

The Towner News

2/4 RAR Association Newsletter



The 2nd/4th Battalion
The Royal Australian
Regiment Association

PO Box 240
Thuringowa Central Qld 4817

Email:
committee@24rarassociation.com

Website:
www.24rarassociation.com

Committee

Patron: BRIG Paul S. O'Sullivan AM
MDE (ret'd)

President: Merv Diction

Vice President: Ken Ellis

Secretary: Gary Jiear

Asst Secretary: Bill Marklew

Treasurer: Bob Bakkers

Merchandise: Martin Dunn

Web/IT/Media Member: Gary Jiear

Asst Web/IT/Media Mbr: John Mark

Personnel Member: Bob Weir

**We have 281
members and
our numbers are
steadily growing.**

From the Editor

Well, we find ourselves at another year's end, and what a turbulent one it was, fingers crossed 2021 will be a whole lot better.

This is the 4th issue of the Edgar Towner and it is great to see the support we have been receiving in relation to articles that just keeps on growing.

If you have a business and would like to advertise it, want to find a long-lost friend, or just let everyone know what you have been up to since your time in the Battalion, the Edgar Towner is a great forum, reaching out right around Australia and beyond.

We are always on the lookout for new topics and articles, so no matter your writing skills, give it a go and submit something, all is welcome. We just ask that submissions be at a family friendly level as the newsletter is read by all.

Even though this year has been relatively quiet in relation to Unit activities, a whole lot has still managed to occur. So, kick back, have a read and enjoy...

On behalf of the Edgar Towner Editorial Team have a happy and safe Christmas and a great New Year.

Cheers
Bob Bakkers

Patron's Message

Brigadier Paul O' Sullivan AM MBE (Retired) messages that:

35 years ago, I wrote in the Battalion magazine that "we've had our high and low points during the year", and I'm pretty sure we can say much the same about our fortunes in 2020.

As I reflect on the events of the past year, I am encouraged by the solidarity that is evident throughout the 2/4 RAR Association, and as I said in 1985, it "has confirmed my belief in the traditions of our Regiment and in the quality of the professional Infantryman ... and I urge you to take pride in yourselves as soldiers, because you have earned that right". That unique status as Infantrymen of 2/4 RAR continues to be preserved and demonstrated in the strength and dedication of the Association's membership. As members, you continue to be a great credit to the Battalion, and all who served in the ranks of 2/4 RAR.

As 2020 fast fades into obscurity, it's encouraging to anticipate a joyful Christmas with family and friends, and that 2021 will be a much healthier, happier and hopeful year for all of us.

My best wishes for the Festive Season and the year ahead. Hopefully, I will be able to catch up with many of you at next year's AGM in Sydney. Regards,

Paul

Duty First!
Paul O'Sullivan

President's Message

Many thanks again this issue to our Patron for his message and to Bob and Kim for putting the "Towner" together.

The Association recently received a letter from the 2 RAR Association, Inc. For those that do not know, up until October this year the 2 RAR Association Committee was managed from SQ. A predominately Townsville based committee has now been elected and they are busily transitioning the management here.

On your behalf I have congratulated the new committee on the election result and wish them well for sustaining and growing their Association.

Why mention this – 2 RAR as an active Battalion has the support of the 2 RAR Association. 2 RAR are keen to engage both 2 RAR Association and 2/4 RAR Association and are encouraging us to attend Battalion activities into the future. We highly value 2 RAR support and we can work with the others to form rapport in a positive way while retaining our own identity.

The Association Committee and I wish the very best to you and your families for the festive season and a far better 2021 than the year we have experienced.



Duty First and Merry Christmas 2/4 RAR!
Regards and respect from Merv Dicton

47th Birthday Bash



47th Birthday Bash Townsville 2020

47 Years! where have they gone?

In various places around Australia 2/4 Warriors gathered (where possible) to celebrate the Premier Battalion's Birthday.

In Townsville, some 30 odd ex diggers, many with their Wife or Lady Friend came to the Battalion's ancestral Home at Lavarack Barracks.

2 RAR (Amphibious) Battalion and [Major Ariel Armstrong](#) OC Admin, hosted the morning tea, Birthday cake and access to their Museum & Collection which includes in the walk through, including 2/4 RAR's participation in their history.

The Museum & Collection is well presented and maintained by Jason (Harry) Harrison and a band of dedicated Volunteers. (If anyone has memorabilia get in touch with Harry before it gets lost in time or dumped) and, but not least, Erin our happy Barista kept us supplied with coffees. As an Original, I had the honour to cut the Birthday Cake in company with some of the 95ers.

After our time at Lavarack Barracks we adjourned to the Townsville RSL for lunch and much reminiscing with our Brothers from other Mothers.

We should all be looking forward to our 50th Birthday in 2023 let's put that into our calendars and be prepared to make it one to remember and be proud of.

Duty First

Lyle McGrath

Photos From 47th Birthday Bash in Townsville



Thank you to those
that travelled from
far and near to join in
the celebrations.



Photos From 47th Birthday Bash in Townsville



ANZAC Day Brisbane 2021 update...

Hello all,

I sent an email out earlier regarding ANZAC Day 2021 in Brisbane and the proposed format it may take. Just to give you an update on the meeting held on 10 Nov 20.

It went as I expected it too with some having their knickers in a twist about the proposal. I must admit I thought similar until the meeting where it was explained a bit better.

Brisbane ANZAC Day 2021 is being currently planned in line with the **CURRENT** QLD Govt COVID restrictions as at 1 Oct 2020. They cannot plan on anything else until this changes.

If they planned to hold ANZAC Day as normal they could not control the crowds that would attend. As the march was cancelled in 2020, it was assumed that more would attend next year. Also if COVID ramped up again in 2021 then they would have to cancel it once again and run the risk of not having an alternate plan; as well as frustrating a lot of people who planned to attend.

The main reason for the decision to hold the parade at the RNA showgrounds is that in line with the current COVID restrictions, the committee can control the attendees and therefore ensure their safety as much as possible while restricting spectators and those marching. Emphasis on this is the older veterans and trying to reduce the risk for them as well as everyone else.

At this stage if COVID restrictions are reduced in the future - their plan has some wiggle room in it to increase the numbers who participate and who spectate but that would be limited to veterans and associations but not civilians who normally line the street.

Currently numbers are based on banner carriers and two people per association / entity to spectate. They have also capped numbers of current serving RAAF, NAVY and ARMY who will march.

Keep in mind the planning for ANZAC Day is no small task and the amount of documentation that has to be compiled and submitted for approval must address and align with certain restrictions and parameters of the QLD Govt.

Whilst not dealt with at the meeting a question was raised about a Dawn Service and it is perceived that this too would be (at the moment) a restricted event.

Although disappointing for those who normally march I guess we have to roll with what the organisers can control. Of course we would all love to march or to spectate but at the moment they have to work with what they have. More to follow next meeting on 9 Feb which I will also attend as well.

For your information.....
kind regards
Gary Jiear
Secretary / Brisbane rep
2/4 RAR Association

Amalgamation of the six Battalions

On researching some old Kapyong Kronicals, (a 3RAR newsletter produced monthly in the 1970s), in the 3RAR museum I came across this article, which I hope you all may find interesting....

Appearing in a 1974 issue and titled,

ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW THE AMALGAMATION OF 2/4RAR 5/7RAR 8/9RAR

A direction was given to reduce the RAR from nine to six Battalions, as part of the reduction of the Army to a target strength of 34,000.

This was done by linking six Battalions to form three linked Battalions, 2/4RAR, 5/7RAR, 8/9RAR.

It was intended that, in the implementation of linking procedures, Battalions be treated on an equal basis. However, should an area of contention arise where competing claims were, in all other respects, equal, preference of desire or priority should be with the older Battalion.

Birthdays

The birthdays of all Battalions linked will continue to be recognised for the purpose of the exchange of greetings. However, it was reasonable that only one official celebration for each linked Battalion take place annually. It seemed appropriate; therefore, the birthday of both Battalions be celebrated on the anniversary of the official date of linking.

Colours

Since the linking is a temporary measure, both sets of Regimental Queens Colours were retained in use and paraded together on appropriate occasions.



Amalgamation of the six Battalions cont..

Flags

A Unit flag is an important focal point in a Battalion. New flags were required for linked Battalions. Two changes were proposed in the new design. The flag is divided diagonally by a line from the upper left corner to the lower right. The colour of the oldest (lowest number) Battalion is on that half of the flag pole, and the colour of the second Battalion on that half above the diagonal. The designation of the linked Battalion will appear in the upper hoist canton. For example



Lanyards

It was proposed to seek approval for a new lanyard incorporating both colours of the Battalions linked. This will take time to produce, if approved. In the meantime, the simplest, fairest, and most practical solution was to wear a combined lanyard of both Battalions, neatly stitched together by the Unit tailor in such a manner that the stitches did not show. For uniformity, the lanyard of the older Battalion, when on the shoulder, is on the outside nearest the sleeve.

Mascots

Quintus, the mascot of 5RAR, was taken on strength 5/7RAR. Similarly, Private John Macarthur 1, 9RAR's mascot, was taken on strength 8/9RAR.

2020 Infantryman's Muster Amamoor Creek

Well despite the muster for 2020 being cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic a few die-hard 2/4 RAR lads weren't going to be put off by some virus.

It was decided at one of Jason Botham's local 2/4 RAR get-togethers that we'd go ahead with a mini-muster seeing as we could travel anywhere in QLD anyway. So 19-22 November rolls around and a number of the boys turn up in motorhomes, caravans, rooftop tents and the like to enjoy the ambience of being with your brothers once again and talking crap, drinking, joking and generally having a great time.

We actually had Robert Holmes from SA (Before the SA Lock Down) turn up for his first ever muster. I'd been pestering him for months to come to the muster this year and then it was cancelled, but the Qld borders opened up to SA and he still came, so bloody well done Bob.

Die hard John Dyson was first to arrive (and last to leave) on the Thursday followed closely by Mick Polak, then myself and Bob Holmes. Later that day 'Pom' Albert Boyd arrived with his van and filled in the south side of the perimeter giving us all-round protection from those pesky non-Infantry types.

Saturday saw Jason Botham and Paul Tonissoo arrive throughout the day. Graeme Kent even dropped in for a few hours with his wife Karin on the Saturday afternoon too.

We saw Jason move the quickest he'd moved in a long time when a snake took evasive action to escape straight towards him who then took evasive action himself. The campgrounds became fairly full with many civvies over the weekend, but they didn't complain about our noise level, we were there first anyway.

We did find an Engineer Vietnam Vet and got him over for a drink and a chat. Mick Pollack had brought his drone and took some interesting footage. All in all it was an interesting muster with as much p**s drunk as there was banter passed, we even polished off the \$280 bottle of Whiskey that Jason had at the last muster stating we'd drink it at the next, well we did. Hoping to see you all at the next muster, until then Cheers all, Duty First.

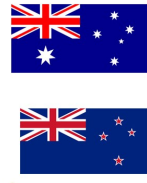
Rick Canhan

Cockatoo Rise Official Opening

Cockatoo Rise War Veterans Retreat inc



**OFFICIAL
OPENING**



SAT MARCH 6, 2021
(LABOUR DAY WEEKEND)

LOCATION 26 HIGH ST MACARTHUR

(The OLD Pub)

TIME 12 NOON

OPENED BY SENATOR JACQUI LAMBIE

MARCH TO RETREAT MEMORIAL 12.15
MEDALS TO BE WORN

RSVP For catering purposes .

Tel Greg 0409418332

email cockatoorise@wideband.net.au



What are you up to now? *Mike Williams*

Mike Williams (aka Willy, aka MR).

2/4th Battalion 1980-1983

Happy to put in an update - most wouldn't have a clue what I've been up too.

Left the Battalion in Jan 83. Then did another 11 yrs in Transport 88 - 97 as my hearing wouldn't allow me back to the Battalion.

Been in IT since discharged in 97 and my wife ran our horse property - later breeding miniature ponies.

Sadly my wife Jocelyn, passed away Anzac Day 2020 and I decided to retire, retiring on the 11 Dec 2020.

I had planned for some time for myself and Jos to travel and I will continue with this in retirement.

Recently purchased a new LC 76 series and kitted it out for touring with a camper.



A Message from Santa *aka Lyle McGrath*

