



The Scheyvillian

Prepared on behalf of the OTU Association National Committee

OTU Association National Newsletter, No. 3, 2020

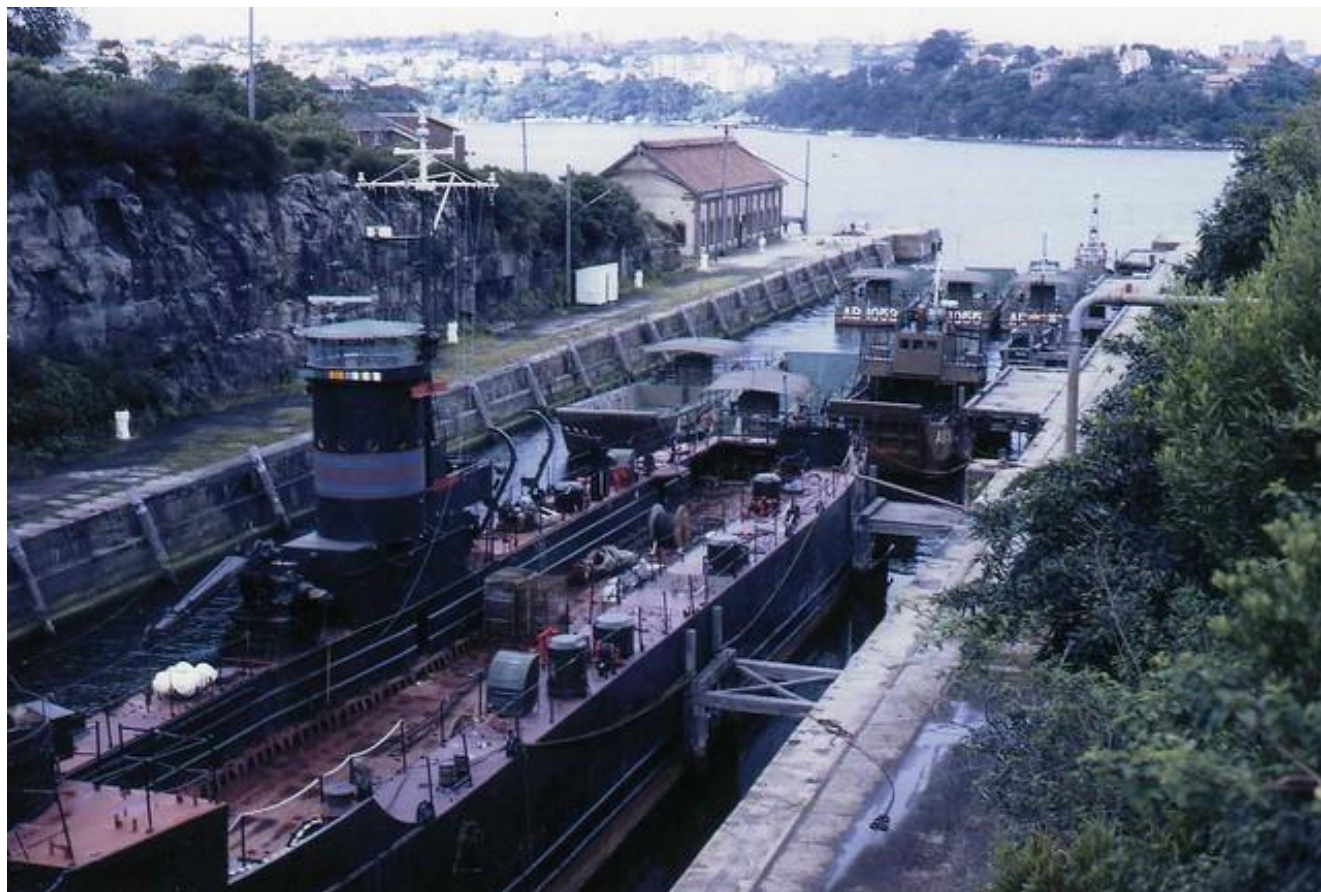
Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, NSW 1965-1973
A Newsletter for all Scheyvillians

The COVID Special

COVID Virus or not, life goes on!

A lot of work has been going on during these last few months of restricted movement in parts of Australia. There has been a lot of new information placed on the OTU website with some new photographs in the Class 1/69, 4/70 and 1/71 Galleries. Spreadsheets have been updated on such areas as the "Structures and 'Fathers & Sons'".

If your article is not in this edition, it will be in the next one! Enjoy the read – Ed!



Apart from ASCO (Australian Service Canteens Organisation) the smallest number of graduates posted to any Corps was to 32 Small Ship Squadron, a part of the 'Engineers Transportation' shown as RAE (Tn). Mort's Dock (above) on Sydney Harbour was purchased for the Army as a base for their 'small ships'. Nine Scheyville Graduates were posted to 32 Small Ship Squadron, with eight serving in Vietnam.

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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.

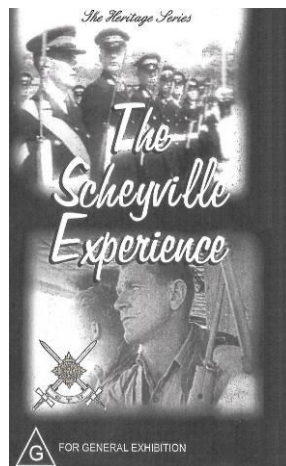
National Service Officer and the Don Keyes (4/69) produced 'The Scheyville Experience'

\$10 incl P&H

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 April 2021: It is planned to have Edition 1 of 2021 of *The Scheyvillian* in April 2021.

Submissions need to be received by 15 March 2021. 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, or with many photos, please send a disc/USB Stick.

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 the **10 Nov 20**, a summary of our FY 20/21 membership was:

Number of Graduates	1881			
Number on Database (Incl DNG/Staff)	2013			
Number Financial	576			
Widows	8			
Number Life Members	27			
Number Deceased			242	
Number Unfinancial (Contact Details - Not Renewed)			632	
Number Unfinancial (No Contact Details)			340	
Number Unfinancial (Do Not Contact)			188	
Totals	1881	2013	611	1402

Of the names on database 30.4% are financial/honorary/widows.

Of the names on the database 12% are deceased.

Of the names on the database 31.4% are unfinancial (not renewed)

Of the names on the database 16.9% are unfinancial (no contact details)

Of the names on the database 9.3% are unfinancial (do not contact)

At the end of the 19/20 FY we had **650** financial members and we have got off to a good start for 20/21 with 611 members renewing thus far. However, renewals have slowed considerably over the last two months. Interestingly, we have **88** members who were financial last year who have not yet renewed for this year. Our challenge now is to retain them, and more, to aim for **728**, a level last achieved in 2004.

For those of you who are yet to renew 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 next 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.

If you are no longer interested in supporting the OTU Association, please return the Membership Renewal Form (notated Accordingly) to help us refine our database.

From 'the Collection' (from Edition 2 of 2020):

Class 1/66 Rugby Team names are now complete.

See the OTU Website 1/66 Gallery for a full view.

Rear: Peter Griffiths, Neil Wheatley, John Woods, Bob Young, Tony Larnach- Jones, Roy James, Warren Campbell, Lloyd Anderson, Richard Nicholls, Brian Harris, Digby Mackworth

Centre: Jim Straker, William Tuck, Peter Morgan, Gary Reidy, Graeme Thomson, Richard Harpman, John Haddon *Front:* Kevin McAndrew, Graham Gibbons, Gary Hand, Ron Brooker, Don Gordon, Gary McKay, Graham Botright



Correction – Vale Jim Wheelock (2/72)

'A slip of the pen' in The Scheyvillian 2 of 2020 had Peter (Lloyd, 3/72) being cremated in Ballarat. Peter 'rose from the grave' to advise that he is alive and 'on this side of the turf'. Apologies to Peter it was Jim!

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

Website Galleries

Financial Members can access the 'Photo Galleries' on the website. There is provision for viewers to submit a 'Comment' on any photograph. This 'Comment' goes to the Editor, who maintains the 'Photo Galleries' and amends the photo caption in accordance with the 'Comment'. Members are encouraged to view their class, along with their Senior and Junior Classes, and make a 'Comment' on any photograph where they can add information to the caption, or perhaps advise of a correction required to the caption. New Galleries are regularly added, with a series of OTU Facilities Galleries being the recently added. Worth a look to refresh your memory of the facilities you once knew 'like the back of your hand'!

[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!](#)

Website Data

The OTU website data is continually being updated. New versions of the *Graduates, Repeats and Non-graduates, Structures and 'Fathers' & 'Sons'* and *Vietnam Service* are regularly updated. The next version of these spreadsheets will be available in early December. The Deceased List is updated with the Vales produced for each edition of The Scheyvillian.

National Committee

The National Committee has been meeting by 'Zoom', the latest meeting being held on 11 November 2020.

Information Distribution

Newsletters and emails distributed by the OTU website in the last month have been:

Duntroon Society Newsletter	National
Funeral Details for Alan McDonald	National
OTU Website – Vietnam Service Update	National
50 th Anniversary of the loss of RAAF Magpie in Vietnam	Victoria
OTU Website Structures	National
OTU Photo Galleries	National
Death of Alan McDonald (Duntroon Society)	Victoria
Duntroon Society Victoria Luncheon 15 October 2020	Victoria
A final request from Bill Forbes	National
OTU Parade Ground Photos	National
The Prostate Cancer Foundation's "Long Run" – Bill Forbes	National
OTU Structure and Fathers & Sons Project	National
OTU Website Galleries	National
Your ideal Christmas Present - Dick Whitaker 1/69	National
Updates of Projects for OTU Members on our Website	National

[Note that the Editor has also used the Website to send out information to members – Ed.](#)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

OTU National Reunion 2020 postponed due to COVID Restrictions until 2021

With the Covid19 virus and its implications causing the cancellation of this year's National reunion it has been agreed to reschedule the event to October 2021. It will still take the same format and be held in the same location as the abandoned function.

There will be a formal mixed dinner at the Hawkesbury Racing Club on Friday 15 October 2021. Saturday 16 October will be set aside for individual class reunions and there will be a picnic luncheon at Scheyville on Sunday 17 October.

Further details will be made known early next year. Please put these dates in your diaries!

Class 1/71 50th Anniversary of Graduation Reunion 14-18 October 2021

Class 1/71 graduated on 14 July and pinned on their 'pips' at one-minute past midnight on 15 July 1971. Considering that the Army was withdrawing its forces from Vietnam, Class 1/71 commenced with the largest OTU intake: 144 Cadets made up of 141 with a 'Nasho' number and three with a CMF number. There were also five 'Repeats' from Class 4/70. Class 1/71 Graduated 104 of these Cadets, including one of the 'Repeats'. The pass rate was 70% being ever so slightly above the average!

Class 1/71 has decided to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their Graduation over the period 14 to 18 October 2021 - thereby enabling its members to participate also in the National Reunion being held over the weekend 15 to 17 October 2021 in the Scheyville/Hawkesbury region.

The class reunion will be based at picturesque Manly near North Head, the location of the former School of Artillery. The basic program is:

Day 1, Thursday, 14 October Arrive Novotel Manly Pacific, register and Meet and Greet activities.

Day 2, Friday, 15 October Sydney's Harbour History tour and National Reunion Dinner

Day 3, Saturday, 16 October Harbour Cruise and lunch at The Rocks

Day 4, Sunday, 17 October ANZAC Memorial Tour and Service, followed by Scheyville visit and lunch, with evening drinks and dinner at Quarantine Station North Head.

Day 5, Monday, 18 October Optional activities including tours of North Head, City sights, Victoria Barracks, followed by Reunion Review/Next Steps planning meeting, and Farewell Dinner.

Further details, including what's still a Provisional 'Welcome to Manly Booklet', can be obtained from former RD Col Sgt Class 1/71 3800697 Doug Miller on 0419 166 557 douglasmiller09@bigpond.com



Left: The Banner Party Marches On during the Queen's Birthday Parade 14 June 1971. Seniors, Class 1/71, are in the front with their Juniors, Class 2/71, along the rear. While the Seniors completed the full Slow March and Quick March component of the parade, the 'newbies' of the Junior Class would march in 'Column of Route' at the rear of the Seniors during the Quick March.

The Class 1/71 Gallery on the OTU Website contains photographs of the Queen's Birthday, Graduation Church and Graduation Parades.



Left: Bridges Company on Graduation Parade



Right: Class 1/71 Graduates with their Certificates.
(l to r) Ken Chegwidden, Robert Cook, Greg Delaney, John Forwood & Cpl Peter Giller. Second row Reid Moran, a smiling Clive Fraser with Ian Gossip behind him in the third row. Colin Hill is standing.

RECENT NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Class 1/70 Golden Jubilee 15 July 2020

After a Reunion lunch at Young & Jacksons Hotel Melbourne in April 2016, the thoughts of Class 1/70 members turned to our 50th Anniversary in 2020. With quite a few beverages on board, it was the general view that Scheyville was the appropriate venue for such a significant occasion, and three stalwart graduates (all based in the handy Hunter Valley-Sydney-Wollongong corridor) were “volunteered” to organise the event.

Memory at our age is a fascinating thing!! At the next Class 1/70 Reunion in Brisbane in April 2018, there was a “mini-rebellion” by some Class members who expressed the view that “we have done Sydney-Scheyville and we should go somewhere different for our 50th – we want Canberra on ANZAC Day”. As one of those original “volunteers”, Bill Moss (who favoured Scheyville in July) pointed out that there was no-one from our Class based in or near Canberra but undertook to survey the Class opinion. In a very close result, Canberra at ANZAC Day triumphed narrowly over Scheyville in July, and we were committed to Canberra. Planning proceeded but as notified previously in The Scheyvillian, the Canberra Reunion has been postponed to April 2021.

Meanwhile, some members of the Reunion organising team harboured rebellious thoughts of their own – to have a Golden Jubilee event at Scheyville in July as well!! Planning for a small event to be live streamed to the Class proceeded in secret, with an announcement planned for the Reunion Farewell Lunch in Canberra on Anzac Day 2020. When COVID-19 intervened, we had to make the announcement (on ANZAC Day 2020) by email instead.

On the Golden Jubilee of our Graduation (15 July 2020), 11 Class 1/70 members assembled at Scheyville – Fergus Bell, Jim Berry, Mal Boyd, John Dun, Richard Jeffkins, Craig Lee, Bill Moss, Rod Morehouse, Simon O’Brien, Robin Webcke and Terry Williamson. Nine members of this group were from that aforementioned Hunter Valley-Sydney-Wollongong corridor, but John Dun and Robin Webcke went above and beyond the call of duty by motoring down from Brisbane for the event.

As a celebration of our Golden Jubilee, we conducted a small parade based on our actual Graduation Parade, using the same music as in the original (without the band this time). The parade was live streamed on a Zoom Call, which was joined by 16 more Class 1/70 members (Ray and Maggie Andrews, Peter Balfe, Wayne and Pip Banks, Jon Bate, Lionel Bolton, John Brady, Alan Curtis, Ian Dundas, George Giummarra, Ron and Paula Holden, Jock Jeffries, Tony Lee, Kevin McCarthy, Wal Muir, Jack and Sue Parker, Craig Steel). The event included a special treat (a short video clip of our actual Graduation Parade in July 1970) compliments of Jack Parker, whose Dad had filmed Super8 footage that Jack converted for the Class. An “all in” chat session between the Scheyville team and the remote class members followed the end of the parade. The Zoom call was recorded and, after a lot of post-production editing, the resulting video has been uploaded to YouTube (duration 44 minutes). Any interested Scheyvillian readers can view that video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Algn95LaIMw> Jack Parker has since passed away. His Vale is on Page 36.

The phone signal at Scheyville was poor, highly variable and unstable. Since the video is a recording of a Zoom call, it is also highly variable and unstable. Even so, it is a memorable record of our Golden Jubilee Celebration. Viewers can compare our 1970 and 2020 marching skills – an interesting comparison indeed!! The marching group assembled one hour before the start and concluded that our memories would “click in” and practice was unnecessary. It seems that our memories failed us!! The briefing to the group had been that “having fun” was more important than “achieving precision” and we got that balance right - we had FUN!!

The event would not have been successful without the wonderful collective efforts of our ladies. Terry’s daughter Carolee Williamson was our live streaming technical advisor and she conducted the Zoom call. There were three iPhone cameras in action, operated by Margie Baillie, Jill Moss and Helen Williamson. Jill also acted as Presenter for the celebration. Since two of the ladies (Jane Boyd and Janet O’Brien) had

both been at Scheyville on 15 July 1970, they were perfect candidates to be joint Reviewing Officers for the celebration. Sally Bell, Janet Berry and Deborah Morehouse cheered us on from the viewing area.

COVID-19 restrictions had been an ongoing concern throughout final planning for the celebration. In July, the NSW limit for an outside gathering was a maximum of 20 persons. Like good Scheyvillians, the total attendance on the day was 20 persons exactly.

In good spirits, the team at Scheyville adjourned to the Beer Garden of the Cadets Mess for a picnic. The weather had been kind if overcast but it was July and it was chilly. A great day was had by all and it was the general view that it had been a fitting acknowledgement of our Golden Jubilee - and we had made it to SCHEYVILLE IN JULY after all!! Looking forward to Canberra in April 2021.

I have completed editing of the Class 1/70 Golden Jubilee video and it has been uploaded to YouTube. With her permission, I did include the clip provided by Rosemary Puddy.

To allow Class 1/70 members to download a copy of the video, I have also posted it to Google drive (6GB). If you think it would be a useful addition to the OTU Photo Gallery, you can download it from https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mbD5ru78Zu_catfhFuUAd2kfsXb0jKTK/view?usp=sharing

The video contains footage of our actual graduation parade in July 1970. However, since it can stand alone, it has been posted separately to Google Drive. If you would like to add this as a separate item to the OTU Photo Gallery, you can download a copy from https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SW_gFRL5Dw2lknAzZwJL0KpKFGZu5NSp/view?usp=sharing



Class 2/70 50-year Anniversary Report (Phil Paddison – the Paddle)

Letter to the ‘Scheyvillians of the Twentieth Time’ From the ‘Conscription Gospel’ of our Dominion. And it came to pass just weeks ago that our Forefathers gathered on the ancient fields of learning where they were anointed, two score years and ten ago. In the presence of there long-suffering handmaidens, eleven elders of their tribe eschewed the world plague and marched forth on the harsh and hallowed ground. Though frail of body they sallied forth to the sounds of trumpets and drums. They trembled at the majesty of their past achievements and they were thankful. And behold they saw a vision through the clouds numbering twenty of their tribe from distant lands and were overjoyed. Our forefathers then broke bread and drank wine in the courtyard not far from the barren ground of stones. Verily I say unto you that this was an epiphany and our Forefathers have shown the way for their sons to likewise rise against the plague and gather in remembrance of the day of their own anointment.

Hail those of the twentieth company, gird your loins and lift up your hearts to join with those of your countrymen to celebrate your struggles when it will soon be your own 'two score years and ten' that has passed. Think kindly of those of our tribe who remain but have lost their faith and fallen by the wayside, offer them your hand and return them to the fold. You may herald your solemn agreement to engage with your fellow disciples at the capital of your state and throughout the country by writing on your tablet a missive to twofseventy@outlook.com Blessed be those who take the track winding back!

And the real story:

The Twentieth Intake at Scheyville celebrated 50 years since Graduating on 3 October 1970. Under duress, with 'the plague' limiting gatherings and some still in isolation, we managed to recognise a significant anniversary for the class of 2/70. On 3 October 2020, we gathered where we were allowed and for those who couldn't travel, met by an Australia-wide video hook-up. We had just under 30 participants and accepted the passing of time with humour and mateship. Our elastic memories help adjust historical events to suit our faded recollections.

Lucky Dog (Geoff Williams) in Adelaide coerced reinforcements to meet at the Arab Steed Hotel and connect to the Zoom conference. Hyde Park ANZAC Memorial proved an ideal venue for the NSW members to share tall tales and true of adventures in the 70's and beyond. Bruce Selleck and Jeff Wilkinson travelled from Canberra to the Sydney gathering. As thirst became an issue, we marched in a disorderly fashion to the Crown Hotel for lunch and the internet big screen giggle (right).



50 years evaporated in quick time as we saw our reflections in the faces of the older grey men, no longer the young lions of 1970. From Hervey Bay, Brisbane, Hobart, and Perth we joined for a brief moment to savour what we shared then and still do now. In the lead up to our anniversary significant email and phone contacts were renewed and some lively conversations tested political correctness. Our memories have been revived and enjoyed with our unique mob. There's a track winding back



Peter Graham, Jim Stone, Stu Jones, Doug Springall, Bruce Selleck, Phil Paddison, Jeff Wilkinson, Andrew Fraser and Bob Lorsch

STATE ACTIVITIES:

ACT Chapter (Les Boag, 4/68) At the ACT monthly lunch in September, it was decided that the chapter would use the funds raised for Youth Development, to support the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). It was agreed to negotiate with Rotary to fund, up to a maximum of \$3,000 pa, for up to two youths per year to attend the locally conducted Rotary Youth Leadership training. The chapter agreed to seek to ensure with Rotary that the youths funded are those with leadership potential whose parents would not be able to fund their attendance. Further, the chapter looks to have them identified and have an opportunity to meet with them (which is what Rotary usually does).

ACT has been fortunate to be able to resume Monthly lunches at Royal Canberra Gold Club (RCGC) Yarralumla since July 2020 without the COVID-19 restrictions causing any significant problems. Again this year, the Monthly Lunches had been arranged by Bruce Selleck. We had about a dozen attend each monthly lunch, both prior to and after COVID-19. Due to compliance with COVID-19 spacing requirements limiting the numbers and a high demand, our mixed Christmas Lunch at RCGC had to be held on Thursday 19 November 2020. Again, the administration skills of Bruce Selleck were highlighted with a wonderfully enjoyable and excellently organised event. Jeff Wilkinson 2/70 gave a toast to our Fallen Comrades and Greg Todd 2/71 gave a toast to the Ladies. We were fortunate three of our past members widows were able to join us and we welcomed Bill's wife Jenny Watson, Neil's wife Marion Mitchell and Colin Ward's wife Leena Parnell.

When we held our Christmas Lunch last year at RCGC we were enduring the start of months of choking bushfire smoke and that was followed by a massively destructive hailstorm and then COVID-19 struck. We have been fortunate to not have any local COVID transmissions in the ACT for over six months. While complying with social distancing we have been able to continue our lunches with only minor adjustments. Our mixed Christmas lunch was a great success and a wonderful way to finish this year for the ACT Chapter in a truly delightful location where we enjoyed delicious food and fine wines to compliment the great company.



Left: (1 to r) Pam and Jeff Wilkinson, Mike and Sue Buick, Leena (Ward) Parnell, Brook and Jacqui Thorpe. Right: Joan and Greg Montieth, Marion Mitchell, Les and Dawn Boag, Wayne and Liz Mayo.



Left: (1 to r) Vija Todd, Lorraine Kimpton, Greg Todd, Andy Kimpton, Kay & Jim Gilchrist and Winston Bucknell. Right: (1 to r) John Herlihy, Brian and Jan Curren, Anne Hall, Bruce Selleck, Jenny Watson, Barb Selleck & Wal Hall

NSW Chapter (Phil Paddison 2/70)

The 3rd Annual OTU Stakes was held on Friday the 30th October. As an established precursor to the lesser known Melbourne Cup, members & trainers were invited to gather at the Albion Hotel, Wickham, alongside the Newcastle Marina. In previous years the race has drawn good crowds, but this year with the COVID restrictions the numbers were somewhat limited. However, COVID protocols were observed with invasive temperature checks guaranteed. Stewards and veterinarian staff were concerned at the viability of some of the runners, however oxygen and heart starters were available in the mounting yard. This event was an ideal opportunity to catch up with some of the field before being put out to pasture. The race was planned to start at 1300hrs (but 'nobbling' commenced at 1230hrs. The starting gates were set again at one furlong, the track was expected to be wet and the rail was set on the inside (close to amenities). Maps were issued to the attendees with directions to all except Infantry personnel as there are no crayons available for colouring in.



On the day, in a hotel far, far away

Connections were restricted from the meeting due to 'the plague', however, there was a strong gathering of thirteen owners and trainers. The chapter had representatives from Tuncurry to Sutherland in attendance. There were eighteen 'non-starters'. There was some controversy following the race with the Stewards in 'a deep and meaningful' after lunch (Right: Stewards Paul & John). Thanks to those brave souls that participated, may the corps be with you.



Queensland Chapter (Geoff Daly, 4/69)

The Queensland Chapter has returned to their old hedonistic ways and have re-started their monthly lunches at the Pig'n'Whistle on the second Thursday of every month at 12pm for 12:30pm. However, there have been a couple of changes. Mick Hart's passing and the COVID effect has caused Cleary Hoare to reorganise, and consequently Melanie is no longer able to do our secretarial work for us. Fortunately, one of the Queensland members, Doug Oliver, has been 'press-ganged' into the role, and while not being as good looking or as efficient as Mel it is believed he can do the job and he is thanked for that.

The first lunch for about 7 months was held on 8 October and was attended by twelve hardy souls. A toast was made in honour of Mick Hart and it was followed by a unanimous motion registering our deep

appreciation and heartfelt thanks to both Melanie and Steph for their support and without whom we would have struggled. They were the enablers that allowed Mick to form and grow the Queensland Chapter to the magnificent position it is in today.



From left:- Gary Basford (3/68), Peter Moody(2/67), Jim Box (1/66), Warwick Settree (4/69), Doug Oliver (4/71), Geoff Daly (4/69), Darryl Steer (3/68), Mike (Chook) Fowler (2/65), Don Keyes(4/69), Terry Benjamin (1/69), John Knack (4/72) and Owen Williamson (4/70).

South Australian Chapter (Gary Vial, 3/69)

Our first post-COVID (not that we've ever had it in pristine South Australia – **no longer true -Ed!**) lunch was on Wednesday 29 July with one of our best attendances in recent years - 20. Attendees were: Robert Bridge (RASvy 2/67), Neil Curnow (RAASC 2/68), Fred Fairhead (DS 70-72), Geoff Houghton (RAInf 3/71), David Morgan (RAAOC 3/72), Phil Verco (RAASC 4/71), Lee and Malcolm Nicolle (RAEME 1/70), Carolyn & David O'Reilly (RAInf 3/71), Annie & John Sierakowski (AACC 1/69), Libby & Gary Vial (RAInf 3/69), Michele & Ken Wagnitz (RAASC 2/71), Margaret & Geoff Williams (RAASC 2/70), Carol & David Zundel (RAInf 3/70)



On Saturday 3 October, Class 2/70 had an Australia-wide 'Zoom' Reunion to replace their planned get-together, but with only three members in SA, they were looking a little lonely, so all OTUers in SA were invited and as a result the numbers swelled to ten.

The SA Chapter normally has a 'Remembrance Day' lunch in November, but it has been decided to postpone it until December and have a combined Remembrance/Christmas lunch on Thursday 3 December. 'Best Wishes' to all for Christmas and 2021. It can't be any worse than this year!

Gary sent the photo at right of himself and former OTU Commandant 'Jack' Studdert taken at a reunion in the 'Sonneveld' years!

Tasmanian Chapter (Ray Williams, 2/71)

Hobart Lunch: The Tassie Chapter has now restarted the lunches again following the COVID shutdown. On Friday 28 August the venue selected was the Salamanca Inn Restaurant, named 'Bird Song'. During the shutdown the owners carried out some major renovations and the result was most impressive. As we had been on hold for a while it was pleasing to see a really good turn up for this lunch. Hopefully this might be the start of the 'new wave' of attendees!

Besides two late withdrawals, the following members attended:

From Left to Right: Anne Townsend, Ross Robbins (2/69), James Reid, Dianne Reid, Peter Dalkin (1/67 SUR), Paul Ferguson, Jean Howard, Ross Mace (1/67), Peter Bysouth (1/67) (Note, Peter is holding a bottle of Gin that was produced at Ross and Mary Mace's Distillery, named 'Lawrenny'); Mary Mace, Dan Huon (1/67), Pam Williams, yours truly (Ray, 2/71), Ian Howard (1/69), and Dennis Townsend (2/70). Absent from the photo was Chris Bysouth.



Apologies were received from: Gavan Connell (1/71, as always, Gavan asks that I pass on his best regards to the group as he still enjoys the 'quiet life' in South America), Margaret and Peter Williams (1/71), Viv and Noel McRoberts (O1/72)

Jenny and Ron Dennison (1/71), Joye Huon, Jane Robbins, and Lorraine Luff

Launceston Lunch: On Friday 20 November saw a larger than normal gathering at the Cataract Gorge Restaurant. Including partners, friends and blow-ins and the like, some 24 of us made the RV for an enjoyable (long) lunch. The food and wine flowed freely and thanks to Dan Huon's (1/67) organisation

the standard was raised 'significantly'! We had an attendance list, printed menu options and of course some 'stats' re class sizes, etc.... More info than we have had in many a year (we are just out of practice) Sadly the passing of Gavan Connell was acknowledged and we all had a toast to absent friends. The usual 'tall stories' were re-hashed and became longer and that more 'credible' with the passing of time. The restaurant management was appreciative of our patronage and did ask if he could re-set us for the evening meal!! - maybe that was the hint that lunch had finished(?). Overall a good time was had by all and our next gathering will be in the State's South; venue and timings to be advised in due course. Attendees: Akiko and Paul Ferguson (4/66), Chris and Peter Bysouth, Joye and Dan Huon (both 1/67), Peter Dalkin (SUR 1/67), Jane & Ross Robbins (2/69), Anne and Dennis Townsend (2/70), Dianne and James Reade, Margaret and Peter Williams, Jan and Leon Miller, Jenny and Ron Dennison (all 1/71), Pam and Ray Williams (2/71), Viv and Noel McRoberts (1/72) and Lorraine Luff. Apologies were received from Jean and Ian Howard (1/69), Stuart Mears (3/71) and Gavan Connell (1/71, responded prior to his passing). Photos in the 'Back Pages'.

Victorian Chapter

The COVID 'Lock Down' curtailed all 'face to face' OTU activities in Victoria since March. With now no cases in the state the Victorian chapter is looking forward to recommencing its monthly lunches.

The Victorian and National Committee has held its meetings using 'Zoom' and the meetings have progressed well. However, there is nothing like the networking of 'face to face' gatherings!



Above: Screen shot of the National AGM.

Western Australian Chapter (David Ward, 2/66)

Members of the WA Chapter held their traditional quarterly lunch at the Sorrento Restaurant (below), Northbridge, on Friday 11 September, 2020. A total of 21 were present: David Atkinson (2/65), Gary Bryant and Neville Gale (1/66), Michael Darby and David Ward (2/66), Lawrence Appleby and Bruce Thorpe (3/66), Elliott Neilsen (1/67), John Barnes (2/67), Glenn Williams (3/67), Paul Conti (3/68), Dennis Barton (4/68), Wayne Banks and Graham Mathieson (1/70), Steve McDonald (2/70), Pip Edwards, Frank LeFaucheur, Ron Packer and Lawrie Stanley (1/71), Barry Cooke (3/71) and Andrew Martindale (1/72). After a fine repast, with much merriment and refreshments, Michael Darby entertained the listeners with the words of a poet laureate, C J Dennis, that demonstrated his grand use of words of command with the rhyme and rhythm of the poetry. This was followed by the now traditional passing of the port, carried out with due ceremony.



We all look forward to our December get together, with 35 members already warned in. This is a healthy trend as more and more of our members become available to share the good company.

FEATURES:

COVID-19 Lock Down activities (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

During the COVID 'Lock Down' it was a case of 'look for one thing, find another'. While looking for a particular photo in the old Scheyvillians I found quite a number of photos in them that I did not recognise as being on the website. A check found that most of them were not on the website! Scanning the photos showed that the quality of the scans of photos in a newsletter was not going to look good on the website, or in a future Scheyvillian, so I set about finding out if I could obtain scans of the originals. I got 'more than I bargained for'! Readers should look at the OTU Website and see the new and revised galleries.

One discovery was 32 Small Ship Squadron

Since before Federation, soldiers in Australia have operated watercraft in various roles around the country. During WW2 the Army operated nearly 2,000 watercraft from Tobruk to the Pacific Islands Theatre. Post-war, our soldiers operated watercraft in Japan and PNG and more recently in conflicts such as Borneo, Vietnam, East Timor, The Solomon Islands and the Persian Gulf. A major operator of Army watercraft was 32 Small Ship Squadron, a unit raised in 1959 to transport Centurion Tanks from Puckapunyal to other parts of the country as the road and rail infrastructure could not handle the 52 tonne loads. As the RAN had no interest in such operations, the Army purchased four Ex-WW2 US Navy 'Landing Ship Medium' (LSM) to be crewed by soldiers of the RAE Transportation Service or RAE (Tn) and raised a new unit, the 32nd Small Ship Squadron.

The purpose of the LSM was to beach and allow tracked and wheeled vehicles to drive ashore via the ship's bow ramp. The LSM was 62 metres long, 10.4 metres wide, had a flat bottom with a draft of 1 metre forward and 2 metres aft with a load capacity of 150 tonnes, weighing 900 tonnes loaded. It was powered by twin 1,400 Horsepower Fairbanks Morse diesel motors and had an operational radius of 6,500 kilometres. As the displacement of the LSM was too large for the Army berths at the time of raising 32 SSS, the Army purchased the recently closed Mort's Dock at Woolwich, Sydney, taking over the dock in 1963.

The purchased LSMs were renamed after prominent Australian Army Generals:

Ex USN LSM 319 (Commissioned 10 August 1944) *AV1353 Harry Chauvel*
Ex USN LSM 477 (Commissioned 3 April 1945) *AV1354 Brudenell White*
Ex USN LSM 315 (Commissioned 13 July 1944) *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee*
Ex USN LSM 547 (Commissioned 25 January 1946) *AV1356 Clive Steele*

From 1960 to 1970 the LSMs performed routine duties in support of the Australian Army, and carried equipment between ports in Australia, New Guinea, Malaysia and New Zealand and all four sailed to South Vietnam. In 1965 the 32 SSS expanded by the Army buying the *MV Marra* from the Adelaide Steamship Company. The 1,400 Tonne 71-metre long coastal cargo ship was renamed was AS3051 John Monash.

The soldier/sailors had their own names for their ships:

AV1353 Harry Chauvel 'The Shovel' *AV1354 Brudenell White* 'The Broody Hen'
AV1355 Vernon Sturdee 'Burnin' Steady' *AV1356 Clive Steele* 'The Steel'
AS3051 John Monash 'Big John'

As the Australian involvement in Vietnam wound down, with the age of the LSMs and their ever-increasing maintenance requirements, the Army made the decision to sell them. 32 Small Ship Squadron was disbanded in 1971, with the *John Monash* being retained and operated by 1st Terminal Group until 1972 when it was also sold. Between them the five Ship sailed more than 1 million kilometres. A vibrant 32 Small Ship Squadron Association looks after the history of the Squadron.

Scheyvillians With 32 Small Ship Squadron

The first Scheyvillian to be posted to 32 Small Ship Squadron was also the Scheyvillian who spent the shortest time between graduating and landing in Vietnam (see The Scheyvillian 2 of 2020). Rick Bannan

(3/66) served in Vietnam on the *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* from **23 January 67** – 8 June 68 and returned on the *AV1356 Clive Steele* from 29 January 68 – 23 March 68. He was followed by Ian Blackman (4/66) who served on the *Clive Steele* from **31 May 67** – 4 December 67 and returned on the *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* from 12 February – 25 June 68. Peter Griffiths (1/66) served on the *Harry Chauvel* from **23 October 67** – 21 March 68. Brooke Thorpe (4/66) served on three tours the first two being on the *AS3051 John Monash* from **3 December 67** – 31 January 68 and 17 February – 31 March 68 returning on the *Clive Steele* from 18 June – 23 December 68. Marcus Blackmore (4/67) served one tour on the *Clive Steele* from **22 November 68** – 27 April 69. John Marsden (2/68) served two tours on the *AS3051 John Monash* from **6 December 68** – 10 January 69 and again from 10 February – 15 March 69. John Crundall (4/68) served two tours on the *Clive Steele* from **21 July 69** – 4 February 70 and 11 July 70 – 3 September 70. The last Scheyvillian was James Benton (1/69) who served two tours, one on the *Clive Steele* **5 November 69** – 2 March 70 and a second on the *Harry Chauvel* from 11 November – 15 December 70. With the overlap between the ships, except for a few months in 1969, there was a Scheyvillian in Vietnam on board a 32 SSS vessel between the start of 1967 and the end on 1970.

Rick Bannan was born on 17 October 1945 in London UK. He completed his secondary education at Knox Grammar School, Wahroonga and joined DalgetyNZL as a Cadet Manager. Rick had just finished his first state appointment in Queensland when called up for National Service on 20 April 1966. He went to Singleton where he underwent testing and was accepted for officer training at OTU, commencing on 6 May. Rick graduated with Class 3/66 on 22 December 1966 and was allocated to RAE (Tn) and posted to 32 Small Ship Squadron. When Rick Bannan arrived at Woolwich, he admitted that he didn't know port from starboard ('There's no port left in the bottle!') and was not exactly the best prepared Junior Officer to be posted onto a 'ship'. On reading the article in The Scheyvillian 2 of 2020 and finding out that he was the graduate who had the least time between graduation and arriving in Vietnam, he 'put pen to paper' and sent in his 32 SSS story.

Was it RAE 32 Small Ship Squadron or “McHale’s Navy”! (Rick Bannan, 3/66)

'I was the first OTU graduate to be posted to RAE 32 Small Ship Squadron based at Woolwich on Sydney Harbour (west of 'The bridge'). The posting was “Gunnery and Communications Officer” on board one of the four LSM's. The position was also new, being a requirement for these ships being deployed to Vietnam, and carrying additional armament and a dedicated gun crew.

'Firstly, for those who have not been involved with RAE Water Transport, the LSM'S were built by the Americans in the 1940s and designed to travel under their own steam to various WW2 zones. Top speed was about 13 knots, although in normal moderate swell seas and fully loaded were lucky to reach 10 knots. The ship would beach itself onto a hard landing, releasing its stern anchor, open its bow doors and lower the ramp, load the mobile cargo, retract the ramp, close the doors, then withdraw using a powerful stern winch.

'The ship's crew was, during operations, nominally four officers and forty-seven Other Ranks. This consisted of an Engine Room WO1/WO2, Sergeants, ORs and Sappers making up the Deck Crew, Navigation, Signals, Cooks and Gun Crew. The Ship 'Captains' held the rank of either Captain or Major and all had been sourced from the UK or South Africa, where they had been first mates waiting for a Merchant Navy command and jumped at the chance to be transported to Australia complete with family and accommodation and command of an Army ship. Unfortunately, I don't think anyone explained that these landing craft were old and needed a lot of 'TLC' and regular maintenance to beat the constant rust problem. The ship had an Executive Officer (XO), usually of Lieutenant rank, a Chief Engineer (rank from WO1 to Captain) and a Gunnery/Communications Officer, 2nd Lieutenant.

'Arriving at Woolwich my first day was a bit of a shock. Having just graduated from OTU, I was not used to the environment, where saluting an officer or wearing correct military uniform was apparently optional. The good news was the ship I was posted to, *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee*, was preparing to depart for Vietnam within the next few weeks, once they had completed sea trials, loaded stores and the final postings had arrived.

(On seeing the photograph below, Rick said: 'Loved the photograph, was so typical of ships parades. The story about marching at headquarters was so true, the 'skippers' were great seamen but had absolutely no idea of military marching or parades.')



Describe, in print or otherwise, what is happening in the photo above and it would be thought a work of fiction however, this was the scene on many a day. We thought it was normal. Being as how there is not really any point of reference in this parade it would be difficult to place a name here or there. Best to say that in amongst this lot could be, left to right, Benny Freeman, Bungy Waters, Ross Hayes, Phill Shalders, Barry Bailey, Bob Gaylard, Danny Diklich, Ken Loadsman, Kev Morley and maybe Dave Jupp on the biro. Some officers new to Small Ships took a while to comprehend that marching the crew up and down between the cargo and the clothesline was about as practical as keeping them dressed for parade.

"I remember getting back to Woolwich from Papua New Guinea and word came down from HQ that we were to parade in front of Colonel Wilson just up from the wharf. One of the Sergeants got us all lined up and our Skipper came to the front of the troop, called us to attention, then led off. Now, our Skipper was a great bloke and you would sail with him beyond Columbus, but he'd only been in the Army a dog watch and knew zilch about marching or drill or even how to fit up his web belt. When he stepped off he straight away went into square gaiting. This broke the mob up and nobody seemed to be in step. Haggis, who was walking down towards us, stopped, shook his head and turned away back to his office." I guess none of us were big on drill after spending so long on ships.

'The bad news was the ship's armament consisted of a 40mm Bofors AA gun, 50 cal. HMGs, M60 GPMGs, Owen SMGs, SLRS and 9mm Browning pistols. I had never seen a Bofors before and nobody at HQ knew anything about them. My newly arrived gun crew of ten Sappers who had just finished basic training and hadn't even seen a 50 cal, let alone the Bofors. Someone at HQ did find me the

Training Manual for the Bofors. Unfortunately, it was written in 1940 and I think had been floating round in the ship's bilge ever since because it was impossible to prise the pages apart.

'I think it was about this time I started to hear the nickname "McHale's Navy" coming from other soldiers from other Corps. Clearly the unit was a bit dysfunctional and somewhat ill prepared. As the most junior officer, "How would I know?" It struck me that the expression 'ORDER, COUNTER ORDER, DISORDER' did have some relevance. I advised my 'Skipper' that I was not at all confident about being able to train the gun crew and that I needed either some quick training at the closest AA school or needed to get someone to join the ship with that training. In a last-minute request, HQ had a Gun Sergeant transferred from Woodside AA, South Australia, to join the ship and stay with us for the duration of tour. We didn't have the ammo, but we did take the world's supply of duty-free alcohol on board, made up of: 1000 cartons of Tooheys & Reichs canned beer.

50 dozen bottles Johnny Walker Black Label Scotch.

50 dozen bottles Gordons Gin.

50 dozen bottles Remy Martin Brandy

50 dozen bottles Negrita Rum

plus enough mixing and soft drinks.

Admittedly not all this alcohol was just for our ship (I think)!

'The ship was finally ready to sail and we headed out through Sydney Heads, to a moderate swell which immediately started some of the crew to head for the railings. Early days, and this was a moderate swell! More good news, the Skipper advised me that we had sailed with one less Navigation Officer than desirable and I would be trained in some basic coastal navigation and take the 8pm to midnight watch. At this stage I was really starting to doubt my ability, 'Couldn't fire the Bofors, couldn't quite get my teeth around, 'Port, Starboard, Aft, Forward, Mid-Ship, Bulkhead, Deck-head', although Dickhead seemed to fit the bill, but as the Skipper had said now that I had a Gun Sergeant and we would not be in a 'war zone' for at least twenty one days, I could concentrate on navigating. Oh well! The gun crew busted the Bofors

firing pin practicing with the wooden rounds, so they would be put to good use chiselling and painting the super structure, decks and bulkheads.

‘The ship communications were made up of UHF and VHF transmitters, plus a Cypher coding machine. Once we reached Vietnam all signals were in code and incoming signals required decoding using the Cypher. Codes were changed every calendar month and as we sailed early in the month and as the transit time was approximately twenty-one days, all would be fine!!!

‘The Apprentice Navigator (me) was busy on the bridge one evening taking bearings from a lighthouse well astern and swinging around to take the distant forward lighthouse and transferring the readings to a chart. It appeared we were well off course. It was then that one of my lookouts informed me that the six flashes of the lighthouse, was not in fact the forward lighthouse, but an Aldis signal lamp sending Morse Code. I immediately called for a Signals Sergeant to read the message which said: ‘What ship are you and who is the Officer of the Watch?’ The Signaller replied *AV Vernon Sturdee Officer of the Watch Lt. Bannan*. The answer came back. ‘This is your father. Switch to radio frequency xyz. I knew my father, who was a Torres Strait Ship’s Pilot, was due to be heading south commanding a Super Tanker about this time. Well, to the day he passed away, I never admitted taking a bearing off his signal lamp, God forbid, he would have been mortified if he had known!

‘OK, what else could go wrong? Oh yeah! We ended up with generator problems east of Green Island and had to wait for spare parts to arrive. Some days later we were underway again. One day out from Vung Tau, at about midnight, we were buzzed by an American maritime surveillance aircraft. It’s million candle-power search-light lit up the whole sky, and apparently our silhouette didn’t compute. Consequently, at dawn we were accompanied by two US navy destroyers. One off each horizon. They proceeded to signal, using the month’s codes. We returned the correct passwords, or so we thought, and suddenly they fired a shell across our bow. The skipper suddenly realised the password we were using was out-of-date, because the delay off Green island and taken our trip into the next month. ‘Quickly raise the Australian flag!’ and he proceeded to send some choice four letter words to the destroyers and ‘Bloody Australians, you f...wits’. That seem to get the right response and the US Navy departed.

‘We sailed into Vung Tau during an ebbing tide, travelling at some horrific speed and a gale force wind across our mid-Ship. Trying to dock a ship with no keel against a static concrete pier was always going to be fun but putting a US navy ship between us and the pier, even with rubber tyre fenders was going to be interesting. Sure enough, we hit the other ship a few times and did damage the other’s railings, much to their officer’s disgust. Within minutes of tying up to the US ship, our Skipper had invited their Commanding Officer over to apologise. I didn’t know US Ship were alcohol free, so the US Navy Officer had soon forgotten his beef. The ship we had hit was in fact a refrigeration ship with three decks of frozen Australian export quality T-bone and Rump steaks, chickens, turkeys, fresh vegetables, ice cream and other dairy products. Swapping beer for first class food was child’s play. Our new found US Navy friend asked could he invite the Fleet Commanding Officer, the Admiral in charge of all shipping in Vung Tau, over sometime for drinks and a BBQ, to which our Skipper decided to empty two bottles of JW black into a suitable container and replace it with cold tea. The Admiral arrived on board his immaculate wooden motor launch, a suitable launch crew, and aided by two Lt. Commanders all dressed in their starched uniforms complete with medals. Once in the ship’s Wardroom (Mess), the Ship’s Steward asked our Captain what he would like to drink, consequently a very stiff ‘scotch’ was poured by the steward standing in the curtained galley and ‘You, Admiral, what will you have?’ ‘I’ll have the same!’ he replied. Yes, bottles switched and the US officers were all given real scotch whilst we had cold tea. Four rounds of bottoms up later, the Admiral started slurring his words and suddenly collapsed onto the Wardroom deck. Unfortunately, the Admiral was stretchered off the ship to his launch. Most embarrassing!! He did make contact a few days later asking for a rematch and admitted we Aussies sure can drink!

‘We had approached 1ASLG for supply of the ammo as promised by the Navy and were later informed that the Navy could not spare it. Just as we thought! Two days later we were having a drink at the US Officers Club in Vung Tau and a chance meeting with a US (full) Colonel, who turned out to be the Area

Munitions Officer. This resulted in several semi-trailers appearing on the wharf next day and more ammunition than you could poke a stick at. No cost involved! When I returned to Vietnam the following year there was still ammo sitting on its pallets on the wharf.

‘I hope you have enjoyed these very unprofessional episodes, as I said, was this RAE 32 Small Ship Squadron or was it McHale’s Navy, or Dad’s Army, or Hogan’s Heroes? It certainly was an experience and very un-Scheyvillian. My eighteen months with the unit saw service on three of the LSM’S. Each Skipper and crew brought new adventures and many more hilarious stories. However, for all the many laughable situations, the unit did do a lot of valuable logistic work for the Army both in Vietnam and around the Pacific Islands.’

A Light Blue Beret in a Ship’s Engine Room? (John Marsden, 2/68)

How did an Air Cadet end up on the Army Ship John Monash after leaving OTU in October 1968? A good question that General Merv Brogan asked as well when he visited the ship and saw a light blue beret hanging on the hat rack outside the wardroom. When he met the beret’s owner, me, inside dressed in a pair of white overalls he was thoroughly confused. Well here is the answer!

‘I had recently completed a Marine Engineering traineeship at the BHP in Newcastle and decided to join the Army to learn to fly rather than go to sea on one of the BHP ore carriers. Whilst at Scheyville the Air Cadets were informed that there would be at least a 9-month delay before starting flying training as the Basic Flying Training School courses (BFTS) at RAAF Point Cook had been temporarily postponed. This was due to the RAAF dabbling with all-through jet training on the Aero-Macchi at RAAF Pearce. The plan for us Air Cadets was a posting to an RTB to fill in the time. This didn’t appeal at all as by this time I was over marching/spit polishing /etc. During the RAE Corps presentation, I heard about 32 Small Ship’s Squadron and saw this as a perfect way to avoid the RTBs of the world. I spoke to Capt Sarah and was subsequently posted to 32 Small Ship’s on graduation.

‘On arrival at Woolwich Dock where 32 was based I was informed that I was to be the Chief Engineer of the Army Ship 3051, John Monash. This came as a shock as all my old course mates from BHP were all sailing as 7th or 8th Engineers on the BHP Fleet. I couldn’t wait to let them know about my new position.

‘Thus, began a most enjoyable 8 month’s posting before starting BFTS at RAAF Point Cook in June 1969. During this period, we managed two trips to Vung Tau, SVN to deliver Christmas mail and meat to the troops because the Australian wharfies had refused to handle any cargo to Vietnam. As the John Monash was also set up as a training vessel, we also did training trips to Melbourne, Hobart and Lord Howe Island. Another week was spent at anchor in Port Stephens whilst the CMF practised ship to shore cargo transfer.

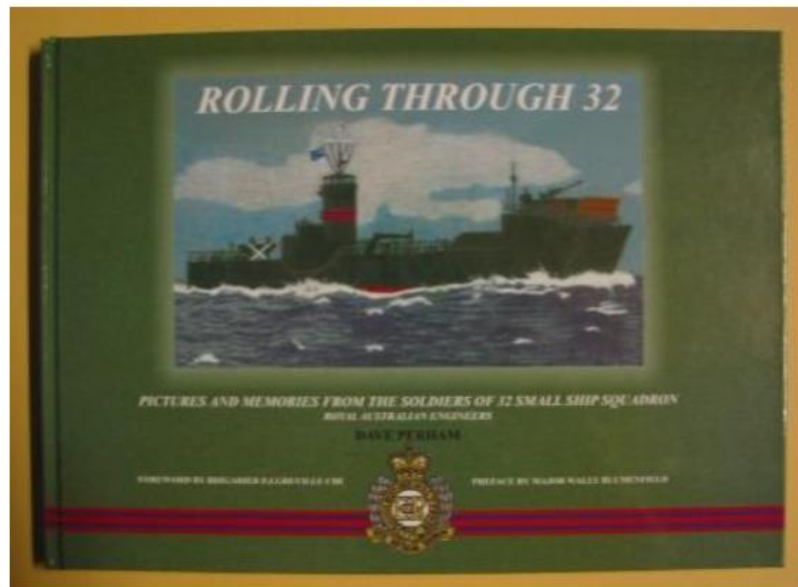
‘Almost to a man the troops at 32 Small Ships were the hardest working, hardest drinking bunch of larrikins who never failed to get the job done that I have had the pleasure to be involved with. They also gave me a lifetime’s worth of stories to tell over a few beers.’

‘During my Army flying career I re-encountered the John Monash again in Sumatra in 1972 where I was supporting a survey operation. Having noticed that the 40mm Bofors Gun had been removed, we safely welcomed the ‘old girl’ just off Palembang by dropping four flour bombs from the Porter. During a post-docking visit the John Monash crew retaliated with their own flour bombs. Both sides had some hits! A few rums in the Wardroom ensured that there was no further flying that day!’

Postscript: John was awarded his Pilot’s Wings in September 1970 followed by 20 years of flying Pilatus Porters, Nomads and Queenairs, among other aircraft, in Vietnam, Indonesia, the UK, PNG, Antarctica and all over Australia. This was followed by almost 20 years international flying with Qantas, leading to retirement in 2008.

Rolling Through 32

A book was published by David Perham in 2008. The book is a pictorial history of a that little known yet remarkable unit of the Australian Regular Army, 32 Small Ship Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers. This unit, referred to by her members as '32', revolved around the operation of the Landing Ships Medium (LSM) and a 1,400-ton cargo ship. The book follows the unit from 1957 to 1974.



David Perham served on two tours to Vietnam, the first, a short tour on the *John Monash* from 5 to 14 May 1966 and the second on the *Vernon Sturdee* from 31 May to 24 October 1967.

OTU Website Projects (Neil Leckie, 3/68)

During the COVID 'Lock Down' I have been able to spend some considerable time on several OTU projects that have been on 'on the back-burner' in recent years. The main project has been the *Structures and 'Fathers' and 'Sons'*. Many Scheyvillians have had the time to fossick through their OTU paperwork (and photos) and there has been a half a dozen copies of General Instructions found. These General Instructions detail who held the postings with rank, who were the 'Fathers' and 'Sons' and the hut and room allocations. The *next update* for this project will go on-line in *early December*. There were 37 'Terms' at OTU. 23 Terms have been completed, two Terms are better than 50% complete, four Terms are 50% complete and seven Terms 'have a long way to go'!

To complete the project, I need the General Instructions for:

May 1966 (2/66 March In), May 1967 (2/67), Jul 1967 (3/67), Oct 1967 (4/67), May 1968 (2/68), Oct 1968 (4/68), Feb 1969 (1/69), May 1969 (2/69), Jul 1969 (3/69), May 1970 (2/70), Oct 1971 (4/71), May 1972 (2/72) and OCS(S) O1/73 March In (Jan) and Senior (Apr) Terms.

The Graduates, Repeats and Non-graduates project is being continually updated as new information, particularly on Non-graduates, is found. This information then more accurately reflects on the number who commenced the course.

The Vietnam Service Spreadsheet has seen a few minor amendments bringing the number up to 365.

Lastly, the photo galleries are continually being added to with new photos and names added.

If anyone can identify the Church Parade shown below, it too can be added to a gallery.

It is Post-2/67 as the Governor-General's Banner is 'On Parade' in other photos of the parade!





Foreword: Fellow Scheyvillians and proud RAAMC veterans. This presentation was borne out of a deficit in our OTU history identified by our illustrious and dedicated historian, Neil Leckie. In conversation with Neil I took up the challenge, and this has proved extremely rewarding. The aim is to provide a detailed and accurate retrospective insight into a historic time in Australian Military history, and was for us, a very unforgettable and memorable part of our lives. 44 OTU graduates were posted to the RAAMC and served in very diverse roles. All served with determination and distinction. OTU – RAAMC Officers initially served in roles as diverse as Instructors/ Platoon Commanders; A&T Officers; Scientific and Research Officers; Pharmacists; Malaria Research in PNG /SVN; Hygiene and Community Relations; and an all areas of deployment of the ADF at the time Home; SVN; PNG; Malaya; Changi/ ANZUK Hospital Singapore. One was posted to RAAF Hospital, Richmond. Many continued on well after their National Service commitment to serve the ADF and our country in subsequent theatres of deployment and went on to lofty achievements both in the Military and back in civilian life, including 2 OAM's.

Command and Development Roles: 1 Brigadier; 1 Colonel; 3 Lt Col; 2 CO's of the School Of Army Health (SOAH); One the longest serving National Serviceman as a Medical Practitioner; IT Officers; Logistical Support AHQ and 1 Head of Pathology 1 Mil Hosp. **Promotions:** 2 to Major; 1 to Captain, 3 to full Lieutenants. Some held acting positions.

Post Army Civilian Achievements: 1 Publisher; at least 6 Pharmacists including Dean of Veterinary Pharmacy Monash Uni; 4 Doctors ; 1 Owner Environmental Business, 1 Epidemiologist; 4 Medical Scientists; 2 Chaplains; 2 Health Service Managers/Community Development Officers; 1 DPI Farm Auditor, 1 Industrial Chemist with major Pharma, 2 School Teachers, one also a Biochemist; and 1 current Mayor of Cairns, one of our OAM's!! (He doesn't mind being mentioned in despatches). Several, including myself, remain avid trout and surf fishermen. **A fairly impressive roll call, one must admit.**

Sadly, some have not returned the questionnaire and their stories cannot be told in any detail. Contrary to a widespread misperception that those posted to RAAMC somehow led a "softer" existence, the contrary was often true, and my presentation also serves to quash this misperception. An important aspect of the project was a questionnaire with a confidentiality clause, in which I sought to gain additional detail about actual roles and responsibilities, as well personal experiences and qualities gained through their OTU and RAAMC experience. One can appreciate the difficulty trying to contact the group. Neil's database was invaluable. Requests were E-Mailed, 2 posted via registered express post, and quite a few direct phone calls made. We had contacts for 37/44. Sadly, some still MIA. If you somehow missed out, contact me ASAP bpearl@cth.com.au The next part/s give opportunity to have your part of the story heard. I contacted all returnees individually and personally. Remember this is OUR PROJECT, something for family, our colleagues, and ourselves to be proud of. Except for one, all recipients stated that OTU was game changing, and most that the combined OTU/RAAMC was immensely valuable in shaping and contributing to their subsequent post Army life. The response to Question 14 will make us all proud:

14. Please Highlight those positive aspects below which you gained whilst at OTU:

Building Self-confidence ☐ Testing your physical and psychological limits ☐ Bringing out the best in me ☐
Game Changer/Formative ☐ Appreciation of Military Skills and Ethos ☐ Learning Leadership Skills ☐
Learning new skills and experiences outside normal civilian life ☐
All of the Above ☐

All bar two ticked 'All of the above'. Of those two, all except one box was ticked. Well done OTU!!

Reminder: Any who did not receive a questionnaire for whatever reason and would like one please request one ASAP; bpearl@cth.com.au Your contribution gives additional perspective and makes the whole exercise more meaningful. Any pics, even larrikin you would like to share, and memorabilia to myself or Neil Leckie most welcome. nkaleckie@optusnet.com.au

The Presentation - Down to Business

Because of the amount of material to be presented this will be conducted in parts. The title to include “.....The Vietnam Era” was chosen to give credit to our OTU - RAAMC Officers who served in other than Australia or SVN, and those who continued to serve our country in the ADF after their time of National Service commitment had expired.

No story is complete without a little history: A “Taster” – Part 1:



Preamble: The Officer Training Unit Scheyville produced 1,881 Officers between and 1965 and 1973 to boost officer numbers to primarily meet the ADF commitment to the unique war setting of the war in South Vietnam, but also to assist in other areas of ADF deployment in PNG, Malaysia, and Singapore at the time. The focus of this project is the dedication, roles, responsibilities, contribution, and subsequent outcomes of the 44 Officers posted to RAAMC from OTU. The overarching responsibility of RAAMC is, of course, the optimal health and wellbeing of all of the troops of The Australia Army of all Corps and rank, in any theatre scenario. There is more to keeping an Army healthy and fit than treating battlefield casualties which tend to gain all the attention. This project is also intended to be informative and educational, and an insight into the interesting, sometimes more esoteric and lesser known roles and responsibilities of The Corps, in which our OTU graduates contributed, all part of Team Army and Team Australia. As well, the widely held misbelief that those posted to RAAMC somehow had a “softer” existence will also be addressed.



Entrance to OTU Scheyville



Gates of School of Army Health, (SOAH)
Healesville Circa 1970

Introduction: Military Medicine in the Western world can be traced back to Sumer (4000 B.C.), and features in Ancient Egypt (3500 B.C. - 350 B.C.), Assyria (911 B.C. - 612 B.C.), Israel, Persia, and India (1300 B.C. - 100 B.C.), Greece (500 B.C. - 147 B.C.), and Rome (753 B.C. - 478 A.D.) Its importance was also recognised by barbarians, Byzantines, and Islam.

It was the Army of the Roman Empire which refined Military Medicine realising very quickly the necessity and importance of maintaining fit and healthy soldiers. A complex and vigorous combination of Greek and Roman cultural elements forged through centuries of contact meant the introduction of the healing god Asclepius in 291 BC, and the arrival of the Greek doctor Archagathus in 219 BC led to a medical “corpus”, and great advances were made from the humble days of herbal medicine and crude instruments. The early commanders realised the import of fresh water and sanitation to keep the soldiers healthy and disease free.



Fig 1. Remnants of Roman Army Fortified *Valetudinarium* or Field Hospital at Mapio



Fig 2. Images of Ancient Egyptian Medicine.

Death came slowly to soldiers wounded on the battlefields of antiquity, inflicted by muscle-powered weapons that hacked their flesh and rarely inflicted sudden death.

The first field hospitals, called the *valetudinaria* (plural of *valetudinarium*) or flying military camps (Fig 1) appeared in 200 AD and began as a small cluster of tents and later substantial fortresses dedicated to the wounded. Instruments look a little cruder than their later Roman counterparts. Some look like they came from a blacksmith's forge and were probably made there. The mutilated foot looks like the patient also had rheumatoid arthritis.



Fig 3. Surgical, Obstetric, and Urological Instruments used by Roman Army Physicians.



Fig 4 Romans used aqueducts, some elevated on stone bridges. Design improved and conduits using gravity to transport water over the centuries.

Emperor Augustus (63 BC–AD 14) established history's first professional military medical corps following the 14-year power struggle sparked by the 44 BC assassination of his great-uncle Gaius Julius Caesar. Augustus realized that to maintain troop strength and morale in the professional army he established, he would have to provide soldiers with adequate medical care. Only the fittest were allowed to join the Army, and they were incentivized by preferential personal and medical conditions and adequate pensions upon retirement. The medical corps he organized was extraordinarily proficient, its ability to treat wounds, infection and disease unsurpassed until the end of the 19th century. (Fig 3). Military physicians minimized noncombat losses through an emphasis on hygiene that sounds remarkably modern - systematic use of sewers in military encampments; safe water supplies; utilising conduits, aqueducts (Fig 4), and boiling water. Rome's first aqueduct was built in 312 BC. The military physicians and commanders also instigated healthy and varied meals; regular health inspections; preventive-health measures such as mosquito netting and sunburn oil; cremation of the dead outside the camp walls; covered latrines; and an emphasis on personal cleanliness for the soldier, his clothes and his equipment. Not surprisingly, Roman soldiers lived nearly five years longer than the average Roman citizen.

The greatest achievement of Roman military medicine was the provision of immediate field care by medical personnel incorporated into each legion, the fore-runner of our modern Combat Medic, RAP's, and progressing on leading on to our modern aeromedical evacuations. These standards and concepts have been incorporated into and enhanced upon in our modern ADF and RAAMC.

Vietnam Era RAAMC: RAAMC has long provided Medical Support to the Australian Army, in roles varying from Infestation Eradication, RAP's, the Field Medic, Aeromedical Evacuations, Field Ambulances, provision of Army Doctors, Nurses, Psychologists, Pharmacists, Pathology and Scientific Officers, Field and Military Hospitals and always in cooperation with the RAANC, and RAADC, allowing the provision of associated Nursing and Dental Services. Both were intricately part of the battlefield "Team". The "home" and training hub of the RAAMC is the School Of Army Health (SOAH), then located at picturesque Healesville at the foot of the Great Dividing Range, in a pre-existing alpine resort-"Summerleigh Lodge.", but chosen because of the location and close proximity to the Ranges which are excellent training grounds, some of the slopes more challenging than the Colo-Putty area Scheyvillian were used to at OTU (fresh grilled trout and fresh rabbits helped supplement the rations whilst 'hutchied' up and cold, after negotiating the Murrindindi River. All part of the KSC!)

Essentially the School had several critical functions all of which OTU graduates may participate, some in all roles:

1. Basic Training Wing, including Corps, Medical, Nursing and Dental Training, The emphasis was on acute management of casualties, aeromedical retrievals, loading casualties and winching with Iroquois, and continued military skills including weapon handling, navigation, the usual Drill and PE, and Field Exercises... in a 3-platoon coy.
2. Advanced and Officer Training Wing which covered Corps training, promotion of ORs and Professional Medical and Dental Officers up to the rank of Major. Again, all aspects of military training were covered including Military Law, weapon handling, navigation, NBC for Medical Officers, and field exercises. The SOAH was responsible for training already qualified professionals - Medical, Dental, Psychology, Chaplaincy, and Nursing Officers with Military Skills and knowledge
3. Special courses e.g. advanced procedural skills for SAS in remote areas.
4. Facilitation of Corps and promotional courses for RAANC.
5. The SOAH facilitated the biennial DGMS exercise which included many visiting overseas military dignitaries. A modicum of diplomatic skills was paramount.
6. OTU officers posted to SOAH and other units were also expected to be able to fulfil other officer roles such and Acting Adjutant or fill in for more senior officer's leave.

Our OTU Graduates were perfectly trained for all these roles, and more than proved their mettle and their merit. The diversity and degree of planning and endeavour necessary at SOAH to maintain the standards expected of an AHQ School, and to ensure our troops of all calibre and rank remained fully prepared, well trained, and competent to fulfil their subsequent roles whether Officer or NCO, and whether posted to SVN or elsewhere is exactly what Scheyville prepared us for. Photos below courtesy of Doug Barnes.



9th Hole and path to Basic Training Wing.
SOAH Main building in background.



1st Tee aka "Heartbreak Hill". Formal Helo LZ
at base of hill. We set up our P.T. hut half-way
down the hill Keeping the troops fit!



Rob Evans (3/68) "Staff Car" parked in front of Main Entrance of "Summerleigh Lodge" – SOAH Healesville, 1970

At the helm as DGMS of RAAMC during the Vietnam War period was Major General Colin Gurner. From my personal experience, very proficient and an absolute gentleman. I had the pleasure of being appointed his ADC briefly during the DGMS

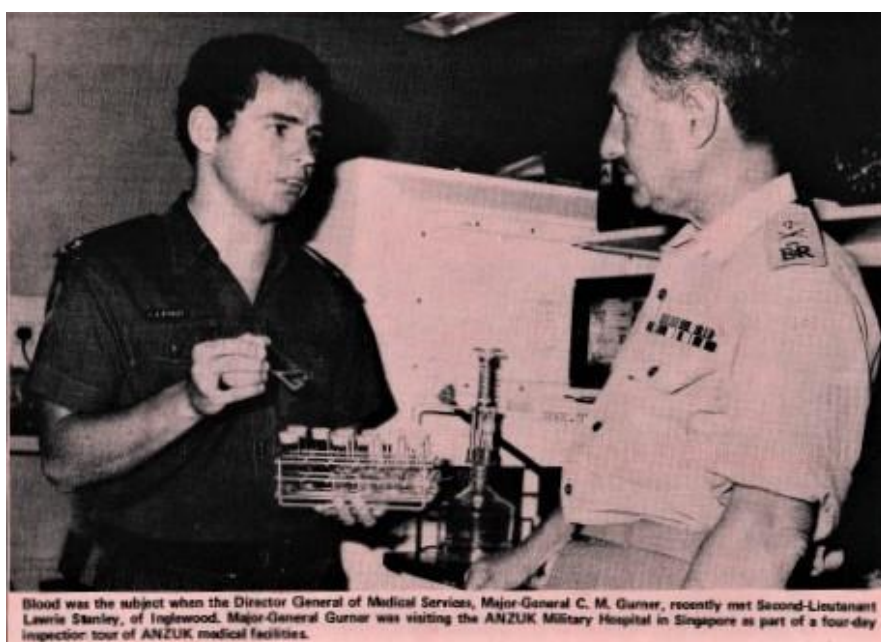
Exercise of 1971, also testing one's Diplomatic skills.

Maj Gen Gurner was instrumental in instigating three significant major reforms:

- (1) Relocating the Army Medical Directorate from Melbourne (where it had been based for the past 66 years) to Canberra to give the AMD greater access to Defence Headquarters and the Minister for the Army.
- (2) Solve the perennial problem of providing medical officers for such conflicts by recruiting specialists to undertake three-month tours of duty in Vietnam. This also served to facilitate networking with civilian counterparts and Tertiary Hospitals in Australia.
- (3) Field Doctors were observing significant Paludrine resistant Malaria, and this was causing big concerns coming into the Vietnam War.

Three senior Army medical officers were significant in the early development of 1MRL — Major General W.O. Rodgers, Professor R.H. Black and Major General C.M. Gurner once the bureaucracy got out of the way.

(Malaria was the largest disease contributor to casualties. This, together with zoonoses, infestations, and the usual medical issues, which have plagued Armies through time, were also part and parcel of the overall RAAMC workload.)



Blood was the subject when the Director General of Medical Services, Major-General C. M. Gurner, recently met Second-Lieutenant Laurie Stanley, of Inglewood. Major-General Gurner was visiting the ANZUK Military Hospital in Singapore as part of a four-day inspection tour of ANZUK medical facilities.

Some of our OTU Officers were subsequently deployed to exotic postings, though they may not have thought so at the time e.g. to PNG to facilitate research into malaria and simultaneously providing fresh water, sanitation and offer community logistical support at Bogia near Wewak in Exercise Raisim Binatang. A film was simultaneously prepared by AWM¹ in 1972 and is able to be viewed there. Also, in PNG, one of our continuing Major's raised and was the CO of the Med PI PNGDF, Port Moresby Aug 73-Aug 76.

Above: 2Lt Laurie Stanley (1/71) Scientific Officer with Maj Gen Colin Gurner, Changi Hospital. Article in from "The Leader" 27 March 1972

Endemic diseases such as the plaque, melioidosis were surprisingly rare among all troops of all visiting countries. Although disease accounted for more than two-thirds of all hospital admissions, the average annual disease admission rate (US Army Medical Data) for Vietnam (351 per 1,000 per year) was approximately one-third of that for the China-Burma-India and Southwest Pacific theatres in World War II, and more than 40 percent less than the rate for the Korean War.

Meanwhile back at the war: RAAMC in Vietnam: Call Sign “Vampire”

The combat troops in Vietnam were supported by a rapidly developing and successful Helicopter Aeromedical Evacuation System. In April 1966, during the Vietnam War the 2nd Field Ambulance was raised at Vung Tau. A year later, 8th Field Ambulance took over from 2nd Field Ambulance. A further year on, 1 April 1968, 1st Australian Field Hospital was raised and took over the Australian military hospital at Vung Tau from 8th Field Ambulance. A smaller Forward Clearing Base was established 30km inland at Nui Dat. Vung Tau became the “secondary” facility with access to surgical and Orthopaedic Specialists, et al.



Australian casualties being evacuated to the 8th Field Ambulance at Nui Dat during the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha.

Right: an iconic Huey Dustoff Helicopter - ambulances of the skies.



As the War retracted, the unit returned to Australia in December 1971 and was located at Manunda Lines, Ingleburn in New South Wales. It was organised as a ‘Level 3’ (now described as ‘Role 3’) health facility, tasked with provision of initial wound surgery (surgical resuscitation) for combat casualties and medium to high intensity nursing care in the area of operations, as well as a definitive diagnosis of the casualty's condition.

Back home we had in operation 1 Military Hospital, Yeronga, Queensland and 2 Military Hospital Ingleburn, N.S.W. In collaboration with our civilian counterparts and via the networking arrangements that had been established, we also had access to the broader tertiary civilian hospital network.

What made the Vietnam War Era ‘medically’ different?

There were four major differences between the Vietnam War and previous wars:

1. Vietnam was the first time Field Medics were fully armed and carried hand grenades into combat, with no red and white crosses to identify them. In fact, Medics therefore necessarily became an integral part of the combat team. Consequently, they had to be just as battle ready as the Infantry Corps soldiers they supported, and also had to be proficient at their Corps specific specialties. As Lt Col Phillip Hills, last CO of SOAH at Healesville quoted: “The first job we had at SOAH was actually to first produce soldiers, then give them Corps skills.”⁽⁸⁾ Many of our Field Company Medics were awarded Infantry Combat Badges. Those of us posted as Instructors SOAH therefore had to maintain the battle readiness of the troops through rigorous training, field exercises and range/weapon training and as well train them up in Corps specific skills.
2. The use of larger and faster dedicated helicopters for aeromedical evacuations, which facilitated extrication to secondary facilities in a timely fashion, and optimised survival rates. Concept of “The Golden Hour.” Fortunately, we had air superiority.
3. The ability of the Medics to accompany the wounded in flight to provide continued resuscitative measures - pain relief, IVI fluids etc resulting in a massive increase in survival rates. Field Medics were given additional training on site in Vietnam by the Medical staff there. As a consequence, the death rate of the wounded in Military Hospitals reduced from 4.5% in WW2 to just 2.6% in Vietnam. The average time from being wounded to hospitalisation was one hour.

4. The nature of wounds also changed. With the use of mechanised troop transport, high explosive bombs and mines, high velocity projectiles, booby traps, the battle wounds were often horrific, our aeromedical evacuation system sprang into action, and our Field Hospitals rapidly adapted to the challenge.

SOAH was then also home to the School of Nursing. OTU Officers were involved in training in basic nursing courses, and promotional courses, and facilitated with exercises. The RAANC contribution during this time was monumental and grossly understated from all observations.



Left: Nurses on Exercise at Karatha Camp/Narbethong Area ranges north of Healesville, 1970.

Below: Something more social: Nursing Instructors left to right: Capt Gwen Peacock, Lt Claire Smith, (unknown) and Sgt Kay Foulger



Below: Exercise debriefing Murrindindi Range and river area North of Healesville 1970



Below: OTU 3/68's 2Lt Rob Evans Pl, SOAH 1970 and D.S. View of Basic Training Wing at rear



Left - more formal: 2Lt Hugh Begbie (1/71) accompanies Maj Gen Edward H. Vogel – US Army Medical Corps at the Officer's Mess Dining Room SOAH during DGMS Exercise 1970

Subsequent part/s of the presentation will expand upon all these aspects. The “warry stuff“ will be presented with much detail on roles and responsibilities of individuals and individual units, the development of our game changing and noteworthy Helicopter

Aeromedical Retrieval system, and we will also provide some really memorable and worthwhile photos including some larrikin pics. The role The RAANC Nurses during this era played can never be underestimated, and worthy of special comment. Now that I have hopefully got your attention, look forward to the next exciting episode.



Paul Burza (3/69) aka Dr Paul Burza, M.B.,B.S (Qld), D(Obst) RCOG., Dip RACOG, FRACGP, ANSM, AMM.

Left: OCdt Burza on Graduation Parade Day, December 1969.
Right: in November 2020.



OTU Graduates Vietnam Experience

Early in the year John Lochore (3/67) and Frank Miller (4/67) received a request from a Monash University classmate of all those years ago. Our friend's granddaughter was doing an assignment on the Vietnam War and asked her 'Pa' if he knew anyone who had been called up at the time and had served over there. John, as well as writing his own reply, sent the request on to two other RAA colleagues - Andy Guest and Ian Paton - both 3/67. (Frank did not go overseas). They subsequently shared their contributions. Each makes interesting reading to the point where it is most appropriate they be included in the "Scheyvillian". (FM) The first is from Andy Guest. It is intended that the remainder be featured, one each, in the next two editions.

Andrew Guest (3/67) We all had very different experiences after attending Scheyville. Here's mine.

Those of us who had been allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery were sent to the School of Artillery at North Head in Sydney to do the three-month Section Commanders Course (Field Artillery). In addition to Ian (Paton 3/67) and myself there were four others from OTU, and newly graduated officers from OCS Portsea and RMC Duntroon.

After completing the course, I was posted to 4 Field Regiment RAA based at the run-down Wacol Barracks near Brisbane. Since the regiment had just completed a tour of duty in Vietnam and most of the troops were still on leave there was very little to do at first, but as the regiment came back to full strength I was made Assistant Adjutant and I soon had my hands full assisting the Adjutant, Captain Mike Langley MC.

After a few months at Wacol the regiment was relocated to the brand new Lavarack Barracks at Townsville, but Mike Langley was posted elsewhere and didn't come with us, so I wound up doing the adjutant's job without an assistant. I wasn't made Acting Adjutant but I was paid as a captain, which I thought was strange. My workload was extremely demanding to say the least. As well as the usual administrative matters that were involved in running the regiment I also had to find rental accommodation in Townsville for all the married men, with all the negotiations and dramas that ensued. I still had eight months to serve when the Acting CO, Major Jock Jenvey, told me he had to supply a junior officer to fill a vacant section commander's position in 102 Battery of 12 Field Regiment in Vietnam, and that he had picked me. I don't know why he picked me, but I do know that the young Duntroon graduates were really cheesed off that he picked a national service officer instead of one of them.

The more I thought about going up to Vietnam the more apprehensive I became, because 102 Battery had been in the thick of it at the Battle of FSB Coral in May 1968, five months before I was due to join the battery, and here I was with no combat experience and no gun training apart from what I had done at the School of Artillery, and I was about to take command of three 105mm howitzers and their gun detachments, totalling three sergeants, three bombardiers, three lance bombardiers and twelve gunners, most of whom had seen many months of serious combat. They didn't know me, and I didn't know them.

In early November 1968 I was sent on the combat readiness course at the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra in the Gold Coast hinterland. Scheyville had prepared me so well for Vietnam, however, that I was kicked off it after only a few days of the 10 day course. Frankly, I thought I was on a holiday. In late November 1968, after a week of leave at my parents' home in Melbourne I was flown to Manila (1st class) by Air France and after staying there for one night I was flown to Tan Son Nhut airport in Saigon, and then on to Nui Dat in a Caribou. After a short time at Nui Dat being issued with my equipment, rations and weapons, and being briefed on what to expect, I was choppered out to a fire support base somewhere in the sticks to join 102 Battery. Fortunately, I didn't make any major stuff-ups and I quickly learnt to do my job as a section commander and to relieve the Gun Position Officer in the battery command post. To my surprise (and great relief) I was soon fully accepted as one of the battery.

In February 1969 102 Battery went home, but I was left behind to join 105 Battery of 1 Field Regiment RAA when they came up from Australia. 105 Battery was short a Section Commander who was ill, and

until he recovered and could rejoin the battery I was to take his place. After a couple of months with 105 Battery the officer who had been left in Australia arrived and I became surplus to requirements. As luck would have it an Australian artillery officer was required at Sector HQ based in Baria, the capital of Phuoc Tuy province, to be the Task Force Artillery Liaison Officer, working alongside American and South Vietnam officers, all of whom were Captains, Majors and Lieutenant Colonels, and I got the job. In this capacity I reported to Nui Dat on the artillery operations of our allies to ensure that no 'friendly fire' accidents occurred. There were just three Australians at Sector HQ, myself and two Arty Sigs, one of whom was an experienced Bombardier Signaller and the other being a very inexperienced Gunner Signaller who had been in Vietnam for just a couple of weeks. When the Americans weren't on duty they returned to the safety of their base a few kilometres away, but we three Australians lived and slept in a tent set up inside the walled garden of the two storey French colonial building that housed Sector HQ. There was always small arms fire around us or near us at night, but one night we were very heavily attacked with machine gun fire and rockets. When a rocket came out of the darkness perfectly on-line but a whisker too high I honestly thought we were done for. Fortunately, Nui Dat was well aware of our situation and when the attack began they despatched two centurion tanks down the road to Baria to get us out of trouble. They arrived after about 20 minutes and let the enemy have a few rounds of white phosphorus, and the attack promptly ceased.

I also went out on patrol with the South Vietnamese, I spent time in a South Vietnamese Fire Support Base, and I had to examine the scenes of carnage following enemy mortar and rocket attacks on South Vietnamese positions, with the objective of determining the types of weapons used and the approximate locations from which the attacks were launched so that our artillery could register those positions for quick reprisal. On one such occasion I went to the scene of a mortar attack on a compound housing South Vietnamese aspirants (young men training to become Warrant Officers in the South Vietnam army). The

mortar rounds had fallen directly on top of the tin roof of a building where the aspirants had been sleeping in two storey bunks on top of taut, closely woven wire hammocks, and although the bodies had been taken away there were still chunks of human flesh stuck in the wire hammocks and congealed blood and flies everywhere.

Towards the end of my time in Vietnam I was taken back into 105 Battery and spent more time as a



Section Commander and relieving Gun Position Officer. With just a few days to go I was on duty in the Battery Command Post in the permanent gun position inside Nui Dat when the Battle of Binh Ba broke out a few kilometres away from Nui Dat. Artillery fire was called for and I fired the first fire mission before Lieutenant Arthur Burke, the Gun Position Officer, came running down to the Command Post and took over. I had been on duty for almost a full shift and there was a full complement of officers and men above ground, so I left the gun position and started walking back to my tent for a bit of kip. When I was about 100 metres away from the gun position mortar rounds began falling in a patch of jungle just 50 metres off to my right. The enemy was obviously trying to suppress our guns, but they were off target and instead of hitting the gun position they came very close to hitting me. I was out in the open with no cover of any kind, so I just threw myself face down in the mud and hoped for the best as dirt and debris rained down on me. When the mortar fire stopped, I leapt to my feet and sprinted back to the gun position and down the steps into the underground Command Post. Breathless and shaken I gasped out "Permission to enter please Arthur". He looked up from the plotting board, and thinking he was being funny he said "Permission denied. You can't come in here covered in mud like that".

A few days later I was flown out of Nui Dat in a Caribou, and the next morning I boarded a chartered civilian airliner at Tan Son Nhut airport and was flown back to Australia. After being on leave for three weeks or so I was told to attend the Q store at Watsonia Barracks to return my gear prior to my discharge from the Army. At the Q store a fat, bored sergeant with a clip board ticked off each item as I handed them across the counter, and he said "All accounted for. You can go now, Sir". "Go where" I said, thinking this was just the beginning of the formal discharge procedure. He replied: "Anywhere you like, Sir, you're now out of the Army". I drove home feeling utterly despondent. After giving the Army two years of my life, after successfully completing the Scheyville course, after all the stress of doing an Adjutant's job completely on my own, after more than seven months of combat in Vietnam and after fearing for my life on two occasions, I received no letter of thanks, no-one shook my hand and said "well done", and no-one said goodbye. I have never gotten over the disgraceful way my discharge was handled, and I don't think I ever will. That's my story!



Exercise Baptism, the Six Day Exercise, Class 2/71, Circa August 1971 (Alan Parry, 2/71)

Friday dawned and action was taking place all over the Scheyville Officer Training Unit. Aaron Berry sprang (well almost) out of bed and slipped into his jocks, then long johns, his summer singlet, woolly winter singlet, an old jumper, his shirt, army jumper, two pairs of socks, his army green pants, boots, new Gators, plus coats man. Well it was winter and the word was it gets cold up there! Grabbed his webbing containing among other things - three days rations, his 37 pack (with bedding); took his rifle and waited for the bus. It was a beautiful day - warm enough for shirtsleeves.



We arrived at the exercise area in the Colo Putty Range at 10:30 hours, wrote orders and then set forth to our objective for the day in Arrowhead Formation. We had only gone 50 yards with our acting Platoon Leader and struck a creek! As we were in formation we had to keep walking and the guy in front went in above his waist. Ughh! I nearly cried - thinking of my layers of warm clothes and angled off to find a better crossing place. Crossed and still went in right up to my waist! Curse! Wet feet, backside, crotch and legs. It was then 2:00 PM and I had to get them dry by nightfall or I would suffer. We had many contacts with the enemy during our advance and upon going to ground I broke a big rule by crawling out into the sun to dry, once lying beside a big black snake not sure of who got the bigger fright!

We set up camp and by now only my feet were wet, but I was wise. I had dry socks in my bum pack, so changed them and left my boots off to dry while I went to bed. Nine o'clock that night the enemy attacked and I ran around bootless in my dry socks which dampened considerably with the dew. Finally went back to bed knowing I had the 3am until 5:30am gun watch. Fine!!!

I was awakened by shots, crawled out of bed and found enemy standing outside my tent. I didn't know whether to say "bang you're dead" or that you shouldn't be here or quite what! I just said "shoo" and they jumped away in fright back outside our perimeter. Well, finally I went back to bed still with my socks on and was woken up at 3:00am for my gun post. I lay in the 18 inch deep pit that we had dug and watched for the enemy. It was very dark - the sky had clouded over and occasionally a flash in the distance of possible lightning kept me awake. And then drip, drip, drip, drop, drop, drop! Then the heavens opened. It was raining; I'm laying out in an 18 inch pit. Yuk!!! Then we thought we heard the enemy. My mate on the gun decided we should alert the platoon to "stand to" (that means lay in your pits on watch/wait for the enemy).

I went off to alert the platoon. It was pitch black! I took three steps and heard this muffled yell from beneath my feet. I nearly peed myself from fright!!! Goodness! I had stepped on one of our guys heads who was sleeping under his tent! You should have heard the language rising from under the collapsed tent. I staggered on and alerted the camp but then I was totally lost within our perimeter in the pitch dark pouring rain.

I dived into another shell scrape 18 inches deep and waited for the enemy. I was sitting there all by myself waiting. Then someone jumped in behind me and I nearly shat myself! I stuck the muzzle of my rifle into the buddy and said "who are you?". He was one of us and we huddled together in the pouring rain. Then behind us crashing through the undergrowth a figure came forward and dived in right on top of both of us - it was another one of our side. Me lost in a foreign pit with these two who had just gotten up and were totally sleep befuddled.

Dawn came, still no enemy. Birds singing, rain pouring, pits ever filling. And then stand down - when you post sentries, come in and carry on with personal administration within the perimeter. Then our instructors strutted in and said move in two minutes! Tents were still out as was bedding and in my case, wet socks, food and all sorts of junk all out drying. Hell, what was I to do! I picked the whole lot up in my arms with my rifle and staggered along last in the line, leaving a trail of wet socks and ration packs as I went. The instructors halted us 100 yards away and explained that it was imperative to be ready to move at all times. We were allowed to go back and then collect all of the things left behind. Point taken!

We then moved on in the rain. We had contact with the enemy and all had to go to ground in the wet bushes and muddy soil and were all soaked! We cleaned up the "enemy" and proceeded onto our next objective. Wet and miserable! Yuk! We approached yet another creek and stumbled through it oblivious to the water. Up to our knees this time. Who cared! I was soaking wet anyway.

We reached the objective and sat in the rain on the Saturday afternoon and wrote orders for the occupation of the defence site. We then had to move out and make a night harbour. It was pitch black dark! We had to hold onto the mate in front of us to find our way. We reached the selected site and then had to dig in. Three of us on the machine gun had to dig three pits together in line. We dug and dug and dug.



Finally, we reckoned we had finished. However, we had lost the machine gun! Where was it? Oh no!!! We'd buried it under all the dirt! A precision instrument full of sand dirt and muck. We would have to clean it the next morning. Too bad if the enemy approached in the meantime. We wouldn't be able to fire at them.

Meanwhile it rains on! Bed was damp and feet were soaked. Strangely it didn't feel all that cold in bed. Probably too tired. Still, with only four hours to sleep, you slept because you had to. Dawn broke and light flickered through the trees onto our pits which should have been three pits in a row but were three pits at cross angles to one another.

(| / \ instead of |||). What a dark night!

Had a quick bite then set off for our next defence position. At 10:00 AM we reached the position and entered it. Once again, we lay on the wet ground in the pouring rain. Pits were then sited and we proceeded to dig them four and a half feet deep x 6ft x 2ft. Hell!!!! I'd hate to be a grave digger.

Dig dig dig! No wonder we are called diggers! At the end of the day I had gone down all of three feet. In between times we had our turn at sentry sitting - out 70 or so yards from the perimeter on wet ground in the rain. We dug well into the night and finished in disgust at 11:00 PM. Bed and gun watch.

It was this night I had my first dream. I flew out of my sleeping bag into my webbing and into my pit only to realise I must have dreamt the actual call to stand to. Back to bed.

Monday dawns and yes, even a little sunshine! It started off beautifully. We set out to do an ambush. Selected the site and sited our groups at the edge of this track. That night we entered the ambush position and waited for the enemy and waited and waited and waited. Then I was nudged which awoke me. Ssshhh! The enemy were coming. The ambush was to be initiated with a burst from the left machine gun. The enemy came past within 3 feet of me. Waiting with bated breath for the springing of the ambush I shivered and shuddered in the cold night air and nothing happened.



The enemy passed. Where's our gun, what happened? Silence reigned, no ambush! The enemy then had to come back for us to ambush them again. This time we got them. Finished them off and proceeded back to our defence position. Thank goodness! What happened the first time the enemy passed? Our gunner was asleep! Most of us were asleep too! Did we get a "rousing" from the instructors!

Then heading back to camp we became horribly lost in very dense bush full of un-navigable rocky outcrops and such. Finally, we got back to the defence position and went to bed. Again, I had my dream and again I flew into my pit. False alarm!

Well Tuesday greets us gloriously with sunshine and about time! The day passed and night came. It was then that my good mood and mental wellbeing were shattered in one single bang. I had an unauthorised discharge!!!! Me!!!! This is a very serious offence and I was charged. It sent the whole camp into a false "Stand To" until it was established what had happened. Seeing it is such a serious charge it has to be heard by the top dog - the commanding officer. Sad it was. The charge would be heard on return to Base but I consider I will get the maximum penalty of Seven days CB (Confined To Barracks). It seemed I was just standing there advising of the gun watch roster and bang my rifle went off. Itchy finger!!!

That night I got to bed I was awakened by a voice saying I was on the gun in 10 minutes. Got up and proceeded to the gun post only to find I wasn't on until two hours time. This time they had woken the wrong person. I went back to bed and then was awakened at the correct time. I took the gun post and dawn broke crystal clear through the trees and undergrowth.

We took down the tents which were very stiff as they had iced up overnight in the frost and made ready to move. Wednesday had finally happened. We filled in our pits and moved to the embussing point where we were given a cut lunch and then proceeded back to OTU Scheyville. We arrived back at 1:30 PM and had to clean all the machine guns, picks, shovels and other equipment at the Q Store before attending to our own.



I returned to my lines at 3:30 and proceeded to unpack and restore my gear. What a mess! Stuff everywhere! We were going to Blacktown RSL for dinner this night. I messed about until 5:15, then thought I'd better shower and clean up as we were supposedly leaving at 5:30.

I removed my clothes! Oooohhhh the stench!!!! They could have stood up and marched by themselves! Should I bury or burn them?!? Hair full of sand and dirt! Armpits and crotch caked in BO and toes wedged with dirt – it was a long shower!

We had a glorious meal at the Blacky RSL, lots of stories with lots to drink which gave me a slight hangover next morning. Still many things to be put in order that I hadn't managed the day before, but soon back to the routine with an ED (Extra Drill) on parade for white marks on my forage cap.

Oh well! We got through our 6 day and next it is the 10 day! And then there is the charge to be heard.....

Extract from a letter sent to my family from Scheyville (names have been changed to protect the innocent). Apologies A Class. As an Infantry serviceman I made a great Ordnance Officer and Accountant!

Mates at School were in the Cadets, at OTU and in Vietnam together

(John Sonneveld, 2/68 & Ian Dunn, 1/68 with Neil Leckie, 3/68)

Long-time Scheyvillian readers will know about Class 2/68's John Sonneveld's time in Vietnam, where he was awarded the DFC, his adventure in bring home his adopted daughter Marie (pronounced Maree) from Vietnam and his post-Army flying career in such tasks as rescue and mercy flight operations. But few will know about John's early days and his 'every pilot needs a toy' days.

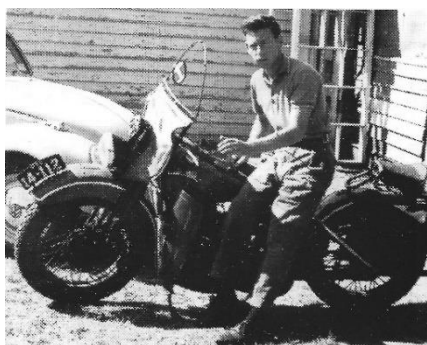
Michael John Sonneveld was born in Melbourne on 24 June 1944. He completed his Secondary education at the Christian Brothers College (CBC, Parade) in East Melbourne. Prior to Joining the Army as an Air Cadet John was a Teacher with the Victorian Department of Education.



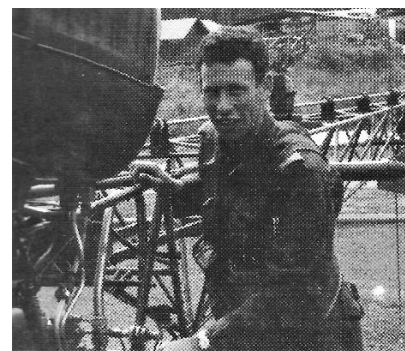
John commenced OTU with almost six years of military experience. As a seventeen-year-old he joined the CMF in early 1962, while at Teacher's College, serving as a Trooper in the 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse, the unit that would become the first Armoured unit to deploy to Vietnam. He was trained as a Staghound Gunner, a Ferret Scout Car Driver and a truck driver (Photo at left sees John 'mounted' on a Staghound's 37mm gun in January 1963). Commencing as a Primary School Teacher in Mansfield, Vic, in February 1964, he could not continue with



the CMF for some time. In early 1965 John married Lizzie and he commenced teaching in a one-teacher school (with residence) at Emu, about 12 km west of Bealiba, which is itself almost 50 km north-west of Maryborough, Vic. Having met up with a local lad who had joined the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment (2 RVR) in Maryborough, John re-joined the CMF in October 1965 with 2 RVR, sharing the travelling with the local lad. In 1967 John moved to Bolwarrah, north-east of Ballarat and transferred his CMF service to 2 RVR in Ballarat. (Photo at above shows John in his Battle Dress when serving with 2 RVR and below left with his 1942 Ex-Army 'Harley' 2 RVR)



By the time he was accepted for Pilot Training in the Army he had been promoted to Corporal. John commenced OTU on 17 May 1968 with Class 2/68, graduating on 10 October. He was allocated to the AAAvn Corps and posted to 2 RTB, Puckapunyal while he awaited flying training. John attended Course 2/69



BFTS at Pt Cook and Course 4/69 AFT (RW) at Amberley. He served in Vietnam (right) from 29 October 1970 until 28 October 1971.

Ian Michael Dunn (1/68) was good friends with John Sonneveld, attending 'Parade' with him and also serving with John in the School Cadets in 1960/61 where in 1961 John trained as a Vickers Machine Gunner. He actually got to fire a Vickers at Puckapunyal!!

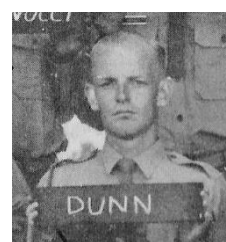


Left: John and Ian.

Right: Pte Ian, John and Lizzie



Ian was born on 31 March 1945. He was a member of the CMF, serving with 1 RVR from September 1964, then with 6 RVR from May 1965, also reaching the rank of Corporal and, after undertaking his Police Training, commenced OTU with Class 1/68 on 23 February 1968. In his Senior Term at OTU Ian was the B Company Orderly Room Corporal (John Sonneveld, a Junior in Ian's company, taking over that role in his Senior Term) and on graduating on 18 July was awarded the Gordon Sharp Memorial Prize for showing the greatest improvement in Field Training. He was allocated to the RAInf Corps and posted to JTC, Canungra. Ian was then posted to 7 RAR, extended his NS and serving in Vietnam from 18 February to 10 December 1970.



On 18 October Ian had written from 'The Horseshoe' of a conversation he had with another 'Old Paradian': *I did an air recce with Terry Hayes today he reckons John should be over in a couple of weeks.*



Ian met with John a number of times in the short time they were in Vietnam together. In early December, shortly before returning to Australia, he wrote: *I went with Father Teefey to the Catholic school and orphanage at Baria yesterday. Had a good time, the sisters are extremely hospitable, fed us on fruit and Coke (almost a national drink over here). I ran into John (photo at left), who was down seeing the sisters about the kid he hoped to adopt. Quite a coincidence. Tomorrow I will go on a two-hour Visual Recce with him, have much film, should shoot it all.*

Returning to the Victorian Police post-NS, Ian served for over 50 years in the force.

While Ian had a long and satisfying career in the police, John had an equally long and satisfying career in aviation. Now living in Tyabb, John has what he calls his 'toy', an aircraft with folding wings that he tows on a trailer 500 metres to the nearby Tyabb airfield, rolls off the trailer, folds the wings forward and then flies. His 'toy' is a Skyfox Gazelle 2-seater. With his oldest son, John purchased the 1996 model from Tumut, NSW.

The Gazelle is an Australian ultralight cabin monoplane designed by Skyfox Aviation of Queensland and first flown in 1989. Originally sold as an ultralight it was later produced for general aviation use. John's model is a high-wing braced monoplane with nosewheel landing gear, whereas the conventional model has fixed tailwheel landing gear. It has a welded steel fuselage with fabric covering. The wings can be folded when not in use along the side of the fuselage.

John's Gazelle is no longer registered as a 'VH-xxx' aircraft but is registered under Recreational Aviation Australia. John holds a CASA Aircraft Maintenance Licence and has been issued with Level 2 Maintenance Approval, so he is able to maintain the aircraft himself, which minimizes the annual cost of owning, registering, insuring and maintaining the aircraft. These costs do not, however, include Aero Club Membership, Airfield Access Fees, Licence Renewal and Biennial Flight Reviews!

Recently, John flew his Gazelle to St Helens on the North-east coast of Tasmania, where his adopted daughter Marie now lives. The flight took almost four hours, with stops required at Yarram and Flinders Island for fuel. Compared with travelling from Tyabb to Tullamarine, waiting for a flight to Launceston, flying to Launceston, hiring a car and driving two hours to St Helens, it was a 'short' trip! The Gazelle has a 9.5m wing-span and weighs 290 kg empty. It is powered by a Rotax 912 58kW piston engine, has a cruising speed of over 150 kmh and a range of almost 600km from its 48 litres of usable fuel in the tank.

At cruising speed, the aircraft consumes 18 litres per hour.

'Boys and their toys!'

Left: The Gazelle on its trailer in John's barn at Tyabb

Right: John and his Skybox Gazelle



Postscript: John met Elizabeth in 1963 at Teacher's College.

He was smitten! They have now been married for 55 years, have 8 children, 22 grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren.



VALE:

Alexander Richard (Rick) Main (Peter Bruce, RAA Historical Company)

Rick was a Port Kembla boy born on 19 April 1946 and in his own words was 'a true baby boomer'. His early education included completing his secondary education at Wollongong High School. On leaving school, Rick was employed as a clerk with Australian Mercantile Land and Finance until his call up for National Service. Rick arrived at 1RTB Kapooka on 12 July 1967. He undertook the perquisite tests and was selected to attend OTU, commencing with Class 3/67 on 28 July. In his Senior Term, Rick was appointed Sergeant. He graduated on 22 December 1967, was allocated to the RAA and posted to the School of Artillery in Manly, NSW, for Corps Training. His class did not have a Graduation Ball as it was the time of the disappearance of Prime Minister Harold Holt and the nation was not sure what had happened to him or the consequences of his disappearance.

On 22 March 1968 Rick commenced as a Platoon Commander at 1 RTB Kapooka. On 4 November that year he moved to Headquarters 2nd Cadet Brigade as a Staff Officer. By this stage, Rick had decided to stay in the Army and transferred to the ARA. He remained with the Cadet HQ until 27 June 1969 where he transferred to ASC. In September 1969 Rick was posted to 12 Fd Regt at Holsworthy in Sydney. This regiment had been warned out for service in Vietnam and was scheduled to replace 4 Fd Regt early in the following year.

Rick deployed to South Vietnam with the Regiment on 4 February 1971 and was initially employed as a Duty Officer in the Artillery Tactical Headquarters (Arty Tac). He would occasionally join a patrol from Defence and Employment Platoon (D and E Platoon) as their Forward Observer (FO). On 7 June 1971, during Operation Overlord, 2Lt Ian Mathers was KIA while the FO with B Coy, 3 RAR. Rick was transferred to replace him and stayed as an FO with the company until his return to Australia on 11 November 1971. He had been promoted to Temporary Captain in July of that year and after his return to Australia he stayed with 12 Fd Regiment, which had returned to their home barracks at Holsworthy.

In March 1973, Rick was appointed Adjutant of 6 Fd Regt in Hobart Tasmania. He was there at the time of the infamous Hobart Bridge disaster and was involved in the military cooperation in assisting civilian

authorities during the replacement phase. Rick remained in Tasmania until March 1975 when he was posted to Canberra and took up a position as the Staff Officer Grade 3 at the Directorate of Artillery. The following year he moved to the Royal Military College, Duntroon, as an Instructor. Obviously, his performance at RMC was noted and in January 1977 he was posted as an Exchange Instructor to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the UK.

Completing his two years in the UK, Rick returned to Australia in early 1979, Rick was appointed Battery Commander of 107 Fd Bty in Townsville. During his time with the Battery, 4 Fd Regt had become part of the Operational Deployment Force, which required light scales. The Battery changed guns from the M2A2 back to the lighter and more mobile L5 Pack Howitzer. Following a successful two years with 107, Rick move to Canungra and became the Artillery Instructor there. He stayed at Canungra for four years before moving to the School of Artillery at North Head in Sydney as the Training Major where he stayed until the end of the year. In January 1985 he moved on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel as Staff Officer Grade One (SO1) with Training Systems at Headquarters Training Command at Middle Head.

Rick's final posting was as Commanding Officer of the Army Reserve's 7 Fd Regt at Willoughby in Sydney. Rick assumed command of the Regiment in May 1988 and remained there until he discharged from the Army on 28 November 1990. His National Service and subsequent transfer to the Regular Army saw him accrue 23 years of service.

Rick took on a position with Residential Property Management but maintained his ties with the military and became involved in the RSL with Pension and Welfare claims for Veterans. He eventually became an Advocate for the Queensland State Branch of the RSL in 1999 and continued until 2006. He then became the Services Member on the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) in Brisbane and was able to assist many veterans with their claims for compensation from DVA.

Rick died on 12 June 2020 after a long battle with cancer. He will be remembered as a thoroughly professional officer and a gentleman. He will also be remembered for his advocacy work for the Veteran community.

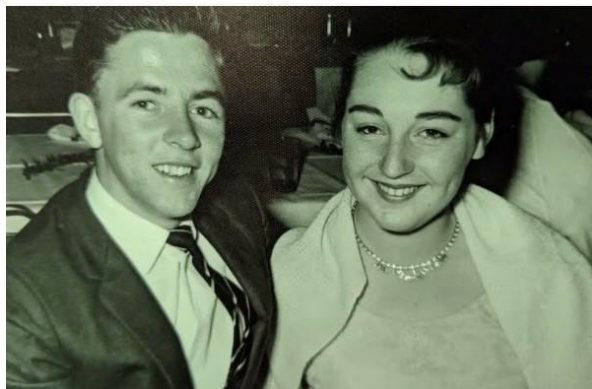
Robert 'Bob' Wallace Thomson was born in NSW on 3 Mar 1941. He joined the CMF on 3 March 1965 and served with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment until 26 July 1966. The following day he



joined the Army on a Short Service Commission commencing with OTU Class 3/66. Graduating on 23 December Bob was allocated to the AAAvn Corps and posted to Southern Command commencing his Basic Flying Training at Point Cook with Course 64 on 9 January 1967. Passing his BFTS course Bob commenced his Advanced Flying Training at RAAF Amberley with Course 12/67 (Rotary Wing) on 28 August 1967. On graduation from AFT he was posted to 16 Aviation Squadron on 31 Jan 1968. Later that year Bob found himself in Vietnam with 161 Independent Recce Flight, serving from 10 December 1968 until 17 December 1969 and logging over 1,100 flying hours.



Returning to Australia, Bob was posted to 1 Aviation Regiment from where he spent a month in PNG from 28 March to 20 April 1970 followed by a detachment to Indonesia/Borneo on Survey Operations from 1 May to 12 August. Having been promoted to Lieutenant on 2 July 1970 Bob returned to 16 Aviation Squadron as a Section Commander on 12 October 1970.



Aviation Centre Base Squadron on 29 January 1980. Bob's last posting was with Defence Facilities Division in Canberra on 17 January 1983. Bob retired from the Army with the rank of Major in Canberra on 18 August 1986.

Due to a range of health issues over the years Bob had been unable to attend many of the OTU functions. He had been battling kidney cancer for a number of years and died peacefully in his sleep in Canberra on 2 August 2020. Bob Thomson's funeral was held on Thursday 13 August 2020 at The Gold Creek Chapel at Nicholls in Canberra. Above: Bob and Beverley and right the Thomson family.



Bob returned to 1 Aviation Regiment on 1 August 1973 as the Adjutant. Having converted to the Kiowa his next posting was to 171 Operational Support Squadron at Oakey where he was promoted to Captain on 2 July 1974. His next posting was a Non-Corps one as CO of 8 Cadet Battalion on 7 January 1975 where he spent many hours with Les Boag (4/68). From there Bob returned to 1 Aviation Regiment on 31 October 1977 then to the Army

John Guy Parker was born in Melbourne on 12 December 1945 and completed his secondary education at Scotch College in Melbourne. Deferring his National Service John attended Melbourne University and was awarded a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) Degree in 1969 and was employed as a Chemical Engineer by BHP before entering the Army at 2 RTB Puckapunyal on 28 January 1970. John was selected for Officer Training and commenced at OTU with Class 1/70 on 13 February 1970. John graduated on 15 July and was allocated to RASigs and posted to 6th Signal Regiment at Watsonia in Melbourne where he served out his National Service, discharging on 15 November 1971 after the term of National Service had been reduced to eighteen months.



John was a Chemical Engineer and had a very successful career with his own company in the water treatment industry. He was always a keen sportsman, committed Geelong Cats supporter, a keen tennis player and golfer with a wide circle of friends. John had heart surgery on 3 August, which seemed to go OK, but he then suffered a series of strokes and died on 5 August 2020. Despite the COVID 'Lock Down' John's wife Sue and his son and daughter were able to be with him during his last day. As one of his golfing mates said, 'he could always drive the ball straight down the middle of the fairway, and that was the way he was in life'. A great mate! RIP John

Maxwell James 'Max' Napper was born in Bowral, NSW, on 24 November 1945 and completed his secondary education at Bowral High School reaching School Vice-Captain. In 1963 he gained employment with Australian Iron & Steel at Port Kembla as a Trainee Electrical Engineer. Max deferred his National Service and attended Wollongong University College part-time where he graduated as a Bachelor of Science (Engineering) in 1970. Max commenced his NS at 1 RTB Kapooka on 27 January 1971 and was selected for officer training commencing at OTU on 15 February. He graduated with Class 1/71 on 14 July, was allocated to RAEME and posted to 2 Base Workshops, Moorebank, where he completed his NS. On 29 October 1971 Max was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant. He completed his NS on 26 July 1972.



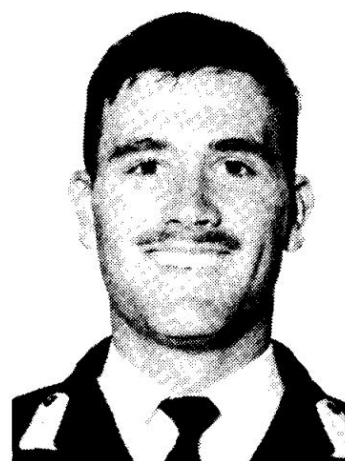
Max and Joan married in 1969 in St Michael's Cathedral, Wollongong. They would live in Wollongong for their 51 years of marriage. Post NS Max returned to the Steelworks reaching the Supervising Engineer Mills position of the Port Kembla Steelworks, retiring in 2002. In 1974 he began a lifetime involvement with the Scouting Movement and was heavily involved in the Mount Kiera Scout Camp up until as late as March 2020. He received many awards for his Scouting Service, including a Silver Emu in 2014 for 'Sustained and Exceptional Service.'



A few years ago, Max was diagnosed with a genetic deficiency that led to emphysema. He passed away peacefully at Wollongong with wife Joan at his side on Monday 10 August 2020. He was the much loved father and father-in-law of Andrew and Cora (Netherlands), Glenn and Severine, Deborah and Ryan and a loving Grandpa to 9 grandchildren. Max was a loved brother and brother-in-law of Graham and Heather, Marian and Alan, and brother-in-law of John and Maret.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a small number of Max's relatives and friends were able to attend his funeral service held at St Michael's Cathedral, Wollongong on 17 August 2020. Others were able to view the service on Facebook.

Gavan Connell was born in Melbourne on 1 August 1950, a brother to Peter and Margaret. He completed his secondary Education at St Patrick's College, Ballarat. Before entering the Army on 27 January 1971 as National Serviceman 3800694, Gavan was a student. He commenced OTU with Bridges Company in Class 1/71 on 12 February 1971, graduating on 15 July. He was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and posted to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. On 20 October 1972 Gavan transferred to the Australian Regular Army, then on 4 May 1973 he transferred to the Armoured Corps and posted to B Squadron, 3 Cavalry Regiment. Gavan served with the ARA until 29 January 1991 when he transferred to the Army Reserve in Tasmania, where he discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 31 March 1999.



In 2005 Gavan and his wife moved to Mexico. Gavan died suddenly of a heart attack at home in Prospero, Mexico, on 9 October 2020. He leaves behind his wife Lorena, children Cy, Matthew and Alexandra and grandchildren Maisie, Archer, Leo and Harriet. He will be sadly missed by both his Australian and Mexican families.

Many classmates responded to the sad news of Gavan's sudden passing: Frank Le Faucheur: 'He always looked super-fit, to the end!'

Phil Biencourt: 'He always had a positive and friendly attitude no matter how hard things were going.'

Doug Miller: 'Some of us knew Gavan a bit better than I did when we were at OTU. Your testimony bears witness to his calibre – the kind that helped all of us to survive and dare I say it, grow. I only got to be a bit closer to him while canvassing for participants to join us at next year's 50th anniversary reunion in Manly. It was then that I realised he was living in Mexico – and then also that I understood how keen he was to make that special trip back here next year to be with us all.'

John Forwood: 'Next door neighbour and Bridges brother to Bluey Kuhl, Jim Kelaher and myself. Gavan was totally reliable, a great friend who never had a bad day and still looked 20 at his last reunion!'

Geoff Noble: 'We saw him four years ago in Mexico. He was happy and looked very well. We had lunch and spent the afternoon together. Very sad and surprising passing.'

Greg Elliot: 'So very sorry to hear of Gavin's passing. Met him in the 4/70 Snr-1/71 Jnr Term at Scheyville and then at Lavarack Barrack Barracks in Townsville where we became close mates. In touch on and off over the years but caught up with he and his son in Perth in recent years and has been mentioned he was much the same old Gavan as he was in our Army days and still had that twinkle and sense of larrikin in his eye!!'

Paul Thomas Kearney was born in Melbourne on 29 June 1951 being brought up in Brunswick and later in Burwood. He completed his secondary education at Marcellin College in Bulleen and had worked with the Victorian Railways as a Clerk before a change of direction saw him study Applied Chemistry at Swinburne College in Hawthorn. Paul was working as a Trainee Chemist with Dunlop Rubber before commencing his Nasho with a bus trip to 2 RTB Puckapunyal on 29 September 1971. At this time Paul's mother Eileen joined 'Save Our Sons'. Paul commenced Officer Training at OTU Scheyville on 15 October, where he met Officer Cadet Kim McDonald who would become a life-long friend. Kim, who had been injured, started OTU with Class 3/71 and would continue in Paul's platoon, but unfortunately did not graduate with Paul on 19 April 1972.



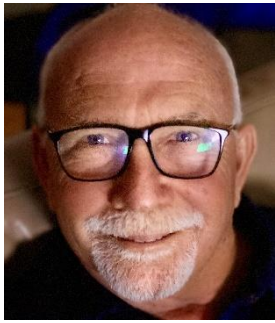
Paul was allocated to RAASC and posted to the 1st Mobile Petroleum Laboratory in Melbourne. This posting would see Paul deploy with 9th Petroleum Platoon where he conducted field quality assurance, mostly on aviation fuel. Captain Peter Baker, a former OC of 9 Pet Pl, ran the Puckapunyal Petroleum Platoon and he became another of Paul's life-long friends.

On 2 February 1973 Paul transferred to RAAOC. He was due for discharge from National Service on 28 March 1973 but decided to continue serving and on 19 June 1973 transferred to the ARA. On 2 November 1975 was promoted to Lieutenant. Postings followed to 33 (and later 32) Supply Battalion, The Officer Cadet School, Portsea, various Army Headquarters postings where, due to acquired (or perhaps he might have said perceived) computer skills, he eventually took over as SO1, Budget Management. His later postings included being on the Australian Defence Staff in Washington. While serving at Headquarters Logistics Command, Paul discharged from the Army on 8 January 1996 with the rank of Lt Col.



In 1978, while serving at OCS Portsea, Paul met Julianne, who became his first wife. The couple would have two children. In 2006 Paul married Sue, who also had two children. The family grew to include six grandchildren ranging from 7 months to 9 years by 2020.

Paul and Sue travelled extensively in the last 19 years. This included Paul completing the Kokoda Track with some Laminex work colleagues. Paul's post-Army work included, not surprisingly for an Ex-Army Officer, working in supply chain and logistics executive roles with such companies as Smorgon Steel, Adidas Australia, and The Laminex Group.



In January 2020, Paul participated in Peter Baker's funeral, Peter having died from cancer. One month later, Paul found that he himself had cancer. Sue wrote: 'As 2020 unfolded, Paul was want to reflect that even if he never got to travel again, he was happy and grateful for having done as much as he had in his life. He was a happy man - happiest in the most simple of pursuits, and proudest of all about his big happy family.' Paul, having fought valiantly against cancer, heart disease and stroke, died peacefully early on 10 November 2020 with family at his side.

Terrence James 'Terry' Coman was born in NSW on 14 February 1948, a son to Frank and Claire Coman (both dec) and a brother to Bev (dec), Patrick, John and Lee. Terry was raised in Snowy River country of NSW before the family moved to WA. On Call-up, Terry travelled from Goldsworthy, east of Port Hedland, to Perth then flew from Perth to Melbourne and then to Puckapunyal to commence his National Service with the Australian Army on 29 January 1969 as 5716442. He was selected to attend the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, commencing with Class 1/69 on 14 February. Terry left OTU on 23 September and was allocated to RAE and posted to SME Casula, where, after completing his Corps Training, he became a staff member at the school on 4 April 1970. Sapper Coman completed his NS on 28 January 1971. After completing his NS Terry returned to WA where he married Pam Cash.

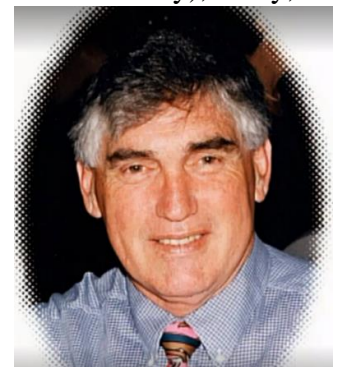


Terry was a Registered WA Building Contractor. His education saw him gain a Graduate Diploma in Education and a Masters in Business Administration at the University of WA. He worked in the building construction area and rose to be a Consulting Civil and Structural Engineer in WA and at one time was the Principal Civil Structural Engineer for the E&G Project at the BHPBilliton Worsley Alumina Refinery in SW WA. Terry was the Principal of T J Coman Consulting Engineers.



Formerly of Perth and later of Burekup (east of Bunbury), Terry, passed away peacefully on 12 August 2020 in the Fiona Stanley Hospital in Murdoch, a suburb of Perth. He had been a loving husband of almost 50 years to Pam and a loving father to Ben, Amy and Chris and Father-in-law to Christina, Drew and Tuyen. Terry

was 'Grandpa' to Lucy, Kate, Alexandra, Zoe, Charlotte and Trillian. Remembered with love, thanks for the memories.



A Private Celebration of his life was held on 21 August 2020, which was online.

Catch-up Vales:

John William Landsberry was born in NSW and was called up for National Service with the fourth intake in 1967 on 4 October. He commenced with OTU on 27 October 1967. John suffered an injury and was listed to repeat the Senior Term with Class 1/68. However, he was Medically Discharged in 1968. Sadly, John died in a motor-cycle accident in 2002. John's widow lives in Sussex Inlet, a part of the Jervis Bay area of NSW.

Robert William Buchan was born in Dandenong, Victoria, on 25 May 1950 and was conscripted in 1970, but as he was undergoing studies at the Gilbert Chandler Institute of Dairy Technology (1969 - 1971) his intake into the Regular Army Supplement (NS) was deferred until October 1971. Robert commenced his NS on 29 September 1971 at 2 RTB, Puckapunyal and commenced with Class 4/71 at OTU on 15 October. Graduating on 19 April 1972 Robert was allocated to the RAAOC and posted to the RAAOC Centre where he stayed until he completed the full term of his NS.



Robert wrote: 'Whilst in my Senior Term I was promoted to Colour Sergeant, the Bridges Company "2IC". It was my luck that my Company Sergeant Major broke his ankle and this meant that I had to lead the parade at the graduation as Acting Company Sergeant Major. The Company Sergeant Major carried a sword & gave all the orders - they were NOT simple. When you are out front you could not keep a low profile.



'During our Senior Term we had an overflow of ARA Officer Cadets from Officer Cadet School at Portsea, Victoria, relocated to Scheyville. These were the 9 am - 5 pm Regular Army boys who did the same course as us over 12 months. They believed they were a "cut above" us.

'In April 1972 I was posted to the RAAOC School, Bandiana

Detachment. I was the Officer Commanding the Storeman Technical Platoon, which was at Bonegilla, in the original migrant hostel (with huts similar to Scheyville), together with the Driver Platoon (Scheyville classmate 2Lt Terry South - & Peter Anthony Williams Class 1/71 - OC Clerical Platoon). We had a staff of one WO2 & three Sergeants.

'When the Whitlam Labour Government came to power in late 1972, we had the option of immediate discharge. I chose to stay until the original discharge date. Attempts were made to have National Servicemen stay on - some did.'

Robert's discharge day was 25 May 1973 – the following day he married Anne O'Brien. Post-NS Robert worked for 25 years for Kraft Foods Ltd, initially as a Cheesemaker then for 22 years in Management, in Simpson, Mt Gambier (where he discovered a mate in David Kaethner, 2/69) and Leitchville. He later worked as Production Manager at Mackay Casings, Wangaratta and finally as 2IC at Alpine MDF, Wangaratta.

All six of his children were soldiers, two of whom served as WO1's in the ARA. Just a little over two months before his death on 5 July 2010 following a battle with melanoma Robert attended the ANZAC Day Service at the Cenotaph, proudly wearing his Nasho Medal. Robert is buried at the Eldorado, Vic, Cemetery. After his death Robert's eldest granddaughter also served in the Army during a Gap Year in 2015.

Robert's full story on his time in the Army is on the OTU website under Deceased Members!

Adrian Kenneth Pitcher was born in Unley, a southern suburb close to the city of Adelaide, on 7 August 1945. He completed his secondary education at Unley High School before attending the University of Adelaide where he graduated as a Bachelor Civil Engineering in 1966. He was then employed as a Graduate Civil Engineer.



Adrian commenced his National service as 4718865 on 2 February 1967 at 2 RTB, Puckapunyal, where he was selected for Officer Training at OTU, commencing on 17 February with Class 1/67. Adrian graduated from OTU

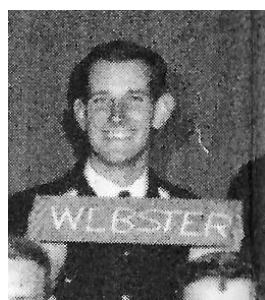


and was allocated to the Royal Australian Engineers and on 14 July commenced his Young Officers Course at the School of Military Engineering, Casula. On completion of the course, on 19 October he was posted to the school. Adrian completed his two years on 1 February 1969 and discharged from the Army. 'LinkedIn' show that Adrian was involved as a Human Resources Business Partner at Rheinmetall Defence Australia.

Adrian's wife, Judy, advised that he had died in 2012. There was an obituary for him in the Sydney Morning Herald, but the association has not been able to locate

it online.

John Stanley Webster was born in Sydney on 20 August 1946. He completed his secondary education at North Sydney High School and before entering the Army on 1 February 1967 as a National Serviceman he was employed as a Sales Clerk with ICIANZ Ltd. John went to Kapooka where he was selected for officer training and commenced at OTU on 17 February. He graduated with Class 1/67 on 13 July, was allocated to RAEME and posted to the RAEME Centre at Bandiana. On 7 August, after completing his RAEME Training, John was posted to the Technical Services Unit at Albert Park in Melbourne where he saw out his NS commitment on 31 January 1969. He resided at the predominantly RASigs Watsonia Officer's Mess with other Scheyvillians such as Classmate Keith Rowe and commuted to the city each day.



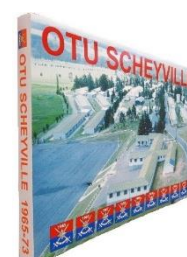
John had lived in Gordon in Sydney's northern suburbs, but at the time of his death was living in Blaxland in the foothills of the Blue Mountains in Sydney's west. He passed away peacefully on 9 October 2018 and his funeral was held at the Macquarie Park Crematorium on 13 October 2018. John left behind his wife Pam. He was a loving father and father-in-law of Stephanie, Jillian, Geoffrey, Ratha and Mark and a devoted grandfather of Lily, Thomas, Amelie, Kevin and Sophea. John was a loved brother and brother-in-law of Jeni and Eddie.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Scheyvillian usually has a number of reviews of books that may be of interest to the readers. However, this bumper COVID Edition cannot fit them in, so look out in the next edition for book reviews! However, if you need a book, and you haven't already bought one, there are stocks available of **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 Q Store. Note: To avoid any confusion on delivery, such as 'Local Pick Up', delivery will only be made by mail, with the appropriate charge.

If you are looking for a late Christmas present, you could do worse than: *"From Gods to Gigabytes – A Brief History of Weather Forecasting"* by Dick Whitaker (1/69)
Contact Dick: weathersmart047@gmail.com



WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DID

OTU Memoir: 'The hardest 6 months of my life' (Terry Benjamin, 1/69)

Terrence Murray Benjamin was called up in January 1966, the month of his 20th birthday. He deferred as he was doing a Diploma of Commerce at RMIT and eventually went into the first intake in 1969. On 28 January 1969 he was transported from Ballarat to Puckapunyal 2RTB. It was there on the first evening that the Recruits were welcomed to the Army by the CO, Colonel O'Connor. He gave an evening lecture in the Area Drill Hall to the approximately 1250 recruits. The message was simple:

"You may as well make the most of our next 2 years as you will meet and live with other men from all walks of life, labour and management, and will learn to understand the other point of view which will stand you in good stead for the rest of your life".



Terry wrote: 'These words have stuck with me throughout my life and have proved invaluable in understanding and listening to all sides of many issues beyond Army service. It is a bit like – 'Is the other side of the fence painted BLACK or WHITE?' We were invited to submit for selection for Officer training. As the pay, accommodation and conditions were allegedly better, I decided to apply. About 70 or so recruits from 2RTB were selected from that intake. Not sure how many graduated. Of our 1/69 Class, 75 graduated as Commissioned Officers. (Photo with John Bendeich, Robin Spargo and John Britton at 2RTB)

One statistic that I have always been fascinated with was that of the 1,881 Graduates from Scheyville, 362 (or almost 20%) ended up serving in Vietnam). A few days later, on 14 February, we flew to Sydney, arriving at Scheyville camp to be allocated a room.



'I have very little recall of the next 6 months other than to remember that it was the hardest thing I had ever done – and I nearly did not make it. It was only after a discussion with my Aunt Jean in Sydney on a Sunday escape that she put things into perspective, and I did survive. Aunt Jean and her late husband were both Medical Doctors who were greatly respected. Uncle Phil had been a Medical Wing Commander in the RAAF in WW2. I was a plodder and in the 9 mile run with full kit, remember coming in first or there about – but only just qualified inside the max time for the 100 metres. Towards the end of the 6 months, we were asked if we wanted to go to SVN and I was not fussed so ended up as a Platoon Commander back at 2RTB for 6 months or so.

I was the only member of the 2RTB Officers Mess who did not consume booze so I was made Wines Member by the PMC – probably thought the beverages would be safe!

Several of my 1/69 classmates and others who subsequently ended up at 2RTB certainly made up for me. None shall be named but some of the exploits will long live in infamy – such as "The Beast".

When it came to Christmas 1969, the PMC – also the Battalion 2IC, Major "Black Jack" John Stephens, wanted an Audit Officer as there had been a fair bit of pilfering of stores – and a Paymaster. I had done Accounting at RMIT, so this role befell me. This was OK and suited me as it meant that I had most weekends off in my 2nd year to meet my by now fiancée Margaret in Ballarat and assist on her dairy farm. Margaret had been overseas for 6 months in USA and then Europe until before Christmas 1969.

We planned to and did get married on 01/01/1971. David Kerr (1/69) was one of our Groomsmen and continues to be my mate to today.

The rest of my service was uneventful other than one very valuable lesson I have been grateful that "Black Jack" taught me, and I use to this day. He taught me how to get responses to correspondence or communications in a very timely manner.

"Be precise! Ask what you need to ask and make it easy for the recipient to respond by providing all the information they need to give an immediate answer or suggest where you think (or know) they can

find the information for reply or confirmation sought.”

So simple, but this has been a great help in my business and personal life.

On Discharge, I returned to Ballarat and started life with Margaret. Our Son Stuart was born in December of 1974 and Daughter Louise in June 1976. We have 5 grandchildren and in March 2017, became Great Grandparents to Ava Violet who is a great joy. Both of our children have worked in our various businesses in Ballarat and Louise with me later in Brisbane. Stuart left BHP and became Project Manager at our ‘Lake Gardens’ Development – and now has his own development business in Ballarat – plus several other interests. Louise became a Fully Licenced Estate Agent and was Senior Property Manager with Margaret in Ballarat. Lou was my Business Partner in our development business in Brisbane and later several of her own ventures both in Brisbane and Vanuatu.

My Father had been in Real Estate agency almost by accident since 1953 after leaving his farming interests at Natte Yallock in Central Victoria to get closer to educational facilities for us kids. I joined the business in January 1971 after Nasho and in November that year Dad and I purchased a long-established Hotel Broking business in the same street in Ballarat working mainly in the Western half of Victoria. I was to run that business but had hardly ever been in a Pub, let alone trying to sell them. The next 12 months were interesting and challenging during which I travelled many thousands of km but was successful in selling several hotels, a motel at Nhill in western Victoria plus houses in Ballarat.

During that year Margaret became very ill and spent over a month in hospital in Melbourne which was challenging for us both. At the end of 12 months, I was over the rogues, vagabonds and thieves who called themselves country hoteliers and with Margaret still not well, we decided to concentrate on urban real estate in Ballarat. We consolidated the two real estate businesses and operated ‘Benjamin Real Estate’. By 1974, I was sick of selling dirty pre-used homes and so set up a building company to construct new homes only in the Ballarat urban area. Through the 30 years to 2004, we were involved in constructing over 2,000 detached homes, blocks of flats, terrace homes and OYO units in Ballarat – often on land we developed or subdivided and became specialists in small lot housing.

When ‘The Professionals’ Real estate group came to Victoria, I sought to be the first country member and was on the Victorian State board for several months until meetings in Melbourne Eastern suburbs at 7am became a problem. We were members for over 12 years until the brand benefits faded for us. I have trained many salespeople over the years and 5 were successful in setting up as Licenced Estate Agents in opposition to me in Ballarat. I guess the training worked!

I was invited to join 7 other non-competing Real Estate Principals as the ‘country rep’. This mentor group was recognised in the Industry at REIV as the “Quarter Club”. We met every 3 months for a morning then lunch for over 28 years with only one change of membership. We dissected our businesses and shared our experiences on a Chatham Rules basis. The survivors are still mates today, with all but 2 now retired. On 5th March 1987, I was awarded a ‘Fellow of the Real Estate Institute of Australia’ for contributions to the industry.

Another string to our promotion bow was when in about 1978 when I was approached to do a 25-minute real estate segment on the local radio station 3BA each Saturday morning at 8.35am. This went on with the same Announcer (who became a great friend) and myself for almost 28 years - sometimes from overseas or the Grand Prix in Adelaide. The program was a great asset in promoting our business and products we produced as well as being informative of general matters in Real Estate in and beyond Ballarat. The agent who took over our Rent Roll business in 2004 is still doing that program with the same announcer who has just been recognised for 50 years of service to Radio with a OAM this year.

Benjamin Real Estate had become ‘Benjamin Partners’ by the time we sold the business and moved to Brisbane in 2004. We still had developments in progress in Ballarat and now also in Brisbane northside. ***The thing I have loved about my work post OTU has been that OTU showed us that we generally only use a small portion of our capacity and that we have lots of untapped reserves. That was probably the***

best skill learned, as to how to tap those reserves. Usually just having a go and then working your butt off to make sure whatever you were doing worked – and you got paid!

In the mid-1980s, a client of our real estate business who was a Brewer and Maltster planned to set up a new style Maltings in Ballarat. We contributed some Superannuation funds and a couple of years later I became a Director of Pacific Maltings. This involved sales trips to Asia (an interlude to real estate sales in Ballarat). We considered building another Maltings in Timaru on South Island of NZ. A trip there in 2015 showed that much of the Barley growing land had been converted to Dairy so the decision not to proceed was a good one. *Adaptability was one of the traits ingrained in us in such a short time at O T U.*

This came out in late 1998 when, with our then home builder partner, we put in a tender for the 58ha site, former Lakeside Hospital near Lake Wendouree and the Botanical Gardens in Ballarat. We subsequently won the tender with **everything** on the line. In the next 4 1/2 years over 20 stages, we created a 688 Lot Residential and Commercial project and at the same time constructed half of the homes in the 'Lake Gardens Estate'. The Ballarat City Council even renamed the area which included the Ballarat High School, Aquatic centre and Golf Club as part of the new suburb of 'Lake Gardens, 3355'. This project involved demolition of about 10 acres of the former Psychiatric Hospital buildings and spending over \$2m crushing concrete out of the Kerb and channelling, driveways and rock out of the lakes created – which was recycled under the new footpaths, driveways and roads.

When visiting Brisbane, we planned to buy a temporary "beach house" in Brisbane to visit our Daughter and granddaughter. I was introduced to a House Removalist who part owned 40 acres - the last large piece of industrial land in Redcliffe City. We ended up purchasing this land some 9 months later and developed it into 56 industrial lots in the next 12 months also building 25 Office/factories for sale. With our Daughter, we then went on to develop several other projects on the north side of Brisbane.

Unfortunately, Margaret was diagnosed with 'Lewy Body Syndrome', which is a collision of Parkinson's Disease and Dementia, and went into care in May 2018 moving into a new retirement home with specialist care section, only about 500 metres from the Benjamin's apartment at Hamilton Harbour on the Brisbane River. Sadly, Margaret succumbed to the disease and passed away quietly on 4 July 2020.

I am very grateful for the ongoing moral support, especially over the last couple of years, from a great bunch of OTU guys unknown until we moved full time up to Brisbane from Ballarat in 2004.

This group is the OTU monthly lunch group who had been meeting at 'Fridays' Restaurant in Brisbane for about 24 years – 2nd Thursday of the month at 12.45pm. It would be great to catch up if ever up here around that each month. The lunches have now moved to 'The Pig & Whistle'.

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A 'darling' of a Piece of OTU History (Frank Miller, 4/67)

Over the recent time of COVID 'Lock Downs' there seems to have been an increase in Scheyvillians sharing different and amusing clips on the Internet. One recently doing the rounds featured Michael Palin as an RSM instructing Recruits. The RSM noticed a new Recruit and barked at him, "What's your name soldier?" "John" the soldier replied. "Look, I don't know what (expletive) Army you think you have joined son, but I don't call ANYONE by his first name!" barked the scowling RSM. "It breeds familiarity and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I call my soldiers by their last names only. Smith, Jones, Brown or whatever, and you are to refer to me as Sir!" Am I clear?" "Yes, Sir!" replied the soldier.

"Now we have got that one straight, what's your last name?" The soldier sighed heavily, "Darling, my name is John Darling, Sir." "OK **John**, here is what I want you to do"

And so: Among the legends of OTU Scheyville is the 2/69 Graduation Parade. A good number of the participants had come down with severe food poisoning on that fateful morning and were excused from the ceremony. The depleted battalion marched on and prepared to right dress etc. It then became clear

that the BSM had succumbed and was unable to carry on. The RSM immediately brought things under control, ordering Under Officer Michael Darling to take over the parade. This Michael carried out flawlessly – a wonderful effort. The Michael Palin piece raises the question as to whether the RSM, in front of the Cadets and assembled doting guests, roared out the order: “Take over the parade, **Darling!**” Could be that truth is stranger than fiction!

Work for the United Nations

Max Gaylard joined the Department of External Affairs in 1968 and was the first Diplomatic Cadet to be conscripted into the Army. He graduated from the OTU with Class 3/68 where he was awarded the Sword of Honour. He was then assigned as a Second Lieutenant/Platoon Commander to 1 RAR, serving in Malaysia and Singapore as part of a Commonwealth Brigade under the Five-Power Defence Arrangements. Max is now a retired UN Assistant Secretary-General who served as UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and Designated Official for Security in Somalia and Palestine.



Protecting Humanitarian Workers from Violence a Continuing Challenge for the UN

The recent article by fellow Australian Gordon Weiss on the UN and Australia’s place in it brought to mind the extreme dangers often faced by both national and international humanitarian relief workers with the UN, the Red Cross movement (the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) and non-governmental organisations.



In my own UN experience over 15 years in northern Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Israel/Palestine and the UN Mine Action Service, I have witnessed the dangers to such workers from wars, armed conflicts, terrorism, assassinations and natural disasters. The continued absence over the past several decades or more of world war or anything approaching it has been offset by a plethora of both state and non-state actors using violence to achieve their objectives.

A worrying development over that time has been the marked increase in targeting of UN and associated humanitarian relief personnel in crisis countries and regions. In one sad instance, two UNICEF workers who inadvertently drove into an ambush between known rebel groups in what was then southern Sudan were executed by the side of the road. The incriminating orders were captured at base by the UN on two-way radio.

Staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross have suffered horrendous casualties in many theatres of conflict. Much-acclaimed Afghan deminers working in Afghanistan for national NGOs in landmine-clearance operations and supported by the UN suffer fatalities not just from the mines they locate and destroy, but also from the Taliban and other insurgent groups.

In Sudan, as the country battled through a decades-long civil war that saw the eventual creation (in 2011) of a new state of South Sudan, we as UN coordinators were haunted by the epidemic of killings, kidnappings, general mayhem and attrition rates not only within civilian communities, but also directed at UN and NGO staff there trying to help.

Extreme violence towards UN personnel has been occurring since the very beginnings of the UN in the mid-1940s, even at the most senior levels. In 1948, the secretary-general’s special envoy to newly created Israel, UN Under-Secretary-General Count Folke Bernadotte from Sweden, was assassinated on a busy Jerusalem street. In 1961, the UN secretary general himself, Dag Hammarskjöld, also of Sweden, died in a plane crash in southern Africa when he was centrally involved in trying to stop the conflict in the Congo. Rumours persist to this day of foul play in the crash itself.

In 2003, yet another UN under-secretary-general and leader of a humanitarian mission to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Merlo, died in the rubble of the Canal Hotel in Baghdad along with 22 other UN personnel (including Rani, my Filipino office manager from an earlier time in Iraqi Kurdistan), blown up by terrorists.

The great majority of UN and associated humanitarian workers are nationals of the countries receiving humanitarian relief assistance. They bear the brunt of the endemic violence visited upon such workers, most times in the course of seeking to assist host populations suffering from one or more of a range of adverse events. Such events typically include extreme weather and climate change, sickness and pandemics, and internal armed conflict. In the small country of Yemen in the Gulf region of the Middle East, virtually all of these factors are at play: more than half of its 25 million population are categorised by the UN as being at extreme risk. It is emblematic that the UN, together with NGOs and Red Cross organisations, are there, doing their best with limited resources to provide relief to communities under severe stress.

A smaller cohort of humanitarian relief workers are internationals from all corners of the globe, bringing to bear impartiality and neutrality in situations of violent conflict, as well as skills in the provision of relief assistance—hygiene and medicine, water and sanitation, food and agriculture.

Australians have been and are well represented in all of these key sectors, and in my own time in the UN I encountered plenty of young—and not so young—fellow countrymen and women, not only with the UN but also with the Red Cross and NGO movements. Some of them were and are never far away from the ever-present threat of external violence. In Burundi, an Australian UN security officer pulled a concealed weapon to shoot an insurgent who had begun to murder a line-up of UN international staff and had already killed two. In Erbil in northern Iraq, a young New Zealand demining professional was assassinated on the eve of Anzac Day. In Gaza, Palestine, an Australian female officer working for UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees) crawled into an UNRWA warehouse on fire from an air strike, to rescue much-needed food distribution vehicles from a conflagration which gutted the warehouse.

Australian ex-military veterans, many with specialist skills, are well represented and well thought of in the UN-coordinated work dealing with the scourge of landmines and unexploded ordnance. There have inevitably been many fatalities in this particularly dangerous area of humanitarian work, including of Australians.

The protection of humanitarian assistance personnel remains an ongoing and critical challenge for the UN. A web of international human rights and humanitarian law provides umbrella protection, and host governments have clear responsibilities to protect. This is not enough, and so the UN secretariat includes in its structure a department of safety and security whose role is to provide optimum protection for staff and dependents, and the safest possible conduct of humanitarian relief operations.



3 April 2006: Max Gaylard (left), Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service, flanked by Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of Angola to the UN, and Co-Chair of the Forum of Mine Affected States, addresses a press conference in advance of the first International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April 2006 at UN Headquarters in New York.

WHAT SCHEYVILLIANS DO:

Read Military Articles:

Respect Will Never Fade Away (Ross Eastgate, Townsville Bulletin, 1 August 2020 via Al Pope 4/66)

In the coming weeks Australia will mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

It seems only yesterday since the 50th anniversary of that same date, when scores of veterans, most in their eighth decades, charmed the nation at a series of commemorative events from recreated rail and road convoys to parades.

As a major WWII base, Townsville was a focus of commemorations.

Despite their age, the veterans had lost none of the larrikin traits that characterised them and their military service.

Quietly in the background the nation was simultaneously farewelling the remaining few World War I veterans, men and women who are now all gone.

The bittersweet contrast was not lost on the nation that took those old Diggers into their hearts, marvelled at their exploits, wept at their sacrifices and savoured the chance to meet those we continue to owe so much.

Now the few surviving WWII veterans, most well into their 10th decades and approaching the end of their days, will again be feted by a grateful nation.

Along the journey they have been decorated by countries they helped liberate, the French Legion d'Honneur for those who fought in the European war in 1944, the Philippine Liberation Medal and Greek campaign medals for those who served in those theatres. Some soldiered on to fight other wars, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam.

World War II veterans changed the face of the ADF, providing the nucleus of Australia's post-war regular forces. Many excelled in their chosen post-war endeavours, others fell by the wayside, unable to return usefully to the society they had left. Those who married, settled and raised families, sired a generation known as the baby boomers.

They produced Prime Ministers, State Premiers and a host of other parliamentarians, passing legislation to guide the following generations.

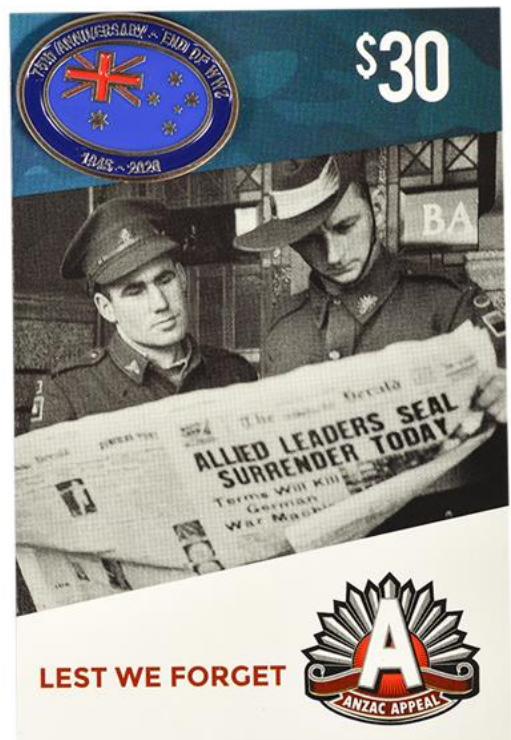
Having given so much, who better to provide that guide?

In his farewell speech to the US Congress on April 19, 1951, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur remarked, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

On ANZAC Days and other commemorations, often all that is left now are their faded unit banners, many veterans either departed or too frail to participate.

Enjoy them while they are still among us.

They in turn should know, 75 years on, their legacy is in capable hands.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO:

During the COVID period, there has been a lot of contact between Scheyvillians of all classes and categories of membership. Some of those who have contacted, or been contacted, by the Editor, are:

James Anthony Clement was born in the UK on 4 July 1945 and emigrated to Australia in early 1952 where his parents settled in Orange NSW and he completed his secondary education at Orange High School. He was working as a Bank Teller in Canberra when he received an indefinite deferment from National Service (his birthdate was not drawn in the second ballot for 1965), but wanting a two year holiday from the bank, he volunteered and was called in for his National Service on 20 April 1966. He commenced his training as 2784139 at 1 RTB Kapooka, and on 6 May found himself at OTU Scheyville with Class 2/66. In his Senior Term Jim was the 2IC of 15 Section, 5 Platoon B Company under Cpl David Ward. He was allocated two 'Sons'. He stated 'I remember that as soon as I got one sorted out, another stuffed up, I seemed to be always on punishment parades (Extra Training Parades) for their first 3-4 weeks'



Jim left OTU in late September 1966 and found himself allocated to the Armoured Corps and posted to A Squadron 2/14th QMI (Queensland Mounted Infantry). Post WW2, in 1948, CMF units were again raised but with no armoured unit allocated to Queensland. On 20 July 1949, A Squadron 2nd/14th QMI was raised as an armoured car squadron. Eighteen months later the unit was increased to Regimental strength and was equipped with Staghound Armoured Cars, Canadian Scout Cars and White APC's. During 1952 the Regiment was changed to a heavy tank unit, however, it continued to train with the same equipment. In 1956 the role changed to anti-tank. In 1960 the reorganisation of the Army resulted in the closure of the QMI country depots. A Squadron became a Regular Army Squadron, which became B Sqn 2 Cav. Jim was later transferred to B Sqn 2 Cav LAD, because of the knowledge gained at OTU. He started at Wacol in Brisbane's South-East with the unit later transferred to Enoggera.

The LAD, which was supposed to have a LT, a WO1, & several Sgts was run for a while by a Cpl Mechanic on the trade side and Jim as the Cpl Clerk Tech on the management & admin side. Interesting, to say the least, as a Cpl, Jim was regularly briefing the OC (a Major) on the availability/state of his vehicles! Jim's discharge date from National Service was 19 April 1968, however, he decided that the ARA was a good place to be and 'signed on'. He commenced a twelve-month (to the day!!) tour in Vietnam on 22 October 1968.

'I was initially posted to Independent Armoured Squadron Workshop, the nucleus of 106 Fd Wksp, Nui Dat, which formed a week or so after I arrived in SVN, but I was transferred to 102 Fd Wksp, Vung Tau, 24 hrs after the 106 Opening Parade. Whilst in SVN I applied for language training and went to RAAF School of Languages, RAAF Pt Cook (Vic) in 1970 to learn Mandarin and was then transferred to Australian Intelligence Corps and posted to Army Component DSD (Albert Park Barracks, Melbourne) after completing Interrogation and Analysis courses at the School of Military Intelligence (then at Woodside, SA). I was posted to Hong Kong, January 1973 to July 1975, promoted to T/Sgt whilst there, working with the Brits, and continued studies at the [British] MoD Chinese Language School.'

'In late 1976, I attended the first 10-week Admin & Tech (A&T) Offr Course at Canungra, was commissioned Lt and posted to Office of the Chief Engineer, HQ 3MD as SO2 (Accn & Works). This period included a 6-month secondment as Adjutant, 3MD District Support Unit, before being promoted and posted to DMI, Russell Offices, Canberra as the SO2 (Trg) in late 1978. I had now ticked all the boxes for both Corps and Non-Corps staff appointments.'

'From January 1980 to January 1982, I was attached to 501 Int Bn, US Army (Fort George G Meade, Maryland) nominally as a Company Commander, working exercise support in the Louisiana swamps and White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico in summer; Fairbanks, Alaska in the middle of winter. (Fort

Meade was an eye-opener, could have fitted the complete Australian Army on it with lots of space left over!) On RTA, I was posted as OC Army Component, DSD and promoted Major, where I remained until I resigned my position in July 1988, after declining another posting to Canberra.'

Jim stated that 'I had married in 1967 and one of the reasons for declining the Canberra posting was concern about the education system there, as both of our sons had attended Canberra schools in 1979, with disastrous results for the younger. So, we stayed in Melbourne where we had bought a home on our return from Hong Kong and I started a lawn mowing business at about the same time as Jim's Mowing started to gain recognition. However, I soon progressed beyond pushing a mower across lawns and moved into larger equipment and employees, contracting to major businesses, such as BHP, and local, state and federal government. I sold the business in 2000 – as an A&T List Officer, later re-classified as a PSO (Prescribed Service Officer), I would have had to retire at 55, so I retired at 55 in civvy street.

In late 2002 my wife and I moved to the 5 acre block that we had bought in East Gippsland ten years earlier. Together, we built our house, doing it all ourselves except for the slab, the plumbing and electrical work. We enjoyed our life in Sarsfield, making many friends and immersing ourselves in local groups, but my wife succumbed to pancreatic cancer in July 2019, eight weeks after diagnosis, and bushfires hit my property on 30th December – the tank fed and pump driven ring main of sprinklers around the house saved it, but all else was toast. I had thought that 2020 had to be better, but with the delays caused by COVID-19, I am only now (early October) seeing sheds, greenhouses, etc., being replaced.

John Gerald Keall was born in WA. John enlisted on 4 October 1967 at Karrakatta Barracks in Perth as 5715479 He flew to Essendon Airport, Melbourne, before being bussed to 2 RTB, Puckapunyal. He commenced with OTU Scheyville on 27 October with Class 4/67. After the six-day 'Exercise Busy Bee', John decided that he was not suited to Infantry and along with Leigh Treyvaud and Bill McLaughlin left OTU shortly after returning from the exercise. John requested to be sent to the RAASC and was granted his wish. He went back to Puckapunyal for RAASC Corps Training and shortly afterwards was 'Warned Out' for service in Vietnam. He moved to Sydney for a short time before departing for Vietnam. His tour was from 14 October 1968 until 3 September 1969, serving with Headquarters, 1st Australian Task Force. Returning to Australia, John spent a few weeks in Sydney before returning to Perth for discharge.

Post Army John found that his Army and Vietnam service influenced him to study social work. He had an interesting career in social work, working a lot with families and children. This ultimately led to his becoming a lecturer in the children's services course in TAFE for the last 15 years before retirement

Robert Allen Hutchison was born in Brisbane on 22 February 1947. His family were among some of the original settlers at Sandgate in Brisbane. He completed his secondary education at the Rockhampton Boys Grammar School and at Banyo High School in North-East Brisbane. Post-school he was working as a Main Roads Inspector with the Department of Main Roads in the Gulf of Carpentaria Queensland. He did not wait for his date to be drawn and volunteered for National Service. As 1733741 he joined the fourth intake of 1967 on 4 October at 3 TB Singleton. By 27 October he found himself at OTU with Class 4/67. At OTU Bob had a 'Father', 'a really nice guy who taught me a lot'. Unfortunately, like so many of us, Bob can't remember the 'really nice guy's' name. Bob did really well in Junior Term and in Senior Term was appointed the Battalion Sergeant Major, graduating first in Class 4/67, being awarded the Governor-General's Medal and the Sword of Honour. Being the BSM, Bob did not have a 'Son'. No doubt not having a 'Son' and not 'wearing' his 'Son's' Extra Training Parades helped Bob along the way. As a Junior Bob saw the way that some Seniors treated their Juniors, getting amusement out of making life miserable for them. He decided that was not the way, and tried really hard to make sure that it was not that way in his Senior Class. On the Six-day exercise



'Busy Bee' Bob started as a Riflemen in 1 Section of the A Coy 1 Platoon, the other platoon being 4 Pl of B Company. He stated that his reward for the cold and wet nights spent out in the bush, struggling not to lose anyone, was when on graduation day he was thanked by the unknown mother of another graduate, who said that her son would have given up if it wasn't for Bob's help.

On 12 April 1968 Class 4/67 graduated and Bob was allocated to the RAInf Corps and posted to the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra. On 4 November he was transferred to 5 RAR (The Tigers) and, extending his National Service, spent from 28 January 1969 until 10 Mar 1970 with 5 RAR on their second tour, as Officer Commanding 6 Platoon B Company, in South Vietnam. On return to Australia Bob transferred to 9 RAR and settled into the regular boredom of training and parades, polishing the brass, and listening to the bad news coming from Vietnam. This was the time for a career change, and Bob took his discharge and went to Hong Kong in late 1971 to work as a Construction Engineer in the new Cross Harbour Tunnel, the steel and concrete tubes being constructed under the seabed to connect Hong Kong Island to Kowloon on the mainland.

The next time Bob put on The Queens uniform was in Hong Kong, where he joined the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (Volunteers), a part of 48 Gurkha Brigade of the British Territorial Army. He was given a new eight-digit Regimental Number (18099270). In time he became OC C Squadron and for many years was involved in Internal Security, Border Duties, detaining Illegal Immigrants, and assisting the Royal Navy and Marine Police with humanitarian assistance for Boatpeople and those fleeing Vietnam. He attended courses and exercises in the UK, and retired with the rank of Major, when the Royal Hong Kong Regiment was disbanded prior to the handover of Hong Kong by Britain to China. He believes that he is the only person with Australian Vietnam Service medals and a Hong Kong Regiment Disbandment medal. Bob said 'It's not exactly a good feeling to know you have been disbanded twice by governments in SE Asia, but at least I didn't have to steal a boat to move on'.

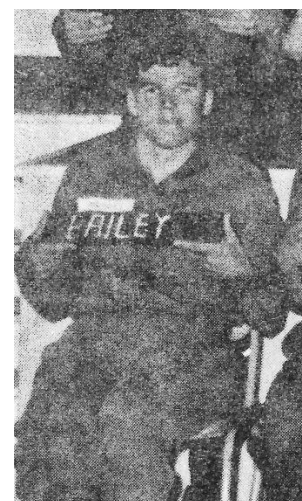
Bob has continued working across South East Asia and China, since 1997, and has been working in North Vietnam for seven years now, with the construction of power stations. It is ironic, he said, with the world suffering from the impact of the Corona Virus, Vietnam is currently one of the safest places to be. This is mainly thanks to the early response from the Government, who spotted the real dimension of this threat, well in advance of those in Europe and America.

Bob is married to Jenny and has two daughters. Susan is working in Hong Kong as the Head of the HR Department for Asia in a US based Corporation, and Susanna is the HR Manager and Pollution Control Officer for her Mother's beach resort in the Philippines. The resort is currently closed to visitors due to the Virus controls imposed by the local Government.



2798821 **Ian William Bailey**, Class 4/71. Ian entered the Army on 29 September 1971 at Marrackville in Sydney. He was sent to 1 RTB Kapooka and within two weeks had been selected for OTU. He arrived at OTU on 15 October with Class 4/71 and was allocated to 3 Sect, 2 Pl, Bridges Coy. Ian would describe himself as being a bit unco-ordinated. 'I could never get the hang of drill, consequently because of my poor co-ordination I never participated in parades. I was in 'F Troop' and my job on parade day was to hand out programmes.'

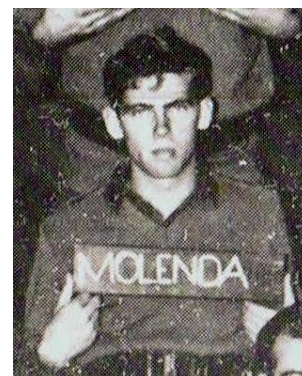
Ian left OTU in February 1972 'due to a medical condition' and was allocated to RAASC and posted to Puckapunyal. 'I stayed there for about two months in the accommodation for Corp Training. As far as the Army were concerned, they did know I was on base. Then after two months of doing nothing I went down to 'Admin' to enquire about what was happening with my posting. Surprise, surprise, they had no idea I was on base, I was not showing up on any of their



records as to where I was.’ Shortly afterwards Ian was off to the Department of Military Operation and Planning in Canberra in the Russell Buildings as a Clerk. He lived in a government hostel in Ainslie. He was also reclassified as ‘Home Duties’ only. This meant Ian was not required to fill in numbers when a ‘dignitary’ appeared, and a parade would be organised.

Ian was finally discharged as ‘medically unfit’ on 6 July 1972. The Army Doctors put it down as anxiety and schizophrenia, but they could not decide if it was caused by the pressure of OTU. It was not until the age of 50 that Ian’s medical problems were finally diagnosed. ‘All my life I had suffered from ADHD and Asperger’s.’

Paul Molenda was born in Birkenhead, England, on 29 July 1950. He completed his secondary education at The Forest High School in Sydney. At the time of entering the Army as a National Serviceman Paul was working with the AMP Society in a clerical role. He commenced his NS as 2797810 at 1 RTB Kapooka on 21 April 1971 and commenced at OTU with Class 2/71 on 7 May. Paul was asked if he would repeat his Senior Term, an option he took up. However, in his own words, about five weeks into the term he ‘stuffed up’ and left the course. He was posted to the 2nd Field Survey Regiment in Randwick as a Storeman where he saw out his time.



Post-NS Paul returned to AMP briefly and in 1973 he returned to England where he stayed for about three years backpacking around the UK and Europe with his fiancée before returning to Australia where he entered into a number of jobs before working with Groups such as Midas and McDonald’s as a Development Manager in Sydney before moving the family to Brisbane in 1990.



Paul married Wendy and they now have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. In more recent years Paul left the commercial world and now runs his own Consultancy business.

Paul wrote: ‘My time at Scheyville is extremely vivid in my memory and I have so many funny memories and I looked back at the memories with a heavy heart and wished I had a higher level of maturity than I displayed – I had no issues with the exercises or academic side but I had an attitude towards the ‘system’ that was self-destructive. However, we all have misgivings and regrets and I look back on my time at Scheyville when I was never fitter in my life, despite playing soccer until 40, and with so many great memories I will always override my disappointments with ‘The Scheyville Experience’ which was second to none.’

Russell Cook (1/72) After graduation, he was posted to 13 Psych (3MD) for OJT before being promoted T/Capt and posted as OC 19 Psych (PNGDF) in Jan 73 to complete his NS. Russell then accepted a ‘Short Service Commission’ in the ARA and was posted to 16 Psych (2MD) between 1974 & 1975 where he completed an MA and, after taking a year or so travelling overseas on ‘Leave Without Pay’, was posted to Army Office (AO) at DPpsych up until mid-1979, when he did a 6 month ‘locum’ as the Student Counsellor at OCS Portsea. In 1980 Russell accepted a permanent commission, was promoted Major and posted as OC 1 Psych (FFComd) before returning to AO in 1981 as SO2 Research in the Directorate of Personnel Plans. In 1983 he was posted as OC 16 Psych where he completed an MBA that he had started in 1980, before attending Command and Staff College Queenscliff in 1984.

In 1985 Russell returned to AO (Army Development) as SO2 Mobilisation, and in 1987, rather than being promoted Lt Col and posted to Central Army Records Office in Melbourne, he resigned and stayed in Canberra primarily because he wanted to do more than just personnel management and was still young enough to start another career. Russell then became a Public Servant in DoD (Force Development and Analysis Division) and started a new chapter in his work history.



Peter Ronald Luffman was born in Sydney on 25 September 1945. Before being called up for National Service he was working on the family grazing property on the Darling River between Bourke and Wilcannia. On 29 September 1966 Peter reported to the Marrickville Barracks in Sydney and was transported to 1 RTB Kapooka where he commenced his Nasho as 3789644 Recruit Luffman. However, by 1 October he was Cadet Luffman at OTU with Class 4/66. His 'Father' in 9 Section, 3 Platoon was Stuart McArthur. In Senior Term he was the Section Commander of 3 Section and had two 'Sons' Wilkinson and Ferguson. On graduation on 30 March 1967 Peter was allocated to the RAInf Corps and posted to 3 TB, Singleton arriving post-leave on 16 April. He commenced as a Recruit Platoon Commander followed by a Training Platoon Commander. In early 1968 Peter was posted to the Infantry Centre, Ingleburn and commenced his preparation for a posting to Vietnam. He arrived at 1 ARU on 7 May 68.

John Fraser (2/65) was the Platoon Commander of 9 Platoon, C Company, 3 RAR when he triggered a booby-trap mine and was killed on 24 March. His Platoon Sergeant took over until the arrival of Peter McCoy of Luffman's OTU Class 4/66 from the 1st Australian Logistics Support Group. The Battle of Coral/Balmoral lasted from 12 May to 6 June 1968 and Luffman joined 3 RAR before the battle ended. He took over 9 Platoon when Peter McCoy returned to Australia. Right: At the end of the 3 RAR tour, 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit's Major Weaver (Ex-9Pl, 3RAR, Korea) hands the 9 Platoon baton to Peter Luffman with Sgt Ray Ewell and the Platoon Mascot.



Luffman had extended his Nasho to complete a tour in Vietnam and two months after his due date for discharge he returned to Australia on the HMAS Sydney arriving in Adelaide in mid-December. He was then transferred to Victoria Barracks in Sydney where he completed his service handling Vietnam casualty notifications... His discharge occurred on 28 March 1969.

Post NS Peter returned to farming and ran the family property until 1984. Peter's wife is a Pharmacist and is from an academic family so reasonable education for the Luffman children was not an option 'out the back of Bourke'. Since then Peter has been involved in the synthetic sports surface industry including manufacture, facility and maintenance. His company installed and maintained the hockey facility for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. They now specialise in maintenance, managing the upkeep of synthetic surfaces all over NSW, ACT and Southern Queensland. His daughter has now taken over the business and Peter will retire at the end of this year

9 Platoon, 3 RAR is still a working support group that communicates consistently and gets together as often as possible. They also gather from time to time around a memorial Lone Pine tree that they planted on Peter's small farm at Braidwood in memory of one of the guys that they lost in SVN, 22 of the platoon attended the planting. 'That platoon group and their wives are critical in the support any of the guys have got a bit down over time.'

Peter said 'Whilst I didn't do a full tour with 3RAR, those that did experienced almost every form of Infantry warfare: jungle (everywhere), street (Baria), land mines and caves (Ling Hi Hills); direct frontal over the barbed wire perimeter (Coral/Balmoral) & river ambushing (Mekong River). I had an amazing group of soldiers around me and an officer support group in the company. Each of the Platoon Commanders was OTU with a CMF/Portsea Company Commander who was an amazing leader. Other Platoon Commanders weren't nearly as lucky as career Company Commanders sought career defining recognition in a war theatre and diggers and their leaders were just collateral damage!'

Peter regards his Nasho as net positive, lots of confidences came from the experiences. He deals with PTSD, but thanks to the fact that he left for Vietnam with a very positive farewell from his local farming

community and the same welcome back, that was very different to most of his colleagues. He also has 'wonderful support from DVA including very practical coping tips'.

Peter said 'I learned the futility of war. Due to the bush survival environment I grew up in, I entered the military having spent 21 years learning to hunt and kill every animal and bird around. I haven't pulled a trigger since I was discharged apart from rare farming necessity jobs. I gained some wonderful life-long friends, really important to this day.

'Scheyville was a strange brutal 'survivor' experiment of the 60's and 70's. I remember being asked by that strange war mongering Lt Col Clarke with a big grin, "Officer Cadet Luffman how are you enjoying yourself at OTU?" I answered "Sir, I have been in worse places but never stayed as long!" He laughed for a moment and then returned to his persona to reply: "Well I can adjust that for you if you would like!"

'I took the piss out of two of our Infantry DS in a skit at the end our class Review. They were Keith Payne and Bill Lapthorne. Keith you know about, and then I arrived at C Company 3RAR to find Bill as our CSM. At the end of a 'hot' lift out from an operation as the last chopper was being loaded amongst all of the various noises Bill said to me, "Ah shit, sorry Sir, I got the count wrong, we have 12 too many! We can come back for you or you can stand on the skids and hang on to the seats" ... Back at Nui Dat he said: 'I was always gunna get even, SIR!'"

Right: WO2 Bill Lapthorne John Stringfellow and Damien Aird in 1966.



Don Ramsay (4/67): Don started his Nasho on 4 October 1967 and commenced OTU on 27 October. His 'Father' was John Emslie from 3/67 who went on to serve in Vietnam with RAE, undertaking a Short Service Commission. Don said that John was an excellent father keeping him out of trouble to the extent that Don incurred zero ETPs in his junior term.

Being a part of a small Senior Class, then Corporal Ramsay ended up with four 'Sons': Barry Chesson, Ian Fegent, Bruce Leaver and Bill McLaughlin. On their first day under Don's guardianship, they earned four ETPs for their 'Father'. All four, due to Don's 'Father-ship', or perhaps in spite of it, graduated with Class 1/68. Don graduated with 42 other Cadets on 11 April 1968.

Right: Ian Fegent's photo of his 'Father' and 'Brothers' Barry Chesson, Don Ramsay, Bruce Leaver and Bill McLaughlin



After graduation, Don was posted to Pucka to do the RAASC Corps Training (Vehicle Platoon Commander). During his first Orderly Officer after graduation, which happened to be on a 'Formal Dining In Night, he was in Dress Blues with Sam Browne while inspecting the OR's Mess. Former OTU Cadet from Class 4/67, Bruce Quartermaine, popped up from amidst the crowd and greeted me with a very friendly 'G'day Don!'. Don reported that 'He had to laugh; he was such an irreverent bastard!' ... 'The course I was on I was only Nasho Officers from 4/67

and the course members had been assigned to the (very) old RAASC Officers Mess. The rest of RAASC Officers had ensconced themselves in the new and recently ex-Infantry Bn premises. As we had the old Mess to ourselves, we invited Pte Quartermaine to drop in for a beer and a game of snooker. It was quite a night! ... That Bruce became a Temporary Corporal RAASC Section Commander in Vietnam brings a wry smile to my face. He was totally resistant to any form of regulated military life while at Scheyville and then he ends up a veteran of active service!’



Left: Don's Fiancé Helen Wallace (later Mrs Ramsay) pinning on his 'pips' early on 12 April 1968.

Don recalls that his most memorable event at Pucka was the afternoon that RAASC celebrated moving in to their flash new accommodation. Seems all the National Service Officers' invitations must have been lost in the mail but 2Lt Lindsay Hartshorne and Don decided that would rectify that unfortunate error by turning up anyway. After a particularly jolly afternoon they headed back to the old Mess. They had to cross a narrow footbridge (with no handrails) that spanned a raging torrent. Don said that it could have looked a little odd from a distance, to see two officers on hands and knees, clinging on for dear life, making their way across the bridge.

After Corps Training, Don arrived at 1 RTB Kapooka at around 0500 on 18 June 1968. As he walked into the Mess, there were a few bodies clad bed sheets, littered about the anteroom. Seems there had been a Bacchus Night and this was the aftermath. The sight of a dishevelled Matt Dillon wearing a bright shade of red lipstick had him wondering what the hell he was getting in to.

Junior officers were allocated to a Platoon Commander position. However, in 1969 a change was made where Platoon Commanders became Instructors in either Weapons Training Wing, or Field Training Wing as well. Don became acting Company Commander for a time, something he said he was totally unprepared for at just 21 years of age.

Before moving to Weapons Training Wing, he had had both the Nasho and the Regular Army Recruit Platoons. He was impressed by the difference between Regulars and Nashos. There were some very young and not overly bright Regulars but also some very good, experienced Regulars. Don said he 'would never forget one Regular Recruit who was excellent. He had been a Warrant Officer in the CMF – why they put him through basic training I will never understand. With him it was like having two Platoon Sergeants. The Nasho platoons were smarter on average though could be smart arses!'

In August 1969 the Junior Officers were invited to apply to go to Vietnam through the Reinforcement Wing. 'You can be there before Christmas.' A couple took up the offer! Don recalled: 'I remember that notice coming through at Kapooka. I was keen to get to Vietnam and was thinking of signing on to a military career. I went tearing home that night to Turvey Park (in Wagga) and told my wife excitedly that 'I can go to Vietnam!' I was due to get out in early October at the end of my two years but had extended to the end of the year to allow my wife to take her 6th Form (Year 12) Class through to the HSC. For some reason the thought of spending another 18 months in Wagga did not appeal to her and a career in the Army provoked the "Over your dead body!" response. But the clincher was when she heard the word 'replacements'. The questions came back, 'Replacements for what?' No need to answer that question as the discussion was closed by the question.

Don discharged in early 1970 and went back to Newcastle ~~and~~ where he resumed his job with BHP as a computer operator. He went back to Uni and restarted his Commerce Degree on the Re-establishments Benefits Scheme. He had done one year part-time and pre-Army without success. When he went back, he couldn't believe how easy Uni was – piece of cake to a trained soldier! Don joined 16 Coy RAASC at Horseshoe Beach in Newcastle (an amphibious unit) with his T/Lt 'pips' on. Don found the troops were 'as good as any I had come across but the officers were not great (except for the OC who was OK).' Towards the end of the year he decided he needed to concentrate on Uni and transferred to the 'Reserve of Officers'.

After a career in Finance Management with BHP and Rio Tinto he retired and took up flying light aircraft obtaining a Recreational Pilot Certificate which he values equally with his OTU and University graduations. He has over 350 hours now in his Sling 2 and a perpetual smile on his face.

(A selection of) Emails to the Editor

From: Alistair Pope (4/66) **Date:** 22 September 2020 **Subject:** What could go wrong?

In an article published by the current (female) Commandant of RMC, she explains how the military is now introducing new courses into the warrior curriculum pursuing a more compassionate view and other hideous 'social responsibility' training. Apparently there are too many people still retaining bad attitudes about what the army is appointed to do – so that must be corrected. On the other side I am aware that recruits at Kapooka now spend most of their training time in the Scale A bush camp. This is clearly the initiative of one individual and his team, rather than ADF policy. To counteract such chauvinism it seems the proportion of females being appointed to unit and formation command is increasing. No problem but might I surmise that it may not be merit based? Perhaps the word is that it is 'gender biased'? So, when the soldiers get to their units they will be led into combat by 'compassionately woke officers'.

From: Alistair Pope (4/66) **Date:** 26 September 2020 **Subject:** Officer Qualities

This is part of an email from a former infantry soldier who served from 1969 – 1992, retiring as a WO2, then spending a further seven years in the ARes:

'I served under a variety of Officers graduates from 69-92 (FTD & CMF/Ares) - Duntroon (before ADFA), Portsea, OTU Scheyville, and OCTU (CMF/Ares) – the most highly respected were Scheyvillians then Portsea.' Kind regards, Frank.

From: Phil Verco (4/71) **Date:** 3 October 2020 **Subject:** OTU Weekly Timetables

To Chris Coates (3/71) Did you have to remind us of the torturous program, particularly the lectures (military law etc.) in the lecture theatre after dinner each evening, trying to stay awake after a physical jam-packed program all day with the mandatory "leaps"!!? I had 9 weeks at 1 RTB Kapooka in Recruit Training before entering Scheyville, therefore was reasonably well-equipped to settle in with reasonable knowledge of marching, drill, rifle range, map reading, gym work, field obstacles etc. (Note: Phil did not March In with a 'normal' NS Intake hence 9 weeks)

From: Nick Callinan (3/69) **Date:** 23 October 2020 **Subject:** COVID Relaxed Restrictions

In the micro-relaxation permitted by 'Chairman' Andrews to us Melbournians inside the 'ring of steel' last weekend, I was first outside my local barber's. The second guy to turn up was a Peter Smith, who I didn't know from Adam. We got chatting and he said he worked at the RSL. So, we talked about our Army experiences. He had been a WO in the Artillery with several tours of Viet Nam. We discussed the film *Danger Close*. With his permission, I am sharing them with you:

Battle of Long Tan animated Powerpoint <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4GWTyGsNIIs>

This appears to be a later more animated version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdvMthoxGI0>

Lt Col Adrian Roberts (RAAC) presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y3hv2xiofI>

From: Ron Holden (1/70) **Date:** 2 November 2020 **Subject:** 'Official Duty' in Vietnam

An interesting posting for Scheyvillians was 'Official Duty, 6 RAR, 4 – 8 Nov 71'. At the time 6 RAR was stationed in Singapore! Ron explains: 'Don McNaught, Ian Alexander and I volunteered and were assigned as gunnery support on the HMAS Derwent as she escorted the Sydney into and out of Vung Tau to extract our RAE units. It was quick because we were picked up and dropped off in Singapore 'We would never compare this with those who did full tours!' Note: DVA ranks it as 'Active Service'. – Ed!.

From: Ross Robbins (2/69) **Date:** 15 November 2020 **Subject:** A 2/69 Snr Class Missing Corporal

At the risk of exposing myself to the rueful if not acerbic gibes and barbs of many of my fellow 2/69 class-persons, I do recall receiving a promotion to Corporal during our senior class period. I have photographic evidence thereof should those persons to whom I refer wish to contest the fact. I am aware that some of the more incredulous among them may suggest I "borrowed" the brassard for a vainglorious purpose. Let their bleatings be "lost on the wind". Whether I am the missing corporal you mention, I have no idea. The only function I recall as a consequence of my stunning success was that I conducted the (?) platoon roll call each evening. Aaahh! The mind numbing responsibility of it all.

As a complete aside, one of the most indelible memories I have of my time at OTU Scheyville relates to being in bed, that refuge from the rigours that lay in wait on the other side of the door. The specific memory was of laying half awake, almost every morning, awaiting to hear that "scratch, scratch, scratch" which preceded the playing of reveille from that damaged bloody record.



From: Frank Miller (4/67)

Date: 15 September 2020

Subject: Plates (Right) 4/66's Robert Woolveridge was given these Queensland number plates by his daughter for Fathers' Day.

From: Phil Marley (3/68)

Date: 5 August 2020

Subject: Plates. (Left) Phil Marley also has new plates for his car.



From: Ian Lucas (4/68) **Date:** 7 August 2020 **Subject:** Flying Training

In a listing of Army Pilot Training Ian Lucas was shown as having completed Basic Flying Training with course 18 in 1973. When asked if he had any photos from the course, Ian replied:

'The I. F. Lucas with that Nasho number is correct. My recollection is I was stationed at Amberley following graduation from OTU in April 1969 and I did a flight Test. Late in 1969, following my failed flight test, I was "posted" to 162 Recce Flt at Oakey as the Admin Officer. I can't remember who was Base Commander at that time however Major Millie (an original OTU DS - Guidance Officer 9 Section, 3 Platoon, A Company) was posted in as Base Commander soon after I arrived and was still there when I left to be discharged in Oct 1970.

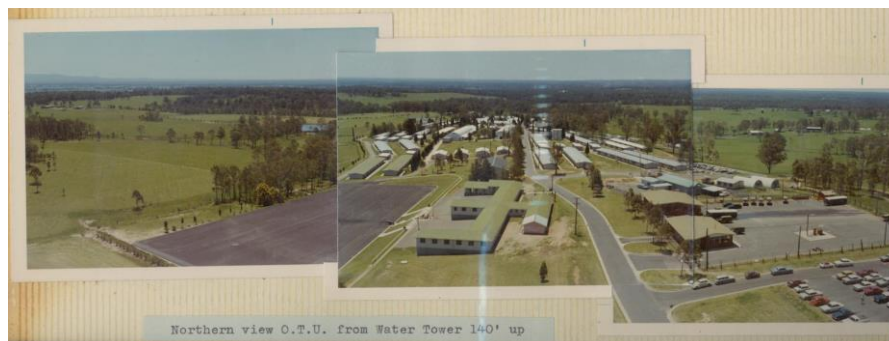
'The Base was "housed" and operated out of prefab "Lysaught" huts, which were the only structures outside the WW2 Control Tower and Aircraft Hanger on the Base. The RAEME unit at the Oakey Base was commanded by Lt. Pat Harrington who I met again in my later career with Qantas. Pat had retrained as a pilot following his Army career and was flying with Australian Airlines (TAA) as a Captain on B737s. Pat ran his RAEME unit out of the old WW2 hangar which was the only remaining structure from the 1940's at which time the Oakey RAAF base was a major "fighter" refit base for the Pacific in WW2.'

The Lucas who attended BFTS at Point Cook was in fact Chris Lucas of OTU Class 2/72!

SPECIAL REQUEST EMAIL

From: Bruce Clisdell (3/70) **Date:** 12 September 2020: **Subject:** Photo Album

I attended Scheyville in 3/70 intake. I had been deferred to complete my legal qualifications. I spent my service as a Legal Officer continuing in the Army Reserve for 15 years. Because I was three years older than my fellow classmates, I was afforded the privilege of photographing locations & events by the men training us. I recorded my experience in a red vinyl photo album with labels below each photo in colour (some in black & white). I do not know how the album left my possession, however, I have only since received digital copies of most of my photos. The originals are prized, and I would appreciate any information you may be able to provide as to the album whereabouts.



Left: Some of Bruce's photos showing the layout in his album.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of Bruce's photo album, please contact him on 0428 673 252.

From the Files:



Following a request to identify some names in a 2013 Sydney Reunion photo, Paul Ford (2/71) sent the photo at left taken at Scheyville at a 2002 Reunion. Whose forethought was it to bring chalk and nameboards?

Alan Parry, Warwick Graco, Lance Lloyd, Neville Owen, Peter Kane, Steve Jermyn, Greg Todd, Paul Ford, Peter Hateley and Frank Brookes

Q STORE 40th

Reunion

OTU

1993 OTU

2003 Reunion DVD (6):

The Scheyville Experience DVD (3):

The Scheyville Experience VHS (1):

OTU Ties (12):

Window Stickers (78):

National Service Officer Recruit Training Film on DVD (3): \$15 incl P&H

The OTU Scheyville 1965-73 Pictorial Book 1st Edition (1): \$59 incl P&H

The OTU Scheyville 1965-73 Pictorial Book 2nd Edition - with some changes (49): \$80 incl P&H

(Order through the Website)

Reunion Badge (46):

\$5 incl P&H

40th

Lapel Badges (49):

\$9 incl P&H

Reunion VHS Tape (1):

\$15 incl P&H

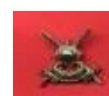
\$15 Incl P&H

\$15 incl P&H

\$15 incl P&H

\$35 incl P&H

\$4 incl P&H



OTU Lapel



OTU ASSOCIATION

2020/21 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Website: www.otu.asn.au

INVOICE ABN 26 390 124 006 MAIL TO: Treasurer OTU Association PO Box 672 BALWYN VIC 3103 CONTACT: 0425 729 769 hjmole@gmail.com	Please return by 30 December 2020 Cheques payable to OTU Association <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"> Annual Subscription July 2020 to June 2021 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> </td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right; vertical-align: top;"> \$50.00 \$ _____ \$ _____ </td> </tr> </table>	Annual Subscription July 2020 to June 2021 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 \$ _____ \$ _____
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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:	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					

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS:

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

Left: Class 1/70 50th Reunion attendees at the former Cadets Mess Beer Garden Fishpond.



Below: Techno whizzes at 2/70 Reunion.





Left: **Class 2/70 Reunion** Adelaide participants

Speaking of ‘**face to face**’ meetings: former National and Victorian Chapter Treasurer Ray Elder, 2/67, sent in the ‘selfie’ of his novel face mask for ‘face to face’ meetings!



The Mystery Badge
I recently had a call about the version of the OTU badge at right. A week later a friend bought one of the badges on EBay. He didn’t tell me from whom, or how much it cost.



The brightly coloured badge is not an issue version, or one produced for the OTU-A. If anyone can tell me when and why this version was produced the information can go into the association files – Ed.

Below: The **Tasmanian Chapter Launceston Lunch** at the Cataract Gorge Restaurant

(l to r): Left Side: Anne & Dennis Townsend, Paul Ferguson, Akiko, Peter Dalkin, Dan Huon, Jenny & Ron Dennison and Noel McRoberts. Right side (f to r): Identified: Pam Williams, Lorraine Luff, Di Reade, Jan & Leon Miller.

