



In this issue:

- VALE
- MAY THE FOURTH DINNER
- Scholarship winners at Kokoda
- RVRA Merchandise orders
- RUSI Lunch

WELCOME TO 2018—A LITTLE LATE BUT

Another year dawns and the world keeps turning. With Christmas and the New Year period well behind us, and with everyone back at work or back into normal daily life, its time for our first newsletter. Its been a quiet period on the RVRA front, but the committee has been active and we are planning another Centenary dinner event to commemorate the Battles of Villers-Bretonneux and Amiens and the end of the First World War. The selected date is Friday 4th May—**MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH US! Stay tuned for invitations and guest speaker details.**

The Pipes & Drums will attend the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo in August and our raffle prize winners will see them there. Final bookings are being made for the trip, and the team are busy tuning themselves up for a great performance.

We look forward to seeing you all again this Year. We trust that you will keep well and stay in touch with us.

Remember to invite your mates to join as members in 2018. Contact us on rvrassoc@hotmail.com

RVRA Monthly Luncheon

Please join us at the Kelvin Club again next year. This years lunches have been great fun and we welcome more of you to join us when you can. Be part of it all next year. See you there!

Planning dates;

Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18, Jun 15, Jul 20, Aug 17, Sep 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, and Dec 14

Dates are subject to change, so check [here](#) before you book. See you soon for a nice, long lunch!



RVRA WEBSITE RENEWAL

The committee has made progress on the update to the web-site. Please take a look at www.rvr.asn.au and if you have any thoughts, positive or otherwise, please let us know.

Cheers, Chris Connelly Vice-President

www.rvr.asn.au

VALE—Remembering our Fallen

LEST WE FORGET

LCPL CHRIS D GIANG

It is with great sadness we inform you of the passing of a member of the Battalion.

8258935 LCPL Chris D Giang arrived in Australia as a refugee from Vietnam in 1980. He enlisted in the Army Reserve in Feb 1991 and was a member of 5/6 RVR Assault Pioneer platoon where he made many friends along the way. With a cheeky smile, sense of adventure, willing attitude (and the ability to cook his famous spring rolls in the field) Chris was liked by all who served with him.

Chris spent 18 years as a valuable member of the battalion, and was promoted to LCPL in 1997. He deployed to the Solomon Islands on Operation Anode in 2007 and 2009 (Rotations 13 & 18) and was a part of Operation Vic Fire Assist. Whilst deployed Chris received a CTF635 Commanders Commendation for Exceptional Service.

In 2010 Chris transferred to the Air Force as an Aircraftsman based in Laverton. Here he made many more friends, completed more courses and was awarded the No5 'Flight Most Outstanding Airman' in 2015. Chris deployed to the Middle East in 2017 as part of Operation 'Accordion'.

It was there that he found that he had cancer and was transferred back home for treatment. Chris fought the disease with his usual demeanour and even till the end he kept a positive outlook and made plans to see people when he left hospital. Chris lost his battle on 8 Mar 2017.

This is an extract from a post by Rob Williams describing Chris.

Our brother, our friend, our mate Chris Giang's battle is mercifully over; and although he is no longer physically with us, the mark of his character will for ever remain part of us.

Chris was one of those unique soldier's, airman, friends who never asked for respect, but instead earned it continuously on his own merit, time and time again.

As for all his service friends – mates, I can sincerely tell you that you were his surrogate family, a family by his only family admittance, confessed they neither knew, understood or appreciated what Army/Air Force meant to him, until his diagnosis and return from the Middle East.

You've done more than your share for your family and mates Chris!

You can now stand easy, in the knowledge that you've served your country with distinction!

Rest In Peace my brother!

Rob

The funeral service for Chris will be held at Point Cook Chapel (Melways 198 J2), on Friday 16 Mar at 10:30 am, with viewing from 9:30. Dress is suits with decorations.



HEALTHWATCH

CAPT Tony Moore

Alistair Cox is keeping in touch with a rather ill Tony Moore. A former RSM of 5/6 RVR and CAPT in the 2000's who also deployed to OP ANODE in 2009.

He is quite unwell but fighting hard ! Here is an update from his wife Sara - Good news it seems.

Well everything that could have gone wrong has but Tony has finally this afternoon been stabilised, he is still critical, but stable. Thankyou for your prayers and good wishes. He is still not out of the woods, so please continue to uphold him 🙏🙏🙏🙏.

From the bottom of my heart I thank you all 🙏🙏

Regards, Alastair

POMPEY ELLIOT SCHOLARS VISIT KOKODA

Kokoda Trail, Ioribaiwa, Efogi-Menari, Kokoda-Deniki and Isurava are but some of the Battle Honours held by the 5th/6th The Royal Victoria Regiment. These Battle Honours are the names of villages that are scattered along the Kokoda Trail in the Owen Stanley Range of Papua New Guinea.

Last year, the 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign, I had the pleasure of taking two current serving members on a pilgrimage across the Kokoda Trail. Sergeant Ron Morris and Corporal Colin Corbett, both recipients of the "Pompey" Elliot Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded to Corporals within the Regiment with the aim of enabling them to not only improve their leadership skills but also the opportunity to visit battlefields significant to the Regiment.

With that in mind I decided to retrace the footsteps of the 39 Australian Infantry Battalion, a unit once named the Hawthorn-Kew Regiment and one which 5/6 has a direct lineage to. The 39th were a militia unit, *Chocos*. It is through this unit's historical perspective, I hope that both Colin and Ron were able to gain a greater understanding of what our forbears went through and in turn help them in their own Reserve career.

Let me set the scene: In 1942 Australian Forces aided by their Papuan comrades, fought a desperate struggle in appalling conditions, to stop the advancing Imperial Japanese attempting to capture Port Moresby.

Upon the initial Japanese landing, their numerically superior forces faced only a hand full of Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) soldiers and one rifle company of the 39 Australian Infantry Battalion. The 39th were thrown together in a hurry, made up of some older and experienced men that had seen service in the First World War along with many younger men not long out of school. They trained in the rocky and dry conditions of Bacchus Marsh before leaving Australia. When they arrived in country, the first six months was spent unloading ships, manning static defences and patrolling the low coastal areas.

The hot and dusty environment of Port Moresby was a stark contrast to what they would endure in the mountains

Before setting off, Ron & Colin stood beside me and looked out from Owers' Corner- into the mountains and jungle below. As we stared into the green abyss. I asked them both; *"Could you imagine fighting in that with modern equipment let alone the equipment of 1942?"* Both shook their heads in disbelief before we all crossed under the Archway and into jungle.

The first day is a real test for beginners, progress is slow the uncertainty of what is around the next bend, the false peaks combined with the humidity can play on one's mind *-what am I getting myself into?* However, when the stories of those who were there during the war are recalled your own situation seems trivial.

Our group was privileged to have carriers – local Koiari and Orokaiva people whose homes are along the Kokoda Trail and who take pride in what they were doing, living up to their forebears, the iconic Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels. We past through many villages and slept on many of the areas that were fought over.

Ioribaiwa Ridge the furthest most point of the Japanese Advance, was our first night on an Australian battlefield but would only be one of many as we made our way through Ofi Creek and through the mighty Maguli Range the next day.

As we fell into our routine of marching in file, manoeuvring over the slippery terrain, struggling to keep warm at night and stomaching the monotonous food, we quickly bonded as a group. This whole trip really was about the journey, not the destination. The first trekkers we bumped into coming in the other direction, rested atop Imita. They were almost finished and we were only a two days in. We joked that they smelt and in turn laughed as they knew what was ahead. It was enough to make you feel proud of being Australian.

POMPEY ELLIOT SCHOLARS VISIT KOKODA (cont...)

At Brigade Hill the half way point of the Trail we held a commemorative service to remember those Australians that paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is not until you walk the ground that you get a true appreciation of how the terrain is an integral consideration in warfare. I could see both Colin and Ron looking for the high ground, the best possible place for men to dig in, applying their own military appreciation to the situation.

This scene played out at Myola and Eora Creek before we reach the memorial on the Isurava battlefield. The topography on which these battles were fought is almost unimaginable unless you see firsthand. As the sound of the last post resinated from a crackling speaker we all observed a minute's silence.

We saw the pits that the 39th occupied while they desperately waited for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) to arrive. It was at this location that for the first time in our history both the Chocos and the AIF fought side by side. This resonates today in that there is no real difference between the reserve of the regular army, we are all soldiers together.

As we went through the different villages, we were greeted by the locals, and the pride in their eyes will forever stand out in our minds. So too our carriers – the pride they had marching through the villages, especially the village of Kagi where many of them come from, it was a wonderful thing to see. The children ran to us laughing and marching alongside us. I wondered if this would have been the case for the 39th men all those years ago, the calm before the storm.

We had managed to keep any gastro and any sickness at bay, but our knees and arms ached, we were tired through lack of sleep, and there were moments when we all longed for the comforts of home. Just like the Diggers of 1942, what kept our morale up and got us through was our mates – for we had all become mates by now and making fun of one another was par for the course.

On the last day as we reached Deniki, a Battle Honour of the Regiment, we could see the destination, Kokoda Station. The end was in sight, but the sensation of finishing was marred by a feeling of sadness. We had the ability to return to Australia and to our waiting loved ones. But many of the men of the 39th never returned destined to remain with their mates on that jungle track.

Lest We Forget.

David Howell, B COY 5/6 RVR

Note: David Howell is a Melbourne-based historian, author and tour guide. Growing up with his grandfather's stories of the war in New Guinea, he has made more than 40 crossings of the Kokoda Track, along with visiting most of the major WWII battlefields in PNG. He currently runs Kokoda Historical. For more information visit

www.kokodahistorical.com.au



Royal United Services Institute of Victoria
Lunchtime Address
Thursday 29th March 2018 at 1200 for 1230
ANZAC House , 4 Collins St, Melbourne



Kevin Wall

Vice-President, Land
Thales Group Australia and New Zealand
Topic: Current and future prospects for Defence Industry in Victoria

Kevin Wall is responsible for leading one of the most high profile businesses in Thales Australia and New Zealand. Designing and manufacturing life-saving protected vehicles as well as small arms weapons and munitions for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and overseas customers. The business delivers a full range of electro-optical systems, and logistics services and support for the ADF Australia wide.

In addition, Kevin is the global business line deputy for Armaments & Protected Vehicles, which enables close cooperation with key European based Thales owned entities - TDA, FZ and the Junghans Defence joint venture.

With more than 30 years' experience in defence and industry and greater than 10 years in senior leadership roles Kevin is the executive accountable for the company's activities in the 'Land' market perimeter in Australia and New Zealand

He joined Thales in 2001 and was appointed to the company's executive team in November 2010. He brings a wealth of experience to his position following senior management roles in explosive ordnance, logistics and business management. Kevin served in the military for nearly 20 years with service in both the British and Australian Army.

He holds a number of technical, logistics and business qualifications and is a graduate of the Defence and Industry Study Course, a member of the Institute of Explosives Engineers and a chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport

Coffee and Tea from 12.00 pm., sandwiches after.

Entrance fee: \$10

For setup and catering reasons please advise the Office of your attendance,
preferably by email to secretary@rusivic.org.au or phone 9282 5918 by 2pm Monday 26th March.

RVRA Merchandise - The Perfect gift for any occasion

Obtain this form by return email, ask at RVRA@childersrural3824.com



ROYAL VICTORIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

REGISTRATION NO. A 0033229W

C/- Regimental HQ, 202 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, Victoria 3122
www.rvr.asn.au rvrassoc@hotmail.com



To email (1) save this blank order form on computer, (2) type in instructions, (3) send to RVRA@childersrural3824.com

"August 2017 Merchandise Order Form/Invoice

Total

Raffle Tickets :

Help send 5/6th Ps & Ds to Edinburgh in 2018
and win great prizes.

| Price | Quantity | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------------|------|
| \$5 each | 0 | x raffle ticket(s) | 0.00 |
| \$50 each | 0 | x raffle books(s) each 10 tickets | 0.00 |

Packaging & Postage
for single item - multiple items are cheaper
each

Type an 'X' for your selection

1. Imperial ☐ Sizes
(Purple) ☐ M ☐
2. Blaze ☐ L ☐
(Orange) ☐ XL ☐
3. Apple ☐ 2XL ☐
(Green) ☐ 3XL ☐
4. Harbour ☐ 5XL ☐
(Sea Blue) ☐
5. Platinum ☐
(Grey) ☐
6. Black ☐
7. Cherry ☐
(Red) ☐
8. French Navy ☐
9. Sky ☐
10. White ☐

(a) RVRA Lapel Badge

\$10 each

0

\$1 \$ 0.00

(b) RVRA Polo Shirt - Navy + RVRA crest.
~~Older stock - special price - SOLD OUT.~~

Quantity
0

\$ 0.00

(c) New RVRA Polo Shirt, with crest
Allow 14 days processing time

\$55

0

\$9 \$ 0.00

(d) RVRA Vest (No Sleeve)

XL ☐

2XL ☐

3XL ☐

4XL ☐

5XL SOLD OUT

Zip front and lined

Black with RVRA Crest

Size - Please type an 'X'

for your selection

\$50 each

Quantity

\$12 \$ 0.00

(e) RVRA Tie

Navy

\$30 each

Quantity
0

\$9 \$ 0.00

(f) RVRA Bullion Badge (coat pocket)

\$30

0

\$5 \$ 0.00

(g) RVRA mugs, each

\$15

0

\$5 \$ 0.00

(h) RVRA Stubbie Holder, each

\$5

0

\$5 \$ 0.00

(i) Wild Timor Coffee GROUND 200g

\$13

0

SOLD OUT \$ 0.00

(j) Wild Timor Coffee BEANS 200g

\$13

0

\$9 \$ 0.00

Total \$ 0.00

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is preferred. Do not send cash. Bank details :

RVRA BSB 633 000 Account No. 157800129

Don't forget to identify your remittance with your name.

RVRA Member details

RVRA cut here

THIS LABEL IS REMOVED BY RVRA AND BECOMES THE POSTAGE PACK
DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS. PLEASE TYPE ONLY. Recipient details

MY NAME :
MY EMAIL :
MY DELIVERY ADDRESS :
SUBURB/TOWN :
STATE :
POSTCODE :
MY PHONE NO. :

To email (1) save this blank order form on computer,
(2) type in instructions,
(3) Send to RVRA@childersrural3824.com

or

Post to RVRA C/- Ian D Murray, 954 Childers Hamlet,
Childers 3824, Victoria Australia.

AUSPOST PLEASE DELIVER THIS ITEM TO :

NAME
ADDRESS
SUBURB
STATE
POSTCODE

FROM
RVRA. C/- 954 Childers Hamlet, Childers 3824