

FORWARD

Newsletter #22 - July 2018



The official newsletter of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association

It is now July and it seems only yesterday we were celebrating Christmas 2017. Anzac Day 2018 is now a great memory and since we marched proudly through Brisbane, the Association has been very busy. We have attended commemorative services to Billy Singh, the Boer War and the 100th anniversary of the Sandstone Digger Memorial at Mount Alford State School.

Association members braved the cold and camped out at out Tall Tales Camp at Samford. Thanks go to Danny Brookes as the organiser, Renata and Dell as cooks and of course to Association members who attended. It was a great event and one the committee will pursue for next year's calendar. You will read more of these events in this newsletter.

The Association would like to acknowledge and congratulate RAAC members who received awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. I would specially like to congratulate Association member Greg Peake, awarded the OAM (Civil Division) for his service to the veterans community. Well done Greg.

Congratulations also go to two former 2/14LHR members (CAPT Adele Catts & TPR Nigel Cox) who as part of Army Museum South Queensland (AMSQ) received two awards at the National Trust Heritage Awards night recently. Many will remember the excellent brief by Adele on the AMSQ at the Victoria Barracks function in early March.

I have featured a Know Your Committee Member in this newsletter: Phil Lilliebridge. Phil has had a varied and interesting career both as a reservist and in the ARA. Lastly don't forget to add your name to the attendance list for our upcoming events: the 24 August dinner at Kedron Wavell and the annual Black Hat BBQ at the 41 Club on 10 November. Additional any member is welcome to attend the RAAC Corporation AGM to be held at Kedron Wavell on the 13 October. This is a great opportunity to meet other association and sister organisations as well as the Corporation Board and Management Committee. It will give attendees an insight in to the future of the Corps, veteran's issues and the bigger picture. Graeme Brown of our committee is the treasurer of the Corporation.

I will be absent 27 July- 17 October. Many other committee members will be taking holidays during that time. I hope in my absence you support the remaining committee and event organisers.

Forward!

Graeme Nicholas
President



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Emu Plumes

In 1891 during the Shearers Strike, a State of Emergency was declared and many units were called out for active duty to help maintain order. One of these units was the Moreton Mounted Infantry. The troops were placed on full time duty for five months and served in the Barcardine, Clermont, Longreach and Charleville districts. One of the Mounted Infantry officers who served at this time was Captain Harry George Chauvel - later to become General Sir Harry Chauvel.

Introduction of the simple felt hat as universal wear by all arms, other than artillery, began in 1890. A year later, emu feathers adorned slouch hats for the first time. Called out on "special duty" during the Great Shearers' Strike, the Gympie Squadron of the Queensland Mounted Infantry broke the monotony of their long patrols by riding down emus and decorating their hats with the birds' feathers. In recognition of their service, the Queensland Government allowed the whole regiment to officially wear the plume as part of their uniform. Some years later, this unit would wear their "special distinction" on active service for the first time, when Queenslanders arrived in South Africa as a part of the colonial contingents.

Following the Shearers Strike the Mounted Infantry units adopted the emu feather plumes to wear in their felt hats. It was also at this time that the emu was incorporated in the unit badge.

Over 80 years since confirming his place in Australia's military history and public recognition, the flamboyant image of the "plumed" light horseman continues to enthrall onlookers as heritage re-enactment groups perform at commemorative and equestrian events around the country.

Apart from their well-recorded wartime exploits, folklore has endowed the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) light horsemen with a mystique and image that distinguishes them from their fellow diggers. Official historian, H. S. Gullet, described them as, "in body and spirit the true product of the Australian countryside ... the very flower of their race". Gullet went on to relate that light horsemen had been bestowed with a certain "native" quality, forged from Australia's pioneering heritage.

This plume became the symbol of the light horse, inseparable from its legend. Appreciating a practical joke, when asked about their plumes, First AIF light horsemen pulled many legs by replying that they were, in fact, "kangaroo feathers", placing the plume in the same vein as bunyip farms, walking-stick farms, and treacle mines.

Tall Tales Camp

By Graeme Nicholas

The Tall Tales Camp held recently at Samford had many a tall tale, interspersed with rumour, innuendo and legendary stories. 15 Association members assembled their camping gear and gathered around the fire at Samford Scout Camp to enjoy the occasion.

A far cry from sleeping on the engine decks or rear seats of the M113, comfort and style seemed more the norm. Griffio arrived in his flash mobile home, Shayne in his off-roader camper complete with solar hot water, while Darren arrived with all the comforts of home on the back of his bike. Danny did follow tradition with a bivvy style tent latched to the side of his truck. Some habits never leave us. After getting settled and with air beds inflated, it was time to get the RAAC fire lit. A hit of woofers and up it went. A few raffles and the presentation of his Life Membership certificate to Maurie Meecham followed with a few beers, a few red wines, a few red wines, and a few red wines.

Renata and Dell kindly offered to cook the snags and assist with the catering which left the lads to continue with the stories, and a few red wines!!!!!! Shayne kept the fire stoked with wood which kept the night chill away. As night progressed some filtered away, leaving the sentries to keep watch.

Dawn broke to a dusty reveille, with perc coffee, macchiato or cappuccino of course, and bacon and eggs. The officer appropriately was last up, to give time for the SSMs and NCO to check the troops. Teeth cleaned, tents down and campsite secure, and with much 'break hide discipline' attendees left to see what Sunday would bring, which I suspect was a nana nap.

The general consensus, a great activity which should be repeated in next year's social calendar.



MEMBERS' AWARDS



President Graeme presents former President Maurie with his Life Membership certificate at the Tall Tales Camp

Honorary Life Membership Brig (retd) Maurie Meecham AM

It was unanimously agreed at the AGM on the 27 April that Maurie be granted Life Membership: "In that Brig (retd) Maurice William Meecham, AM has rendered exceptional, dedicated and faithful service to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association in his capacity as founding President 2013-2017".

Maurie's certificate was presented around the fire at the recent Tall Tales Camp.

A brief synopsis of Maurie's career best illustrates Maurie's contribution and service.

- Commenced his military career when he entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon in January 1969. He graduated in December 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in chemistry and mathematics.
- On graduation, was allocated the RAAC and soon commenced his Young Officer training in 1973.
- Regimental postings included 4th Cavalry Regiment and 1st Armoured Regiment.
- Commanded 1st Armoured Regiment December 1988-December 1990.
- Attended both the Long Armoured Course (Bovington UK), Command and Staff College and the Royal College of Defence Studies.
- Senior appointments included Director of Military Art, RMC Duntroon, Commander 6th Brigade and Commander 7th Task Force.
- Awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the New Year Honours List 1998 "For exceptional service to the Australian Army as the Director of Military Art at the Royal Military College Duntroon, as Commander 6th Brigade and as the first commander of the 7th Task Force".
- Served 8 years as Honorary Colonel, 2/14 Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry)
- Served 4 years (2013-2017) as founding President 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association

Well done Maurie and congratulations from all Association members!

National Trust Heritage Awards 2018

We are proud to report that two former 2/14 LHR members (CAPT Adele Catts & TPR Nigel Cox) as part of Army Museum South Queensland (AMSQ) received two awards at the National Trust Heritage Awards night recently.

The National Trust of Australia (Queensland) 2018 Heritage Awards welcomed His Excellency, The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC to present the Lifetime Achievement Award and John Herbert Memorial Award.

Dr Ian Galloway, President of National Trust of Australia (Queensland) said. 'We are the keepers and creators of memories – more than just preserving our past; our focus is on adding value to the present and enriching the future. We aim to provide a deep understanding of our identity and place, of how we are and of where we come from to create vibrant and cohesive communities'

A **High Commendation** went to the Army Museum South Queensland for the Victoria Barracks Tour and Exhibition that were developed to showcase the built military heritage of early Queensland, and tell the story of Queensland's military history.

A **Volunteer / Volunteer Group Achievement Award** also went to the Army Museum South Queensland Volunteer Group, which has grown from six to 29 volunteers in the space of three years, promoting the Victoria Barracks and the historic Petrie Terrace military precinct.

A huge congratulations from the Association to Adele the staff and 29 volunteers for their achievement and their awards!



KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

Phil Lilliebridge

- Phil enlisted in 12th /16th Hunter River Lancers, Tamworth in 1982 as an M113 Driver/Signaller
- Phil completed Officer Training with Sydney University Regiment and was commissioned in April 1987
- His initial exposure to Brisbane came in 1987 with a trip with A Squadron, 2nd/14th LHR(QMI) to Exercise Diamond Dollar
- In March 1989 Phil began FTS at Headquarters 1st Brigade at Holsworthy and transferred to the ARA in 1990
- Phil's QM postings included 12/16 HRL, 2/14 LHR(QMI) and B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment and RMC, Duntroon, initially as QM, and then as Manager Defence Corporate Support Office, Duntroon
- Phil's deployments included
 - OP BELISI in Bougainville as Officer Commanding the Force Extraction Team.
 - Iraq as 2IC of Australian Army Training Team-6 (AATTI-6)
- In 2009 Phil transferred to the Army Reserve and in 2011 ceased his service.

Phil is an active participation with Legacy, DVA and the RSL of Australia (Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch) where he has been involved with the Pre-deployment and Decompression Briefings of troops deployed on Operations, as well as Induction Training for Gallipoli Barracks based troops covering Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) and the assistance that is available for serving members and their families.

Phil is a member of the Management Committee of Kedron Wavell Sub Branch RSL, having held various positions including Junior and Senior Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretary and currently Special Projects Coordination. He continues active participation as a volunteer with ESO's in addition to serving as a Director on Veterans Children's Education Board with DVA and Vice Chairman and RSL Liaison on the Board of Kedron Wavell Services Club Inc.



Above: OC and RSM FET OP BELISI Bougainville 2001



Right: Receiving ASM from Commander PMG Bougainville

Below: Saddam's Parade Ground Baghdad 2006



Above: Last time in a M113 turret. Leading the Regiment on ANZAC Day 2009

Far Left: Speaking at Centenary of RSL Lunch in 2016

Left: With Best Man (HOC BRIG John McKenzie AM) at our Association launch

BILLY SINGH COMMEMORATION SERVICE

In Honour of TROOPER BILLY SING DCM, MID, CROX DE GUERRE (BELGIAN)

On Saturday 19th May 2018 the 31st Bn Assoc, 2/14 LHR (QMI) Assoc, Chinese-Australian Historical Assoc, The Kedron-Wavell Services Club and Other Historical Societies gathered together with the Wavell State High School Choir and Bugler, friends and supporters, at the Commonwealth War Cemetery Lutwyche to celebrate the Commemorative Service of the 75th Anniversary of the death of Billy Sing, the "Assassin of Gallipoli".

Major General Darryl Low Choy AM, MBE, RFD, (Ret'd), PhD gave an enlightening address on the history of Billy, so much so that it will be the book, "Gallipoli Sniper" by John Hamilton, that I will read next. Our own Phil Lilliebridge recited the Ode prior to the Last Post and Rouse. The Wavell High School Choir performed the National Anthem and other well-known songs which added to the event.

At the end on the Commemorative Service participants were invited to the Kedron-Wavell Services Club for Morning Tea.



MAJGEN (Retd) Darryl Low Choy gives the address



MOUNT ALFORD STATE SCHOOL 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDSTONE DIGGER MEMORIAL

On the 25th May 2018 the Mount Alford State School Community, located in the Scenic Rim area, held a ceremony to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of their Sandstone Digger Memorial. On the request of the Secretary, Mr Jeff Burnell represented the Association at the commemoration and afterwards at a Community Morning Tea.

The Management Committee would like to thank Jeff for stepping up to the plate. Much appreciated, thanks Jeff.



POSTINGS & AWARDS

POSTINGS

The Association is delighted to announce that WO1 Derek Simpson the current RSM SOA, will be promoted to Corps RSM and the incoming RSM SOA is WO1 Peter Kirkman from 2/14 LHR(QMI).

To both RSM's the Association extends its warmest congratulations and best wishes in their future postings.

Awards

The Association also congratulates RAAC recipients of the following awards announced in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours List 2018:

- Maj Gen Fergus Mc Lachlan AM, awarded the AO
- Brigadier Christopher Mills HOC, awarded the AM
- RSM-A Donald Spinks OAM, awarded the AM
- Colonel Mark Welburn, awarded the Commendation for Distinguished Service

- Colonel Michael Murdoch, awarded the DSM
- Lt Col Chris Gardiner awarded the DSM
- Major Brian Hickey, awarded the Commendation for Distinguished Service.

A very special congratulation to Association member Greg Peake awarded the OAM in the general division for service to veterans and their families.

Greg's community service includes:

- Returned and Services League of Australia: President, Kedron-Wavell Sub-Branch, since 2014 and 2007-2012.
- Senior Vice-President, 1994-2007. Past Ceremonial Officer. Committee Member, since 1989. Member, since 1968.
- Management Committee, Third Cavalry Regiment Assoc, Vietnam Veterans Association, current.
- Member, 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association.

FAREWELL GOOD FRIENDS

VALE LEONARD ARMITAGE FRIEND

1 OCTOBER 1930 – 23 APRIL 2018

A large number of Association Members and Black Hats joined Len's family, friends and members of the Nambour community for the Celebration of Len's Life on the 11 May 2018.

His son, Neil, and daughter, Judith, reminisced on his life. Many humorous anecdotes and family experiences were shared. Len's obsession with "lists" being remarked upon several times. His involvement in his Church, RSL, Masonic Lodge and Neighborhood Watch showed how well known and respected he was within the Nambour community. A final farewell to Len was given by the Master of the Masonic Lodge. A Poppy Service by the President of the RSL Sub-Branch completed the service.

Len will be sorely missed by his family, military comrades, friends and the Nambour community.

Less We Forget



VALE 1731668 Geoffrey William McDonnell

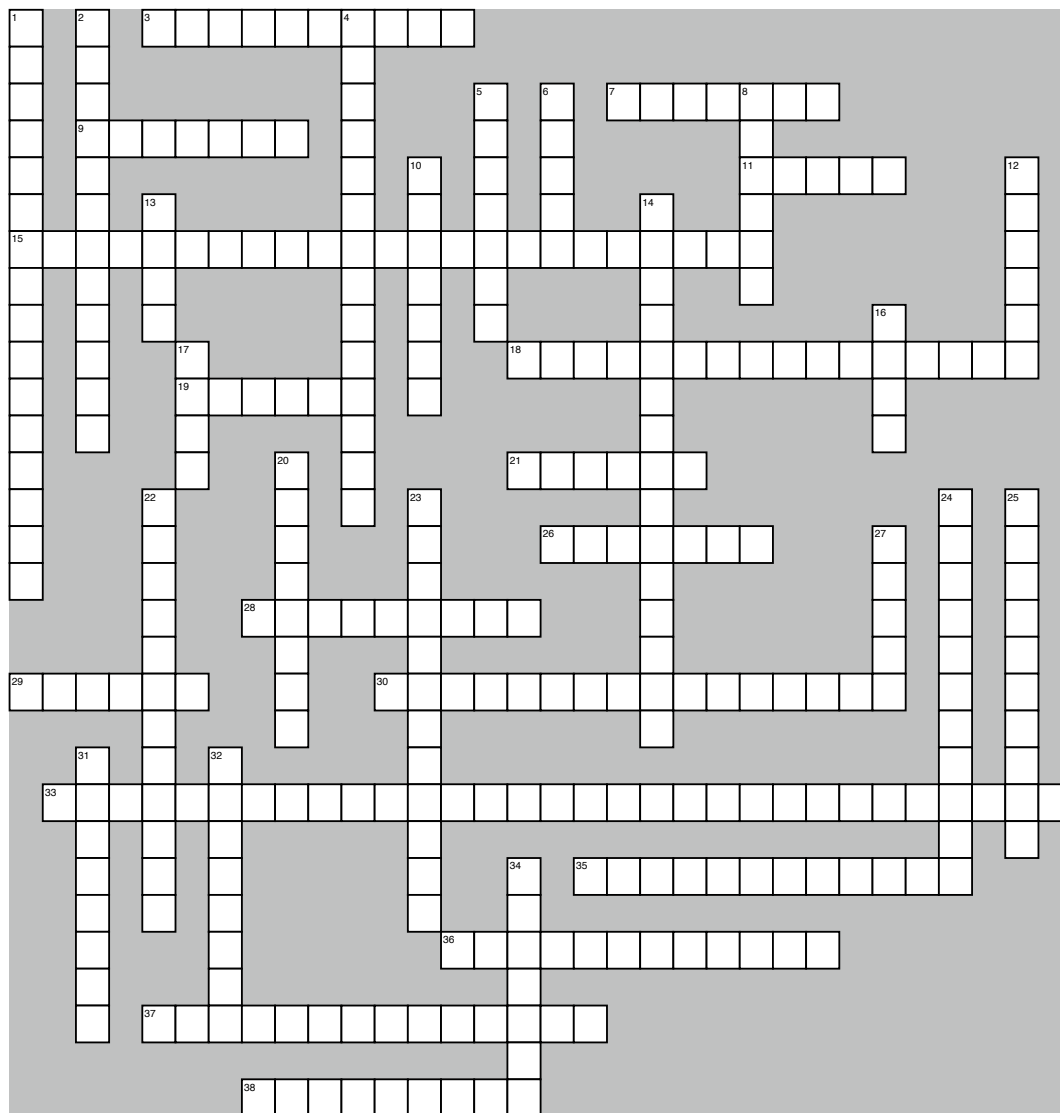
Geoff passed away on 26 April following a prolonged illness. He was a National Serviceman and was enlisted on the 2 Feb 1966. After recruit training at the 3rd Training Battalion, Geoff was allocated to the RAAC and received his IET at the Armoured Centre: in April 66. Geoff was posted to B Sqn 1 Cav Regt in 1 July 66 which was subsequently redesignated B Sqn 2 Cav on the 16 January 67. Geoff was discharged on 1 February 68.

He had been an active member of Kedron Wavell Sub Branch until he became ill. He is survived by his wife Jennifer and daughter Nicole.

Less We Forget

2/14 LHR (QMI) Assn Inc.

CROSSWORD 2



NO SPACES IN MULTIPLE WORD ANSWERS - USE OF SPECIAL CHARACTERS ALLOWED

ACROSS

- 3 What make of weapon is used by Australian snipers?
- 7 What is the common name for the Boeing-Vertol CH-47?
- 9 Where would you, in the Australian Navy, go to the loo?
- 11 In a suburb of which city is the SAS headquarters located in Australia?
- 15 What was the name of the military force, formed with Australian volunteers, which took part in the WW1?
- 18 The Pine Gap

military facility is located where?

- 19 Which horse won the first Melbourne Cup in 1861?
- 21 What is a military contractor referring to when talking about a "manually powered fastener-driving impact device"?
- 26 The last bayonet charge by the Australians was in which conflict?
- 28 What was the name of the aircraft carrier in the Australian Navy that served in Vietnam - HMAS ?
- 29 Of French origin (dating back to the 16th century), a small bomb

used for blowing up gates and walls is a ?

- 30 The Australian SAS barracks are in which state or territory?
- 33 What is NATO the abbreviation for?
- 35 Prince Andrew served as a 'decoy' helicopter pilot in which conflict?
- 36 Where was the first Australian Navy's guided missile frigate (FFG) built?
- 37 What is the common name for the Boeing B-52?
- 38 Which British naval base fell to the Japanese in February 1942?

DOWN

- 1 The main rifle used by Australian troops in Vietnam was the SLR. What does SLR mean?
- 2 When Australia felt threatened by a Japanese invasion, which country sent troops to help defend it?
- 4 What is the name of the route used by North Vietnam to infiltrate troops and supplies into the South?
- 5 Which US Air Force base has been used as an option for the landing of the Space Shuttle?
- 6 A Non Commissioned

Rank in the Australian Army.

- 8 What is the common name for the Bell Boeing-V22?
- 10 The main Army training base close to Wagga Wagga is called?
- 12 The fort built on Pinchgut Island, in Sydney Harbour during the early days of Botany Bay was to deter which country?
- 13 Operation Kruger was based in which country ... ?
- 14 What does the US military nickname "G.I." stand for?
- 16 Normie Rowe, Australia's King of Pop was

conscripted in 1967 and In 1968 was inducted into which branch of the Australian Armed Forces?

- 17 The colour of beret which SASR recruits receive once passed selection?
- 20 Where did Australian soldiers first inflict a defeat on the Japanese Army during WW2?
- 22 In 1964 an Act was passed in Australia which made many 20 year old males very scared. What was it?
- 23 Name of 1 Armoured Regiment's new headquarters at RAAF Base Edinburgh S.A.
- 24 What is the common name for the Boeing C-17?
- 25 Which Australian prime minister crashed several fighters in WW2 and was badly burnt?
- 27 During WW2 where did Japanese POWs in Australia stage a detention camp breakout from?
- 31 You have two 'hooks' on your arm, which rank is it?
- 32 What was the code name for the Australian military operation during the invasion of Iraq in 2003 ... ?
- 34 Which nationality of the Australian population was NOT declared "enemy aliens" during WW2 and therefore not interned?

Black Hats & Friends Dinner

FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST 2018

*Sponsored by 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association Inc.
P.O. Box 508, Ashgrove West Post Office, Ashgrove, QLD, 4060. <http://www.2-14lhrqmi.asn.au/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214LHRQMIAssn/>*

THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OR CURRENTLY SERVE IN RAAC UNITS, REGARDLESS OF CORP, UNIT OR RANK, THEIR FAMILIES, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP AND CATCH UP IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE, MINIMAL FORMALITIES, NO MEDALS.

Location Kedron-Wavell Services Club.
21 Kittyhawk Drive, CHERMSIDE 4032.

Time 6.00pm for 6.30pm

Entertainment "Mon Cher Quartet" Vocal Group

TWO COURSE MENU - Cost is \$45.00 per person
Cash bar services available

RAFFLES WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE EVENING;
*With an exclusive "Members Only" raffle to be conducted
for those financial 2/14 LHR (QMI) Association members attending.*

TO SECURE YOUR PLACE AT THE TABLE, PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WED 17TH AUG 2018

Mail cheques to:
The Treasurer, 2/14 LHR(QMI) Assn
PO Box 508, ASHGROVE QLD. 4060

Electronic Funds Transfer: *Defence Bank*
Account Name: 2nd 14th Light Horse Regiment
BSB: 833205 AC #: 20362781

(Defence Bank members must use "2ND" as the three characters for the transfer)
Please tag your deposit with your details to ensure it is recorded correctly.

For registration and additional information please contact:
Phil Lilliebridge: e. philip7551@hotmail.com m. 0458 005 388

