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NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

PRESIDENTS REPORT

JUNE 2019

As usual as we age where is the year going, can hardly believe this is the third newsletter already this year. The Committee are very happy at the positive responses we have received this year regarding the newsletter and the increase in renewed subscription as a result. We are not out to make money for the Association, as we are all aware we are a sunset group because we are all getting older. We use the subscriptions to pay for stationery, inks etc for printing the newsletter and other correspondence for those without computers, wreaths or flowers we send to members NOK when they go and join our mates in the big gun park and purchasing up front expenses for caps, plaques, bank fees etc. The Secretary has mentioned the new app for phones being prepared by the Royal Australian Artillery Association and it is a secure link which means that other Battery Associations can't change the information. I have discussed the app with Graham Hampton who is organising it and it sounds very good. All Regiments will have their own link which is then divided into sub unit links. These are separate from Battery Association links. The Secretary will advise everyone when the app is up and running and how to access it. When it is up and running and members want to add an event, like informal drinks/lunch one day in Brisbane contact a Committee member to have it listed on the app, however this has to be finalized as to the detail.

We will continue to give profile updates of our members after they returned home from SVN and obtain current Regimental and items of interest. With the advent of the new 155mm SP Howitzer you can google it, it makes interesting reading and appears that they were first ordered in the early 2000s but were cancelled by Kevin Rudd when he was PM. Until the next newsletter stay well and look after yourselves.

John Pollock
President

PROFILE – PHIL C. KLINE

69/70 TOUR SVN

I was born in Wentworth NSW on 19/12/1949, being the second of twins, Girl and Boy. I was also the seventh born. My father was a linesman with the PMG. I went to the town local Central school until the end of my primary years. The Family moved where dad was transferred and this time he moved to Barham, but the family moved to a rural property 4 Miles from the border town of Koondrook in Victoria . High school was for us twins was in Kerang even though we lived closer to Barham in NSW than Kerang Vic, we must not border hop for education we were told. I really enjoyed my younger years living out of town even though for school we caught a bus and football (Aust Rules) I had to ride or walk to town to get to practice and same on weekends when playing a game. I had my front 6 top teeth knocked out at 14 going up to stop a kick at goal. Well it worked; I think as I did not see the rest of the game. I wore a plate with teeth after that. I left school after 3rd year at high school for an apprenticeship in Panel Beating , this lasted until the boss closed the shop in my 1st year. Well living 26 Miles from Kerang and 4 miles to Koondrook my next problem was getting to find work and getting there. My mother worked 3 days a week in Kerang and Dad worked in Barham, I looked for jobs in both towns for a month then saw an advert in the Weekly Times ... JOIN THE ARMY. Well Vietnam was on and my brother was called up but failed the medical, so asked the old man if I should give it a go, Mum said NO, Dad said it was my life so up to me. I filled in the Ad and sent it to Melbourne, 2 weeks later they sent me papers to fill in and bring with me to Melbourne and enough clothing for 2 days, where on the 17th of April 1976 I was enlisted and given an Army Number of 39393. Well after that it was all a blur , haircut , medical , dental and taken by train to Kapooka, which Platoon, I do not remember. After the drudge of Kapooka I was sent via bus to The School of Artillery for my IET gun Course with the likes of Kev Weeks, Mick Grimes, Keith Compt, Brian Roberts, Kevin McCosh, Dutchy Dannan, Mick Skinner, Phil Pallant who for some uncertain reason did a corps swap into Infantry. I later found out he was in Delta company 4 RAR. After completion I was sent to 101 Field Battery, 1st Field Regiment in Wacol some of the SNR members being Blue Bellis, Trevor Madeley, it was a time of rebuilding as there where not

many in the unit, BSM being WO2 Noel Forbes. The training was intense from the start even with small numbers more personnel kept coming until we had a full compliment. I did a Drivers Course at Northern Command Personnel Depot in 68 closely followed the Jungle Training Centre followed early 69 with Battle Efficiency training and stayed on and did it again while assisting HQ BTY, maybe I needed it??? Left for Vietnam after we had 2 false starts at the airport on Thursday and Friday nights... Qantas EH we ...left on 10 May 69 for a 12 months tour. Being a driver we also deployed with the Guns. I had Bill Cross as a Gun Sgt. I think our first Fire Support Base was THRUST, we stayed there over 2 months watching the jets and our Canberra bombers dropping bombs on the mountains along with one drop-rather towed out the rear of a Hercules by parachute a big bomb that missed its mark by over a kilometre or so it seemed. Our stay went fast as we did not have much spare time it was busy, sometimes scary place. Had on one occasion 3 trucks were sent from Nui Dat to resupply the Yank guns, well one broke down and we got left out overnight on a road heading north from the Nui Dat with one APC escort and 6 gunners, packing it all night. We survived but never again phew was not fun. Many times we deployed into our area of operations to different Fire Support Bases and on one occasion our chinook chopper was reallocated to take out mortar ammo for the grunts on ground, well the chopper did a backflip and crashed killing all on board, that could have been us. Sadly we lost one member of the unit on the way back in off his last op LT Bernie Garland, RIP. During my time overseas I developed Plantar warts and had one removed from the arch of my right foot, well if you have ever had a needle in a very sensitive spot, I climbed to the roof, 7 needles later the surgeon cut it out and sent me to a bed with my foot up. Next day he told me to shower, being a gunner, yes Sir, off I trot to the shower, showered coming back to bed with a big blood trail behind me and a yelling Nursing sister, "Look what you have done to the floor, who told you to get out of bed", well the surgeon was a bit red faced later on when he came around. I spent the week in bed with plenty of bandages on the foot. We arrived back into Australia on 8th May 1970, I married the woman of my life (Cheryl) on the 4th July 70 and moved into a flat in Paddington. More training continued in the unit and we were told most of us would soon receive a posting as 101 FD BTY was going back to Vietnam. I was posted to School of Artillery as Driver in March 71, the Boss was SSGT George Farley. There I did a Potential NCO Course at Narellan and passed. My principle driving job was as the driver of the bus for all officer courses so most of my time was up very early driving officer courses to Holsworthy for the days shooting or course. This I did in the old Bedford 5 speed manual. Talk about a driving experience travelling across Sydney early and Late in evening. I took to reading in my waiting hours.

In April 72 I attended and passed Storeman Tech Course at the School in RTW Wing with the Rotherow brothers on the same course. So now being Triple trained I

could go anywhere. Having completed my Subject courses for BDR I was then posted in 1972 to 3 FD REGT . Karrakatta, WA as BDR Storeman running the Clothing Store. Well that was a light switched on CMF. BDR Phil Allen driver was already there whom I knew from Vietnam. When I fronted the ADJT on my first day I was told in no uncertain terms by him that I would not be promoted substantive or do any course whilst posted to 3 FD Regt. That was his policy to get the best use out of us ARA whilst there. Well bugger me what did I do wrong only just got there. Well I did not like the CMF posting at all, most weekends and every Tuesday night working late many times sleeping at work. We even had to do drill lessons with the CMF Phil Allen and I did a lesson together one night watched by the ADJT, only problem was Phil and I did the attention and stand at ease with the wrong foot on purpose, the CMF crew knew it and we told them to shut up just do it, not another word was ever said about it, whether the ADJT got it or not I don't know. Our 1st child was born on 4 Jan 1974 a girl who we named Tamera we lived at BALGA in the north of Perth. After 20 months in this posting I received a posting to 8/12 Medium Regiment Holsworthy to A FD BTY with Peter Prewitt as BSM, my posting was as a Driver BDR ECN T109 arriving in June 74. Housing was short and we found ourselves living at Villawood units in a 3rd floor unit for a 3yrs and two more Kids being born, Bradley in 78 and Susan in 80, both born on 8/11, 2 years apart. We also met some other unit dwellers there and to this day still in contact and visit each other. After being allocated a house in Holsworthy Village on Bardia Parade made the wife happier and work closer. We spent about 9 months of the year in 1974 to 1979 out exercising mainly for School of Arty Courses both at Holsworthy or Singleton Ranges and it was during this time I was told I had to qualify for a Number 1 to duel trade. I did the course in house and moved sideways to a number 7 job under SGT Andy Devine. During this time I was granted ECN T365 Storeman due to passing my previous Tech Course ECN T366. I was allowed to go and do other courses in A Bty, so I completed a Subj 4 SGT and a Supervisor Transport at the School of Trucks. On 1 April 78 I was posted on paper to ECN T365, remaining on the Guns to learn. Yet another move was afoot as I was posted across the pathway from A BTY into 102 BTY promoted to SGT Transport on 25 Jan 79 with Dick Creek as the BSM. This was a short stay as on 19 Sept 79 I was posted back to the School Of Artillery Manly as SGT Storeman Tech with Bob Bushby my QM. I remained at the school doing my SUBJ 4 (SSGT)QMS in March 81, whilst there being posted to the SUPERVISOR Transport ECN T381 as a SGT. That year I saw The Director Staff and asked to be posted only to Q positions in the future, no more back and forth or sideways movements...

On 14 Jan 82 I was posted to 10 Medium Regiment at Geelong as the BQMS of Colac 39 BTY. Promoted to SSGT on 17 March 82. The RSM was Brian Flewell-Smith whom I had served with in Vietnam. This posting I had the unfortunate of being married with 3 kids and no Army Designated house in Colac for my use, the family

and I spent 8 months in a motel whilst we searched this small town for accommodation ,finally getting an old Doctors house. In Winter yabbies use to come out of the lawns, only small ones for fishing but still yabbies. Peter Cimbaljovic (AKA)Zipper neck was the SMIG of the Bty. Being both BQMS and the Register of Asset clerk for the Regiment I travelled up and down that 80 k stretch of road my frequent drivers book was full, I also passed Cliff Young on his shuffles numerous times. Having survived the ash Tuesday fires around the town whilst there. On 7 December 83 was posted back to the good old School of Arty as QMS 2 as SSGT with the Bex King as QMCAPT Kev Tucker. Being multi trained I moved sideways often filling Supervisor Transport and QMS jobs whilst at the School. With my Married Quarter being next to the RSM Barry Cane when at the mess, asked permission to leaveNUDDA KLINE, walk me home many times the sun was coming up, oh what fun hick. Having passed the WO course I was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 on 8 April 87 as WO2 RQMS School of Artillery a job I was already doing. Posted out to DSU Albury Wodonga QMS WO2 24 Jan 88. Another culture shock this place was huge. There was I with 1 CPL to look after all the place, lucky each unit had its own areas of responsibilities. I Had a Staff of(Civilians)Groundsman at Apprentice school and School of Cooks whilst there. We also had Lake Hume sporting equipment, Power Boat and Canoes, Snow gear to maintain for units Adventure Training, also Overseas officers Houseware . Got to know some great people there even the local MP's were under our area, also did some snow skiing and tobogganing with the family, it was our first snow adventures. Became the Vice president of the local Golf club but could not get the handicap lower than 12. My next posting was to 131 DIV LOC BTY in Enoggera as BQMS, on 24 Jan 90, another fun place with equipment I had not seen before (hands on that is). Had a QM that went thru the ranks to Captain in the Bty, but I cannot remember his name (Sorry Sir), BSM was Andy Straume. This was a short posting as I was told I went to 131 to take over for a guy relieved of duty which is another story and on 4 June 91 I was promoted to WO1 and Posted to HQ 3MD Log Branch as Quartermaster Advisor WO1. This was a great posting seeing Tasmania in summer and Winter , Even holding a new Q system Course on computers to all Tasmania Q Staff. The Warehouse gas heaters saved us all. The QMA was being phased out of the army as the wheel turns again into another rut, my replacement would be the last. From Melbourne I was posted to 7 Field Regiment at Willoughby as Quartermaster WO1. The RSM being Kym Shoene. Another great time was had here chasing stuff for the Regt daily, we did not have a big area at the HQ as the Bty was at DEE WHY as well. Training as usual was carried out with live firing at Singleton Range. This time I had to find my own house, finding one at WARRAWEE another ex DR's house, this one had a pool loved it but too many trees. This posting I lost a great mate (Gary Franks) he was like me in Vietnam together all over the place in postings and a WO1 QM at KOGARAH. He did a PT

session and was found on his bed the next day after a heart attack. That shook me up, made me look at my life and lifestyle very seriously.

I was then posted to 11 Field Regiment, ANNERLEY QLD as QM WO1 I had a few medical issues and was sorting them out at 1 Mil Hospital, a sister there remembered me from my foot operation in Vietnam. She got me to see some specialists for my own health. Many months went by doing our normal work then I had cause to front the ADJT during a stock take over taking stores outside base area during the Stocktake. Needless to say him being an Officer, the CO let him. I told the CO he was a gutless prick and few other words to both of them, I duly got my discharge application filled it out and got the CO to sign it for me. We talked a bit whilst this was being done but nothing was changing so I walked out that day immediately feeling the weight on my shoulders lifted. Told the wife when I got home and have never regretted it. I went back 4 weeks later cleared my office and left. I did speak to the RSM and Maj Admin before I left to tell them what I had done. They were not happy, BUT I WAS VERY HAPPY.

Discharged on 8th July 1996 after 29 years and 82 days service and have enjoyed being a civvy.

Now I am a member of the VIETNAM VETERANS AND VETERANS Motorcycle Club of Queensland Chapter, Ride a 1500 CC Kawasaki Cruiser, own a Motorhome an 11metre Ex coach and a 2004 SS Holden Crewman and travel the great aussie roads. Also, Asia, Vietnam I love the place, so easy and cheap... heading back there for 3 months in June 2019. I am still married to the same woman and enjoy our 49th anniversary this year.

We now live in BELLMERE QUEENSLAND where we built our home and we will not be moving Our 3 Kids have given us 14 Grandkids and 6 great grandkids to date ... more to follow, out.

Stay safe and upright

Floss AKA

Phillip Kline

Use it or lose it

PROFILE LES J. JOBLING

66/67 SVN TOUR

I joined the Army from Melany Queensland in 1965 where my father had a half share farm. I missed the first intake of National Servicemen as my father was ill and the Padre had me sent home. Later I went to Kapooka for 3 month's basic training and from there was sent to 108 Battery, 4 Field Regiment at Wacol, Qld and did my gunnery training at the Regiment. I was seconded to 101 Bty 6 months prior to departure for Vietnam and was on Gun Number on Alpha Gun with Bob Booth. In

1966 I signed on in the Regular Army. When we returned to Australia stayed in 101 Battery for 12 months and in 1968 was posted to Townsville, 108 Battery and the BSM was Allan Sing. I was promoted Lance Bombardier in 1967 and busted back to Gunner in 1969. In 1969 -71 went to Malaya with 108 Bty. Did a driver's course in Malaya and did driver duties after the course.

1972 returned to Townsville with 108 Bty and was promoted Transport Bdr for 2 years and was then busted to gunner again. Then posted to HQ Bty as the 2IC of the Regiment's driver. During my time in Townsville Nick Marshall became CO of the Regiment.

In January 1974 I was posted to School of Arty as Tpt NCO but doubled up as Assistant Gunnery Instructor for 18 months. I was offered a posting to Adelaide with 111 LAA Bty with the view of going to England for 2 years to become a gun number on a Rocket Launcher which was replacing the 40mm Boffer. I declined the offer and took my discharge on 4 July 1975. Looking back I should have taken the posting and stayed in for 20 years. After discharge I wandered aimlessly around for 4 years in several jobs.

In 1979 I drove a taxi for 12 months and then in 1981 I worked for White Motors for 3.5 years as Leading Hand in Gearbox Build, Engine Drop, Cab Drop, Bonnet Drop and Doorway Engine start until the company went broke.

In 1984 I drove trucks for Allen's Sweets for 3 years.

In 1987 worked for the Brisbane City Council as a storeman for 7.5 years. Left in 1994 due to ill health then retired.

After I recovered sufficiently I dabbled in Real Estate for about 4 years. Then retired for good and got TPI in 2000.

I have lived in Caboolture, Queensland with my wife Jane since 1991. In July this year we will have been married for 50 years. My wife needs a medal for putting up with me for this long.

Secretary's Report

We still have caps, plaques, ties and some 101 Bty Polo shirts Operation Bribie (no pockets) available for purchase.



Caps are \$30 each including postage. If you are attending the Gunner's Dinner in August and you would like one, advise me and I can give it to you then for \$20 therefore avoiding the expensive postage.

Plaques are \$70 including postage. The plaques have an advantage over the normal plaque in that you can either hang them on the wall or stand them on a desk or table. Like with the caps if anyone is going to the Gunner's Dinner and would like a plaque contact me and I will take one to the dinner and the cost will be only \$55 avoiding the postage.

When purchasing memorabilia or paying subscription please remit to A/c Name – 101 Battery Association, BSB – 064413, A/c No –10066148



Final Reminder for the Gunner's Dinner 23/24 August

If you intend to go to the dinner to catch up with mates your running out of time. All names and monies are to be paid by 30 June 2019. The email address to

register is www.australianartilleryassociation.com or if you don't have a computer or you are having trouble you can contact Graham Hampton, Secretary of the Australian Artillery Association on 0401400403 or myself on 0407162620.

Currently sitting at the 101 Field Battery "Last Man Standing" (Malaya) are 15 members and partners.

101 Field Battery SVN "2nd Tour 50th Anniversary" tables there are 34 members and partners.

We would like of course to see as many members as possible there for the Reunion and AGM to renew friendships. We are all getting older and who know down the track how many more we will be able to attend.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM is to be held between 1pm and 2pm on Saturday 24 August at the Caloundra RSL, 17 West Terrace, Caloundra. It will be held in the Aurora Restaurant at the RSL which is closed for lunch so will we will not be disturbed. Two conditions apply for our free use of the facility:

1. Do not move any tables and move chairs back to their original position when finished.
2. No catering services e.g. food or open bar. Will check on the day whether we can take a drink into the room.

Australian Artillery Association App

The above Association is building an App should be available to view in approximately 4-6 weeks. It will be available for both iPhone and Android phones. 101 Bty Association will be part of that App which will show our contact details, our objectives, any coming events and other Artillery Association contact details. When the App is released we will inform you by email or letter.

Media Release of 155mm (SMART) Round



The Australian Army's Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA) successfully tested the new Sensor-fused Munition for Artillery (SMARt) 155mm round during Exercise Chimera recently held at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area near Rockhampton.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Duncan, Commanding Officer of 4 Regiment, RAA said that up until now the Australian Army Artillery had lacked a capability to efficiently and effectively engage and destroy heavy armoured fighting vehicles, such as main battle tanks.

"The introduction of the SMARt155 projectile gives us that a capability to create a dilemma for enemy commanders by disrupting armoured approaches at operationally significant ranges, in all weather and terrain," Lieutenant Colonel Duncan said.

"The round is specifically designed for long range, top attack. Each round contains two sub munitions which descend over the battlefield on parachutes, identify armoured vehicles using advanced sensors, and then fire an explosively formed penetrator warhead into the target.

Director Combat Support Program, Colonel Andrew Langford said the exercise indicated the Australian Army was a capable and ready land force.

"This exercise showcased the professionalism of our gunners, demonstrating their ability to work together as an effective team.

“We are now prepared and ready for warfare on the contemporary battlefield, but we are continually looking for ways to be ready for future challenges in an ever-changing environment. We are achieving this challenge by working closely with our partners in Defence Industry.”

Exercise Chimera was conducted on 24 and 25 March by three regiments of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery – Townsville-based 4th Regiment, Darwin-based 8th/12th Regiment and Brisbane-based 1st Regiment.

Media Release 4 April 2019

New Gun Coming to Town

South Korean-based Hanwha has welcomed the Commonwealth’s announcement of a new Protected Mobile Fires program to provide the Australian Army with a fleet of locally built and maintained self-propelled howitzers (SPH).

The government is set to acquire 30 of the SPH and the build will take place around Geelong, Victoria from 2022-2023.



VALE Reginald John Poole (Reg)

3/ 778616 - 36251

Born 1st April 1938 passed away 19 May 2019

20 National Service Training Battalion October 1957 to December 1957.

Enlisted ARA 21st January 1958.

1 Field Regiment, 102 Field Battery, 101 Field Battery.

Malaya: Gunner 101 Battery (Delta Troop-Gun No) 4th October 1959.
101 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery/26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery 17th
October 1960.
Transferred to Un-allotted List Southern Command 31st October 1960.
Bombardier 1 RTB 1961.
4 Field Regiment 1964.
2 RTB 1965.
Discharged 2nd February 1967.
Medals:
AASM (Malaya & Thai-Malay)
GSM (Malaya)
ASM (SE ASIA)
ADM. Pinjat Jasa
Malaysia Medal
Return from Active Service Badge
ACB



The Association has donated \$100 to Parkinson's Victoria in memory of our life subscriber Reg Poole. Parkinson's Victoria will advise Reg's daughter Karen Rogers of our donation.

A Version of the Origin of the Last Post

We have all heard the haunting song, "The Last Post". It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the American Civil War when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him towards his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But out of respect for the father they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler.

He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "The Last Post" used at military funerals was born. The words are:

Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes From the hills. From the sky. All is well. Safely rest. God is nigh. Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the sky. Gleaming bright. From afar. Drawing nigh. Falls the night. Thanks and praise, For our days. Neath the sun Neath the stars. Neath the sky As we go. This we know. God is nigh.

Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company

Paul Camilleri who is the webmaster of the above website has given us the link to the site. <http://artilleryhistory.org/links.html>

The link is also available on the 101 Battery website.

DVA CLIENTS – REHABILITATION APPLIANCES SCHEME (RAP)

This is part three to pass on information to our members regarding DVA services which they may not be aware of and are available.

What is RAP?

RAP provides eligible DVA clients with aids and appliances to be as independent and self-reliant as possible at home and in the community. Aids and appliances through RAP can help minimise the impact of disabilities, illnesses or injuries helping you maximise your quality of life, independence and participation in the community.

Am I eligible?

You are eligible if you are:

a Gold Card holder,

a White Card holder (only for conditions accepted by DVA as related to service), assessed by a GP or medical specialist as requiring an aid or appliance to meet a clinical health care need.

What aid and appliances are available under RAP?

Aids and appliances under RAP are listed in the RAP National Schedule of Equipment.

The items listed on this schedule (but not limited to) the following categories to name a few;

Mobility and functional support

CPAP machines

Home modifications and household adaptive appliances

Medical grade shoes

(For the full range of categories see the Fact Sheet)

DVA will supply the most cost-effective, safe and clinically appropriate aids and appliances.

How do I access RAP?

1. Talk about your concerns with your GP or medical specialist.
2. Your GP or specialist will identify your clinical needs and will either;
 - a. undertake the assessment themselves and prescribe suitable aids through RAP.
 - b. make a referral to an appropriate health professional for an assessment.
3. If referred to a health professional, they will assess your circumstances and prescribe suitable aids and appliances through RAP. A health professional may include;

Occupational therapist

Podiatrist

Exercise physiologist etc

(For the full range of health professionals categories see the Fact Sheet)

How do I get my prescribed RAP items?

A referral and prescription from your GP, medical specialist or health professional will be sent to the supplier or DVA who will organise for the item delivered to you. Items issued will be replaced or repaired if they are lost, damaged by normal wear and tear or if your needs change

Can I receive aids and appliances from RAP if I live in a Residential Age Care Facility?

Can I receive aids and appliances from RAP if I am receiving a Home Care Package?

More information regarding these individual requirement questions can be found by Googling DVA Fact Sheet HSV107

History of the Raising of 101 Bty Association

The following is a letter from Terry Porter (66/67 Tour) to Trevor (Jack) Madeley (66/67 Tour) in late 1991 which started the ball rolling to form the Association. Terry was the first Secretary of the Association and Trevor the first President.

Dear Jack,

RE: - FORMATION OF 101 FD BTY RAA
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

At our march on Vietnam Veterans day earlier this year, we discovered that there are up to as many as forty past members of our unit, who served in Vietnam in 1966 and 1969 living in the Brisbane and Gold Coast areas. It was disappointing that we had to march behind the 105 Fd Bty RAA Banner and not one of our own.

After the march, we decided that we should form our own association, and investigate the possibility of raising our own banner. I have done some research into this area and it is quite feasible, that we could have this ready for next Anzac Day.

With this letter, I will attach a form for you to complete and return to me as soon as possible. I need to know approximate numbers, who would march, as there is a meeting sometime in February for us to get the okay to march in the Anzac Day Parade 1992, under our own banner for the first time.

Hope to gain your full support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,
Terry Porter

Normie Rowe Today – Compulsory Hero

Those of us who have been around will remember Normie Rowe, Australia's former King of Pop. Like many others, he was called up for national service (how did a member of the Canberra press gallery know this, before his official call-up letter arrived?), and he served - and survived - in the Vietnam War. Or, as the Vietnamese call it, the American War. This finished his musical career and left him bitter, though 50 years later he has mellowed somewhat. *Compulsory Hero* is a powerful song – hope you appreciate as much as I did.

Normie now lives at Oxenford, near Queensland's Gold Coast. He looks a lot older, as this video shows, but of course, we haven't aged at all.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIBk0P7MiKY>

The above was courtesy of the Veteran Web Assoc.

Australian Gunner Obituary Resource

The following was extracted from the 101 Battery Malaya newsletter:

Lavenda Gordon (Ben) Blakeney, OAM 9 March 1937 – 28 December 2003 Lavanda Gordon Blakeney was born at Dulwich Hill, Sydney on 9 March 1937, the son of aborigines John and Ethel and one of twelve children. He was originally known as Van from the abbreviated Lavanda. During introductions Van was introduced as Ven which was heard as Ben. "From then on I became Ben Blakeney and I never looked back". Ben completed his National Service obligation from April 24 to July 30 1956 and with a stint in the CMF from July 1956 until April 1958. Ben then signed on with the Australian Regular Army at the age of 21 and after completing his recruit training at 1RTB, he was allocated to the Royal Australian Artillery. He was posted to the School of Artillery, in August 1958 and after initial employment training, was subsequently posted to 101 Field Battery in November 1958. The battery was in training for overseas deployment and in October 1959 Ben and the battery deployed to Malaya. Ben spent time at Butterworth and was involved in many deployments with the Battery. When the Emergency finished in July 1960, Ben moved to

Terendak with the battery to join 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. On Return to Australia on 27 October 1961, Ben was posted to the fledgling 4 Regiment at Wacol. Ben stayed with the Regiment until discharge on 10 April 1964. Ben's acting career began in 1966 as an extra at the bar in the film 'They're a Weird Mob Ben's brother Eddie also recalls his appearing in the television series 'Homicide' and 'Skippy' and as a tracker in the 1970 film 'Ned Kelly' with Mick Jagger. But the climax of his acting career was undoubtedly the portrayal of the spirit of the famous Bennelong, atop the Sydney Opera House at its opening in 1973. On his web www.wollondilly.com/bennelong.htm Ben wrote of 'the day the nation looked up to me when I said I am Bennelong ". Eddie reports that Ben said afterwards he met the Queen in head-dress and was invited for cups of tea and cucumber sandwiches or whatever. Ben was the first Aborigine to join the Commonwealth Police in 1977 and was selected for the Cyprus Peacekeeping Force in 1979, the year in which the Australian Federal Police was formed. Ben was promoted to Sergeant while serving in Cyprus. Ben would visit the local school and take his didgeridoo along for the children to try. He wrote of receiving a 'medal of honour for bravery in the line of duty' and served with this force until 1984. On 29 March 1985, First Constable Blakeney was awarded the National Medal and on 8 July 1992, Constable Blakeney was awarded the Police Overseas Service Medal with Clasp 'Cyprus". Ben then made boomerangs from his home in Queanbeyan and was much in demand from schools to demonstrate the art of boomerang throwing. He was also reportedly quite active in supporting Aboriginal causes and affairs. Ben's webmaster writes, 'Ben is a modest man. The first he knew of his nomination (for the OAM) was, when making boomerangs, a neighbour said "Have you seen the paper? You've been awarded the Order of Australia Medal" '. Ben replied "Gosh" and kept making his boomerangs but was eventually drawn into speculation and acknowledged it was probably because of his service to the community. Ben was awarded his OAM "for services community in June 1994. Ben Blakeney never forgot his Gunner beginnings and was a regular attendee at Australian Artillery Association functions in the ACT. His rough diamond appeal demanded attention and his rather dry sense of humour was always there to illustrate a point with a good yarn. Ben passed away on Sunday 28 December 2003 in Queanbeyan, NSW. So many attended the funeral that people were standing outside to listen to the service. Ben was remembered for his community service, his ability to quickly form good friendships and his 'big golden' smile. His brother Eddie had arranged the funeral in Canberra because 'Ben loved Canberra and called it his city'. The funeral was attended by AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty and ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope. Former Prime Minister Bob Hawke sent a representative. There were among the wreaths of native flowers lay three hats representing his service to the Australian Community



Ben Blakeney OAM

Gunnedah Museum Murals

The following photos were sent in by Phil Kline.



Ponderisms

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going? (taxes)

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Can you cry under water?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?