

The Towner News

2/4 RAR Association Newsletter



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

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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 285
members and
our numbers are
steadily growing.

From the Editor

It seems a common practice for veterans to have in their homes a corner, a cabinet, a wall and even a bar displaying their time in the service of their country.

In this issue of the 'Towner' we are starting a new piece which showcases the many ways in which we proudly keep our service memorabilia and in our case the 2nd/4th Battalion.

This new segment is quite easy to contribute to; with a where do you live, suburb or town, your time and Company served in the Battalion, and a couple of pictures of how you present your treasured items, and maybe even a small description, which is optional. All you have to do is put it all in an email and send it to the 2/4 Association email address. You can also send photos and a letter the regular way... by post to the Association postal address and we will take care of the rest. Standard sized photos will be fine.

So have a look at the new article and consider if you would like to contribute, we look forward in seeing what you and everyone else has done in showcasing their time in the Battalion and other services over the years.

Bob Bakkers

Patron's Message

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

Dear Members,

At this time of the year, our focus is on Anzac Day and all that it stands for. Fortunately, it looks like we'll be back to pretty much the traditional commemoration ceremonies that have been conducted around the country since 1916.

Wherever you may be on the Day, and in whatever format your services and march may take, I trust you will reflect on the contribution and sacrifice made by all who have served our country in uniform in both war and peace, but particularly, I trust you will remember all the soldiers of the 2nd/4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, who chose to uphold the motto of the Regiment by putting "Duty First".

I hope Anzac Day 2021 is a memorable one for you. Lest we forget.

Regards, Paul



President's Message

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Many thanks to Bob and Kim for the opportunity to contribute to our fine ANZAC edition of The Towner News.

Dave Lowe recently published how we intend to observe ANZAC day in Townsville and Gary Jiear, Kim Porter and others have put up the details for their region.

On behalf of the Committee we wish you all the best for your ANZAC Day and those brethren who also served in 3 RAR, their Kapyong Day.

This year in Townsville we plan to lay a wreath at our memorial plaque which we dedicated last year, immediately after the conclusion of the march.

For all those travelling to SA for the gathering organised by Kim Porter, take care and travel safely.

Sadly due to the Covid restrictions we decided to cancel conducting our AGM in Sydney in August and foregoing the opportunity to dedicate our memorial plaque in Regimental Square. Instead we will be holding the AGM in Townsville, hopefully in conjunction with dedicating our final memorial plaque at the 2 RAR Honour Roll in Samichon Lines. The dedication remains a work in progress with further information to be provided as this firms up.

That's all I have for this message, however, in closing I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work and commitment to ensuring that the Association continues from strength to strength, and a reminder as per the last two sets of minutes, the current Committee has been in the chair for a few years now and the Secretary for several years. New blood is needed so consider your availability, particularly Townsville lads or ladettes and put your hand up.

Regards
Merv Dicton

2/4RAR Association Pre Christmas Drinks 2020

2/4 RAR Association Pre Christmas drinks 2020 at Townsville RSL.

On Sunday the 20TH December 2020 we enjoyed the company of 2/4 RAR people and also privileged to have the CO and Chaplain of 2 RAR (Amphib) attend. Some of us had met the CO, LTCOL Mark Tutton on 7 December when we farewelled a number of outgoing 2 RAR (Amphib) people including the then CO, LTCOL Judd Finger. Mark was only able to stay a short time but it was really great he could come along. MAJ Will Norval, the XO, was also invited but wasn't able to get to the activity. As well as having Christmas drinks, this was a good opportunity to thank 2 RAR (Amphib) for their support over 2020 and to build some rapport.

Chaplain David Kelly who dedicated our memorial plaque on the 25th anniversary of de-linking on 1st February 2020 enjoyed himself and we all enjoyed his company.

All in all it was a great afternoon and it was really fantastic to see some that had not been seen for some time - Jose Legge, Jon Daniels, Jock Smith, Vinny Falcoccio.

Others like Boof Ellis, Bob Bakkers and Kim, Dave Lowe and Joy, Anne Diction, Peter Cook and his Service Dog Cleo on her 2/4 RAR lead (top lead mate), Tim Jolly, Phil Harris on his way through to Cairns and Laurie Jackson and Rhonda.

Many thanks to Dave Lowe for organising the gathering and Daniel Strutt a former 2 RAR Piper now in 3 RAR, for his piping. Thanks for the group photos Joy Lowe.

Thanks to all who attended and hope to see you all and others at the 2 RAR Dawn Service 25 April 2021, the march and to lay a wreath at our memorial plaque and gather at the RSL afterwards.

Cheers and beers from Merv

2/4RAR Association Pre Christmas Drinks 2020



left to right Laurie Jackson, Jose Legge, Bob Bakkers, Jon Daniels (rear), Jock Smith, Merv Dicton, Boof Ellis (rear), Dave Low, Anne Dicton, Tim Jolly (rear), Vinny Falcoccio, Phil Harris, Peter Cook and Chaplain David Kelly

The group enjoying catching up



Anne Dicton describing "the one that got away" to Joy Lowe

2/4RAR Association Pre Christmas Drinks 2020



*Bob Bakkers, Kim Flanagan,
Jose Legge and Peter Cook*

*Chaplain Kelly with Dave Lowe
"dancing"?*



*Piper Daniel Strutt with Tim Jolly having
an in-depth conversation*

2/4RAR Reunion Dinner Sydney

Organised by Hamish Robson
Served with the Battalion from 87-91, 94-95.

We had a 2/4RAR Reunion Dinner at the Camden Valley Inn (about 1.5 hours SW of Sydney) on Saturday the 6th March.

I was scanning the QR Code for the covid check-in and I got a tap on the shoulder and it was Jason Powell. So we grabbed our drinks and headed to our table. (the place was packed....I am glad I booked).

Soon everybody had started arriving, Gary Heskett, Andre Snijders, Luke Lyons and his wife Pinky, Jim Scott and finally Dave and Cathy Trill. We all reacquainted and were soon chatting to each other and sharing yarns from the days in the Battalion.

The table was booked for 1800, and at 1920 we noticed that unknowingly, our table was only booked for 6-8 pm. We were chatting so much and had yet to order dinner. Dinner was promptly ordered and thankfully arrived in time for us to eat it by the cut-off time.

Everybody seemed to be having a good time as there was plenty of laughs. As there were only eight of us, the night was more personal and we were able to sit at one table.

Once we left the table everyone grabbed a drink and found a place to sit in the huge beer garden. Unfortunately, this is where I exited due to pain issues, but everyone else partied on.

Thank you to those that attended and I believe a good night was had by all.

Cheers, Hamish.

Hamish Robson & Luke Lyons



2/4RAR Reunion Dinner Sydney



Andre Snijders, Jason Powell & Jim Scott



Dave and Cathy Trill



Gary Heskett



Luke and Pinky Lyons

2RAR Historical Collection



The 2 RAR Historical Collection

'CURATOR'S CORNER'

II



G'day! From Sunny Townsville, North Queensland.

The 2 RAR Historical Collection over the last few years has evolved significantly. An Art Room has been created that features some of the best Post-1945 Art outside of the AWM. Artists featured include Ivor Hele (Korea), Ken McFadyen (South Vietnam), George Gittoes (Rwanda), Maurice Conly (South Vietnam), Dianne Wickenden (2/4 RAR) and more. The room also features a Library that has sections on all the Battalion's Operational Areas or service, plus military Magazines and Journals, and sections on such areas as Amphibious, Tracking and Survival, Combat Shooting, Sniping, etc.

The Room also features a 65 Inch TV connected to a Laptop, with civilian internet, which has access to the Collection's Digital Collection. You are able to sit and view with your family photos, documents and movies from your time in the Battalion. If you visit and say 'I served in A Coy in the Second Tour of Malaya, and there is nothing', that may be because no one has donated photos or slides from that sub-unit or we may not have yet digitised our collection from that period. So please think about donating your photos and slides before they get thrown out or destroyed. The Historical Collection has an expensive digital Scanner that can digitise slides and photos up to 9600 dpi optically.

The Collection relies on volunteers, they have all served in the Battalion at some stage. Pictured, is Colin Beahan, who drives 1hr 40min, back and forth from Charters Towers to help in the Collection. Colin is 89 years old and served in 2 RAR during Korea and the 1st Tour of Malaya.

The Collection has a vast array of mannequins (over 30) depicting uniforms from 66 BN's time in the BCOF in Japan, till the current field equipment used by soldiers today in the Battalion.

Please think about visiting and supporting us, we wish you good health and safe travels.

Talk again Soon!
The Curator



*Colin Beahan working on a mannequin and
Colin Beahan in uniform in 2RAR prior to Korea*

“Back to the Track 2021”

Yes Bob it's on again, the “Back To The Track 2021” Event taking place this Jul/Aug? I feel it's important to once again raise awareness of the event and to also highlight the important historical significance of this event.

I have been working hard, not only to promote awareness of the event, but to actively seek out a number of lucrative sponsorship proposals from a number of businesses and charitable organisations within the community. Plus maintaining a cantankerous 79 year old motor vehicle in tip top condition is no easy feat.

Side Note:

I was travelling through Western Qld last year towing a car trailer with my WWII Willys Jeep on it. I had stopped at a service station to refuel and take a break when I was approached by a number of well-spoken and polite year six (male) students who were also traveling that day. The obvious topic was my Jeep, which they referred to a “neat shooting buggy” I pointed out it was in fact a WWII Army Jeep dated 1942 They were very interested to say the least, however; I was blown away when one of them actually asked me “So just when was WW2?” Unbelievably, Not one of them could say for sure when WWII was. Sure they'd seen war movies etc but they couldn't say when it was or who we'd been at war with. They said they don't teach that stuff at school. How bad is that? I now make a point of promoting our military heritage as often as possible.

So that said, I'm hoping I can get some information out there to:

- a. Give the (or our) event more exposure and
- b. Hopefully get other members to continue to raise general awareness of our military history within their own communities.

We have been holding mini 2/4 reunions every couple of months or so on the Sunshine Coast and the attendance is steadily growing as you may see on various Facebook pages.

Regards
Rick Canhan

*To support Rick in his quest, you can contact him through the Association
or find him on FaceBook.*

We look forward to reading more of Rick's adventures in the next issue of The Towner

Showcasing 2/4RAR Memorabilia

Owner: Bob Bakkers
Served: 2/4RAR Delta Coy 1980-1986
Town: Annandale, Queensland



The entrance to my carpenters workshop



My shelf in our family room cabinet

Anzac Biscuits

Ingredients:

- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 3/4 cup coconut
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 4 oz butter
- 2 level teaspoons golden syrup
- 2 tablespoons boiling water
- 1 level teaspoon baking soda

Method:

1. Sift flour into a bowl
2. Add rolled oats, coconut and sugar
3. Melt butter in a saucepan, add syrup and water
4. Add soda, allow to foam and pour immediately into dry ingredients
5. Mix well then take small pieces of mixture and press out thinly on greased trays, allowing space between each for spreading
6. Bake in a slow oven as they burn easily

Anzac biscuits have long been associated with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (**ANZAC**) established in World War I. It has been claimed that **biscuits** were sent by wives and women's groups to soldiers abroad because the ingredients do not spoil easily and the **biscuits** kept well during naval transportation.

The army **biscuit**, also known as an **Anzac** wafer or **Anzac** tile, is essentially a long shelf-life, hard tack **biscuit**, eaten as a substitute for bread. Unlike bread, though, the **biscuits** are very, very hard. Some soldiers preferred to grind them up and eat as porridge.

Recipe taken from "Day to Day Cookery" first published in the 1930's.



Mike Williams— On the Move

Willy (a.k.a. M.R.) Served in 2/4th, C Coy and Support 80 - 83, Now 63 and retired.

I have taken off on the big lap of Australia on Thursday 4th March this year.

If anyone is interested, I have a channel people can subscribe to follow me and see what an old AJ gets up too LOL.

Additionally, if I am seen to be in the area where an old mate may be, they could contact me for a catch up.

Travelling south and along the NSW border into SA then over to WA.

Not 100% sure where or how long I will be stopping at different locations along the way, but I will do my best to be close to some fishing 😊

Anyways - just a thought.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMXRTweMTn_2QJik0CLk8TQ

Mike Williams
Aka – Willy
Aka MR



Paul Goff— Western Australia



Paul Goff
Owner
BOB JANE T-MARTS
BUNBURY WA

PAUL GOFF
Member of the 2/4 RAR 29/01/1989 - 7/09/1994

Franchise owner Paul Goff has been with the Bunbury store since its inception in 1999. Paul and his long-standing team are known for providing big city variety with small-town service.

Bob Jane T-Marts Bunbury offers the highest quality tyres, wheels & car batteries. Our technicians use the latest wheel alignment & wheel balancing technologies to assure you are safe on the road for longer.

Cnr Blair & Park Sts, BUNBURY, WA 6230, Australia

Call in and say hello, we offer Discounts to veterans and accept WSS and WSM cards.



Editor's End Note

I hope you enjoyed this issue of the Towner. Your contributions are what keep our newsletter alive, so do not hesitate in sending us your stories and pictures, we endeavour to include all that we get. If you are now a small business owner don't forget the Towner is a great, free way of advertising to those members living in your area.

Membership for the 2/4RAR association is growing, however if you know of someone who has not yet joined, give them a nudge to do so, membership is not that expensive.

It has also been great to see men of the Battalion such as Tony Webb and others, keeping in contact and helping mates past, that are doing it tough. Well done.

Article contributions and pictures can be sent to the
2/4 Association Email: committee@24rarassociation.com

Hope ANZAC Day finds you all well and able to march in your respective states and enjoy the day in your local communities.

Cheers

Bob Bakkers

