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## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Another year passes us by. As an Association we have had a great year. Membership is up, our deployed personnel from RVR received our best wishes, we received an invitation to send the Pipes & Drums to Edinburgh and ran our successful raffle with the RSL VIC to fund that too. Our Infantry Victoria dinner was a fabulous success 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.

We sent two of our Pompey-Elliott Scholarships winners to the Kokoda Track this year too and they had a fabulous experience. A great reward for all of their hard work in the RVR.

Next Year the Pipes & Drums will attend the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo in August and our raffle prize winners will see them there. Congratulations to all our prize winners and thank you to everyone for helping us raise the money to get there.

We said farewell to a few more of our mates too, and may they all rest-in-peace. Our best wishes to all the family and friends of those who are no longer with us, especially those who lost a loved one this year.

We look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. Stay safe, be well and enjoy a special time with family and friends. Remember to invite your mates to join as members in 2018. Contact us on [rvrassoc@hotmail.com](mailto: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;

Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18, Jun 15

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](http://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](http://www.rvr.asn.au)

## VALE—Remembering our Fallen

### LEST WE FORGET

#### WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO

#### HELMET (MAX) STEININGER

Members and friends,

I am saddened to inform you that Max passed away on 6 December surrounded by family. Max suffered a short illness with cancer which was diagnosed recently. The first warning was perhaps his inability to meet his commitment to the AN-ZAC Day commemorations in Melbourne this year.

I understand there was no funeral but a get together of friends and family was held on 16 December.

Max joined the CMF in 1966 and attended his recruit training at an annual field exercise held at the old Ballarat airfield that year.

He then served for a long time in B Coy 5 RVR and attained the rank of Sergeant in the battalion. Max was a strong supporter of the Sgt's Mess and a valued and loyal member of the battalion. He was well respected by his peers, officers and soldiers who had the fortune to serve with him.

Max was eventually posted to 4BDE HQ and maintained the HQ Q store for a number of years before retiring with the rank of Warrant Officer Class Two, which gained whilst in the 4 BDE posting.

Those who served with Max took different paths in life after the army but old acquaintances were rekindled when he accepted an invitation to attend the annual VSR/5 Bn Sgts' Mess Reunion held in Echuca each October. Many old stories retold and embellished.

Max also gave of his time each ANZAC Day for several years as a marshal where he successfully administered a number of information stands within the assembly area. He made his apologies prior to ANZAC Day 2017 that he would not be able to fulfil his duties this year due to illness.

Typically, Max did not make an issue of his problem and it was not until a couple of months ago his friends found out how serious the problem was.

Max made the decision on 3 December with his family that he would not accept further treatment.

He was a great friend and made friends easily. Those who knew him will remember the good times. He will be sadly missed

*Rest-in-Peace*

*Regards, John Hanson*

## Centenary of Polygon Wood

*In September this year, Neil Leckie visited Belgium and attended the Service for the Centenary of the Battle of Polygon Wood.*

Attendees, who had to have pre-arranged tickets, went to a Park & Ride Point and went through the security check. From there they were shuttle-bussed to one of two drop-off points. Those who were dropped off at 'Black Watch Corner' were able to walk the 500m of path and enter the service area around the NZ Memorial. Along that pathway were set up a number of displays. These were — The Cookhouse, The RAP and Ambulance, The Orderly Room with diligent officers writing their orders, The Frontline trenches, The Allies Frontline - blue, No-man's Land with movies and slideshows, The German Frontline 350 m from the Allied Frontline - red and The German Soldiers.

Everyone was in position by 4.30am and watched the pre-service presentation. The service commenced at 5.30am.

Speakers included the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium, The Honorable Dan Tehan, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the centenary of AN-ZAC, His Excellency Dr Mark Hoggie, Ambassador of Australia to Belgium, VADM Ray Griggs, VCDF, Chap Peter Willis RAACHD, and WO Brian Moore — The Ode. The Catafalque Party was the Federation Guard.

### Neil Leckie



## VSR SGT's Mess Reunion

The annual reunion of the Victorian Scottish Regiment Sergeants Mess/5th Bn (Association) was held on the weekend of 20-22 October at its long standing favoured location of Echuca.

This was the 31st annual reunion having commenced in 1986 and instigated by SSgt Ian Robertson, who for health reasons, handed over the reins to Vic Hale, Doug Robertson and yours truly. Sadly, Vic passed away some years ago and the job has been left to Doug and I.

As you will expect there are now few VSR members left but there are still a couple that attend. This year we saw 30 members, some single and some with wives (Note the political incorrectness of the statement, "wives" does not start with a "P"). Forty members and wives may have been a reasonable goal but for some members travelling and/or temporarily incapacitated.

Members begin to concentrate on the Friday around noon and during the afternoon and move en masse by courtesy bus – or foot if they can – to the Echuca Working Man's Club for pre-dinner drinks and to embellish stories told and retold. The ladies, quite sensibly, head for the poker machines, they've heard it all before.

After dinner the move is back to the motel for a few more drinks (old habits die hard), but somehow we are not able to sustain the effort and retire earlier than we recall we used too. Saturday brings a day for doing your own thing with a necessary work party in the afternoon to set up the dining room at the motel where the staff are most accommodating and assist us to set it up to "mess standards" for formal dining.

The dinner is conducted along formal lines and the staff, now "suitably trained", help make the night. Old stalwart Hawthorn Agnew pipes us to dinner and plays a few tunes during the dinner. Prior to being seated we observe "Stand To" and remember those who have left us since the last dinner. This year was particularly sad in remembering Ed Hawkes' passing, founding CO of 5/6 RVR, and Clare Hawkes, only four weeks after Ed. Both were long standing attendees at the reunion having stopped coming a couple of years ago due to health issues

Grace is observed and dinner served with members observing mess protocols as best they can remember, and their aging bodies will allow. After dinner members repair to the "anti-room" for post dinner drinks and further embellishment of tales from the previous night and times gone by.

Again, sensibly most of the ladies "repair" to their room after respectfully listening to their husbands waffle on. Members remain and discuss important national issues searching for solutions our elected representatives have not found. We did not find them either.

Sunday morning brings a latish breakfast in the dining room that has been "reconditioned" by the staff and farewells commence for those that have a distance to travel. Same distance as last year but takes a little longer to do it each year.

We are planning our 32nd reunion for the weekend of 19/21 October 2018 and welcome any former members of 5 RVR and former/serving members of 5/6 RVR - rank excluded as it is about the Regimental Family now -should they wish to attend this laid back reunion.

John Hanlon

## INFANTRY VICTORIA DINNER and

### CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF POLYGON WOOD

On Friday evening 10th November, the RVRA held its annual Infantry Victoria Dinner, this year commemorating the Centenary of the Battle of Polygon Wood.

The Governor of Victoria Her Excellency Linda Dessau AC and her husband Tony Howard had accepted our invitation. Unfortunately the Governor was unable to attend due to a slight injury. However we had her Principal Private Secretary Josh Puls, and an Aide, Claire Chisholm attend from Government House on behalf of the Governor.

Our guest speaker BRIG Arnold, former CO 5/6 RVR and Comd 4th Brigade gave a very detailed address about the battle of Polygon Wood and the general context of the First World War and European politics at the time. Including the effect of the Russian revolution on the war. Very interesting.

The dinner attracted over 70 guests and we can report that the association made a few hundred dollars profit on the night, to be used for the benefit of members.

From all reports everyone had a great time. The dinner finished before 10pm and quite a few hardy types enjoyed a few more beverages at the bar afterward.

The plan is to hold a similar commemoration dinner around next May to mark the Centenary of the Battles of Villers-Bretonneux and Amiens. At our Infantry Victoria dinner next year we will commemorate the end of WW1 and the Armistice. We all look forward to another great night together.

During the dinner we remembered a few of the fallen by mention at the dinner. One of these men was CAPT Herb Dickinson of Thorpdale. CAPT Ian Murray also from that area read the citation of Herb at the Battle of Polygon Wood where he lost his life.

The next day, Remembrance Day, Ian Murray visited the Thorpdale memorial and took this picture for us. CAPT Dickinson had been an inspirational soldier at Gallipoli and later an inspiring battlefield leader in Western Europe. He had joined the 5th Battalion in Prahran in August 1914 and had service number 600.

After serving with his unit at Gallipoli, he was transferred in February 1916 to the 57th Infantry Battalion and sent to the Western Front in France. Dickinson was quickly promoted through the ranks, gaining his first promotion to lance corporal in September 1914 and becoming a Captain by May 1916. Whilst serving with the 57th Infantry Battalion he was mentioned in the despatches of General Douglas Haig on 9 April 1917. Dickinson was killed in action at Polygon Wood in Belgium on 25 September 1917. He was 25 years old. Herbert Dickinson is buried at The Huts Cemetery, Belgium.



It is because of CAPT Dickinson and many like him that we live the life we do today. That is why we commemorate and remember — LEST WE FORGET



## PIPES & DRUMS RAFFLE DRAWN

At the RSL State Dinner on Saturday 18th November, LCPL Dave Connelly of the RVRA Pipes & Drums drew the winning tickets for prizes in the raffle. The following notice appeared in the Herald Sun newspaper on 23 November.

*Results of the RVR Association Fund Raising Raffle, VCGLR Raffle Permit # 10400/17.*

*1st Prize - S. Roshin , 2nd Prize - M. Love-Kehoe, 3rd Prize - J. Saunders, 4th Prize - P. Craig, 5th Prize - G. Evans, 6th Prize P. Riley, 7th Prize - G. Manners, 8th Prize - A. Leyden, 9th Prize - J. Hartnett, 10th Prize - G. Evans. Enquiries may be directed to the Secretary RVRA Pipes and Drums, on 0412 425 015.*

Ron Stepnell had made contact with all the happy winners and special arrangements will now be made with the winners of the trip for two to Edinburgh to make it a special holiday for their family (at no extra costs to the RVRA).

We aim to please and a happy winner to speak well of us—that's a good thing!

More details are also being worked out for the "deployment" of our RVRA Pipes & Drums. At this stage all is in order, we have the funds and the plan is being finalised for the exciting month in Scotland for our band. Well done to Ron Stepnell, Ben Tosetto, Colin-Hughes-Smith and all the RVRA members and Ps&Ds member who made it possible.

Well done to Dave Connelly too, who played at the RSL dinner and drew the winning tickets.



## A COY 5/6 RVR

## now A COY 8/7 RVR

### Transition Parade 5 December

At the dinner on 10th November, CO 8/7 RVR LTCOL David Cadogan-Cowper announced that A Coy (Sunshine) 5/6 RVR will transfer to 8/7 RVR with effect 5 December.

A transition parade was held at the Sunshine depot on 5 December.

Many of the RVRA members will recall their service at Sunshine, in various units, under various names but always at Sunshine.

As in those days gone by, when Battalions names changed and companies were moved around, soldiers continued on, not much amused by the machinations of Division and Brigade Headquarters staffs and Commanders over the years.

The soldiers of Sunshine are still in the RVR. They have always given great service and will continue to do so, regardless of the name on the welcome sign and the colour patch on their hats.

I feel very confident they will do us proud in future as they have always done.

We of the RVRA wish all member of A Coy all the best for continued high performance soldiering and being ready to answer the call when it comes.

Congratulations to all.

*Neil Grimes, President*

### GOVERNOR BECOMES REGIMENTAL

### REPRESENTATIVE COLONEL

Also at the Dinner in November, it was announced that Her Excellency Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria has accepted the invitation of the Chief of Army to become the Representative Colonel of the RVR (formerly known as Honorary Colonel).

Congratulations Ma'am and welcome to the Regiment.



## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND STARS

It made me laugh - and brought back memories when Andrew Hamilton was setting one up under the instruction of WO2 Luckman - and of course the trip flare went off. 'Never seen two guys flatten themselves so quickly and completely...

Regards, Wazza



## VALE—Remembering our Fallen

### LEST WE FORGET

It is with deep regret that I make this post. My long term dear friend George Maclaughlan LOGAN passed away in the early hours of this morning. George served in Vietnam with 7 RAR 67/68 and AATTV 69/70. I first met George circa 1971 and we had remained friends since.

George was a long time friend of the RVRA and was elected as RSL Senior Vice President at last State Conference, a position he sought for a number of years.

My condolences to his family and extended family. Rest now dear friend, suffer no more. RIP George.

*Regards, Dominic Fountain*

### From the 58/32 Battalion Association

**“ Big Christmas Wishes ”** - from your committee and hope you have a wonderful New Year.

This year we are pleased to announce that **Essendon AFL Legend Mr Kevin Sheedy** will be our Guest Speaker on the **11<sup>th</sup> May 2018** at our **Annual Maj. Gen. Pompey Elliott Luncheon**.

We have many exciting projects coming up for 2018 and will keep you posted, - so please keep this one in your diary nice and early.

**Best Wishes, Ev**



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## ROYAL VICTORIA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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Quantity

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\$5 \$ 0.00

(g) RVRA mugs, each

\$15

Quantity

0

\$5 \$ 0.00

(h) RVRA Stubbie Holder, each

\$5

Quantity

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\$5 \$ 0.00

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