

# 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  
MBE (Retd)

President: Merv Diction

Vice President: Ken Ellis

Secretary: Gary Jiear

Asst Secretary: Joy Lowe

Treasurer: Bob Bakkers

Asst Treasurer: Kim Pyke

Merchandise: Martin Dunn

Web/IT/Media Member: Gary Jiear

Asst Web/IT/Media Mbr: John Mark

Personnel Member: Pat "Spud" Cairns

We have 298  
members and our  
numbers are  
steadily growing.

## From the Editor

Well, it's the end of another year once again, it feels like only yesterday that I was putting together the Christmas newsletter for 2020, making the saying...

*"Time certainly does fly by as you get older"* very applicable.

In the 3RAR Museum I have a saying *'What you do today is the Battalion's history tomorrow'*, something that we as 2/4RAR cannot do anymore making our membership as an Association all the more important.

Throughout the past year I have bumped into many past members of the Battalion, from those who were at the linking back in 1973 to those who were at the de-linking in 1995, and also many men who served during the life span of our Infantry Unit; whether it was for 3 years, 6 years or even 1 year. I have encouraged all that I have met to join our Association and congratulate all who already are.

It is most important for the continual prosperity of the 2/4RAR Association that our membership grows, so if you bump into a past member, whether infantry, or one of the many other corp's who supported us and who we as the Association consider as much a part of the Unit as any Infantryman, that you encourage them in becoming a member.

*"What we did as 2/4RAR all those years ago is our history today"*

To all, hope you had a Happy Christmas, and that the New year sees you all safe and positive.

Cheers Bob Bakkers.

## Patron's Message

### Message from the Patron – Brigadier (Retired) Paul O'Sullivan AM MBE

After what has been another difficult year, I hope all members of the Association and your families had an enjoyable, happy and safe Christmas, and that 2022 is a prosperous and healthy year for you. I extend my best wishes to you all for the Festive Season.

Regards, Paul



## President's Message

Well another year is almost done.

Great to see the pre-Christmas gathering of our folks in many centres around Australia, well done to all those who organised them and those who got together to remember, re-connect and kindle new memories.

I note Kim Porter is taking a break and hasn't had anyone nominate to undertake the SA rep role for 12 months. I commend Kim for all the hard work he has put into reconnecting Battalion lads over many years and feel sure someone could step up and do the rep role for 2022. Please rethink it, and someone put their hand up to keep the ball rolling.

Next year those of us who have decided to go to Norfolk Island to observe ANZAC Day 2022 there are looking forward to marching under our banner. Many thanks to Julie and Rowdy Unsworth for organising this. Not too late for anyone wanting to join us although at the going rates, having missed the deadline. For those around Australia, I hope you all continue to turn up to your local march and do so under our banners in those centres that have them.

Huge thanks from me to all the Committee for ensuring that the Association continues to progress. Well done Team.

Sincere appreciation to Bob and Kim for all the work they do to produce our Towner News, great work and a great newsletter.

Regards

Merv



## Townsville Christmas Drinks



Christmas is upon us again and although the year seemed to drag along, here we are again getting ready to usher another year in.

To get into the Christmas spirit 2/4 RAR Assoc & 2 RAR Assoc organised a combined Christmas party at Tom's Tavern here in Townsville on 10 Dec 21. It was well attended; food was good and as always great to catch up with old friends and acquaintances. It was a good night, would have been nice to have a few more attend but good non the less

Most pleasing was the number of spouses who attended. As an Association we need to provide the ladies with events that they are comfortable attending and hopefully enjoy. Boof and I will work on that for 2022.

Be safe during the festive break, hope Santa stopped by and delivered. To you and your families, all the best and lets all hope 2022 is less divisive than 2021. Be in good health and keep in contact with one another to ensure we can all attend Christmas functions next year.

Regards  
Lowey & Boof

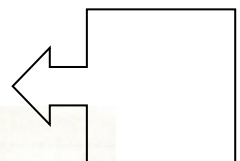
## Christmas Drinks in the ACT



***Russ Lowes organised the ACT Christmas Drinks:- well done lads!!!!***

Left to right:-

Anton Kuruc, Jim Smith, Luke Lyons,  
Russ Lowes, IJ Robinson, Rob Stewart



From the  
1976  
2/4RAR  
Yearbook

## South Queensland Christmas Drinks



Those that attended were:-

Greg Mills & partner Chris  
Rocky McKelvie & partner  
Elizabeth

Brent Panting  
Brad Grant  
Colin Taylor  
Colin Ellard  
Bill Marklew



## 2/4 RAR Association ANZAC Day 2022 Norfolk Is

### ***2/4 RAR Association ANZAC Day 2022 Trip to the beautiful Norfolk Island – follow up***

Wataweih yorlye (Hello everyone)

It is with great pleasure that I advise our proposed 2/4 RAR Association ANZAC Day 2022 holiday to Norfolk Island is going ahead. We have 19 travellers from Brisbane and Sydney and I thank you all for supporting what will be a terrific week on this amazing Island.

Those who have booked will have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and history of the island as well as the comradery and friendship afforded to all Veterans' who visit.

#### *Some travel tips for travellers:*

Make your final payment by 07 Feb 22 and remember that we will be departing from the International Terminal in both Brisbane and Sydney so you'll need to be there at least 2 hours prior to your departure time.

Take photographic identification with you. Anyone travelling between Norfolk Island and mainland Australia will be required to identify themselves. Although passports and visas are no longer mandatory for Australian citizens when travelling to Norfolk Island from Australia, a valid passport continues to be the preferred method of identification. It is recommended to travel with a passport if you have one, however technically photographic identification for Australian citizens such as an Australian driver's licence, will be acceptable.

Keep abreast of the current Norfolk Island COVID-19 travel and Entry Pass requirements at :-

[www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com/news/travel-to-norfolk-island-in-a-covid-19-environment](http://www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com/news/travel-to-norfolk-island-in-a-covid-19-environment) and <https://norfolkau.viewpointcloud.com/categories/1083>

Consider adequate Domestic Travel Insurance for protection against amendment or cancellation costs, travel delay, luggage, rental vehicle insurance excess and accidental death and personal liability. For the purposes of travel insurance Norfolk Island is deemed to be a domestic destination.

Take a camera.

Most of all, get ready for a great holiday and a memorable ANZAC Day.



## 2/4 RAR Association ANZAC Day 2022 Norfolk *continued*



***For anyone still considering joining the group,  
Nicola at Norfolk Island Travel Centre advises that:***

There are still 3 rooms (1x one bedroom and 2 x two bedroom) available at Pine Valley.

Currently the package price ex BNE would be \$200pp more and ex Syd \$200pp more due to Qantas fare increases

NOTE Please note this can change as at the day of booking due to Qantas fare prices.

A \$250pp deposit is required upon booking and final payment is due 07 Feb 2022.

Further information available by phoning Nicola on 1800140066

Regards Julie & Rowdy Unsworth Dec 21



## Freedom of Entry of the City of Townsville 2021

On the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021, members of 2 RAR (Amphib) exercised the right to Freedom of Entry to the City of Townsville. With the Battalion only around 300 strong in its new role as an Amphibious reconnaissance Battalion, it was a struggle to get the minimum required troops to fill the two divisions to escort the colours.

The Battalion also initiated something that hasn't been done before and that is asking ex-members of the Battalion to join the March after the Challenge. There was a separate division with Major Justin Parker as the OC and WO2 Shane Hudson as the CSM.

The Battalion had extended the invitation to both the 2 RAR and 2/4 RAR Association's as well as advertised through the 2 RAR Historical Collections Facebook page. It was a resounding success, even with Covid hovering in the background. 70 to 80 Ex-members of the Battalion showed up and marched with the Battalion, with nearly all adorned in their 2 RAR or 2/4 RAR polos. It was a great showing with the veteran division the largest of them all.

This was the last activity the departing RSM, WO1 Ben Lipman was to conduct and he was ecstatic that so many showed up and supported the Unit. It was extremely trying weather with the humidity at crazy levels, it rained just prior to the march, however all soldiers completed the parade, which was a big credit to the individual soldiers.

The snipers created a great viewing spectacle when they came ashore with small boats and secured the Strand Park parade ground, then mounting in a HMT and driving to the Jezzine parade ground and holding ground there as well.

The Mayor, Jenny Hill inspected the soldiers and the 1<sup>st</sup> Division Commander, MAJGEN Jake Ellwood (Ex- 2/4 RAR LT) and the CO, LTCOL Mark Tutton escorted her. There were even some members of the Battalion that were present during the original granting of The Freedom of Entry 50 years ago.

Post parade a few soldiers and some members of both 2 RAR and 2/4 RAR Associations were invited to a morning tea hosted by the Townsville City Council. The next time this will occur will be in approximately five years in 2026. So, get involved and come along and support the Battalion.

The granting or exercising of Freedom of Entry to the City of Townsville enables Townsville City Council to honour a distinguished unit of the armed forces, and strengthen the ties between citizens, servicemen and women.

## 2RAR Freedom of the City Pictures

The Freedom of Entry to the City is a right which is granted upon a military unit by a Local Government, authorising that unit to march through the streets of the city on a ceremonial occasion with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, guidon/colours flying and band playing. The granting of the Freedom of Entry to the City represents the highest civic honour that the city can confer on a military unit and is a symbolic honour, demonstrating trust, loyalty and sense of community between the city and the military unit. The Freedom of Entry is restricted to Australian military units which have, through their command, a significant attachment to the City.

Freedom of Entry is a formal ceremonial event involving a parade and the ceremonial handing over of a scroll or similar to signify the bestowing of freedom of the City. It also includes a challenge by Queensland Police Service.

Freedom of Entry, or as it is more commonly known "Freedom of the City", is a long-standing tradition that can trace its history back to ancient Roman times. During the era of the Caesars, it was against the law for any of the armed legions of the Roman Army to enter the city of Rome due to the fear held by the Senate that some rogue General may invade and take control of the city.

The city was protected by the personal body guard of Caesar, the 'Praetorian Guard', which numbered approximately 3000 on duty at any given time.

As a reward for faithful, heroic and loyal service, regiments whose trustworthiness was beyond doubt might be granted "Freedom of the City". As a sign of trust, the soldiers so honoured, would not have to disarm or break ranks before the city gates were opened to them.

Introduced in Australia in 1958, the military freedom of the city is an entirely ceremonial honour but remains the oldest and one of the highest civic honours bestowed by the elected citizens of a city, town or regional area on a military unit within the Commonwealth of Nations.

Article by

Jason Harrison

2RAR Museum



*continued*

Unit	Date	Activity
2 RAR	18 <sup>th</sup> March, 1971	Granted Freedom of the Entry City of Townsville
2 RAR	15 <sup>th</sup> October, 1971	Conferment
2 RAR and 4 RAR are linked to form 2/4 RAR	15 <sup>th</sup> August, 1973	(Located in 4 RAR's old lines)
2/4 RAR	15 <sup>th</sup> August, 1974	Exercised 2 RAR's FOE that they held in trust. Exercised with 7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles
2/4 RAR	3 to 13?? 1977	Exercised 2 RAR's FOE that they held in trust (With Townsville's Pacific Festival March with 3 TF)
2/4 RAR	6 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> June 1980	Exercised 2 RAR's FOE that they held in trust (100 years of military in Townsville, Pacific Festival March with 3 BDE)
2/4 RAR	11 <sup>th</sup> June, 1982	Exercised 2 RAR's FOE that they held in trust (with Townsville's Pacific Festival March with 3 BDE)
2/4 RAR	1985	Exercised 2 RAR's FOE that they held in trust
2/4 RAR	6 <sup>th</sup> September, 1986	Exercised 2 RAR's FOE that they held in trust
2/4 RAR	28 <sup>th</sup> July, 1988	Granted Freedom of Entry the City of Townsville
2/4 RAR	30 <sup>th</sup> July, 1988	Conferment
2/4 RAR	10 <sup>th</sup> August 1990	Exercised (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)
2/4 RAR is Unlinked to form 2 RAR and 4 RAR		(2 RAR remains in in Townsville in 2/4 RAR's location)
2 RAR	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept or 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1995	Exercised (24 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
2 RAR	24 <sup>th</sup> July, 2004	Exercised (33 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)
2 RAR	2 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2016	Exercised (45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
2 RAR (Amphib)	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Exercised (50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)



*continued*



## Poem courtesy of Kev Grayson

### THE REGIMENT

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT  
HAS THE MOTTO DUTY FIRST  
ON A BADGE WITH ROYAL CROWN ON TOP  
A BOOMERANG AND A KANGAROO  
WITH RIFLES CROSSED  
AND A WREATH OF WATTLE TOO

THE MEMBERS ARE A DIVERSE AND RESILIENT GROUP  
WHO COME FROM FAR AND WIDE  
FROM CITIES TOWNS AND VILLAGES  
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE  
READY TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS  
OF THOSE WHO WENT BEFORE  
AT KAPYONG THE HOOK LONG TAN  
CORAL AND BALMORAL  
EAGER TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE UGLY GAME OF WAR

THEY COME FROM OTHER LANDS AS WELL  
TO LEARN THE ART OF WAR  
TO EARN THE GIFT OF VALOUR  
TO KEEP SAFE FROM DEATHS DARK DOOR  
THER'S KIWI JOCK DUTCHY AND PADDY  
JUST TO NAME A FEW  
AND TO ADD A TOUCH OF CULTURE TO THE RANKS  
THE ODD POMMIE BASTARD TOO

ENTER THE NATIONAL SERVICEMEN  
THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN  
FOUND THEMSELVES IN JUNGLE GREENS  
AND BEARING ARMS  
A LONG LONG WAY FROM HOME  
THEY FORGED A BOND OF TRUST AND MATESHIP  
UNSUNG HEROS EVERY ONE  
AND DESERVE HIGH PRAISE AND RECOGNITION  
FOR A DANGEROUS TASK WELL DONE

Poem by Kev Grayson *continued*

THEY JOURNEY OFF TO MANY LANDS  
TO PLAY WARS DEADLY GAME  
IN JUNGLES UP HILLS AND MOUNTAINS  
AND DOWN ALONG THE PLAIN  
THROUGH SNOW AND SWAMP MUD AND DUST  
AND HEAVY MONSOON RAIN  
THEY SEEK OUT AND CLOSE WITH THE ENEMY  
AND OVERPOWER THEM JUST THE SAME

THEY HAVE MANY TALES TO TELL  
ABOUT THE MEDALS THAT THEY WEAR  
OF THE GOOD TIMES AND THE SAD TIMES  
OF SORROW AND DESPAIR  
OF THOSE WHO WEAR THE SCARS OF BATTLE  
OF THOSE WHO PAID THE PRICE  
AND GAVE THEIR LIFE FOR COUNTRY  
IN BLOODY SACRIFICE

WE'RE A PACK OF BASTARDS  
IS A SONG THEY SOMETIMES SING  
IT HELPS TO SOFTEN THE SORROW  
OF MATES THEY LOST  
AND A HOST OF OTHER THINGS  
IT HELPS ERASE THE TENSION AND THOUGHTS  
OF BATTLES STILL TO COME  
HOPING NO MORE LIVES ARE LOST  
BEFORE THEY HEAD BACK HOME

NEW MEN NEW WEAPONS BEAR THE BRUNT  
NEW SLOGANS GUILD THE ANCIENT GAME  
THE REGIMENT IS OUT IN FRONT  
AND MUD AND DUST  
AND BLOOD AND GUTS  
WILL ALWAYS BE THE SAME

*Kev Grayson*

# Something for the 2/4 RAR newsletter from Bob Dabinett

Can someone from the 4 RAR side of 2/4 explain the notice in the 3 RAR RO dated 11 Dec 1963

2/4 RAR notice 11 Dec 1963

- 2 -

610. BATTALION DUTIES

a. ORDERLY OFFICERS

Tue 17 Dec 63	-	Lt L J KENNE
Wed 18 Dec 63	-	Lt M P BLAKE
Thu 19 Dec 63	-	2Lt C J BREWER
Fri 20 Dec 63	-	Lt E F PFITZGER
Sat 21 Dec 63	-	Lt L J KENNE
Sun 22 Dec 63	-	Lt L J KENNE
Mon 23 Dec 63	-	Lt R L GUEST
Tue 24 Dec 63	-	Lt P DAVIES
Wed 25 Dec 63	-	Lt C A STAIN
Thu 26 Dec 63	-	2Lt M V SHEEHAN
Fri 27 Dec 63	-	Lt V N MURPHY
Sat 28 Dec 63	-	Lt P DAVIES
Sun 29 Dec 63	-	Lt P DAVIES
Mon 30 Dec 63	-	Lt B D GOODMAN
Tue 31 Dec 63	-	2Lt M V SHEEHAN
Wed 1 Jan 64	-	Lt P DAVIES
Thu 2 Jan 64	-	Lt E F PFITZGER
Fri 3 Jan 64	-	Lt C A STAIN
Sat 4 Jan 64	-	Lt V N MURPHY
Sun 5 Jan 64	-	Lt V N MURPHY
Mon 6 Jan 64	-	2Lt M V SHEEHAN

b. ORDERLY SERGEANTS

Tue 17 Dec 63	-	Sgt GEMINI
Wed 18 Dec 63	-	Sgt GRAYSON
Thu 19 Dec 63	-	Sgt FURDON
Fri 20 Dec 63	-	Sgt VINCENT
Sat 21 Dec 63	-	Sgt BROWN
Sun 22 Dec 63	-	Sgt GRAYSON
Mon 23 Dec 63	-	Sgt BAIDE

611. WARNED IN-RATIONS

a. B Coy is warned in for period 16 - 20 Dec 63. (inclusive)

b. Aglt Pnr F1 is warned in for period 16 - 19 Dec 63 (inclusive)

612. EDUCATION

a. The following member Qual AGE 2 on 2 Dec 63:

15636 Pte T V HING

b. The following member Qual arithmetic for AGE 2 on 2 Dec 63:

16785 Pte N H PERRY

613. LANZARDS BATTALIONS OF THE REGIMENT

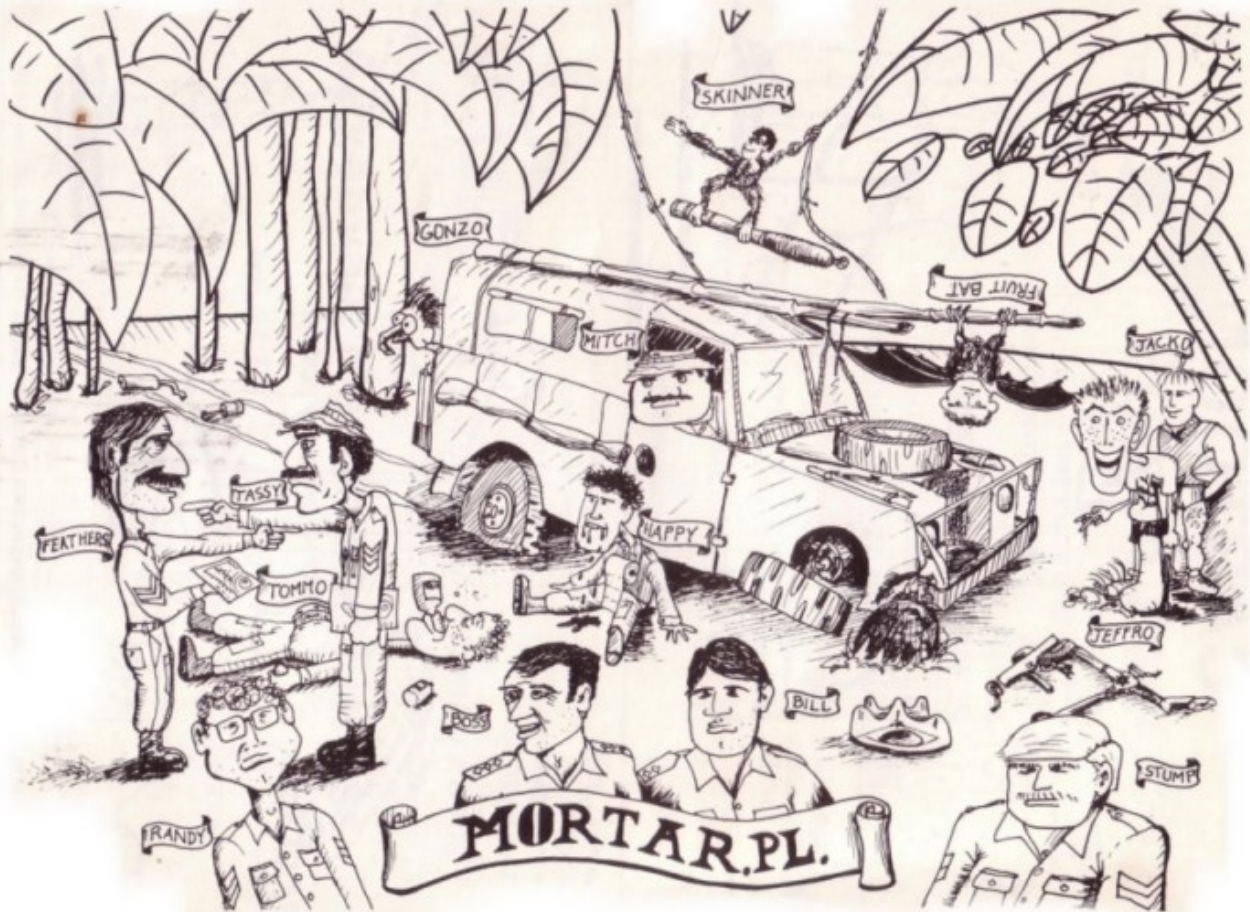
Approval has been given for 4. RAR to wear a lanyard coloured bronze (DOC 116).

614. BARRACK STORES - DHDG - MINOR R & M - NEW MONROE

With immediate effect Barrack Stores staff responsible for the above are located in QM compound - Rooms 2, 3 & 5.

All enquiries for any of the above services should be directed to this new location or to phone extension 425.

## Cartoons from past 2/4RAR Year Books



MAS Guy I would like to have  
A word to Chaplain Elliot after the parade!

## Editor's Epilogue

Ok, that's it for the last issue of the 'Towner News' for 2021, hope you enjoyed it.

The editor team thanks all those who contributed articles throughout the year, and we look forward to more 2/4RAR articles for the 2022 publications. Don't forget if you have a business, the 'Towner News' is more than happy to advertise it free of charge and it is always interesting reading what past members of the Battalion have been doing since their service in the Battalion, so send in those stories.

Stay safe.  
Cheers Bob

11th June, 1982

Over the years Townsville's Pacific Festival has grown into a real attraction in the city, with a week of festivities and displays.

The army's contribution in recent years has been the Military Spectacular: a parade of the 3rd Brigade and the various army support units in Townsville, through the city's streets.

The 2nd/4th Battalion, having been granted Freedom of the City of Townsville, had the honour of leading the parade.



*The Battalion forms up in front of the Criterion Hotel in preparation for the march through the city.*

## Message from Santa (*aka* Lyle McGrath)

