel an hour or more on public transport to attend the monthly NSW lunch, the feeling was that it may be risky, given our age group, to go to a lunch. So, the lunch was officially cancelled due to the virus.



However, there were three, such as John Marsden who was able to walk there, who were able to go to the usual location for a catch up. John said: ‘The fear of missing out gave me the incentive to go along in case anyone was of a like mind.’ The like minds were Paul Meldrum and a DS when they were both at OTU, former Major, Charlie Barnett. It was a good lunch and more tall tales from the legendary past were forthcoming, most interesting being those from the DS side of things.

Paul Meldrum (3/68), John Marsden (2/68) and Charlie Barnett (DS 68-69). Celebrating the Corona epidemic in the words of the ‘Old Red Rooster, drink more Piss’.

Queensland Chapter (Geoff Daly, 4/69)



Our December lunch was very well attended with well over 40 partaking, including Tom Butts, invited in remembrance of his father Geoff Butts who passed away in England in 2019. Also present were Melanie Griffin, 2/69’s Mick Hart’s Carer, without whom nothing would happen, and Stephanie Mauchlan, without whom nothing would have happened over many previous years. Members came from far and wide, Neil Curnow (2/68) from

South Australia, John Dun (1/70) from the Greek Islands, Frank Paton (2/70) and Neil Leckie (3/68) from the deep south in Victoria (you can tell a Victorian, but you can’t tell ‘em much). Our thanks to the staff at the Pig’n’Whistle, the food and service was spot on, especially to the lovely Diane, who looks after us so well at all our monthly lunches, and who excelled herself this time when (at right), ignoring her own wounds, she applied duct tape surgery to 4/69’s Warwick Settree’s falling apart shoes.

The annual Black-Tie Dinner is scheduled for 4th April at the United Service Club and we are looking for a good turnout. Everyone is advised to send in their acceptances and money as soon as possible to ensure a seat.



South Australian Chapter Gary Vial (3/69)

The first lunch for each year is usually on Foundation Day, 1 April, however, for this year, along with many other events such as ANZAC Day, the lunch has been cancelled. It is likely that a lunch on Remembrance Day will be our next activity. However, if/when the State of Emergency is declared 'over', we may well have a celebratory event. Members will be advised through the state email group when the next event will be held.

Tasmanian Chapter

(Ray Williams, 2/71) On the 29 November the Tassie Chapter held their final lunch for the 2019. The venue was the Tamar Valley Wine Centre at Exeter; about a 20-minute drive north of Launceston on the Western side of the Tamar River. An ideal setting that caters for the numerous tourists that pass by whilst following the Tamar wine trail with its wide expanse of vineyards and of course cellar door tastings.



Our group gathering was one of the larger that we have had for a while and also included Dan and Joye Huon, who has not previously been to one of our lunches. Welcome aboard Dan and Joye and we trust that you can join us on more occasions, when work and time permits.

Even my 'dear ol' (OTU) 'Dad' – Peter Williams and his wife Margaret who were able to make it this time round. Again, pleasing to see and welcome as always. Thanks goes to James and Dianne Reade for organising this event in the North of the State. Always good to have a local 'on the ground person' that have a better appreciation of places to gather and enjoy a meal.

Attendees: Joye and Dan Huon (1/67), Jane and Ross Robbins (2/69), Anne and Dennis Townsend and Lorraine Luff and Pam and Ray Williams (both 2/70), Jenny and Ron Dennison, Dianne and James Reade and Margaret and Peter Williams (all 1/71) and Viv and Noel McRoberts (O1/72). Photo at left: Ron Dennison, Noel McRoberts, Dan Huon and Peter Williams, then the girls.

Apologies were received from: Akiko and Paul Ferguson (4/66), Peter Dalkin (SURVACTO 1/67), Peter Bysouth and Ross and Mary Mace (both 1/67), Jean and Ian Howard (1/69), Gavan Connell (1/71) and Barry Hickman (3/71).

(Dennis Townsend, 2/70)

The first Tasmanian Chapter lunch for 2020 was held at the Hobart Motor Yacht Club on Friday 13 March. A smaller group than usual, but just as enjoyable as usual. Again, many stories were told.

The chapter has another three lunches planned for the year with the next in Launceston on 29 May followed by 28 August in Hobart, and 13 November in Launceston.

Photo: Dennis Townsend (2/70), Paul Ferguson, Ross and Jane Robbins, Noel McRoberts and James and Di Reade.



Victorian Chapter

Monthly Lunches Under the guidance of Brian Cooper (3/69) the Victorian Chapter monthly second Wednesday lunches continue to generate interest among the Victorians and occasionally an ‘interstater’. Numbers have varied from 14 to 22! The RACV Bistro Staff look after us well and the food is excellent. The next lunch will be advised through the usual email channel! Like many activities, the lunches have gone into a COVID ‘recess’!

At the February lunch Hondo Gratton (3/69) brought the photo showing ATO Capt John (Hondo)



Gratton, and Ammo Techs
WO 2 Graham (Tiger) Crane (deceased)
and
S/SGT Owen Legg, all RAAOC.

In mid-1978 the three were working with the recovery of numerous 64 lb studded shot projectiles, from an original impact area near the mouth of the Brisbane River, that had been encountered by the Sir Thomas Hiley, a large seagoing dredge. The rounds had probably been fired by a circa 1880s (pre-Federation) Queensland Coastal Artillery Battery. The rounds could be fired live with either ‘Nose’ or ‘Base’ fuse and for practice rounds were often fired sand filled with PRF (Plugs Representing Fuze).

The difficulty was that munching one or two of these would stall the dredge and it was very expensive to leave idle. So, each response, which invariably seemed to happen in the wee hours of the morning, meant Police escorts with lights and sirens on and then clambering through the mud in the bowels of the dredge to unblock the scoops etc. Then they were passed over the side, complete with shot, into a Water Police boat and take them somewhere out in Morton Bay to find a sand island and destroy them.

I remember some very pleasant sunrises waiting to check for craft before initiating. Just a bugger that there was a day’s work afterwards.

2020 Lord and Lady Somers Camps (Frank Miller, 4/67)

The Victorian Chapter continued its sponsorship (commenced in the mid 1980’s) for young people to



attend the Lord and Lady Somers Camps. January 2020 saw seven lady “Groupers” - four fully funded and three partly funded - and five young men (two and three respectively) attend thanks to our financial support. Once more, a number of Scheyvillians accepted the invitation to visit the camps. There they witnessed the programs in action, then joined the young people and camp staff for lunch. As always, their attitude, team spirit and enthusiasm confirmed the enormous benefits gained by those youngsters fortunate enough to attend the week’s activities. It is a wonderful experience, the benefits of which will stay with them for life.

Photo above: Ian McEwan (4/70), Frank Miller (4/67) and Paul Prosser (4/70).

Western Australian Chapter

2020 OTU South West Weekend, Busselton, 6 - 9 February 2020 (Jay McDaniell, 3/69)

Friday 6 February to Sunday 9 February saw twelve WA OTU alumni and spouses, girlfriends or mistresses attend the annual exercise in Busselton. Beginning with a regatta, teams embarked on three yachts, supplied by Ken Waller and two mates of Ken and David Eyres (who arranged it all - including the extensive antipasto selection of Coon cheese, Jatz crackers and salt and vinegar chips), for a delightful cruise on the calm seas off Busselton's Geographe Bay – well slightly choppy but you get that at sea. After a nail biting set of races (really? no), the crews gathered at 'The Deck' restaurant at the Geographe Marina, for a delightful dinner – and just a few thirst-quenching libations.

Saturday was a free day to study up on training manuals, clean weapons (biological) and stock up on tactical lubricants for the delightful French dinner at Breton Brasserie, Busselton, booked and arranged exclusively for the group with Thibout and Fanny, the proprietors – from Breton (Brittany) France. Beginning with Champagne (of course it's French) and crudités, the formation moved to a choice of entrees, main courses and desserts – all typically French with a Breton flavour, serving themselves generously with their BYO wines – interesting bottles of course.

Sunday saw the hardy few gather at 'Sensations Café' adjacent to the realigned and much maligned groynes that provide sheltered entry to the marina from the bay and gather tons of somewhat fragrant seaweed on the shore. Expansive breakfasts were added to expansive waistlines on this last event of the weekend.

Attending were Bev and David Atkinson (2/65), Jill and John Barnes (2/67), Elaine and David Eyres (3/67), Maureen and Jay McDaniell (3/69), Sue and Turk Ellis (1/70), Mindy and Steve McDonald (2/70) Wendy and Pip Edwards, Sue and John Forwood, Chris and Frank LeFaucher and Ron Packer (all 1/71), Michelle and Barry Cooke (3/71) and CJ and Ken Waller (2/72).

David Ward, 2/66

An invitation from the President of the SAS Association, Troy Simmonds, via his father in law, OTU WA Chapter member Bruce Thorpe (3/66), was extended to the OTU Association to attend the SAS Association 'Happy Hour' in the SAS Mess situated near the Barracks at Swanbourne on Friday 28 February 2020. A number of OTU members attended and enjoyed the interaction with members of a kindred organisation.

Frank LeFaucher, 1/71

Clearly we are in 'troubled times'! **It was planned** that the next lunch will be **Friday 1 May at The Sorrento**, Northbridge, (photo below) but it **has now been cancelled**. We could buy takeaway and sit in the street eating it while maintaining our 1.5m spacing! We will advise of when we can return. As always, start time will be 1300 hours, with a bottle of "interesting" wine (for those drinking wine) being the



"Entry Fee"! Warning in/out for lunch is welcome at any stage. There will be a subsidy applicable to the next lunch – details will follow.

Money from the chapter's membership funds, was to be distributed to the nominated 'not for profit' organisations on the decisions made by those members attending the May luncheon. That is now postponed.

VALE

It has been the practice in recent years to send a 'hard copy' of The Scheyvillian to the widow of any active OTU-A member who dies.

Following the last edition, a card was received from Judy Brewer-Fischer, Tim's widow:

Farmer, Army Officer, Parliamentarian, Diplomat, Author, Patron, Mentor, Friend.

Most importantly Husband, Father, Brother, Uncle, Great-Uncle, Cousin and In-law.

This greeting comes with our sincere thanks for your warm thoughts and shared memories of Tim. An extraordinary man who made a positive difference in the lives of many. He will be greatly missed. Judy, Harrison, Dominic and the Brewer Fischer family.

Judy added: It was so kind of you to send the tribute to Tim in The Scheyvillian. He was proud of his OTU connection. We miss him so much. Warmest regards, Judy, Harrison & Dom

An email was received from Jan Harley, widow of David:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of the newsletter, it was a lovely tribute to David. I'm sure Lachie Harley (a nephew and also an Army Officer) will be very interested: he will be in Perth over Christmas so I will certainly show it to him. Thank you for your support. Regards, Jan Harley.

Tony Beddison (3/69)

Tony Beddison was born in Melbourne on 3 October 1948. He completed his secondary education at Caulfield Grammar School in Suburban Melbourne. Before entering the Army on 9 July 1969, with the third NS intake of that year, he was employed as a Manager of a Licenced Supermarket by Tintagel Investments. Tony commenced OTU on 25 July with Class 3/69. Whilst at OTU he attained the rank of sergeant. On graduation on 19 December he was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineers and posted to the School of Military Engineering (SME) at Casula, NSW. After completing his training at SME, Tony was posted to 35 Water Transport Squadron in Sydney. On completion of his NS, Tony transferred to the CMF where Beddison served for over three years with 31 Terminal Squadron (Transportation) based in Swan Street, Melbourne, the depot where most Victorians commenced their NS.

Tony married Robyn in 1976 and they have three children: Sam, Georgie and Daisy and they have five grandchildren. His later "national service" included Chairing the Australia Day Committee, and the Australia Remembers program

(commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of WW2) in 1995. The latter role led to Tony being appointed an AO (Later upgraded to AC for significant other services). He also spent time on the Council of the AWM - as well as undertaking various other important philanthropic leadership roles. As well as the AC,

he was also awarded an Australian Centenary Medal, Australian Defence Medal and of course the National Service Medal. Tony was one of three OTU graduates recognised with an AC - the other two being the late Tim Fischer (3/66) and Jeff Kennett (3/68).



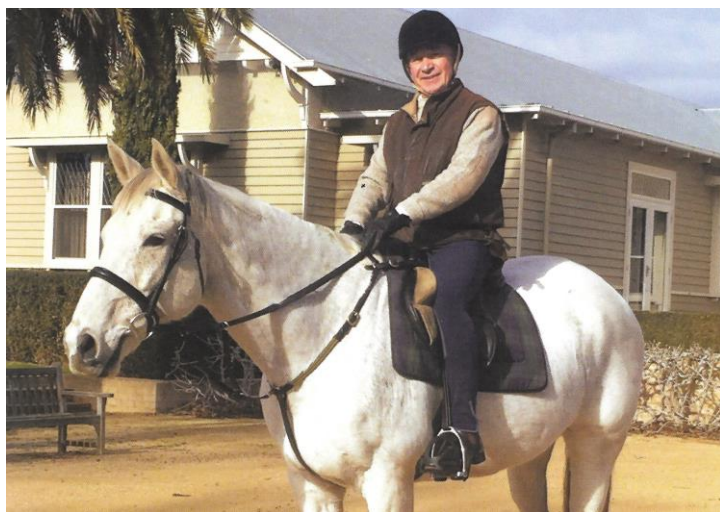
Tony advised his OTU Classmates of his being diagnosed with Acute Lukemia just before Christmas and that he was undergoing some extensive treatment when an infection took hold a week or so before he died early on 14 January 2020 at Cabrini Hospital. His wife Robyn and his family were with him at the end.

An energetic giant of Victorian life (Andrew Rule)

‘By the time Tony Beddison AC had worked his way to becoming a prosperous and influential businessman, he was on easy terms with Captains of Industry, premiers and prime ministers, princes and peers of the realm. He was well-known from the Moonee Valley committee room to Royal Ascot, where he and his wife Robyn once entered the famous course in a horse-drawn royal carriage. But when Mr Beddison died in Melbourne early on Tuesday, his brilliant career and vast network was overshadowed by his enduring work as a philanthropist.

‘The boy who spent his early days on a farm at Doreen before joining the Army became the man whose many achievements included heading the committee that built the new Royal Children’s Hospital. When the Queen formally opened the new building in Parkville in 2011, it was not just a modern hospital for Victoria but among the finest anywhere on earth, with everything from a helipad to an aquarium and a Meerkat enclosure that brought a smile to everyone who visited. The seven-year construction was a logistical nightmare but the chairman’s characteristic energy and attention to detail saw it through. Since then thousands of children have been treated, lives have been saved and families made whole again because of the imagination, perspiration and generosity of Tony Beddison and others like him. If he had done nothing else, he would be remembered for the “Children’s”. But it is just one of many community projects he took on with an attitude one friend describes as “tireless, enthusiastic and ever-optimistic.” He also chaired Australia Remembers, the Australia Day Committee, the Prince’s Trust and the FINA World Swimming Championships and was a director of the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute. He was a longtime committeeman at Moonee Valley and raced several horses.

‘Meanwhile, he built the Beddison group of companies into a nationwide recruitment business, maintaining strong relationships with state and federal governments on both sides of politics. He took delight in the rebuilding of the homestead and gardens on the historic property at Avenel that became the focus of family life for the Beddisons and their adult children Georgie, Sam and Daisy.



At Avenel, he was close to his boyhood friend Bill Swift, whose horse-trainer father had managed Findon Hunt Club near the Beddisons’ property at Doreen. Mr Swift says the pair met as “three-year-olds” and have been mates ever since, a lifetime friendship based on their love of horses and horse sports. When Bill Swift was a butcher in Richmond in the 1980s, he had to get up to start work one Saturday at 5am after a big night out with “Tony”. Mr Swift, badly hung over, telephoned him and joked that he had better come and help in the butchery. “Twenty minutes later, there he was, showered and

shaved and ready to work,” Mr Swift recalled on Tuesday. “No silver spoon — a true self-made man.”

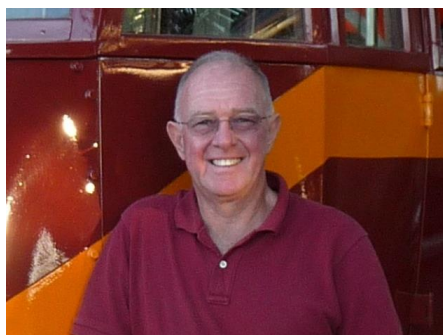
‘Tony Beddison was chairman of the Royal Children’s Hospital. Neil Mitchell met the man he called “Beddo” (or sometimes, cheekily, “Lord Beddo”) when he appeared on Mitchell’s 3AW program in the early 1990s. Mitchell recalled on Tuesday: “Tony would often walk through the hospital corridors, off to some important meeting, with a tear running down his not inconsiderable nose. “He admitted he couldn’t enter the place without becoming emotional because kids should not get sick. “To me he was a mentor, an adviser, a critic and loyal friend. “He loved his family, his country, farming, helping anyone who asked, and good red wine. “He was a networker, a man of integrity, determination and generosity, a great Australian.” He was also a romantic. When Robyn Beddison had a significant birthday a few years ago her husband of 40 years presented her with a cream-coloured rose specially cultivated and named “the Robyn” in her honour. Last spring, their last together, the rose bloomed in the garden they built together.

Peter Llewellyn Johns.

1732165 Peter Llewellyn Johns was born in Kilcoy, Queensland on 12 January 1945. He grew up in Clayfield, Brisbane, where his family lived with his grandparents. Peter completed his secondary schooling at Kedron High. He formed a lifelong friendships with Warren Walker and with two others and they became the four musketeers. Their friendship was so close that Warren, who had to study Latin because he wanted to become a pharmacist, was joined by Peter, who decided to do Latin as well to support his mate! The boys were great friends, going on holidays to the Gold Coast, cruising in sports cars and basically getting up to mischief with their larrikin mates.



While studying Commerce (part-time) at Queensland University in 1963 Peter working with National Mutual Life Association as a Statistician, he deferred his National Service. He entered the Army as a National Serviceman at 3 TB Singleton on 13 July 1966 and commenced OTU with Class 3/66 on 29 July as a member of 5 Platoon, B Company. His 'Father' was Geoff Holland. In Senior Term Peter's 'Son' was Doug Dick. After graduating on 23 December, Peter was posted to the School of Artillery for his Young Officer's Course and after completion became an Instructor at the school. In June 1967 he was then posted to 110 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery at RAAF Butterworth in Malaysia, spending a lot of time 'jungle bashing' in various parts of the country, where he completed his National Service. After discharge he returned to National Mutual and subsequently joined the APS.



Peter's death was reported in Queensland newspapers on 13 November 2019. A Celebration of Peter's Life was held on Friday 15th November 2019 at the Lakes Chapel, Morley's Funeral Home, Townsville.

From Warren Walker (friend) via Don Gordon (1/66)

Peter and I were glued to the television in 1964 for the first call-up lottery. My date came out about the 12th instance and Peter about 20th. Lucky us! I deferred (doing Second Year Pharmacy) but Peter decided to go for it. He was studying accounting at night and working for NM Life Insurance. He did qualify for a deferment. He was chosen for Officer Training (a great honour) and got a remarkable posting to Butterworth in Malaysia. He joined the Federal Government immediately after his call-up period and serving the government, and the people of Australia, became his life's work.

Peter married Pam Stone in May 1971, shortly after commencing his government service, but the marriage did not last. They separated in the mid 80's. Peter was posted to Hong Kong in 1978, but the posting he relished most was Alice Springs from 1985 to 1988 where he was with Primary Industries. He was given a great house, a new Landcruiser and a generous expense account.

After his time at the Alice, he was posted to Canberra to a desk job. Not to his taste but in 1990 Peter ended up marrying his supervisor, Margaret, who worked out of Sydney. They used to arrange meetings half-way between Sydney and Canberra. Margaret was the love of his life. Both loved the outdoors. Peter moved to Sydney to a more active job and in 1996 the pair built a new house at Mona Vale on Sydney's northern beaches. Peter never had any children of his own but "inherited" three when he married Margaret (two girls and a boy). They now have four grandchildren.

After four years as a State Manager in Perth, in 2002 Peter retired about the same time as Margaret and in 2012 they moved to Magnetic Island, enjoying that idyllic island life. Peter, as usual, joined every club you could imagine: he joined Margaret at the golf club and was instrumental in starting the "Man Shed" on Magnetic. Sadly, it was not to last. Peter was racked with bowel cancer for several years and suffered greatly with the Chemotherapy. Greatly missed!

Brian James Donegan was born in Sydney on 4 April 1947. He completed his secondary education at Edmund Rice College, Wollongong. After leaving school Brian was employed as an Electrician by Aust Iron & Steel Pty Ltd, Port Kembla. He had joined the CMF 4th Battalion, The New South Wales Regiment in December 1965. When he Called Up for National Service in 1967 he deferred, eventually commencing on 28 January 1970. He went to OTU with Class 1/70 on 13 February. On graduation on 16 July, Brian was allocated to the RAInf Corps and posted to 3 TB Singleton where he served out his NS. Post Army Brian went on to run his own Electrician's business. A search by his classmates prior to this year's 50th Reunion found that Brian James Donegan died in Wollongong NSW on 24 May 1989. Brian's funeral was held on 27 May 1989.



William 'Bill' Donald Watson (Kate Harvey, Bill's daughter).

A follow-up from The Scheyvillian 3 of 2019.

Bill Watson was born in Adelaide on 12 April 1947 the youngest child of Don and Joy Watson. He described his early years with siblings Penny and Dennis as "simple, blessed, full of freedom, adventure and mischief". He was fond of keeping birds and the odd baby brown snake. His father worked for S.A. Railways and after 10 moves, with 10 schools, in as many years Bill was sent to Scotch College, Adelaide to board at age 11. After school he went to Roseworthy Agricultural College and pursued his love of the land and wine gaining his Diploma of Agriculture in 1968. Both at Scotch and Roseworthy, sport was a major focus and included rowing, Australian Rules football and water polo. He then worked for S. Wyn and Sons as an oenologist and having been conscripted he went to OTU Scheyville in May 1969.

At his Celebration of Life at the Commonwealth Club, Canberra on 4th December 2019, 2/69 classmate David Jervis said "at OTU Bill was totally committed, physically and mentally strong, cool under pressure, determined, unselfish, empathetic and loyal. More than once he literally dragged me over the top of the 12' wall on the obstacle course. Of course, he was still mischievous".



Above: Jenny and Bill Watson

In his senior term he was a Company Quartermaster Sergeant with the rank of Colour Sergeant and on 3 October 1969 graduated 7th in his class being allocated to the Infantry Corps and posted to 3rd Training Battalion, Singleton. Soon after, Bill, the dashing Army officer with a smile that lit up his face, met Jennie, a beautiful young school teacher, and on 29 August 1970 after a whirlwind and highly motivated courtship, they were married in a military ceremony in Sydney - the start of a formidable, loving, 49 year partnership.

After his discharge from the Army in 1971 Bill moved to Armidale with Jennie where he completed his Bachelor of Agricultural Economics at UNE and then he went to the University of California for further studies before permanently settling in Canberra in 1979 where he worked as an Agricultural Economist and Environmental Consultant. Along the way his children Ben and Kate were born and 5 grandchildren followed - Noah, Lily, Ethan, Will and Alex. Bill adored them and they adored him - he was also like a second father to his son-in-law Travis. He was a teacher and mentor to them all.

Bill loved travelling, adventuring in nature, caring for the environment, working on the land especially on his Greenfield farm with his son Ben, hiking, kayaking, fishing, mountain biking, cycling and sailing. One of his greatest joys was sharing his adventures with his many friends, telling stories and being part of a team. A man of action, there was nothing he couldn't do or, at least, was sure he could do and give it a try.

Bill had a close relationship with his grandfather Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Watson CBE, DSO, MC, ED, which led to a passionate interest in the Gallipoli campaign. In 1915 the then Lieutenant Stanley Watson, an engineer, supervised the construction of a jetty at ANZAC Cove using a defused Turkish shell as a pile driver. The jetty was completed on 18 June 1915 and named Watson's Pier - it played a big part in the evacuation of ANZAC troops. Bill and Jennie went to the Gallipoli Peninsula in 2005 to attend the 90th year commemoration of Watson's Pier and traditional Waterloo dinner. In 2015 they attended the 100th year commemoration when Bill dived into the sea to view the remnants of the pier on the ocean floor afterwards proudly announcing "not many people have walked on the pier since WW1".

In Canberra Bill was involved with the Strolling Bones (who walked, cycled and kayaked the world), Rotary, the Peloton Lake Bike Riders and the OTU Association - always one to embrace new technology he created the 2/69 Google group and assisted in organising 2/69 reunions. All these groups plus Scotch and Roseworthy Colleges were represented by speakers at his Celebration of Life which was attended by about 350 people - 14 members of 2/69 plus 8 of their wives travelled from all over Australia to be there. Wal Hall (2/68), representing OTU, presented Bill's Army Service Record and the Australian flag to Jennie. OTU meant a lot to Bill and his family were brought up on his Army stories.

An eternal optimist and positive thinker Bill took on and beat serious bowel cancer 12 years ago and more recently fought Parkinson's disease which he viewed as a bit of a nuisance and not something that would slow him down - he and Jennie travelled extensively last year including a 300 kilometre walk along the Camino da Costa. Bill was killed in a motor vehicle accident on 15 November 2019 returning from a mountain bike riding trip at Mount Kosciusko. He will always be in our hearts.

Air Cadet Deaths

In the investigations into the number of Air Cadets who commenced with OTU, it was found that two Aviators were not shown on the 'Deceased List' and a further three simply had a 'one-line summary' of their death.



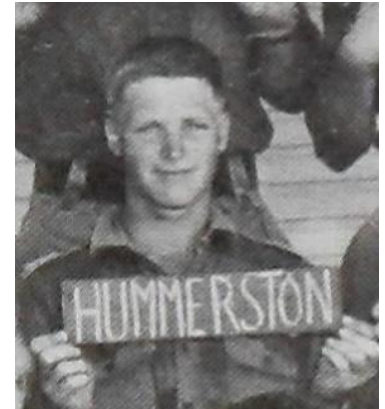
James Barry Mayhew was born at Coburg, Vic, on 18 September 1942 and completed his secondary education at Ringwood High School (Vic). Before entering OTU, as an Air Cadet, with Class 1/67 on 17 February 1967 Jim was in the ARA serving in A Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, RAAC. On graduation on 14 July 1967 Jim was reallocated to the RAAC and posted to 2 RTB Puckapunyal to await his Basic Flying Training School training at RAAF Point Cook. Jim commenced his flying training with Course 68 (1968) but was killed in an air crash, along with his instructor, Flt Lt Bill Clarke, on 3 May 1968. The pair were flying over the Bellarine Peninsular south of Point Cook and when they were pulling back and rolling to the side with a 'rolling "G" Force', the wing folded over and hit the fuselage. The aircraft went into the water. Air Cadet Roger Burke was on duty in the Control Tower when the crash occurred.

Leslie Alfred Maiké was born at Newcastle, NSW, on 2 January 1945 and completed his secondary education at All Souls School, Charters Towers (Qld). Before entering OTU, as an Air Cadet, also with Class 1/67, on 17 February 1967 Les was serving in the RAAF as a Leading Aircraftsman. On graduation on 14 July 1967 Les was allocated to the RAAC and with Jim Mayhew was posted to 2 RTB Puckapunyal to await his Basic Flying Training School training at RAAF Point Cook. Les commenced his Basic Flying Training School with Course 67 (1968) and graduated to the Advanced Flying Training Course 15/68 at RAAF Amberley. On completion of flying training Les was posted to 1 Aviation Regiment on 6 July 1968. After a flying 'incident' Les left the Army on 5 December 1969.



Post Army Les flew for a few companies and eventually moved to Canada. Cancer struck in 2001 and he fought it bravely for over four years. He died in February 2005. He left behind his wife Kathy, daughters Anna (Tim), grandchildren, Hannah, Chloe, and Gabriel, Meghan (Matt), and stepchildren, Tiffany (Patrick), grandchildren, Julien and Kameron; and many, many friends.

Lynn Hummerston was born at Perth, WA, on 24 April 1950 and completed his secondary education at Churchlands High School, WA. Before entering OTU, as an Air Cadet, with Class 1/69 on 14 February 1969 Lynn was employed as a Field Assistant by Project Mining Corporation. On graduation on 17 July 1969 Lynn was allocated to AAAvn and posted to



2 RTB to await his flying training. Lynn attended his Basic Flying Training School at Point Cook with Course 4 (1970) and Advanced Flying Training at Amberley with Course 8/70. Lynn had Army postings that included 183 Independent Flight and 173 General Support Squadron. He had many hours of flying in PNG. Lynn had been teaching PNG Students to fly when their Nomad aircraft hit the ground at a steep angle near an airfield at Drake, 20km east of Tenterfield, NSW, on 9 September 1991. Lynn died along with mechanic Corporal Peter McCarthy and two PNG Students. It was not known at the time who was flying the aircraft. (Canberra Times, 11 Sep 91)

Gregory Ronald George Baker was born at Jandowae, near Dalby in Queensland, on 10 June 1948 and completed his secondary education at Downlands College, Toowoomba. Before entering OTU as a National Serviceman with Class 1/70 on 13 February 1970 Greg was employed as a Bank Officer by the ANZ Bank. On graduation on 16 July 1970 Greg was allocated to AAAvn and posted to 2 RTB to await his flying training at Point Cook. Greg attended his Basic Flying Training School with Course 8 (1971) and Advanced Flying Training with Course 12/71 (RW). Greg was flying a Bell Sioux helicopter with Captain John Guild when the helicopter crashed in Lane Field near Amberley on 29 September 1971. It was found that a bracket was modified in the helicopter that effectively made the Instructor's pedals operate in reverse. Several Sioux helicopters were found to have this fault.



William 'John' Michael Ferguson was born on 10 July 1945 and entered OTU with Class 3/66 on 29 July 1966 as an Air Cadet. On graduation on 23 December 1966 John was allocated to AAAvn. He attended Basic Flying Training School with Course 64 (1967) and Advanced Flying Training at Amberley with Course 12/67. The Army had hired two QueenAir twin-engine aircraft from Toowoomba and Ferguson had been undertaking Army aerial survey work near Shepparton in one. On 30 November 1969 Ferguson, to 'use up the hours', took six local passengers for a flight after a day of social inter-club competitions involving members of the Royal Victorian Aero Club from Moorabbin and the Goulburn Valley Aero Club. During the flight the aircraft lost power to one engine and hit the ground in a paddock at Kialla East, just south of Shepparton. All onboard were killed. A plaque was unveiled on 30 November 2019 on the 50th Anniversary of the crash by family members of the locals who died.



FEATURES

Aviation

No. 1 Basic Flying Training School (No. 1 BFTS) was a flying training school of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Along with No. 1 Initial Flying Training School (No. 1 IFTS) formed at Archerfield in Brisbane, it was formed in response to increased demand for aircrew during the Korean War and Malayan Emergency. No. 1 BFTS was established in December 1951 at RAAF Base Uranquinty, NSW, where it operated de Havilland Tiger Moths and CAC Wirraways. No. 1 BFTS absorbed the activities of No. 1 IFTS in January 1955, as aircrew training requirements had eased following the end of the Korean War. No. 1 BFTS moved to RAAF Base Point Cook, Victoria, in May 1958, by which time it was exclusively flying CAC Winjeels.

For the Army in the early 1960s initial flying training courses were held at the North Head School of Artillery. Then in 1965 No. 1 BFTS's training program was expanded due to Australia's commitments in the Vietnam War and included training pilots for the Army and RAN as well as for the RAAF. No. 1 BFTS was re-formed as No. 1 Flying Training School at Point Cook in January 1969.

When National Service was re-introduced (for the fourth time) in 1965, the Army realised that it needed around 250 extra junior officers to go with the 8,000 new soldiers in the first year of National Service. At the same time, with the Army taking over more aircraft operations, it was decided that Army pilots operating in close co-operation with Army units on the ground should be trained as Infantry Platoon Commanders before they undertook flying training. Consequently, when Class 1/65 commenced on 16 July 1965 there were eight Air Cadets in the class. Six would graduate as 2Lts with Class 1/65 and one would graduate with Class 2/65. The six members of Class 1/65 would pass Course 60 (1966) at Point Cook. Three would then pass Course 8/66 (Fixed Wing) and three would pass Course 8/66 (Rotary Wing) Advanced Flying Training at RAAF Amberley.

History of Australian Army Aviation

Australian Army Aviation has traditional links with the Australian Flying Corps (AFC), Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). From the formation of Army's modern aviation element in the late 1950s and early 1960s, aircrew were drawn from combat arms and services across the Army, supplemented by the Air Force in key positions. Throughout the 1960s, Army personnel gradually replaced the Air Force members until all operational positions were filled by Army.

The 1st Aviation Regiment was formed on 26 April 1966 as the 1st Division Army Aviation Regiment being re-designated the 1st Aviation Regiment in March 1967.

In 1968, the Australian Army Aviation Corps was formed, providing a coherent career path for aircrew and, eventually, ground-support personnel. At that time Australia was at war and Army pilots were flying Sioux helicopters and Cessna light aircraft in South Vietnam supporting Australian troops in counter-insurgency operations in South Vietnam.

“On July 1, 1968, we had 106 officers and one NCO and we were operating the Sioux helicopter in Vietnam. We were a relatively small force with a proud tradition extending back to 1914,” said Brigadier Scott Benbow, Director General of Army Aviation and head of the Australian Army Aviation Corps.

Immediately after WW2, a small number of soldiers trained in the UK and were posted as instructors, creating a cadre of trained Aerial Observation Post (AOP) pilots. Five went on to fly Austers on operations in Korea, with one Captain Bryan Luscombe killed in action, the Australian Army's first aviation battle casualty since World War 1.

Army pilots subsequently deployed to the Malayan Emergency, conducting patrols and reconnaissance along the Malaya-Thailand border and showing the usefulness of soldiers, familiar with the territory, flying observation aircraft.

The Army's 16 AOP Flight, initially formed in New Guinea in 1944 and disbanded after the war, was re-formed in Canberra in 1958. The same year, the Austers were replaced with the more modern Cessna 180A. Then in 1960, 16 AOP Flight and 1 Aviation Company were disbanded and 16 Light Aviation Squadron formed, equipped with Cessna 180A fixed-wing aircraft and Bell 47 Sioux helicopters.

As Australia's involvement in Vietnam escalated, 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight was raised specifically to go to war. In seven years, the unit flew more than 72,000 hours on Sioux and OH-58A Kiowa helicopters and Cessna 180A, Pilatus Porter and Cessna O-1 Bird Dog fixed-wing aircraft. Three pilots were killed in action.

However, the job of transporting soldiers to and from battle was performed by the RAAF's 9 Squadron equipped with Bell UH-1D Iroquois helicopters, deployed to support the Australian Task Force in mid-1966. Initially this wasn't a completely happy experience. The Army complained that RAAF helicopters were restricted in what missions they could conduct by Air Board regulations framed for peacetime operations. At the same time US helicopters willingly performed higher risk missions such as landing and evacuating troops while under enemy fire. That peaked on 18 August 1966 as the soldiers of Delta Company, 6RAR, ran short of ammunition as they fought off waves of attackers in the rubber plantation of Long Tan. Resupplying their ammunition was certainly a high-risk mission for the two available RAAF Iroquois helicopters, which had earlier that day transported civilian performers to the Australian base at Nui Dat to entertain the troops. The weather was atrocious and they could expect enemy fire. The RAAF Group Captain in the Australian Task Force Headquarters said he would need approval from Canberra but allowed the mission to proceed when the two RAAF pilots said they were willing to take the risk. Flying at treetop level while the battle raged metres below, the two helicopters successfully dumped the desperately needed ammunition right where it was needed. Subsequently Army-RAAF relations and helicopter support procedures were much improved.

But this, plus the unacceptable operational arrangement of having the Task Force at Nui Dat and the helicopters 50 kilometres away at Vung Tau, were remembered two decades later when the government, acting on advice from the Defence Chiefs of Staff committee, made a significant decision. Henceforth all battlefield helicopters would be transferred from the RAAF to Army. That transition took place over a number of years.

The RAAF's 9 Squadron, equipped with the then brand-new Black Hawks, and 35 Squadron with the UH-1H Iroquois, handed their aircraft and aircrew to the Army's 5th Aviation Regiment, formed in 1987. 9SQN itself wound up in February 1989.

OTU Aviators

From the information held by the OTU Association:

Air Cadets	75 Passed BFTS & AFT	28 DNG	Pass Rate	73%
NS AAAvn	46 Passed BFTS & AFT	19 DNG	Pass Rate	71%
Total Air Cadets	103			
Total NS AAAvn	65			

Total Attempted BFTS - 168, Total Passed both Levels – 122 Pass Rate 72%
Plus: Air Cadets not selected for BFTS: 5 and NS to AAAvn not selected for BFTS: 12
OCS/OTU: O1/72 - 1 Passed, O2/72 - 1 Passed, O1/73 - 1 Passed, 1 Withdrew

The Griffin Award

On 1 December 1960 modern Army Aviation began at RAAF Amberley with a RAAF CO, various officers and aircraft fitters of various trades establishing 16 Army Light Aircraft Squadron (16 ALAS). After two great RAAF COs the first Army CO Lt Col Bill Slocombe came on board in 1964 when the unit was formed as the 1st Divisional Army Aviation Regiment. This name was later simplified to the 1st Aviation Regiment.

Only pilots were Army and they came from the Air OP Flt at RAAF Fairbairn in Canberra, manned by Gunner Officers, and the 1st Aviation Coy at Bankstown, manned by a mix of civilian qualified pilots of various ranks. Those NCOs flying in 1 Company were commissioned after the RMC Class of 1960. Advertisements for pilot training were put in Routine Orders throughout the Army. Before Scheyville, officer training for civilians who applied was done on a short ‘shake & bake’ course at the School of Artillery at North Head. They then went to Basic Flying Training School (BFTS) Point Cook as Cadets and were commissioned 2Lt when they qualified for the Army Flying Badge.

When former OTU Instructor, and later SI OTU, Charlie Barnett, took command of 1 Aviation Regiment in December 1980, it had no mascot, emblem, logo or regalia of any kind. The unit had been too busy for so many years and had not developed such items. Not wanting an animal or bird that needed looking after and would die, with his 2IC, Major Adam Fritsch, a ‘shake & bake’ officer who later became DAVN, they selected the Griffin as the Emblem and the Motto ‘ALERT’.

The griffin, griffon, or gryphon, is a legendary creature with the body, tail, and back legs of a lion; the head and wings of an eagle; and sometimes an eagle's talons as its front feet. In heraldry, the griffin's amalgamation of lion and eagle gains in courage and boldness, and it is always drawn to powerful fierce monsters. It is used to denote strength and military courage and leadership.

It was an obvious choice: the lion representing Army and the eagle representing ‘power in the air’. This proposal was processed through the College of Heraldry and approved. Charlie put aside a ‘few bob’ each pay and commissioned Eddie Hackman to sculpt a griffin. Eddie is well-known in Queensland as the sculptor of the stockman outside the Stockman's Hall of Fame in Longreach (right).

In the mid-80s the 1st Army Aviation Regiment held an annual camp in February each year at the Greenbank Military Training Area in Brisbane's South-west where the five squadrons competed for the Griffin Trophy. The trophy was awarded to the squadron assessed as the most proficient in basic military skills, and with highest level of physical fitness.

The Griffin was Charlie's farewell gift to the Regiment in December 1983. Photo at right shows Charlie Barnett receiving the Griffin from Eddie. On 4 July 2008 the Griffin was enshrined on the Guidon presented to the Regiment at Robertson Barracks in Darwin by the then Governor-General Maj Gen Mike Jeffrey AO, CVO MC.

In 1987 all battlefield helicopter capability was transferred from RAAF to Army, which now has three Aviation Regiments.



Left: In February 1988 the CO 1 Aviation Regiment, Lt Col Peter Ferguson, presented the Griffin Trophy to 161 Recce Squadron, the Champion Squadron in 1st Aviation Regiment that year. It was accepted by the Squadron's OC OTU Class 3/69 Graduate Major Bernie Gleeson.

Peter Rogers (3/66) wrote:

‘A couple of new categories for you: there was at least one Regular Army Corporal (RASigs): Kevern Rowe (like me, 3/66). After graduation at OTU he and I were on the same course at Point Cook and we both went on to fly helicopters, including with 161 (Indep) Recce Flight in South VietNam. I had been a SGT, T/WO2 in the CMF with the PNGVR in Papua New Guinea, and was qualified for First Appointment (passed all exams/tests) and was waiting for an officer slot to become a Second Lieutenant. Didn’t mean a thing when I started off as an Officer Cadet at OTU with a brand-new Regimental Number - a Nasho one. Kev kept his ARA number. At least we had a head start on the others starting out on 3/66.

‘Another two National Servicemen were Neville Dickson and Peter Crook, who were qualified commercial pilots. Neville had flown airline aircraft in Australia and both proceeded to do their helicopter qualification without having to attend Basic Flying Training with the RAAF at Point Cook after graduation at OTU. Both extended their service and flew helicopters in 161 (Indep) Recce Flight in SVN in early 1969.



‘Two more, Geoff Longland and Alan Jellie (both 3/67) had been RAAF flying students, qualified at BFTS Point Cook but missed out on jet training at RAAF Pearce. As they were more than qualified to meet Army pilot standards, they transferred to Army Aviation and trained on helicopters after graduation from Scheyville. Both were exceptional reconnaissance pilots in 161 (Indep) Recce Flight, but tragically, Alan was shot down and killed in early December 1969.’

Kevern Rowe (3/66) added to Peter’s stories:

Just some amusing additions to Pete’s details re Air Cadets. Some of the detail is fading in memory with the passing of time but several incidents still resonate with me.

First incident...

As a current Regular Army NCO, the movements people in Melbourne took the opportunity to spend the night at home and gave me the task of escorting the new Cadets group from Melbourne to Scheyville via Sydney Central by firstly train, then bus to OTU. They insisted that I wear my uniform presumably to display my new-found authority over the group. On arrival at OTU from Sydney by bus we were met by DS who immediately started yelling at the new intake. I’m sure you can recall the scene. While this organised chaos was occurring I was trying to hand over all of the movement documentation and was being spoken to very nicely, even to the point of an offer of a “cuppa” before I boarded the bus to return to Sydney. “Head up to the mess Corporal and they will look after you” they said. Very nice of them indeed. It took some time (and repeated attempts by me to point out that my name was on the intake list) for them to wake up that I was actually a part of that intake. Well, what a change of attitude. From then on they were quite rude to me but I’m sure that I detected a hidden smirk and a wink from one of the DS.

Second incident...

Both Pete and I had ample warning of going to OTU and time to prepare. I arrived with the shiniest brass and a pair of the most dazzling spit polished boots, among other little advantages, as you can well imagine. So, there I was on the first evening with a heap of new kit, including a pair of new and very dull boots and I recall being instructed by my ‘Father’ on techniques to spit polish these boots. ‘Get stuck in and I will be back shortly to check on you’ was the command. On his return and after a quick boot switch to my dazzlers he asked how I was going. ‘Will these do?’ said I and offered them up for inspection. He was dumbstruck at first and we had a laugh about it later. As far as I can recall I completed OTU still with those pair of dazzling boots for parades and another pair of quite presentable boots for day to day wear that I had brought with me. For the life of me I cannot recall what I did with, or where I hid more likely, the raw OTU issued boots, brass and kit. There was no room for extras in the room kit layout.

Third incident...

I arrived at OTU in uniform sporting NCO's stripes. I still like to claim that I was the only Junior Cadet at OTU to wear NCO stripes, but not for long. As far as I recall, no one said anything to me during the day so I made the decision myself late on the first night to 'stop being a Corporal' and I removed the stripes. This no doubt would have left residual marks on the sleeves, I don't recall what I did with that battle dress blouse, it probably disappeared with the other surplus kit.

Fourth incident...

First time out doing ambush drills, remember those??

My turn to command the last drill of the day and during the post-drill debrief the conversation with the DS went something like this:

DS. 'How do you think you went then, Rowe?'

Me. 'Pretty good Sir!'

DS. 'Oh, you think so, do you?? And what experience do you have to base that assumption on?'

Me. 'The past 5 years' service in the Regular Army, Sir!'

DS. 'Oh, you're the one, are you?? right round everyone up and get ready to return to camp.' And nothing more was said, until later after returning to camp and cleaning weapons before returning them to the store.

Unknown Cadet to DS. 'Sir, how do I strip this M60?' DS. 'Ask our regular soldier over there!' pointing to me Me: 'Sorry Sir, I don't know either!'

DS. 'What!! Where did you serve for the last 5 years then?'

Me. 'In Signal Corp, we didn't have any M60's, Sir.'

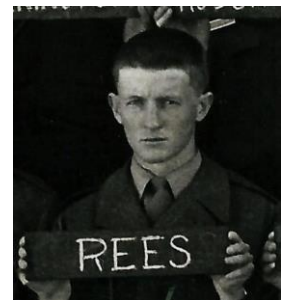
DS. 'BLOODY SIGS! gawd help us!'

There is no doubt that Pete and I benefitted from our previous Army experience compared to most of our classmates, but I wouldn't say it was a 'doddle' for us by any means. I often wondered how classmates with no past exposure to the Army survived to be truthful. I was perfectly at home with the Army life and ways, but still found it a struggle at times and prided myself on my application and determination to succeed. It was a case of 'nil carborundum' for me...

My lasting positive impression of OTU was the slickness and efficiency with which everything happened just as planned. If we were due to board a bus at two minutes to ten it was there for us, not two minutes past ten, etc. I never thought the Army could do it until then. Overall, a great life experience not to be missed, I value every minute of it which has served me well to this day.

Class 3/68

Paul Rees wrote: 'Initially NS Commercial Pilots couldn't fly unless they signed on for 5 years (Tub Matheson was one of those). When 3/68 graduated the five NS went to Amberley to be assessed to determine if they met the BFTS standard. The two selected didn't go to BFTS, but straight to AFT and that became the normal route as the NS Commercial Pilots didn't have to go to BFTS.'



Peter MacMillan wrote 'I suspect that the Dept of Labour & National Service became concerned about potential repatriation costs for commercial pilots in NS who did not fly for two years. 3/68 course included 8 commercial pilots! Greg Lambert, Jim McAvoy, Paul Rees, Ken Hoy, Peter Kilpatrick, Kym Nannes, Peter Macmillan and Ken Devenish who unfortunately, did not graduate from OTU. Dale Nankivell (also 3/68) was a civilian Air Traffic Controller and that explains his assignment to AAAnC.'



'At our flight assessment at Amberley, each of the others flew with four Army Instructors. Rees, Hoy and McAvoy weren't accepted and, due to an ankle injury sustained on the final exercise at OTU, Peter Kilpatrick had to repeat his Senior Class and also wasn't

accepted. Kym Ninnes did not have to be assessed as he had previously graduated from Basic Training at Pt Cook. 1/69 Advanced Training Course at Amberley included: Bob Harris, Terry Gygar, Kym Ninnes and John McGhie (all on regular short-term commissions), Greg Lambert and Peter Macmillan (both NS).

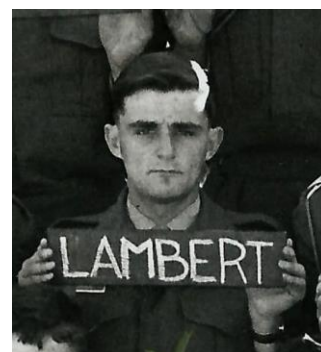
‘Harris and Gygar dropped out along the way and Kym Ninnes also left, but we were not advised of the reason. McGhie, Lambert and I graduated. By the way, Greg and I were the first NS pilots to be assigned to fixed wing aircraft. Up until then NS pilots were assigned to rotary wing so that the Army could teach their way from the beginning.

‘NS pilots who did not fly in the Army received substantial ‘repat’ training in order to make them employable after NS. I think they were given approx 50 hours in single and twin-engine aircraft and an instrument rating. I was given ten hours in a ‘twin’ to convert my military instrument rating into a civil one.’

Greg Lambert added: Point Cook training was the Basic Flying Training Course and the Amberley 1st Aviation Regiment course was the Advanced Flying Training that was completed after Point Cook. NS graduates from OTU with commercial licences only did an assessment and then undertook the course at Amberley. The courses took months to complete and most Nashos had less than 12 months to go after completion. Therefore, unless you were prepared to ‘sign on’ for extra service and forfeit to right to be reemployed and reinstated in your pre-service position you could not be sent to Vietnam.

Some graduates assigned to 1st Aviation Regiment did not fly. Ian Lucas 4/68 graduated at a time that there were no flying training courses being offered and it was not practical to sit around for a few months, so he was assigned ground duties. I (He later became Chief Pilot of Qantas).

After OTU, and having passed the Army Aviation assessment, Peter and I were assigned to the 1st Aviation Regiment at Amberley where we spent many hours at the pool as well as completing the AFT Course on Cessna 180s and Pilatus Porters. After completion we were presented our Army wings and sent further afield. I stayed at Amberley until being briefly posted to the new Army Aviation Centre at Oakey in October 1969 with 16 Aviation Squadron (Recce). One month later I was sent down to Holsworthy to 171 Air Cavalry Flight) where I remained until my discharge on 16 July 1970.



Aviation’s Mystery Man Revealed



The photo at left was taken at the 1969 AAAn Regimental Ball. From Left to right are: Greg Lambert, Kym Ninnes, Peter MacMillan and a mystery officer who could be a Major wearing Service Ribbons.

Classmates identified the mystery ‘Major’ as a 2Lt, former ‘Nasho’ from Class 1/65 Lynton ‘Lyn’ Herron, who had served in Vietnam in 1966 with the RAAC before he undertook Flight Training. It has since been found that Lyn died on 9 June 2012, aged 67.

Chalkies in PNG

From 'The Scheyvillian 3 of 2019'. Andrew Dalziel wrote of the Military Cadet School (MCS) in Lae being established in the 1960's as the initial officer training school for PNG Officer Cadets. He included the photo at right, taken at Igam Barracks. Andy has identified the Lieutenant in the middle rear as Richard Jeffkins of Class 1/70. Like most RAAEC graduates, Richard was promoted to T/Lt on graduation.

Andy last saw Richard in Sydney in 2011.



Rear: Sgt Graham Thompson, Lt Richard (Dick) Jeffkins, Sgt Vladus Julius (Dave) Cizauskas (wheelbarrow). Front: Sgt Andrew Dalziel, Sgt Ian Minns (NS), Sgt Peter Kilian.

Richard Jeffkins wrote 'Almost 50 years ago now but still strong in my memory. It is me in the photo. It would have been 1972. I was in the Army in PNG after graduation from Scheyville in 1970 until the end of 1972. Initially I was in the Education Unit attached to 1 PIR at Taurama Barracks and was transferred to MCS in early 1971. The OC was Major Jim Underwood who was on the staff at OTU during our time there with 1/70. (Capt Nigel James 'Jim' Underwood, RAInf, OTU 7 August 69 to 26 October 70. T/Maj 7 June 1971 on posting as OC MCS) Our role as Educators was to try to bridge the academic gap between the PNG Year 10 and the Year 12 levels of the Australian entrants to OCS Portsea, where the PNG Officer Cadets went after graduation from the Military Cadet School in Lae.

'Not having English as a first language and the fact that PNG Year 10 was nowhere near an Australian Year 10 made Portsea very challenging academically. As well, there were massive cultural and general knowledge gaps in their lives. Technology, geography and world history were somewhat lacking.

'As part of their preparation for life at Portsea the Officer Cadets had a two-week Orientation visit to Sydney under the command of yours truly. Going up to the observation deck of the Australia Square Tower, then the tallest building in Sydney (40 stories) was an eye-opener, particularly looking out over other tall buildings with cranes and other heavy machinery on top. At that time the tallest building in PNG was the Reserve Bank in Port Moresby at about four or five stories. It also had the only lift in the country which, I guess, only a few - if any- had been in. The Officer Cadets were billeted out to Australian families for a few days for a few more eye-opening experiences including seeing Europeans collecting the garbage and working on the roads, jobs which were done only by Papua New Guineans back home.'

Chalkies on PNG Website

The article at left was found the 'The Senior – Vic' 23 December 2019. A search of the website nashospng.com showed a large number of articles and photographs on Nashos during their time in PNG.

There is not a lot of information on OTU RAAEC graduates who were posted to PNG on the website, but an email has been sent to Terry Edwsmith (photo) advising him that **there were at least 22 OTU Graduates who served there**. We await his reply.

NEWS

Chalkies helped build a new PNG

THE ties that bind Australia and Papua New Guinea were celebrated when former teacher conscripts attended the opening of the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR) military display at Singleton's Australian Army Infantry Museum.

At the same time, the NSW Education Department unveiled an honour board at the museum commemorating the service of NSW army "chalkies" in PNG during 1966-74. About 40 ex-teachers were present, as part of their annual reunion.

The board will be hung alongside other honour boards at the department's office in Parramatta, Sydney.

It's a little-known fact that before PNG's independence in 1975, Pacific Islanders comprised up to 10 per cent of the Australian army.

Also unknown to many is that during the seven years of the Vietnam conflict (1966-72), at least 330 chalkies from all states were sent to the



TEACHERS WHO SERVED: Ian Ogston and Greg Ivey (Qld), Neil Gibson (NSW) and Terry Edwingsmith (Qld) in Cessnock after visiting the exhibition.

PIR as infantry instructors or teachers of English, maths, science and civics.

The social studies/civics component was vital as it taught democratic principles and the role of a democratically elected government in a soon-to-be-independent country.

On the other hand, the tra-

ditional three Rs increased the literacy skills of the soldiers, be they Pacific Islander or Australian.

These teacher soldiers also worked at Port Moresby Technical College to educate both soldiers and civilians in the trades.

Some of the materials used are on display at the

museum.

Exceptional students were identified and earmarked for promotion. At first, selected soldiers to the Officer Cadet School in Portsea, Victoria, for training. Later candidates trained at Igam Barracks in Lae, PNG, as the locals took on more responsibilities.

■ nashosnq.com

Former servicemen from around nation gathered at Singleton's Australian Army Infantry Museum (AAIM) on 16 October 2019 for the opening of a new exhibit. The showcase is a fitting tribute to 'the Chalkies', Australia's young teachers who were conscripted into the Army from 1966 to 1973 to teach in Papua New Guinea.

However, the journey to the museum came with an additional surprise to returning Chalkie and retired Melbourne teacher John Humphrey. The former Mt Erin College staff member was overwhelmed to find a photo he took in September 1971, while serving in Papua New Guinea, on display before the helicopter from which he took in the image. "I was taken out on a patrol from Wewak to Lake Kopyago," the former serviceman recalled. "The photo was taken from another helicopter of the rest of our party trying to meet up with the local soldiers who were out in the jungle somewhere. "The bush was so thick that when we came over where we were, they put up smoke and we could see it, but we couldn't see them. "The pilot said: 'no way, we can't land here so we'll need to drop you back off' so we went back to Lake Kopyago and we spent the next four or five days there."

The former Chalkie grew up in Bairnsdale in Victoria's Gippsland region before moving to Melbourne to commence his career as a teacher. "I moved to Melbourne and was called up for service in 1965," he added. "I went in with 20-year-olds, but I was 25 so I was one of the older ones. "Delighted to reunite with many of his fellow Chalkies."

The PNG - PIR displays are in three very large glass cabinets. The displays could be changed around as more material is available in the storeroom. It is expected that a PNG - PIR display will be a regular part of Singleton's Infantry Museum for a very long time.

DVA White Card (Gary Vial, 3/69)

I ran into a Scheyvillian (probably best no names) who had applied for and got his DVA 'White Card'. He just did his two years and had no medical issues that I am aware of and yet has now got a pension to the tune of \$50 a month - which keeps him in Cappuccino! I had started ages ago when it first 'came out' but gave up, but this gave new incentive (I do like my coffee) so have now done the application, and will see what gives.

Suggested - but someone may know more

It appears that you have to have a MyGov account before you can start the process. So go to my.gov.au - and just below the black 'sign in' bar is a white box 'create an account'. Just follow the prompts.

Once the account is established, you can 'add' access to services like DVA, ATO, Medicare, Centrelink etc. Don't give up at this stage. All communication with the bureaucracy is going this way.

You will need to establish a link to DVA via -

<https://www.dva.gov.au/mysevice/#/> The unlikely link to establish this is the box labelled 'Qualifying Service'

You have to sign up yet again, and you will need proof of your service in a digital form that you can attach (Graduation Certificate, Discharge, Posting Order etc - anything with your name and number and an ARA form of some sort). Your exact enlistment and discharge dates are also handy, but I think they cope with approximations.

Again, follow the prompts. Anecdotally, there is a fair chance that you will get an error message saying: 'start again'. If you do, just click the 'back to home page' and you should see that a claim HAS been submitted. If this is the case (or not), send an email to -

generalenquiries@dva.gov.au - with a title 'Application for Veteran Covenant • (your full name) • (your regimental number)'. Just mention that you got the error message and attach your proof of service.

You can also phone - 1800 555 254 - between 0800-1700 EST Mon-Fri for help but be prepared for a nice long wait on hold. Email is much easier and gives them the documents they want.

At right: The new look 'Veteran Card' to replace DVA 'Gold' and 'White' Cards



Incidentally if you want a copy of your Record of Service, email - adf.records@defence.gov.au - and ask for your 'Complete Personnel and Medical records'. It may take a couple of months, but it will appear in due course on an encrypted USB stick - and no charge. Good Luck!

Support to RMC- D in 2020

In 2019 the OTU Association supported the RMC Team who went to the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition (SANCOM) in the US by the provision of an OTU tie to each of the male competitors. The two ladies were provided with a silk WRAAC 60th Anniversary scarf. The 2019 team trained for the competitions under 'Plan Scheyville'.

On 16 March 2020 it was advised that due to the Presidential restrictions imposed within the United States, SANCOM 2020 has been cancelled and will not be re-scheduled this year.

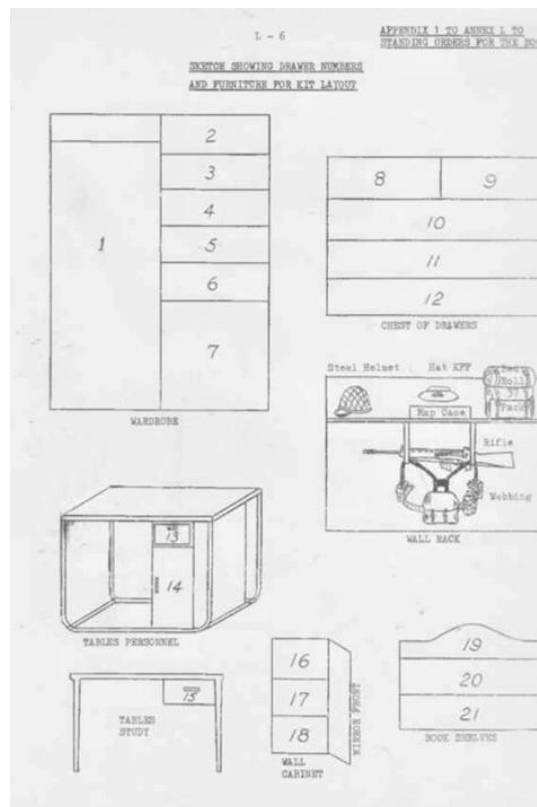
WO2 Kime, Romani Company, Training Team Bravo, RMC – D wrote: 'I would very much like to thank you all on behalf of RMC-D, in particular the staff and cadets of the SANCOM 2020 Team. We appreciate the positive responses to the last-minute communications with the preparation of the event, *your willingness to support through physical attendance and presentation of gifts*. 2020 may be cancelled, however it is highly likely that Australia will be a perpetual competitor at West Point now, therefore you can expect communications in early 2021 for the next Sandhurst Competition.'

Scheyville Cadet's Room Part 1 (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

Those of you who have visited the revamped 'Australian Army Museum, Duntroon', may have met the Curator, Mr Paul Mitrovich. Paul has revamped the museum to show many aspects of Officer Training, rather than being 'a repository for retired General's uniforms!'

The word is that the museum may be getting more space within its current building. Paul is looking at setting up an area to represent a Cadet's room at Scheyville and asked if the association had any photographs or information about, in particular, the wooden wardrobe that each Cadet had in his room. There were about a half a dozen photos in the OTU Gallery showing the inside of a Cadet's room, with only one showing part of a wardrobe. An email to Scheyvillians brought a few responses, the best coming from John Knack (4/72 – the last recipient of the Gordon Sharp Memorial Prize, and Graduate 1803 of 1803 from OTU) who emailed a PDF of the whole of the 1972 OTU Standing Orders.

Annex L showed the layout of a Cadet's wardrobe:



Each Section had specific items that were to be stowed in them.

On the floor: Boots (1 pr), Shoes (1 pr), Shoes, Gym (1 pr), Civilian Shoes (1 pr), Football Boots (1 pr), Gaiters on top of boots.

Wardrobe:

1. Hanging Space: (Garments to be buttoned, front facing the left, correct trousers with jackets). Sports Coat, Civilian Suit, Dressing Gown, White Mess Jacket, OTU Blazer, White Shirt, Blues (with belt hooked by the buckle over the hangar and allowed to hang down inside the jacket), polyester shirt, Battle Dress, Coat Man Field Olive Green and Rain Coat.
2. Front: left to right: Cap Blues, Cap Forage, Rear: Civilian Hat, Beret and Hat Utility.
3. Drawer: Gloves Leather Brown, Gloves White, Belt Waist, Small Clothing Accessories & Nametag when not in use, Sewing Kit, Handkerchiefs, Brushes Clothes, Brushes Hair, Cummerbund and Bow Tie.
4. Drawer: Shirts PD, Green.
5. Drawer: Pyjamas.
6. Drawer: Socks Khaki, Black and Civilian (to the rear) all neatly folded.
7. Space (Trouser Bar): Trousers PD Green, Polyester Khaki and Civilian (to the rear), Ties khaki, Black and Civilian (to the rear), Belts Civilian and Lanyard.

Note: The Wardrobe is not to be locked.



Above: Jay McDaniell (3/69) with the only photo in the OTU 'Collection' featuring a Cadet's Wardrobe

Chest of Drawers:

8. Shirts Polyester Khaki, Shirts White,
9. Cleaning Gear
10. (left to right) underclothes, Towels, Jerseys & Pullovers.
11. Civilian Shirts, Civilian Jerseys, Briefcase.
12. Track Suit, Football Socks, Sporting Wear

Tables, Personnel:

12. Drawer: Writing Material
13. Space (secured): Attractive personal items, including transistor radios and security items as detailed respectively in Pars 148 and 150 of these orders, are to be placed on the lower two shelves.

Note: Items of clothing or footwear are not to be placed in these tables.

Table Study:

14. Drawer: Personal letters, notebooks, etc. Top: Ash Trays are to be placed on the top of the table on the right-hand side.

Wall Cabinet:

16, 17 & 18 Toilet Gear.

Book Shelves:

19. Precis and issue papers with OTU Covers.
20. Large Books and Manuals.
21. Text Books and Library Books.

Note: All books and folders, etc, are to be placed on the left of each shelf. Books are to be graded in size with the largest on the left of each shelf. Books are to be graded in size with the largest on the left and all bindings level with the edge of the shelf.

Wall Rack:

On the Shelf: from left to right:

Helmets Steel, Map Case, Hat Fur felt Khaki.

Pack, 37 Pattern with bed roll on top.

Suspended across the two wooden brackets:

Rifle, lightly oiled (less working parts) with black sling (tightened) and magazine attached.

Web equipment (made up in 'Basic' Order)

Belt, Waist, Web (37 Pattern)

Summary: With all these items to be kept in such immaculate order, how did we have time to attend classes, study, eat, socialize and sleep?

Note: Further information on Cadet's Rooms will be provided in the next Scheyvillian.

Most Determined to Graduate Award – Further Follow Up.

John Draper (1/72) sent in an email stating that 'I too have a cherished pewter mug. I went from the threat of midnight eviction to receiving The Commandant's Prize. I was a reluctant National Serviceman. My marble was selected in 1966, but due to part-time and then full-time study I was deferred until the first intake of 1972, joining OTU with Class 1/72.



'My reluctance had a number of causes: I had never supported Australia being in Vietnam; as Australia was withdrawing from Vietnam, there was no justification for the continuation of National Service; I had a new career to pursue; and, as the first year of my marriage had been spent doing Honours, I wanted a normal married life.



‘Why did I apply for Scheyville? I had never heard of it, despite claims we were sent information. I decided I needed to make the most of the situation I was in and, being married, the extra income was attractive.

‘Not being fully committed to National Service did put extra pressure on me during the course, and I was always tense. This built up and, towards the end, I also had a moral and ethical crisis about killing. I was on the verge of a breakdown, and Commandant Outridge, who witnessed my problem, issued me with a firm but compassionate 'shape up or ship out'.

‘Fortunately, I was able to get my act together and graduated. As the Commandant had seen my struggles personally, he presented me with the Commandant's Prize. Posted to RAE, I spent six months as a Project Officer at AHQ, Canberra. Geology fell on hard times in the early Whitlam era and through a lack of employment opportunities I served out my eighteen months. My last six months was as a Project Liaison Officer in the Chief Engineers Branch, Northern Command, Brisbane, an interesting posting to keep me occupied until I found a job for my post-discharge life. My time at Scheyville made me mentally tougher and, in my subsequent career, I was able to incorporate much of what I learned at Scheyville as a project officer. I came out of National Service wiser, and a father! National Service wasn't a chosen part of my life's plan, but it is part of the rich tapestry of my life.’

Another respondent about the Commandant's Prize for the Most Determined to Graduate was Alan Robson. **Alan David Robson** (1/70) was born in Melbourne on 1 February 1945. His first five years of school had been in one-teacher schools at Mickleham, Yanac and Meredith in rural Victoria where his father was the teacher. He went to Coburg High School aged 11 in 1956 from West Coburg State School, the family having moved to Melbourne so that his brother Peter (who also attended Coburg High) and him could go to school without daily travel of two hours.



Alan continues: ‘I was in Class 1c with many exceptional scholars including my (later) wife (Gwenda Ferris - also from West Coburg). I greatly enjoyed High School except that I was constantly misplacing my cap being forced to rely on a friend throwing their cap over the hedge for me to get past the prefects on the gate. In 1956 the school went to the Olympic Games at the Melbourne Cricket Ground where we saw Betty Cuthbert win the 100 metres.

‘In 1957 my class was 11b and I was form captain. In “Echoes” I was recorded as “A walking encyclopedia who knows all the answers to the quizzes!” I can also remember setting fire to a demountable near the tennis court by putting ashes inadvertently into a flammable container in association with the late George Dracoulis (subsequently a very distinguished Professor of Physics at the Australian National University). 1957 was also the year my father died leaving my mother with little money and two boys twelve and thirteen. I am very grateful that my mother placed a very high emphasis on educating her two sons.

‘I can remember nothing very notable during my next two years at school. In Form V my brother joined the school from Coburg Technical School and was in the same form as me. A girl at the school social said to me “Oh you must be Peter Robson's brother”. Obviously, he had made greater impact with the girls in one year than I had in five. I was a Prefect and also played in the school tennis team.

‘In 1961 I was in the matriculation class, a School Prefect again, Vice-Captain of Maroon House (recently renamed as Reed House) and I played in the football team -“a useful reserve”, the cricket team-“an efficient wicketkeeper” and the tennis team. I can recall being beaten 6-0,6-0 at Brighton High School at Memorial Drive Adeladie in front of a large audience by a member of the South Australian Linton Cup squad.

‘What do I remember about the teachers? Miss Thompson, Mrs West, Mr MacCauley, Mr Roberts, Mr Potter and Miss Ross were inspirational teachers. Mr Samblebee disliked me intensely after I challenged

him in front of Form V for calling my friend Rodney Simpson a coward because he had thrown a stone at Clive Winter, a much bigger boy, after a disagreement. Mr Samblebee required me to remain after he dismissed the class. He then told me that I was the type that caused revolutions and that he would make certain that I would not be a prefect in Form VI (he was wrong). I had little interaction with headmasters Millar and Nielson. However, in Form VI was summoned to Mr Millar's office. I was very concerned because Gary Brilliant and I had been taking bets on the Melbourne Cup (which was quite profitable because our tip Macdougall won). While waiting to see the Headmaster I wondered how he had found out. I was very relieved when Mr Millar told me my mother had rung and would I go home and ensure that the oven had not been left on.

'I matriculated and won a Commonwealth Scholarship. I subsequently declined the scholarship and accepted a cadetship with the Victorian Department of Agriculture. The Cadetship was funded by wheat-growers and paid a stipend as well as my fees. I studied Agricultural Science at the University of Melbourne; my parents were both the children of farmers. I greatly enjoyed university where I won several exhibitions and was top student in each of the four years.

'In my third year I re-met Gwenda Ferris, we got engaged in my final year and married, both of us aged twenty-one, in 1966. This is the most important event in my life giving me wonderful love, three great children and to date five grandsons. We have now been married fifty years and I am very grateful for the wonderful support of my wife and family.

'In 1966 we went to Perth, two days after our wedding. I went to the University of Western Australia and completed a Ph D funded by Australian wheat growers in 1969. In 1970 I was conscripted into the Australian Army. I was a hopeless soldier. I had never fired a rifle before or since the Army, I avoided Cadets at school, I hate camping and because I have difficulty in telling my right from my left drill was disastrous. Much to my surprise I was selected for Officer Training. More surprising is that I graduated after six months of training as a 2nd Lieutenant winning the Commandant's Prize for the Cadet Most Determined to Graduate. I was posted as the Adjutant/Quartermaster at an Ammunition Depot in the foothills of the Flinders Ranges in South Australia. In 1972 on leaving the Army we moved to Horsham where I worked as a Crop Agronomist at the Victorian Wheat Research Institute.

'In 1974 I re-joined the University of Western Australia as a Lecturer in Plant Nutrition, promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1980, to Associate Professor in 1983 and appointed as the Professor of Soil Science in 1984. Between 1984 and 1993 I was also Head of Department, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Director of a Co-operative Research Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture. In 1993 I was appointed the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia and in 2004 I was appointed Vice-Chancellor. In 2012 I retired and now spend my time as Chair of the Trustees of the Western Australian Museum and a member of the Higher Education Standards Panel as well as relaxing with my wife.

'I was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences in 1987, awarded the Medal of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science in 1989, and have been made a Member (2003) and an Officer (2013) of the Order of Australia. One of my proudest achievements however is being named the Leading CEO for the Advancement of Women by the Australian Government in 2011. Therefore, all in all, I have led a very fortunate life being born to parents committed to education, marrying a beautiful and loving wife, attending an excellent school, being supported in my education by wheat-growers and having wonderful friends and colleagues. Isaac Newton said: "I can see further when I stand on the shoulders of giants!" I have stood on the shoulders of many giants and I am very grateful to them.

'Sadly, my brother died aged 53 with Motor Neurone Disease. I regret not having more contact with my friends from Coburg High particularly my best man John Byrne and my card partner Doug Provis. 'Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the staff and students of Coburg High School who made my time there so enjoyable and rewarding.'

OCS Portsea

The Officer Cadet School (OCS) Portsea began training officers for the Australian Army in January 1952. OCS was located at Point Nepean near the mouth of Port Phillip Bay in Victoria, Australia. The land occupied by OCS was originally used as a quarantine station for many years, where newly arrived immigrants were housed before they could be screened for infectious diseases. When the quarantine station closed, the OCS took up the remainder of the land. During its 33 years of operation, until closure in December 1985, 3,544 cadets graduated, including: 2,826 Australian Regular Army, 30 RAAF and 688 foreign students from New Zealand (378), Papua New Guinea (61), Fiji, the Philippines (38), Singapore (40), Malaysia (91), Cambodia, Vietnam, Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria. In its last year, females joined the intakes and 14 graduated.

Between 1952 and 1985, OCS Portsea trained 40 per cent of the new officers commissioned into the Regular Army, compared with Duntroon's 28 per cent. The remaining officers were provided from the Officer Training Unit (OTU) Scheyville and the Officer Training Wing of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps School at George's Heights, Sydney. The school was set up amidst the backdrop of the post-war period, when commitments to Korea and Japan and to the National Service Scheme required an increase in the number of junior officers in the Army. The four-year course at the Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon (affectionately referred to as 'the other place') was not flexible enough to enable this increase in junior officers, so the decision was made to establish OCS at Portsea. Unlike Duntroon, OCS did not provide a degree course and hence trained junior officers over a shorter course of military training – initially this was a six-month course, but later it became one year.

The course later ran a 44-week training syllabus. Entry criteria differed to Duntroon, with broader age ranges and lower educational requirements; consequently, a high proportion of Portsea's officer cadets were serving soldiers deemed suitable for commissioning. A significant number of OCS cadets were direct entry civilians. Additionally, OCS trained servicemen from other nations including The Philippines, South Vietnam, Cambodia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, Uganda, Fiji and New Zealand, and those graduated were commissioned into their respective services. A number of graduates were also RAAF personnel.

Following the Vietnam War, the National Service Scheme ended in 1972 and the OTU Scheyville (OCS Scheyville Wing), which ran three courses that was often referred to as 'overflow' courses in 1972 and 1973, was closed in April 1974. In the mid-1980s, a review of military training establishments in Australia occurred. As a result, a decision created a tri-service military academy offering tertiary education to officer trainees of all three services (Army, Air Force and Navy). This academy became known as the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA). Due to the formation of ADFA, RMC Duntroon stopped providing degrees to its graduates and reduced its course from four years to 18 months for Direct Entry and 12 months for ADFA Graduates. This essentially meant that Duntroon and OCS were providing the same training and, the decision was made to close OCS Portsea.

The final OCS graduating class at Portsea was the class of December 1985, which for the first time included female cadets following the closure of the Women's Officer Training Wing in December 1984. From 1986, RMC Duntroon then became the sole training establishment for General Service Officers in the Australian Regular Army. In December 1986, the final Portsea intake, who had been transferred to Duntroon, graduated.

Upon closure the OCS Portsea land was re-allocated to the Army School of Health. Since 2002, when the Army School of Health vacated the land, there has been much debate surrounding the future of the site. Many of the old buildings were retained and some still stand today, having been protected under law. One of the buildings, which was used as a hospital, remains as a museum. OCS Cadets conducted lessons in a building previously used as a mortuary during the operation of the quarantine station. The Regimental Sergeant Major's hut is believed to be one of the oldest buildings in Victoria. In June 2009, the land was transferred to the Victorian Government and has been incorporated into the Point Nepean National Park. In December 2009, the site was opened to the community as a public park.

For further reading of the history of OCS Portsea, see:

Lindsay, N. R (1995), *Loyalty and Service – The Officer Cadet School Portsea*.

The online version of this publication is available at:

http://books.historia.com.au/loyalty-and-service_portsea/ls-fore/

The Army Officer Cadet School at Portsea is trying to track down all of the 3,544 officers who graduated across 67 classes from 1952 – 1985. Many of those surviving graduates are now scattered across Australia and overseas and have lost contact with old classmates and friends. Which is why there's now a website at: www.ocsportsea.org/ Click on class lists to find your name plus any photos and videos, the web team have been able to find.

OCS History Project Update (From Rudi Poldoja, O2/72)

I finished and submitted in December my part of the 'Scheyville Connection', the OCS (Scheyville) Chapter of the OCS History Project that will serve to ensure that the three OCS classes that did their OCS training at OTU are represented in that history. I haven't heard anything back that indicates where the integration of the chapter is at, but I know that work is being done by the project lead. When I am advised that the project is nearing or has been completed, I will advise the OTU Association. The chapter is available for viewing at <https://www.ocsportsea.org/scheyville/>

Scheyville Revisited (Lionel Bolton, 1/70)



Lionel George Bolton, born in Tully, North Queensland in March 1947, was a member of A Class and one of several 'Sons' to Corporal Dilworth in 5 Platoon, Chauvel Company in OTU Class 1/70. He was in the same platoon as Kelvin Nesbitt, Ken Latter and Ian Dundas. He completed Junior & Senior term but was ordered to repeat the Senior Term with Class 2/70. Along with OC Ian Keightley he did 5 weeks as a Repeat, but Lionel resigned some five weeks into his repeat term. Lionel remembers that on the day of leaving OTU, 24 August, before the 6-day exercise, there were 13 Cadets who left Scheyville that day.

'I think there was one more Repeat included in the 13 who went on the same day as myself and Keightley. That morning we were all told to assemble at Colonel Studdert's office. He interviewed each Cadets and told us we were leaving Scheyville in 1 hour and to return our weapons etc, pack our kit and be ready to move out. He did not tell us where we were going, or how we were being transported etc. In my interview he gave me one last chance to stay. He appealed to me by saying how much money the Army had invested to train me at Scheyville. I didn't want the Army to waste any more of their money!

'The thirteen were split in to two groups to be taken by Land Rover from Scheyville into Sydney. We were told by the drivers where we were going. One group, including Keightley, went to North Head (School of Artillery), while the other group, including Dahlstrom and myself, went to South Head (a Personnel Depot where there were also reinforcements going to Vietnam). About 6 weeks later Dahlstrom and I were sent to Puckapunyal for Armoured Corps Training. When we got to Puckapunyal there were seven of my former Scheyville 1/70 Classmates, Ken Alexander, Michael Collins, John Finley, Chris Madden, Kevin McCarthy, Owen Morgan and Raymond Ryan, training as Troop Commanders in tanks.

'At the School of Armour I undertook Corps Training as a Gunner/Signaller. The Signals course was similar to what he had already done at Scheyville. On the Gunnery Course he was trained in the old Saladin Armoured Car which were used in WW2. The Saladin had a 75mm main armament whereas the (early) Centurion main battle tanks had an 85mm gun. I felt that the equipment was old, hard to use and a bit dangerous. The main armament rounds which we were to fire were left over from WW2. They were very sensitive, and we were warned that if they were placed breech end down on a grain of sand they could explode.

‘After corps training, I was posted to Enoggera Army Base in Brisbane with B Squadron, 2nd Cavalry as a Gunner/Sig. There were no 75mm guns at B Squadron, so I was put on Area Beautification for a couple of weeks. This consisted of gardening which I didn’t mind at all. I literally had to dig holes then fill them in again!

‘After a few weeks I was sent into the office to work as the Orderly Room Clerk. The Corporal was a Pom who was a cricket tragic so we spent most of our time watching the cricket tests between England & Australia on TV. We also played cricket every Wednesday afternoon. I had lived in Brisbane before being drafted into Nasho, so I felt right at home in Enoggera. I had actually worked on-site building these same Enoggera armoured compounds and offices a couple of years before being drafted. I remained at Enoggera until his time in Nasho was up.

‘At Scheyville I remember some of the 1/70 Cadets really well. Geoffrey Richardson, D Class, was the Chauvel Company CSM in Senior Term of 1/70. Geoff was a great bloke and played 5/8 for NSW Rugby before coming to Scheyville. He later went on to play for Australia in both Union and League. He was a fit bugger! Geoff was the 5/8 for Chauvel in the inter-company rugby and I was his half back. I was just there to pass the ball to him. But we had a few laughs. It was our chance to belt the staff who were game enough to play rugby against the Cadets. There were some good rugby players. Three I remember were Wal Muir, John Dun & Ron Holden but there were others. Colonel Studdert stopped the rugby because he reckoned there were too many injuries, and there were, mainly to the staff.

‘Michael Bryant, also of Chauvel Company, A Class, was removed from the course in his Senior Term. Mick was a good mate of mine, a Veterinarian from NSW. He gave Scheyville his best shot and was very disappointed when they removed him. Mick was not an aggressive bloke, and maybe that was why he was removed. But, in my experience, Cadets were not told why they failed and were treated badly.

Ian Keightley, another from Chauvel Company, C Class, completed Junior & Senior Terms and was then ordered to repeat. He left Scheyville on the same day as myself. I remember him well as he borrowed money from me, and others, on the morning we left Scheyville “to get his clothes out of the laundry”. I have not heard from him since. Keightley had been a Trooper in Armoured Corps before coming to Scheyville. He had a burning desire to graduate as an Officer and he gave Scheyville his best shot. He was known for his frequent references to Armoured Corps. His solution to most tactical problems was to use Armour. His favourite saying was “Up the guts with plenty of smoke”.

One day on the 9-day exercise in the Colo-Putty Keightley and I were the Scout Group for the section. The section had been sent to clear a gully on the side of the valley the company were moving through. We were creeping through the bush when Keightley spotted the two “enemy” in a small cave at the base of a cliff. He went to ground for a few seconds, and we talked about what to do. Then without warning he yelled out “Cover me” and took off full bore towards the enemy. As he ran, he was screaming out “Bullets, Bullets, Bullets!” He was zigzagging, then rolling over on the ground, up again, then more “Bullets, Bullets, Bullets!” As he approached the cave he screamed out “grenade” a couple of times while making throwing motions. I think he must have killed the enemy. I’m not sure as I was rolling around in the grass killing myself laughing at his antics. He probably would have made a good officer because he liked the Army and took it all very seriously.

‘Simon Wray, A Class, was removed from the course in his Junior Term. Simon came from Tasmania. He was a Solicitor and hated the Army. He went to the RAP on many mornings and was often late for the first class. He always sat at the back of the class and often went to sleep. He made it quite plain that he was not going to conform.

‘Bob Lavender, A Class, missed quite a bit of the course. He was a good bloke who sustained a leg injury and his leg was in plaster or heavily strapped for weeks and it appeared that he did not attend classes or field exercises for weeks. It also appeared that he did not have to do tests & exams etc. Despite missing this time, he is one who ‘got through’ without completing the whole course.

'Bob Dahlstrom, A Class, 2/70, completed Junior Term. I am unsure if he was removed or resigned from Scheyville, but I think he resigned on the same day as myself. Bob came from Melbourne, hated the Army and was quietly uncooperative. Some mornings he just did not get out of bed to go to breakfast or parade. When the inspecting officer opened the door to his room, they never questioned him and assumed he was sick and would just say something like "Oh, RAP!" and leave him be. He never got caught. After leaving Scheyville Bob went to Armoured Corps in Puckapunyal with me. He went home to Melbourne most weekends. One weekend he did not come back. I believe the Army did not try too hard to chase him.

'I visited Scheyville many years after National Service ended, probably 1992. The place was deserted with empty buildings and doors banging and papers blowing around in the wind. Most of the buildings were intact but dilapidated. The southern end of the Cadets Mess was missing and open to the elements. A Caretaker was the only person there. He said he was there when it was the OTU, knew all the staff like Colonel 'Jack' Studdert, Captain Kevin Lunny etc, and he told me about some of his experiences at OTU.

'Two of the stories he told me:

The graduates went home for Xmas after one of the last Graduations (probably 3/72 in December 1972 – Ed.) The next morning the Staff realized that one of the lions were missing from outside headquarters. Colonel Studdert ordered all Graduates to return to Scheyville regardless of where they were in Australia. He put them on parade and demanded to know who had stolen the lion. Eventually Captain Lunny, a SAS officer and an OTU Instructor owned up. He said that he had got drunk and took the lion. Lunny was one of the few staff that I liked and respected. He was a tough soldier but hilarious!

'When the Labor government was elected on 2 December 1972, within days Prime Minister Gough Whitlam released all Nasho's from further service if they wished. It would not be until June 1973 when the National Service Act was actually abolished. The Cadets were told it was their choice to stay on the course at Scheyville or leave the Army. The Cadets went on parade late at night on the night before the new laws commenced (on 5 December). On the stroke of midnight most of the cadets ran off the parade ground, down the road past the Headquarters and out of Scheyville. Those Cadets were shouting abuse at the staff as they knew the staff couldn't do anything about it. Only a few of the Cadets stayed. The Caretaker said the course became very easy and all Cadets who stayed graduated.

'The blokes at Scheyville are the most impressive group of men I have ever been associated with. All the Cadets were very intelligent most with high moral standards, athletic ability, good natured etc. It was always a pleasure to see how clever some of those fellas were either in the field or the classroom.

'While at OTU Lionel I impressed with a Lieutenant Kelvyn Ryan (a former Nasho who graduated at OCS in December 1967) who was a very clear and concise teacher. His teachings gave us a factual background to understand the Vietnam War. He taught of the history of Vietnam going back 3,000 years when some people migrated from China and some came from near Nepal (Hmong). He learnt of colonization by France and Britain, the invasion by the Japanese, the rise of the Vietmin Nationalist movement and the defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu by General Giap. Then the United Nations divided the country into North and South and set a date for free elections. These elections were never held in South Vietnam as they were blocked by the United States and other western powers. And so, the Vietnam War began.'

There was a lot I liked about Scheyville. All the bush work and exercises, learning about, then using weapons and tactics, navigation, the Army 'Method of Instruction' (the KISS principle, etc), meeting instructors like Sergeant Alcorn (The Angry Ant) and Captain Lunny who were experienced soldiers. There was also a Warrant Office from the Training Team in Vietnam who taught us Field Craft. He bought a Viet Cong flag one day and told us how he was in a fire fight and did not glorify it.

'There is a lot of history in the Scheyville story. All Cadets would have a story to tell regardless of whether they graduated, were removed or resigned.'

Editor's note: Class 3/72 commenced with 58 March Ins and 2 Repeats. 37 March ins and the 2 Repeats stayed on the Graduate post 2 December 1972. Class 4/72 Commenced with 52 March Ins. 23 Stayed on and Graduated. Some of those who stayed on, like the late Gary Ticehurst, served in the Army for years.

The Editor is looking to fill in as much detail as he can for the March Ins who did not graduate. If you can help with the first names of the following from Class 1/70, and when they left the course, it would be appreciated! Members from Classes 4/69, 1/70 or 2/70 may remember their names!

A Corder, Finlayson, D J Grecian, R J Hunwick, R J Jarvie, Kelly, H H Lohse, BF McDonald and W McDonald, S McKay, G J Miller, M J O'Brien, E J Parsons, M J Pederson, Roberts, P J Shaw, L A Spencer, I R Walkley and M Gavin Welch.

War Diaries to be Digitised

For our researchers: Over the next three years the AWM's Research Centre will be digitising the War Diaries of WW2 and making them available online. Researchers will be able to access the high-quality images of the War Diaries of the 2nd AIF and Citizen Military Force as well as those unit stationed in Japan as a part of the Commonwealth Occupation Force. Unit diaries relate to the day-to-day events and contain useful appendices such as Routine Orders, Field Returns, Intelligence Reports and maps. Diaries will be put online as the project progresses

Books - Long Tan: A Reappraisal (Fred Fairhead, OTU DS 1970 – 73) mfred@bigpond.com

A quality production of 52 pages including eight maps/sketches, nine photographs and a description of all enemy weapons, D Company weapons and support weapons used during the battle.

Price: \$20.00 which includes postage and signed by the author. (\$30 for overseas orders). Payment can be made by EFT to: MF and DK Fairhead; BSB: 105-073; Account Number: 2851 10541 (Ref: your name)

or by cheque (Payable to MF Fairhead) posted to 24 Hamilton Street, Erindale, SA, 5066

Also available through the 6 RAR Association.

'The Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966 was the greatest challenge faced by an Australian infantry company during the Vietnam War. Despite suffering significant casualties, D Company, 6 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, succeeded in holding off a regiment-sized enemy Main Force unit, comprising both North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong elements.

'This reappraisal draws on several new sources including recently declassified Signals Intelligence records and translations of Vietnamese unit histories. Initially, the Australian Government failed to act on obvious signs of an imminent large-scale enemy operation. Then, arguably the Vietnamese succeeded in luring D Company out of the defensive Australian base at Nui Dat and into the Long Tan rubber plantation where an ambush was set up.

'D Company responded with skillful and courageous infantry tactics but was largely saved by the intervention of artillery in what was the largest Australian artillery barrage since WW2. In failing light and heavy rain, victory was assured by the arrival of Australian reinforcements including M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers. This allowed the battlefield to be secured against further attack.'

The author, Fred Fairhead, is a Vietnam Veteran who served from 7 May 1969 until 28 May 1970 with 6 RAR during its second tour as a Company Commander. He retired from the Australian Army in 1985 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Fred was a Directing Staff at OTU from 14 September 1970 to 4 June 1973 as both SI AFT Wing and SI OCS Tactics Wing.

Readers may also wish to contact [David Sabben \(1/65\)](#) who has also written extensively on this battle.

WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DID

Fought in Operation Hammersley

Operation Hammersley began on 10 February 1970 as a routine security operation when C Company, 8 RAR, along with a troop of M113A1 Armoured Personnel Carriers from 3 Cavalry Regiment, a troop of Centurion tanks from 1 Armoured Regiment and a mortar section from 8 RAR's Support Company were deployed to protect 17 Construction Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers at a quarry on the western foothills of the Long Hai hills. An Australian War Memorial 'Blog' is available at:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/operation-hammersley-50th>

This is the battle for which OTUs Peter Lauder (2/66) was awarded a Military Cross. Adrian Lombardo (1/65) was wounded in this same action.

WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DO:



Trevor Fuelling graduated from OTU with Class 2/68 and after Corps Training at SME Casula, saw out his National Service with 22 Construction Squadron. Among his other activities now, Trevor is a Welfare Officer for the Toowoomba Sub-branch of the RSL.

One of the veterans that Trevor has visited is Keith Dwyer, a now 96-year-old WW2 veteran, who was recently in St Vincent's Private Hospital in Toowoomba. Keith was working as a civilian on the wharves when the zeros arrived at Darwin in 1942. The damage to the wharves and shipping was extensive, so he was a lucky survivor.

In June 1945 Keith joined the RAAF. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman on 14 May 1946.

Tour Guiding - Viet Nam (Gary McKay, 2/68)

The response to the VietNam tour in May, advertised through The Scheyvillian 3 of 2019, was terrific with 17 starters - until the coronavirus epidemic hit. As at the time of going to print we were waiting on advice from Foreign Affairs and the WHO on whether or not to tour. Regardless we will be continuing to tour in August unless the world falls apart and again next year.

Affected by the Corona Virus? (Frank Shellabear, 2/66)

Hi all, up here in the USA, Corona beer sales have been hit hard by the Corona virus scare - no, I'm not making it up. The virus is tragic, so I'm not making light of it. However, as the attached shows, I'm doing my bit to help boost Corona beer sales. It's shit beer, which makes the sacrifice even greater. Cheers. The other Frank! For those with poor eyesight, the label on the bottle in the Stubby Holder reads, you guessed it, Corona!



Support the Army Reserve - Exercise “Steele Tuff 2019” (Alistair Pope, 4/66)

9 RQR held Exercise “Steele Tuff 2019” at the Greenbank Training Area on 22/23 November in extremely hot and dry conditions. Patron Major General John Pearn AO RFD, Peter Rogers DFC (3/66), Paul Brown and Bob Collins attended and Peter and Bob were accommodated overnight at BHQ training area. There were six sections competing and the exercises consisted of section tactics, live firing on a number of different ranges, a tactical load carrying exercise and a first aid and evacuation exercise based on an IED explosion. It was interesting to see the new live firing ranges, which are fully automated and now contain moving targets as well as the usual standing targets. It is possible for targets to be simultaneously on the 100, 200, 300 metre ranges at the same time. The winning Section was from A Coy, Caboolture, and the presentation was made by Maj Gen Pearn. The venue for the presentation was in a bush clearing dining night venue with 9RQR Colours on a stand behind the Head Table, a raised stand for presentations between the Head Table and four long tables set out for the assembled gathering. A generator set well back from the clearing provided lighting, although there were a couple of dim times. Portaloos had been set up and the overall scenario was extremely pleasant. 9 RQR catering staff provided a three-course meal with a choice of steak or chicken for the main course.

Take Souvenirs (Peter Whitelaw, 3/66)

During a visit to Scheyville site many years after graduating, when some of the rooms were still intact, I found my room and on the outside of the door was the usual white nameplate. This plate had been painted over many times and the name of the next occupant had been stencilled on in black paint many times. My visit was so many years later that the nameplate had weathered back to 1966 to show my name “WHITELOW” quite clearly. I removed it as a souvenir (to save it going to the tip).



It would be interesting to know what other souvenirs are being held by Scheyvillians. – Ed.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO:

Whatever Happened To: Robert Lavender, 1/70



In 1965 40,300 men registered for National Service. The plan was to ‘Call Up’ 4,200 men in 1965 and eventually raise the strength of the Army with 13,800 National Servicemen. With the low birth-rate in 1945 due to many men being away during WW2, to obtain sufficient fit men to make the required numbers 96 birthdates of a possible 181 dates were drawn. On 30 June 1965 750 men commenced Recruit Training at 1 RTB Kapooka, while a further 1,350 commenced at 2 RTB Puckapunyal. While the Private level Nashos were ‘Called-Up’ in fairly consistent numbers of around 2,100 per intake, strangely, the officers trained for each intake were highest in the first intake each year. This was no doubt brought about by the high percentage of first intake recruits each year who had deferred their Nasho to complete a qualification. But it did

make for ‘peaks and troughs’ among officer number, although overall there were 250 National Servicemen and Air Cadets who graduated each year from OTU.

Of the seven full years of NS, the largest graduation was Class 1/71 with 107 (from 144 March Ins), followed by Class 1/67 with 97 (137), Classes 1/68 and 1/70, both with 92 (128), Class 1/66 with 79 (116), Class 1/72 with 82 (109) and Class 1/69 with 76 (106). Note that graduate number include Repeats.

Note also that Class 1/65, a mid-year intake, graduated 76 from 106 March Ins with one of the higher percentage pass rates, being three points above the long-term OTU pass rate of 69%.

With the first class of each year being larger, their members are probably better known among the readership. Some of the well-known Class 1/70 graduates were the late Tony Sonneveld, once the Chairman of the OTU Association, Ray Andrews (at least well-known in Victoria), the long-time MC for the Victoria Chapter Dinners and Ian Mathers (killed in action in Vietnam in 1971).

Possibly one of the lesser known of Class 1/70 is Bob Lavender. Robert Moore Lavender was born in Sydney in 1949 and completed his secondary education at Belmore Boy's High School, in Sydney's south-west, where he had served for many years in the School Cadets. Looking for a change from Sydney, he applied for both Wagga and Bathurst Teacher's Colleges. He was accepted at Wagga Teacher's College and after two most enjoyable years graduated as a Student Teacher with the NSW Department of Education.

In 1969 he won the "big lottery" and, before actually commencing as a teacher, began his NS journey at 1 RTB Kapooka on 28 January with the first intake of 1970. Before he knew it, he had successfully completed OTU selection and 'Marched In' to Scheyville on 13 February!

Bob's family connection with the 'services' was his Dad's WW2 RAAF service. Bob enjoyed the physical and intellectual challenges of Scheyville, but despite his previous School Cadet service, he found early mornings, room inspections, uniforms and weapons care tough going. He claims that he performed satisfactorily in Junior Class, but early in Senior Class, while participating in an inter-class rugby game he suffered a severe 'impact injury' to his left quadricep and thigh. That evening in the OTU RAP his thigh swelled up seriously and he was rushed to Windsor Hospital for treatment. In all, he spent 2 - 3 weeks in hospital and further time on 'Light Duties' on his return to Scheyville. The plan was for class notes to be sent to him in hospital to assist him with the lessons he missed. The notes never arrived!

Bob vividly remembers trying to complete the theory paper on Infantry Tactics on his return to Scheyville. He stated that he had absolutely no idea what was being asked, but with his teacher training background, and being reasonably good at creative writing, he 'gave it his best shot'. Of course, he failed that exam! Maybe his civilian qualifications helped as Bob graduated on 16 July into the Royal Australian Army Education Corps, and like many of the RAAEC Graduates was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant. He did, however, carry a slight limp into the OTU Class 1/70 Graduation Ceremony!

Lt Lavender was posted to 3 TB Singleton, spending about fourteen months there working with NS Recruits and assisting other serving personnel achieve good educational results. Bob recalled that his most interesting job at 3 TB was as the Secretary to the OTU Selection Panel. This role gave him a vivid insight into how OTU participants were selected by senior Army personnel. The panel was usually the Commandant, a senior Psych Officer and the base Adjutant. Bob doesn't recall too many of the other NS officers at 3 TB but does 'remember a few delightful events shared by a terrific bunch of young NS officers.' (His classmates at 3 TB were, left to right below: Wayne Banks, Gordon Deans, Ken Latter, Rob Thornley, Laurie Fletcher and Brian Donegan refer to Vale.)



Post NS, Bob's first school was Athelstane Public School in Arncliffe, not far from Mascot. He remained with the NSW Education Department for his working career, rising to Principal (for 25 years), then a Relieving School Inspector, before retiring in 2009. Like so many OTU Graduates, Bob acknowledges that the 'Scheyville Experience' helped shape the person he became!

Leigh Treyvaud (4/67) Leigh was born at Yinnar in the east of Victoria. After some family moves around the state when his father, a School Principal, was posted to country schools they finally settled in Williamstown.



Schooling was at Wesley College. On leaving in year 12 Leigh worked with G. J. Coles for 18 months as a trainee manager before moving into advertising until call up.

Photo: left to right are Matthew Fawkner, Leigh Treyvaud and Nicholas Pearson. Photo taken Senior Term' circa Jan 1968

On 11 March 1966 Lt Gen Henry Wells drew Leigh Treyvaud's 'birthdate 'marble out in the third ballot. Due to his tertiary studies Leigh had a 'deferment 'of eighteen months. He underwent the medical examination and finally received a letter, dated 15 August 1967, stating "you have been found to meet the medical standards required and therefore are fit for service in the Army". The letter advised that he should report to the Engineer Depot in Swan Street, Richmond on 4 October 1967. Leigh would commence with the fourth intake of 1967.

From the Swan Street Depot, the new 'Recruits 'were bussed to Puckapunyal. Leigh decided that officer training sounded good and went through the OTU Selection process and was selected for officer training. Unlike some intakes that were flown from Mangalore (near Puckapunyal) to RAAF Richmond, near Windsor, the 4/67 selectees were bussed to Essendon Airport for a commercial flight to Sydney.

Leigh's Class 3/67 'Father 'was Dennis O'Hara. Dennis did not graduate, and Leigh was left an 'Orphan'! In his Senior Term, like all fourth-class Cadets each year, Leigh had more than one 'Son'. He was fortunate only to have two 'Sons', whereas some, such as Don Ramsay, had three.

In his Senior Class Leigh remembers a 'Map Reading Exercise 'where with three others who did not graduate, Bruce Quartermaine, 'Jack 'Keall and Bill McLaughlin, participated in and together got terribly lost. Jack and his wife Sandy are fairly regular visitors to Victoria and the Kealls and Treyvauds have maintained a strong friendship over the years.

About seven weeks into his senior term Leigh decided that being an officer was not for him, so on 10 March 1968 he 'pulled the pin 'and left the Battalion of Officer Cadets, the same day as Alan Boyle. Leigh wasn't keen on going to Vietnam and requested a posting to the RAAC so that he could work with tanks that, at that time, were not going to Vietnam. Little did Leigh know that, just a few weeks earlier, in February 1968, C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment had been sent to Vietnam, with a strength of 20 Centurion tanks.

After completing a Gunner/Signaller course for Centurions, Leigh was posted to B Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment. Some weeks after completing the course, Leigh rejected the Army's 'kind invitation to travel to SVN as a reinforcement'. He was posted to HQ Squadron while those in charge tried to work out what to do with him.

Leigh said that he took this stand as he didn't believe in Australia's presence in SVN and as a Gunner, expressed doubts about his ability to carry out those duties, therefore putting lives at risk. Leigh said that he was rather taken back by the understanding and support he was given by hierarchy - particularly by his then Squadron OC Captain Colin Toll. In the end Leigh was made a Clerk to Padre James Alenson 'Alan ' Greenshields who, as a Chaplain with HQ Puckapunyal Area from 28 March 1968, was attached to 1st Armoured Regiment. A clerical course at Broadmeadows for about 10 weeks from October 1968 got Leigh 'out of their hair 'for a while and he saw out the remainder of his two-year commitment in that Clerical role.

On discharge Leigh returned to work in advertising agencies for a number of years before he had a change of direction in careers and took a marketing position in a large family firm of Melbourne funeral directors, later being appointed as General Manager. Over time, the role changed some-what and Leigh became more involved in the funeral operations. A couple of moves to other firms in Melbourne saw Leigh conclude his funeral directing career after 30 plus years and retiring in 2005 to 'take time to smell the roses'

Probably like the majority of those DNGs (and graduates) that went through Scheyville, Leigh believed that he benefitted from his time there and the training received, so had no regrets. He also believed that it was a pity that conscription was so selective and that those selected gave up two years to the country while over 90% of the others got on with their life and careers. The other great benefit of attending Scheyville and the subsequent posting to RAAC meant that Leigh met Carol while on weekend leave in Melbourne and they married nine months later in January 1969. That was a good reason for Leigh to want travel each day from their home unit in Gardenvale to Puckapunyal.

About six years ago Leigh and his, still, wife Carol moved to Ocean Grove and the first neighbour they met was Leigh Collins (1/70). The Collins' live directly behind the Treyvaud's. Leigh Collins and wife Diane and Carol and Leigh Treyvaud spend quite a bit of time socialising when they are home and are not travelling. Amazing where Scheyvillians meet up!

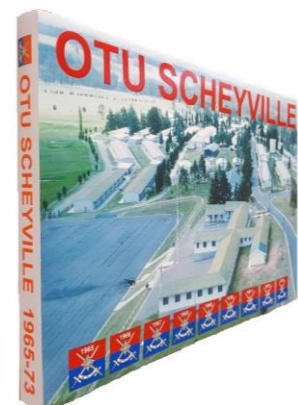
The OTU Scheyville 1965-73 Pictorial Book

There was a fantastic demand for the "OTU Coffee Table Book" with the first print run of 400 copies sold out.

A second smaller print run was ordered, and these are now in stock. As with all smaller print runs, the cost per unit is higher.

These new books can be ordered through the OTU website.

Note: To avoid any confusion on delivery, such as 'Local Pick Up', delivery will only be made by mail, with the appropriate charge.



The photographs in the book were selected from those held by the association on the 'Gallery' on the website. Names on these photographs have been shown as they appeared on the website at the time of printing. Scheyvillians are encouraged to visit the website and look at their class photographs, their Senior Class photographs, and their Junior Class photographs and advise the Editor of any missing names or any corrections advised.

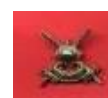
The Editor would like to hear from any NS Officers who had CMF Service prior to NS who were then given a NS Number and any Air Cadets who had previous CMF Service!

Q STORE (Order through the Website)

- 40th Reunion Badge (49):** \$5 incl P&H
- OTU Lapel Badges (3):** \$9 incl P&H
- 1993 OTU Reunion VHS Tape (1):** \$15 incl P&H
- 2003 Reunion DVD (6):** \$15 Incl P&H
- The Scheyville Experience DVD (3):** \$15 incl P&H
- The Scheyville Experience VHS (1):** \$15 incl P&H
- OTU Ties (12):** \$35 incl P&H
- Window Stickers (81):** \$4 incl P&H
- National Service Officer Recruit Training Film DVD (3):** \$15 incl P&H
- The OTU Scheyville 1965-73 Pictorial Book (50):** \$80 incl P&H



40th Reunion



OTU Lapel



OTU ASSOCIATION 2020/21 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Website: www.otu.asn.au

INVOICE ABN 26 390 124 006	Please return by 31 July 2019 Cheques payable to OTU Association	
MAIL TO: Treasurer OTU Association PO Box 540 BLACK ROCK VIC 3193 CONTACT: (03) 9533 1810 rayelder45@gmail.com	Annual Subscription July 2019 to June 2020 Donation to Youth Leadership Development Total Cheque/Cash Enclosed <i>(For Direct Debit payment see below and please remember to update our database or return this form so that your contact details can be confirmed)</i>	\$50.00 \$ _____ \$ _____
MEMBERSHIP DETAILS UPDATE		
Personal Details:		I Have Retired Yes / No
Title/Rank:		Work Details (If Applicable):
First Names:		Position:
Last Name:		Organisation:
Wife/Partner:		Industry:
Address:		Address:
Town/Suburb:	Town/Suburb:	Postcode:
State:	Postcode:	Work Phone:
Home Phone:		Work Fax:
Personal Mobile:		Work Mobile:
Personal Email:		Work Email:
Personal Web Address:		Work Website:
Class:		Any Comments:
Corps:		
Regimental No:		
Awards:		
I am a new member: <input type="checkbox"/> I am a continuing member: <input type="checkbox"/>		I am no longer interested. Please delete me from the database: <input type="checkbox"/>
For Office Use:		<i>(Please Indicate)</i>
		You will need to know the following information to pay your Membership using Direct Debit: Bank – National, BSB – 083 298, Account No. 56-687-0611, Reference – Surname and/or Regt No.

Membership Drive

Please list details below of those who shared the Scheyville experience who you think **may not be current members** of the OTU Association. We will check against current membership lists and follow up non-members.

	NAME	CLASS	ADDRESS	EMAIL	PHONE NO
1					
2					
3					

STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS:

- Queensland:** Geoff Daly (4/70) 0403 171 478 seagull@bigpond.com
Back-up: Melanie Griffin (Mick Hart's secretary) mgriffin@clearyhoare.com.au
07 3230 5253 or Mick Hart mhart@clearyhoare.com.au
Monthly Luncheons: 2nd Thursday of the month
- NSW:** Gary McKay (2/68) 0411 574 019 garymckay@bigpond.com
Monthly Luncheons 3rd Wednesday of the month
- ACT:** Les Boag (4/68) 0418 210 348 les@boag.biz
Monthly Lunches Bruce Selleck (2/70) 0407 163 108 bselleck@bigpond.net.au
- SA:** Gary Vial (3/69) 0414 762 525 garyvial@ctmc.com.au
Advised through SA Contact List
- Tasmania:** Dennis Townsend (2/70) 0419 313 855 det47@y7mail.com
Ray Williams (2/71) 0447 006 034 adaptbm@bigpond.net.au
Quarterly lunches advertised by email
- Victoria:** Frank Miller 0401 140 762 millerfw@netspace.net.au
Bernie Gleeson 0414 702 905 berjungleeson@bigpond.com
Monthly Lunches, 2nd Wednesday
Brian Cooper 0418 373 874 bctcooper@gmail.com
- WA:** David Ward (2/66) WA Chapter Chairman/Hon Treas 0417 927 146 david.ward@taxhut.com.au
Frank LeFaucheur (1/71) Lunch Co-ordinator 08 9246 2666 lefauche@inet.net.au
Jay McDaniell (3/69): 0438 959 050 mcdaniell@ozemail.com.au

Quarterly lunches on the first Friday of the month of February, May, August and November at The Sorrento, 158 James Street, Northbridge. Parade time is 1300 hr. Warning-in is required with bookings to be confirmed CoB on the Wednesday before via email to Frank LeFaucheur.

THE BACK PAGES



Terry Benjamin (1/69) has provided a photo taken in that mad first two-weeks of Recruit Training at 2 RTB. He named the four men, who all went to OTU, as himself, John Bendeich, an un-named Recruit and John Britton.

John Britton believes that the un-named Recruit was a Rod or Rob Spargo. The 1/69 Graduates, Repeats and Non-graduates list refers to him as Rod Spargo.

If anyone from 1/69 can confirm Spargo's first name, please advise the Editor!



2/68's Trevor Fuelling photo of RAE 22/69 Regimental Officers' Course 4 Feb - 13 May 1969.
Rear
 6 Hobson 3/68
Centre
 1 Grills 2/68
 2 Thearle 2/68
 3 Patterson 3/68
 4 Weingott 2/66
 5 Hodgkinson 3/68
Front
 2 Lewis 2/68
 3 Fuelling 2/68
 8 Skeoch 3/68

Below: Tim Overall (2/69) in 1969.



Right: Sgt Ken Morcom and Lt John Retallick (1/66) at Idlers Bay, PNG, February 1968.



Below: Robyn and Tony Beddison, who married in 1976.



Right: 2/67s Ian Kelly's photo of the OTU Pavers at North Head Memorial Walk, Sydney.

Some paperwork shows a 21 week course, some 22 weeks!

The average course length was 21 weeks.

