

# FORWARD

Newsletter #25 - July 2019



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

**W**elcome to our 2nd Newsletter for 2019. I would like to thank Association members for their confidence in voting for me as President. I would also like to thank Graeme, the outgoing President, for all of the work he has done over the last couple of years. Graeme is moving sideways within the committee and no doubt I will be calling on him for advice and guidance. I would also like to thank Darren Brown for his support and great work for the Association since the beginning.

I would like to welcome those new members and thank those that continue to work as part of your association committee. Together we will all work hard to improve and grow your Association. Your committee is:

- **President - Shayne Burley**
- **Secretary - Sandy Johns**
- **Treasurer - Dean Chappel**
- **Memberships - Graeme Brown**
- **Welfare and Veterans Issues - Phil Lilliebridge**
- **Newsletter - Graeme Nicholas**
- **Assistant Secretary - Shane Lucas**
- **Assistant Treasurer - Bob Vonk**

If you need to contact us please contact the secretary via the contact link on our website.  
<http://www.2-14lhrqmi.asn.au/>

### *A bit of my history to introduce myself:*

- I joined the RAAC in Feb 1980 and was posted to the 4th Cavalry Regiment and during my time in Brisbane the unit changed its name to the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment and then 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI).
- I left Brisbane in 1987 and was posted to 1 RTB followed by a posting to the SOA. In 1992 I was posted to 2nd Cavalry Regiment and moved with the unit to Darwin.
- In 1996 I was posted to 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers.
- In 1999 I was sent to the 1st Light Armored Battalion, 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton in Southern California where I was responsible for training and

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qualifying Marines on the LAV-25. On return to Australia I was posted as the SSM of A squadron 2nd Cavalry Regiment and during this time I was deployed to Timor as the Armoured Group SSM.

- In 2003 I was appointed as the RSM of 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers and then as the RSM of 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) in Brisbane.

- Since retiring from the military after 27 years I started work with Thales at 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) running the ASLAV Crew Procedural Trainer (gunnery and tactics simulator) in Brisbane. All up I have spent just over 20 years serving in or with 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) in Brisbane in the military or as a civilian.

- I am married with 4 adult children and 4 grandkids and live in Northern Brisbane. I enjoy camping and four wheel driving and the occasional motorbike ride, so if you are keen for a ride drop me a line.

So far we have had a busy year with your committee organising or attending numerous activities and services. Keep an eye on the newsletter for more about these individual activities throughout the year.

### ***What are we planning for the remainder of 2019:***

- **Care Packages:** We are planning on sending a care package to our deployed unit members serving in Iraq

as part of Task Group Taji IX. This package will include several items and the committee is still finalising costings and items. If you have any suggestions or can help out please get in contact with us.

- **Committee Meeting:** We meet several time a year as per the calendar and as always all members are encouraged to attend.

- **Beersheba day:** Still waiting on the regiment to provide details but due to the current deployment may not be a big affair. I will keep the association updated via emails from the secretary.

- **41 Club Annual Black Hat Family BBQ:** This year the bulk of the regiment will still be deployed but the CO and the RSM have fully support us for this year and they will provide as much assistance as they can. As with previous years security is paramount so please send your details to me at [ssatjj@icloud.com](mailto:ssatjj@icloud.com) so you can be added to the attendance list.

I thought it would be a good idea to highlight the objectives for the association as written in our constitution:

1. foster and perpetuate ties of comradeship amongst members
2. promote the Regiment, its history and the Regimental Museum
3. support the Regiment by pursuing matters referred to it by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment
4. be a Member Association of the RAAC Corporation
5. conduct social activities and events of interest to members
6. in conjunction with other ex-Service organisations, to promote and assist with the welfare and well-being of members and their dependents.

### **Forward**

Shayne Burley  
President



## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**The Management Committee of the 2nd / 14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association Inc. is pleased to welcome each of the following new members to the Association and hope that you each enjoy many years of participation.**

✓	CHIVERS	ALEXANDER FRANCIS (BLUE)
✓	FALLEN	STAFFORD ERNEST (STAFFORD)
✓	FINLAY	ROBERT GRAYDEN (ROBERT)
✓	KEARNES	JOHN SUMMER (JOHN)
✓	KELLY	PAT (NED)
✓	MCGREEVER	TYRRELL (TYRRELL)
✓	MORRIS	RONALD JAMES (RON)
✓	PATULLO	RODNEY DAVID (ROD)
✓	SPATARO	GIUAEPPE (JOE)
✓	THWAITE	MAURICE HENRY (MAURIE)
✓	WHITEMAN	CRAIG (CRAIG)

## **MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON**

**By Colonel Steve Salmon**

I felt it a great honour when, in November last year, I was invited to become the Honorary Colonel of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry), and subsequently to be the Patron of the Association.

I realise that the Association is only six years old but it already provides an avenue for some of us older soldiers to renew old acquaintances and foster new ones, all while supporting the Regiment.



I see my role as assisting Shayne, and the Management Committee, to perpetuate a strong working relationship with the CO, RSM and the current members of the Regiment. My priority will be to ensure that there is an open dialogue, strong communication and a close tie between the two groups.

I understand that the Association has a number of social events throughout the year and I look forward to catching up with everyone at the next gathering.

## REGIMENTAL UPDATE

By WO2 Stuart Camac A/RSM

In 'The 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) has once again deployed to the Middle East in 2019 as the mounting unit for the Australian Government commitment to supporting the Republic of Iraq in its fight against ISIS. As part of OPERATION OKRA, the Regiment is now under taking the ninth iteration of the Training Task Unit (TTU-IX) in Taji, Iraq. The TTU-IX will further refine the skills and capability of the Iraqi Army Brigades as they rotate through the Taji Military Complex, conducting the full spectrum of activities that include urban and complex terrain war fighting, as well as specialist weapon courses.

Even though the majority of the Regiment including the headquarters are deployed, those that remain have continued to represent the Regiment well in the staple diet of exercises in Shoal Water Bay where A Squadron in particular performed incredibly well as an OPFOR against 1st Armoured Regiment. The Squadron was able to infiltrate their screen, locate their Battle Group Headquarters and destroy it in detail not once, but twice in two nights. At the time of writing the troops are headed home for a quick break before re-deploying back into the bay for their Squadron Live Fire activity.

As part of the Government efforts to engage more within our region, the Regiment has partnered with the Kingdom of Tonga by conducting training with His Majesty Armed Forces (HMAF). In April our first Training Team spent two weeks in the Kingdom developing relationships, conducting a training needs analysis and playing some touch football. It was a very rewarding experience and has generated many opportunities that includes a future joint exercise that will include the New

Zealanders, Americans and French. The Regiment will be busy all the way into 2020 with this additional responsibility which should see us being able to deploy numerous soldiers on a regular basis back to the Kingdom.



The final main topic in the future for the Light Horse is the transition onto a new Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle, the BOXER. For those of us that saw the ASLAV enter service, the BOXER is a generational jump forward in technology that supersedes anything that we're used to. With its enhanced systems and weaponry, it

will still only be as good as the Cavalry soldiers in it. Training will commence towards the end of the year and the Regiment will bring it to an operational standard in 2020.

In summary, the Regiment continues to do all that is asked of it within the 7th Combat Brigade and exceeds expectations with our can do attitude and stable of highly capable and motivated Junior NCO's that commit to getting the job done.'





# THE SOCIAL ASSOCIATION ~ ANZAC DAY

By Graeme Nicholas

Brisbane turned on a beautiful day for this year's event. Although numbers were down overall, we managed to gather 30+ for the march. President Shayne Burley led the Association.

After the march, many adjourned to the Grand Central for a refreshing drink and a bite to eat. It was good to catch up with past comrades and to meet new faces.

Please make the effort, especially the younger generation of returned officers and soldiers, to come next year. You will get a lot out of the day.



## Calendar Of Events 2019

Date/Time	Event	Location	Organised By
23 Jul / 1500hrs	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
<b>18 Aug (Sun)</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Committee</b>
15 Oct / 1500hrs	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary
<b>31 Oct</b>	<b>Beersheba Celebration</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Committee</b>
<b>9 Nov / 1300 (Sat)</b>	<b>Black Hat BBQ and Drinks</b>	<b>41 Club</b>	<b>Committee</b>
10 Dec / 1500hrs	Management Committee Meeting	Legacy House	President / Secretary

## MUSEUM UPDATE

By WO1 Jamie Adams RSM

The following statement has been received by the President, Shayne Burley, from the RSM 2/14LHR(QMI) who has taken on the responsibility for the museum's future. Any comments or questions are to be directed to Shayne Burley (President)

"The former museum is currently in a period of transition. A change in Army museum policy means the collection must undergo a transition to a Unit History Room. This necessitates a complete change to management procedures that has a training bill as well as a requirement for more stringent cataloguing and archiving requirements. The unit is working to achieve the mandated processes and the collection will again be on display as soon as the infrastructure is there to support the preservation of the items in the collection. On top of this, the current buildings are to be relocated sometime in the new year to a base historical precinct. As the unit area is redeveloped into the new AFV precinct under the LAND 400 project, facilities for display of the unit history collection will be included.

With the unit's busy schedule this year, the time-frames likely for the relocations/rebuild of the unit, and the mandated training requirements IAW policy, the collection will remain under strict control and will not, under any circumstances, be disposed of or split up. Once appropriate facilities are available, the collection will be displayed in accordance with modern museum practices to ensure its longevity and preservation. Through my involvement with Army History Unit, and my many years volunteering at the RAAC Tank Museum, I am aware of the significance these items hold for the serving and former members of the Regiment. I will continue to take the lead on ensuring all actions with respect to the collection are stringently controlled and in accordance with policy.

With respect to the rumours, we are not disposing of nor splitting up the collection. I have answered a few enquiries already regarding the rumours surrounding the collection. If you do not hear the information directly from me, consider these as unfounded rumours and untrue. I am available to answer any questions or concerns at your convenience."

## VETERANS NEWS

### OUTGOING REPATRIATION COMMISSIONER THANKED FOR DEDICATED SERVICE

AFTER almost a decade of enhancing the services and support provided to veterans and their families, and the broader ex-service community, Major General Mark Kelly AO, DSC will pass the Repatriation Commissioner mantle to Mr Don Spinks AM.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said veterans and their families had benefited greatly from Major General Kelly's leadership, passion and commitment to the ex-service community.

"Major General Kelly has performed with distinction as the Repatriation Commissioner and I commend him on

his achievements, most notably the improvements made to Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling, formerly known as the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service," Mr Chester said.

"During his years of service, we have seen Open Arms become a nationally accredited mental health service as well as expanding eligibility to include children, partners, former partners and certain United

Nations and Australian Federal Police personnel — improvements which have made a difference in the lives of many."

Most recently Major General Kelly guided the counselling service through its rebranding to be and certain United Nations and Australian Federal Police personnel — improvements which have made a difference



Don Spinks

MAJGEN Mark Kelly

Darren Chester

in the lives of many."

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## 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. 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.

After getting settled and with air beds inflated, it was time to get the RAAC fire lit. After a few beers, a few red wines, and a few red wines to wash down the snags, the lads started the stories, and a few red wines !!!!!

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.

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.





# THE ANNUAL 41 CLUB BLACK HAT REUNION

By Shayne Burley

The Annual 41 Club Black Hat Reunion is on again this year on the 9th November 2019 starting at 1300. 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment Association would like to invite all Black Hats and those that served in a Black Hat units to our annual family BBQ drinks get together on the 2nd Saturday in November each year.

This year the bulk of the Regiment will be deployed over seas and will not return until the end of the year. I have spoken to the CO and the RSM and they are happy for us to hold our function but indicated that support may be limited due to the deployment.

Due to the current security arrangements, please RSVP with your full name and drivers licence number, state (anyone over 16 will need to be added to

the list) to Shayne Burley email [ssatjj@icloud.com](mailto:ssatjj@icloud.com). Your name will be added to the entry list to facilitate entry to the barracks on the day.

I look forward to catching up and having a yarn and a few drinks. I will send out reminder emails later in the year. Also please pass this on to any I have missed.

Details below:

- ◆ What – Black Hat Family 41 Club Get-together;
- ◆ When – 1300-1800 Saturday 9 Nov 19;
- ◆ Where – 41 Club Enoggera Barracks; and
- ◆ Cost - \$10.00 (to cover the BBQ, etc).



**When you are bored just think about a few things that don't make sense ...**

1. If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
2. Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
3. Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
4. Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

5. Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and It just takes 75-100 years to fully work

6. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty

7. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims"

8. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses

9. If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them

# 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BINH BA

## 6th June, 2019

The 50th anniversary of the battle of Binh Ba in Vietnam was marked at the Australian War Memorial today with a special Last Post Ceremony that commemorated the service of Private Wayne Teeling, the only Australian who died in the battle.

The battle stemmed from an incident early on the morning of 6 June 1969, when two Australian armoured vehicles were fired upon from the village of Binh Ba while traveling northward to assist the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR), in a separate operation.

After every effort was made to evacuate the civilian population, an Australian reaction force attacked the enemy occupying the village. Fighting continued in and around the village until late the following day. Australian soldiers fought against a combined communist force of North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong, including a battalion of the formidable 33 NVA Regiment.

In the two days of fighting, only one Australian soldier, Private Wayne Teeling of 5RAR, was killed. Eleven others were wounded, some severely. A total of 99 enemy dead were eventually reported; most were soldiers of the 33 NVA Regiment. It is thought that the occupation of Binh Ba was an attempt to draw resources from 6RAR's operation in the north and to relieve pressure on 33 NVA Regiment.

The battle of Binh Ba was viewed as a dramatic victory for the task force, and was the biggest engagement involving Australian soldiers since the battles at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral a year earlier. The action received the name Operation Hammer, and battle honours were later awarded to the Australian regiments involved.

The Last Post Ceremony was attended by Private Teeling's family, former Commanding Officer of 5RAR Brigadier Colin Khan, DSO, AM (Representing 5 RAR), Captain Ray De Vere MC (representing 3rd Cavalry Regiment), Lt Col Colin Toll (representing 1st Armoured Regiment) and approximately 500 other Vietnam veterans.



"On the 6th of June 1969, two Australian armoured vehicles travelling north from the 1st Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat were fired on from the village of Binh Ba. Rocket-propelled grenades damaged one vehicle. After an exchange of fire, the vehicles departed and reported the attack.

Two South Vietnamese Regional Force platoons were sent to investigate, but were forced to withdraw after coming under heavy fire. After the District Chief requested support, the Australian Task Force ready reaction force was dispatched: an under-strength infantry company from D Company, 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment; a troop of armoured personnel carriers of B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment; and a troop of Centurion tanks from B Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment.

The infantry of D Company and the supporting Centurion tanks and armoured personnel carriers, together with overhead support from Royal Australian Air Force helicopter gunships, entered Binh Ba just after 11 am. They expected to be facing no more than two Viet Cong platoons.

When the Australians came under heavy fire, the soldiers discovered they were facing a formidable force of regular North Vietnamese Army troops from 1 Battalion, 33 NVA Regiment.

The Australians reached the centre of the village, clearing houses as they went, but the tanks sustained damage and casualties under the weight of enemy fire. The assault stalled, and the Australians withdrew to take stock.

A second assault began that afternoon. As evening fell, the Australians withdrew and set up defensive positions outside the village. B Company, 5RAR, which had arrived that afternoon, spent the night harboured at the edge of a nearby rubber plantation.

Early the next morning B Company, 5RAR encountered a company of North Vietnamese Army soldiers heading towards Binh Ba; a sharp exchange of fire resulted in their rapid withdrawal. D Company entered the village and after encountering no enemy, left the rest of the clearing to local Popular Force soldiers.

Fighting flared up at the nearby hamlet of Duc Trung



and B Company, 5RAR, with APC, tank and gunship support moved into the hamlet from the south. The Australians did not encounter the enemy and, seeking to avoid civilian casualties, they handed over to the Vietnamese Popular Force troops to clear the remainder of the hamlet.

A further sweep of Binh Ba was conducted on the morning of the 8th of June, and members of the Australian Civil Affairs unit entered the badly damaged village to assist in rehousing locals and organise reconstruction. The bulk of the reconstruction work was completed about a month later.

During the battle one Australian was killed and 10 wounded. Four Centurion tanks had been damaged by enemy RPG fire, and the majority of the Australian wounded were tank commanders and crewmen. The tanks suffered losses but undoubtedly saved many infantry lives.

Over 100 enemy soldiers were killed and an unknown number wounded.



The battle was a decisive victory for the Australians and the regiments involved were later awarded battle honours. The decisive engagement resulted in 33 NVA Regiment being forced out of Phuoc Tuy province into their sanctuary refuges in neighbouring provinces."

## VETERANS NEWS continued from page 5

Most recently Major General Kelly guided the counselling service through its rebranding to be called Open Arms, signalling its increased eligibility and positioning it as the frontline mental health service for the ex-service community.

He is passionate about commemorating Australia's military history and ensuring veterans from all conflicts are never forgotten. During his time as Repatriation Commissioner he has been the master of ceremonies for countless commemorative events, such as Anzac Day services held internationally, including the 100th anniversary commemorations in Gallipoli, 2015.

The Repatriation Commission grants pensions and benefits, and provides treatment and other services under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA) to veterans and members of the Australian Defence Force, their partners, widows/ers, and children. The Commission also provides advice to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on related issues.

Major General Kelly welcomed Mr Spinks to the role and said he was very proud of the work completed to-date in enhancing the services and support available to current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and their families.

With respect to the rumours, we are not disposing of nor splitting up the collection. I have answered a few enquiries already regarding the rumours surrounding the collection. If you do not hear the information directly from me, consider these as unfounded rumours and untrue. I am available to answer any questions or concerns at your convenience."

## VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK TO FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Between 2000 and 2016, 118 full-time serving Australian Defence Force members were suspected or confirmed to have died by suicide. Thirty-seven were with the navy, 60 with the army and 21 with the air force (as at September 20, 2016). Eight were female. Available data shows no discernible trend in the number of suicides or any clear link with operational deployment, according to the Defence Department.

Of the 118 ADF members confirmed or suspected to have died by suicide, 64 had never deployed; of the 54 who had deployed, 22 had one or more deployments to the Middle East Area of Operations. Among ex-serving men, those aged 18 to 24 accounted for one in six suicide deaths (23 deaths, 17 per cent) and had a suicide rate almost twice that of Australian men of the same age, according to a 2011-14 study by

the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Risk groups identified by the AIHW included veterans discharged involuntarily (suicide rates were 2.4 times higher than those discharged for voluntary reasons), particularly if the discharge was for medical reasons (3.6 times higher).

A new online AIHW report provides annual updates on the level of suicide among serving and ex-serving ADF personnel. This online database compares suicide rates across three groups (serving full time, in the reserve and ex-serving) and with the general Australian population.

Suicide among veterans is not well understood, research is limited, existing data has shortcomings and the Department of Veterans' Affairs finds out about a suicide only if a dependant makes a claim for compensation or income support. In the absence of an official register of serving and ex-serving ADF members who commit suicide, an unofficial community Australian Veterans' Suicide Register was set up. Mental health treatment offered by the DVA is demand-driven, not capped, and costs about \$187 million a year. The DVA provides the Open Arms counselling service, including a 24-hour crisis line, counselling and group treatment.

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of veterans will be the key focus for this year's Veterans' Health Week to be held from 26 October to 3 November 2019.

Veterans who have served one full day in the Australian Defence Force can access free mental health treatment and also have access to a veteran-specific lifeline through Open Arms — Veterans and Families Counselling, whether that condition is service related or not.

**FROM 1 JULY 2019, ALL AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE (ADF) PERSONNEL LEAVING FULL-TIME SERVICE CAN ACCESS A FULLY-FUNDED COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CHECK FROM A GP EVERY YEAR FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS.**

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester today announced the expanded Veteran Health Checks that will help optimise the physical and mental health and wellbeing of veterans in the years following transition from the ADF. "We know that early intervention is important in helping veterans enjoy positive health outcomes and manage their health during transition to civilian life," Mr Chester said. "I encourage all veterans to make the time for

their Annual Veteran Health Check — get to know your GP so they can help you look after your health and wellbeing," Mr Chester said.

ADF members who transition before 30 June 2019 will continue to be able to gain access to the comprehensive One-off Veteran Health Check (formerly known as the one-off ADF Post-Discharge GP Health Assessment) at any time post-transition.

For those in need of immediate mental health support and counselling, Open Arms - Veterans and Family Counselling Service can be contacted on 1800 011 046, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To find out more about Veteran Health Checks, please visit the AT-Ease website or call DVA on 1800 555 254.

## **OMBUDSMAN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS (DFRDB) SCHEME**

The Commonwealth Ombudsman, Mr Michael Manthorpe PSM, has commenced an investigation into the administration of the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) scheme with respect to commutation. The scope of the investigation is limited to the accuracy of information provided by scheme administrators and relevant departments to DFRDB scheme members in relation to commutation.

The Ombudsman is accepting submissions from members of the DFRDB scheme about the information they were provided about commutation.

Specific details about the investigation, including information about making a submission, can be found at [ombudsman.gov.au/dfldb](http://ombudsman.gov.au/dfldb). If you would like to speak with a member of the DFRDB Investigation Team please contact the team by email [DFRDB.Investigation@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:DFRDB.Investigation@ombudsman.gov.au) and a member of the team will contact you.

***Please let a member of the Management Committee know if you are unwell and are happy for the information to be shared amongst the membership.***