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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another year is upon us and hopefully it will be far better than the last two with an end to all the restrictions and disruptions to normal life we all have had to endure.

The Committee and I hope that you and your extended families have avoided catching COVID-19 and remained well throughout the year. To those who were unfortunate enough to have caught it, we wish you all a speedy recovery without any side effects.

My wife and I have settled into life in Queensland, arriving on the day the border opened after being stuck in Sydney since our return from China in April 2021.

As you will see further on in the Newsletter the Secretary will advise you of our members who are no longer with us or are not traveling to well health wise. It is always sad when we get notified of the loss of a member and many go far too young in this day and age. They may be gone but not forgotten.

The planned delayed reunion at Coffs Harbour on 13-14 May 2022 has been organised. We would really like to see a good turn out if possible as it may not be too far in the future that many of us would not be able to attend as age and health issues creep up on us.

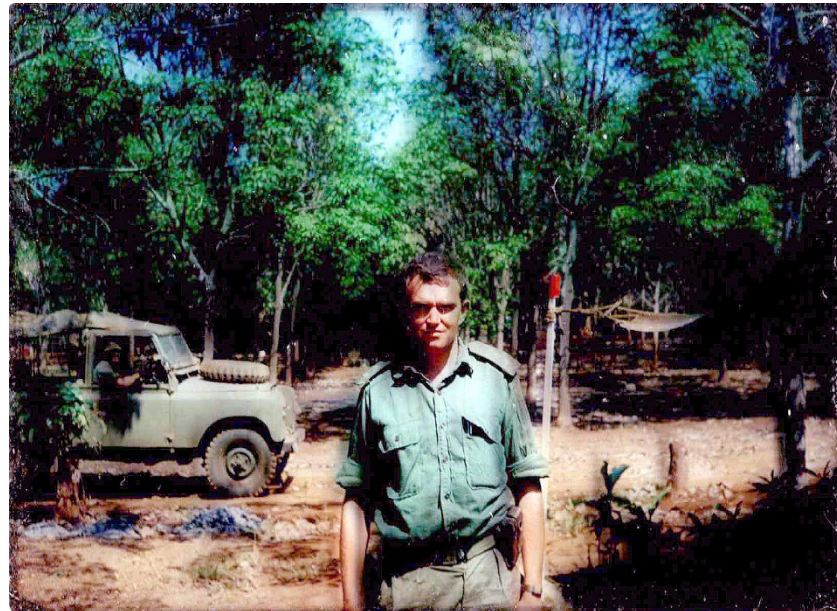
Fortunately the Club in Coffs Harbour have honoured their prices, free room hire etc that they quoted for the one planned last year, the prices had risen slightly for the dinner and meet and greet but they were not passed onto us. I have thanked the Club on our behalf.

The Committee would still like to receive stories of trips, events you attended which would be of interest to members, articles of Gunner events past and in the future.

In conclusion stay well and safe this year and we hope to see many of you at the reunion in May, hopefully the current COVID restrictions and falling number of infections will allow us to have a great reunion.

UBIQUE,
John Pollock

PROFILE
BARRIE WINSOR
1966/1967 TOUR





(1)



(2)

Above Photos: 101 Bty Leading the parade in Brisbane 14th June 1967 followed by 6 RAR

Photo (2): Leading the Parade Brig Jackson, then his Aide, then Maj Nick Marshall, Next Rank (L to R) Capt Knox Napier, Capt Steve Gower, Next Rank (L-R) Lt Juergen Raasch, 2Lt Mal Pearce, Lt Barrie Winsor.

105 Fd Bty – 101 Fd Bty

14/5/42 Barrie born, dad off to war.

1952 Mother died. Government deprived family of all assets to pay death duties. Barrie off to orphanage.

1959-61 Very good results in Leaving Certificate – won Scholarship to attend 3 years at university – Metallurgy, Science Degree.

1962 Started work in steel works in Newcastle and mid 1962 witnessed a colleague fall into an acid pickling vat and die a horrible death.

Mid '62 Left the job to join the Army and applied for Officer Training at Portsea. Selected, but course not due to start till years end, so volunteered to join the Army and go to Kapooka first then Infantry.

1963 Portsea. Liked the sport, shooting and fitness training etc but found the academic side boring. Capt Garth Hughes, my DS Artillery officer, suggested he could help me qualify as long as I went to Artillery rather than Infantry and I refused. He then asked did I know where the School of Artillery was? – Manly – Wow!! I had been in the Newcastle Surf Lifesaving Club and swam in Surf Carnivals at Manly, so it was a no-brainer – I graduated to Artillery.

1964-5 Manly was excellent. I attended several courses with Juergen Raasch and other Portsea mates at Manly and 4FdRegt, Wacol in Brisbane and it was great. Unlike Sydney's Vic Barracks, white pith helmets, guard duties or black-tie dinners every night in the mess at 1FdRegt., Holsworthy. Brisbane was much better, plus weekends down at the Gold Coast was a bonus.

Originally, I was in 105 Fd Bty but after the GPO Course, I was transferred to 101 Fd Bty, was part of Ambrose Force, on short notice, to go to Rhodesia against Ian Smith's apartheid regime. At the time we had training teams in Vietnam, but, Rhodesia was apparently considered more important even after 1 RAR was sent to SVN. In August of 1965 we certainly did not think 105 BTY would be going to join 1 RAR. 161 Bty RNZA was sent to Bin Hoa, but, was really only a troop of 4 guns, not a Bty.

Later, Lt.Col. Stevenson, our CO advised us that we were on 24-hour notice to move. I briefed my troops and they started laughing which I thought was odd. Then one bright spark declared, "Boss, we're not going to Rhodesia, we're going to Vietnam – the Aircraft Carrier "Sydney"s on it's way to Brisbane and we will be off to Bien Hoa". I asked how he knew, and he laughed and said the prostitutes from Kings Cross have come up to give us a freebie before we leave – they know everything!

Stevenson was not impressed that the Top-Secret info was being bandied about!

The camp was closed and the Provos arrived.

The troops were nearly right, but it was 105 that went on the Sydney not 101 Bty.

Perhaps the top brass thought that Rhodesia was still more important until Long Tan.

It's interesting to read the 1RAR book "First to Fight" by Bob Breen, and Arthur Burke's book on 105 Bty – it certainly was not a walk in the park. Two of the American Infantry Battalions were each awarded US Presidential citations. The Commander of 2/503 Battalion later wrote to Maj Tedder, "Thanks for saving our lives. I have never seen finer shooting".

Meanwhile, back in Brisbane my FO Party and I had been learning the ropes of bringing in close Artillery Fire. In November, myself, Jock Gunn, and another were sent up to 1PIR New Guinea for several months, ostensibly to patrol and report activity in Papua, west of the Fly River near the border. Physically, it was much harder than later in Vietnam. Carrying 14 days rations, etc. Back to Australia for Xmas and then in February '66 I marched out of Wacol to go to 105 Bty. I sat about doing nothing at the Pers Depot, Brisbane and then in early May finally arrived on a Qantas jet into Saigon, which was being heavily rocketed/mortared at the time. I finally found a 105 Bty vehicle and then off to Bien Hoa. Operation Hardihood at Nui Dat went from 16 May to 8 June, '66, 105 supporting 5 RAR. Spent most of my time on the gun line, except for odd FO work with APC's and Cessna aircraft.

The only usual events before 105 BTY RTA were.

A. 14 Aug 66 – 103 Bty had a major mishap with a L5 Pack Howitzer. We all received orders to restrict our fire to Charge 7 Minus (CH7-) thus reducing the maximum range of the L5's. D Coy would have had major problems on the 18th August if the enemy had allowed D Coy to travel closer to Long Tan before attacking them.

B. 17 Aug 66 we were due to hand over direct support of 5 RAR site to 103 Bty. Midday we received orders to move the guns north and deploy them on the proposed airfield behind 5 RAR. I objected and said why not send 103 Bty, as they will be in DS next morning. Capt Darlington at Arty Tac said, "MOVE NOW", so I did. That night the TF was rocketed/mortared severely within the Engineers and Artillery base, but not us. Darlo was a nice guy after all.

C. Long Tan 18 Aug 66 – Artillery saved the day. I am sure you have read all the books. It was the most intense battle in atrocious weather conditions in all my 20 years in the Army.

24 Sept 66 – 105Bty returned to Australia after handing over to 101 Bty, 101 BTY was now in general support until November when they were placed in direct support for 6RAR in November until May 1967. However, Capt Jim Ryan and his FO party were sent to B Coy and I and my party to D Coy 6 RAR. My FO party consisted of myself, Bdr Jock Gunn; Gnr Greg Bentley; Gnr Dickie Cliff and Gnr Jeff Cheyne. Most of us had been sent as reinforcements to 105 Bty before 101 Bty arrived.

Oct. 66. Maj Harry Smith OC D Coy, Tasmanian, OCS Trained and a USA Green Beret man was as tough as nails and did not suffer fools gladly. Fresh from Long Tan but justifiably not sure about being given a 2Lt Artillery FO and a Scottish Bombardier to boot.

In October D Coy, 6RAR with 5 RAR were on ops in the Nui Dinh hills area. Harry made me do a close mission with the 155mm SP Howitzer, followed by a FGA using US fighter-jets. Fortunately, it all went well as I had done my homework on the jets and visited the Yank 155 Bty before the operation. Harry was still annoyed that the 155's had not been properly used at Long Tan. Afterwards, he said, "You will do" and that was that for the next 7 months.

We had several operations in Nov/Dec '66 and I was promoted to Lieutenant. In January '67 D Company went out on Operation Seymour 28 Jan- 1 Feb 67 where we did a Company attack against a Vietcong C Coy. camp. As usual the 105's was out of range again and I had to use the 155's.

The VC kept jamming our Comms whilst in the meantime the Vietcong had fled. On return to Nui Dat the new TF Comd, Brigadier Graham had arrived, and I was ordered to meet him and discuss the operation. I thought it strange that he wanted to talk to a Lt. I said to the Brigadier that it would help a great deal if the S01's were changed on a regular basis so that Charlie would not be able to JAM the radio sets and help them withdraw, but to no avail as we never changed the frequencies whilst we were in Nui Dat.

The next operation was Tamborine. 1-8 Feb and it was proved to be a major disaster.

Harry Smith was in hospital, and we had a newly arrived 2IC Capt Mick Weaver who oversaw D Coy. It was not planned that we would be deployed, but, the CO, Lt.Col Townsend changed his mind and deployed Battalion HQ, and we were to be security for the HQ. We arrived okay, but, that night, another change – Townsend ordered DCoy to conduct an ambush the next night, 5 KM to the south-east. I looked at the map and the site for our ambush. We would be out of range of all the Artillery at Nui Dat (i.e. 105; 155mm; 8inch guns except the 175mm guns, (which were unsuitable for close support) plus there was only one battery of 105mm guns at FSB Lance available for the operation. I assumed it was 101 Bty only to discover later it was 161 RNZA! They did not have a good reputation plus I was concerned we would be at nearly maximum range of the L5's for an ambush, as we could fire only Charge 7-. I had never used the Kiwis in the past and I could not understand why Maj Marshall would agree to this situation. I mentioned my concerns to Capt Mick Weaver, but there was little we could do. Next day the ambush site was compromised but I registered two-night DF targets, to the South and West. Due to the range, it was not safe to register a target to the East which was the most likely target area. The enemy certainly knew where we were. During the night, unbeknown to me, Capt. Jim Ryan, FO in B Coy 6RAR attempted to register night DF's using 161 Bty, but he gave up as the rounds were falling all over the place. He gave End of Mission and ordered a fire mission for DF's using the 155mm guns. Major Marshall ordered him to continue using 161 but Jim refused – eventually the CO got on the radio and said, "FO's call" and said he planned to come out in the morning and sort out the problem. I did not hear any of their

exchange as we were out of radio range and our fire orders had to be relayed via the BC's sigs. Unfortunately, we fired our missions next day before the CO arrived. We lost 4 killed and 13 wounded (11 severely and repatriated to Australia). I refused to go home until I could ascertain what had happened. A month later I left hospital and was back in action with a 9mm lump of shrapnel still in my lung. Harry was pleased to see me again with my two new sigs. Unfortunately, I never saw the report by the Court of Inquiry until I visited the AWM in 2012 and read the accurate accounts, unlike what was provided in the NZ official history. I later travelled to NZ and met the author, who apologized.

6RAR departed for Australia in May and my FO party stayed on for another month with D Coy 2RAR. In June '67, after 13 months I was ready to go home and got married to my lovely bride Lorraine several weeks later. Jim Ryan was my best man with Harry and the others at the wedding. Then, 2 weeks honeymoon on Lord Howe Island, then back to 4 FD.Rgt. in Enoggera.

I stayed in the Army until June 1982 performing various jobs within Artillery.

My postings were -

1968-70 132 Div.Loc.Bty Melbourne, BK

1971-72 School of Artillery, Lark Hill, Salisbury, U.K./Germany as Student/Instructor

1973-74 School of Artillery, Manly, NSW – Instructor

1975-76 131 Div.Loc.Bty, Holsworthy – B.C. (Major)

1976-78 British Intelligence – Artillery, London

1979-80 D.R.A. Office, Canberra

1981-82 Materiel Branch Canberra _ (Lt. Colonel) (Purchase of new weapon locating Radar to replace ANKPQ 1)

On retirement I set up our own Company, Winsor & Sons, trading in gold and silver bullion and rare coins. We traded in coins dated from 500BC to 1940's AD. We had good clientele and, at times, we did contract work for the Reserve Bank and Mints, as well as Museums and large Auction Houses throughout the world.

I notice Juergen Raasch has just turned 80 this month, so do I in May. Lorraine and I are still married, and we have lived a fortunate life with two sons.

I have deliberately not mentioned much about the accident on 6 Feb 1967. It was a very tragic event with much suffering by many soldiers and their families over many years. I visited Dick Cliff's family on my return to Australia which they appreciated, plus I saw Greg Bentley often in Melbourne, after he left the hospital and Army. Unfortunately, years later, Greg died when he was accidentally killed in hospital during a hernia operation – a nurse accidentally administering the wrong medication!

For those who read, I would like to bring to your attention a recently released book by Lt.Col. Fred Fairhead –

“The History of the Sixth Battalion RAA”

Volume 1 – Vietnam – 1965 to 1970

Includes both tours in which 101 Bty supported 6 RAR.

Fred’s email address is – mfred@bigpond.com

Price is \$45.00, which includes postage.

My email address is – barriewinsor1@gmail.com

PROFILE
REG SHEPHERD
1969/1970 TOUR



Born 11th October 194 my childhood was a bit disjointed due to the early death of my father. I was sent to a Legacy Hostel where I stayed for 6 or 7 years. I rejoined my family at age 13 and left school at age 15 with an Intermediate Certificate. I joined the Army on my 17th Birthday but was not inducted until the 31st October.

Kapooka was a big adventure for me and I thrived in the environment. I did discover that my big mouth needed to be bought under control although most of the punishments for "gobbing off" were physical challenges which caused me little grief.

School of Artillery for Christmas 1966. Gun course on L5 Pack Howitzers. The course was run by Rubber Lips Lemon. A great instructor and a good man to know. With a posting to 131 Div Lock Battery. It would appear my Gun Course results revealed my lack of mechanical aptitude. I encountered Dog Rawlins as the BSM. I don't think anyone could figure out why I was posted to the Locating battery. I certainly couldn't. They trained me as a driver. For those who know me well enough to travel in a car that I am driving the Driver training was not successful although I did get a Land Rover Licence.

About a year later I was posted to 103 Medium Battery who were across the road from 131 at Holsworthy. Bulby Gallagher was the BSM. Unfortunately Frank Buxton was the BG who replaced Gallagher when he left. My first real awareness that not every Warrant Officer was worthy of the Warrant. I was now a gunner in a Medium Battery with 5.5 inch guns and 25pounder. I was trained on the L5 and had a land rover licence. I was sent on a signals course at the school.

I was fortunate in that I received training on the 5.5 and the 25lb from Reg Matheson and Tommy Martin later on. Great blokes and excellent role models. They kept me out of harm's way in regard to the BSM for whom I had nothing but contempt which I struggled to hide.

By the end of 1968 I had run my race at 103 and sought a transfer to 1 Field Regt who were due to embark for SVN in May 1969. The BSM refused to process that application for transfer even when one of the sergeants submitted it to him. I took matters into my own hands when I went into the Regiment Headquarters during the Christmas break. The acting CO was a subaltern that recognised my plight who made some enquiries and had me transferred before everyone came back to work after Christmas. I was posted as a signaller in the Command Post in 101 Bty.

I had never worked in a command post. I got the hang of it pretty quickly. We went off to SVN in May 1969 after two false starts to leave Brisbane by a Qantas charter.

During the deployment in SVN I was attached to A Company 6 RAR to replace Ron Orr who was the FO Ack who had applied for Portsea and been accepted. I had no training in OPCP procedures and only knew what I had picked up in the CP. Bill Boyd was an excellent GPO who ensured everyone working in the CP had good understanding of their job and good understanding of other jobs.

A bit daunting my first operation as an FO Ack. Bernie Garland was the FO although I don't think he was in that position when I joined the Battalion. He was of course killed in Action by a mine. I reckon it was the last day of the last op. A horrible tragedy. I was not with him as he was travelling with Company Headquarters and I was attached to 3 platoon. I recall my signaller John Klein and me struggling to come to grips with the news of the incident.

We came home in 1970 and I reckon I was by then a bombardier. I served as the BC's Ack for some time and did several courses. One of which was an OPCP course. Late training but of course worthwhile. This was followed by a grade 2 OPCP course. Various qualifications followed.

In 1971 I was posted to RTW at the School. I moved to Sydney of course, and married in Nov.

MY memories of this posting are fond ones. Alan Batchelor ended up as SI RTW and we had a good crew of instructors. Billy Cross was there and other legends. I became very good at controlling several courses at the same time. I was the only Bombardier instructor amongst all the sergeants. Each Friday afternoon I would hold the fort whilst the Sergeants went to the mess for happy hour.

I was eventually promoted to Sergeant at the school and then posted to 4th Regiment as a Gun Sergeant. I did not enjoy Townsville. I can't remember who the CO was but he and I did not see eye to eye. This was a time of controversy in the Sergeants mess for various reasons.

I left 4th Regiment on promotion to WO2 at the School in Gunnery Wing. My dream posting at the time. During my tenure at the School I was selected to go to Royal School of Artillery at Lark Hill in the UK. We had been sending students to attend the Long Gunnery staff course for a number of years. My posting was not as a student but as an exchange instructor. A great posting which of course included moving my family to the UK. I was certainly privileged to have this posting.

I arrived in the UK in the first half of 1979 and left in August (I think) 1981. I was replaced by Peter Smith. I had a posting order for 1 Field Regiment in Brisbane as the BSM of 105 Bty. On arrival I was informed that I would not be the BSM but I would be the BG. The CO informed me of this and I received no support from the RSM. **This was the day the Army lost me.**

I served as BG until the BSM departed.

I was then told I was going on an RSM's course which I resisted. This was the time of the RSM course being run at the School of Infantry by Infantry men. What an experience. This reinforced my view that I would do twenty years and get out. I had about 4 years left to serve to achieve the 20 year mark.

I was promoted to WO1 and posted to 5/11 Regt in Brisbane as the RSM. I found this posting very rewarding and enjoyed my time there. During the latter part of that posting I had a visit from Arthur Burke who informed me that he was the next CO of 4th Regiment

and I had been suggested as the RSM for 4th Regiment. I declined the offer and told him I did not want to go to Townsville and I preferred a training position.

I think this was relayed to Peter Prewett who I think was the Master Gunner of Land Command. I knew Peter and disagreed with his view that I would make an ideal RSM for the Regiment that was being equipped with the Light Gun. I asked him to support my choice not to go to Townsville. He declined to do that and instead recommended me for the job.

I arrived in Townsville unaccompanied and very unhappy. I did not do a good job I disagreed with the way the Regiment was being run and said so. I started calculating how I could remove myself from this position which was not doing me any good and I felt the Regiment needed a more effective RSM. I took six months long service leave on half pay. This effectively took me up to 20 years and one week service. I was effectively out of the Army in about June 1986 although my discharge of course was Nov 1986.

A new Career

Whilst waiting for my long service to start I took steps to try to understand the civilian market place. I came across an ad in the Army newspaper. Here was an ex officer who claimed he could interpret military courses and experience into Civilian Speak. I engaged him to write my resume and some examples of applications for employment. I remember thinking this is expensive but of course it wasn't. One of the jobs I applied for was as a trainee shopping Centre Manager. After two interviews in Brisbane I got a traineeship with Kern Corporation. The pay was not spectacular but my long service leave on half pay meant I was receiving around about what I was used to. The training was in Brisbane initially. I attended Kiwana Shopping Centre on the Sunshine Coast for on the job experience. I was in charge of the photocopier and making the coffee but the Manager was very knowledgeable and after testing my skills and attitudes on the photocopier and coffee cups he proved to be an excellent person to work with and learn from.

My on the job experience included time at Kiwana and Mackay. My family home was in Brisbane. I was still in the army at this time although my employer was not aware of that. I had to attend Brisbane for my discharge in mid November 1986 which was uneventful. I have never had an exit interview from the military and it reinforced for me that I was just another number. I returned to Mackay and was informed that I would be sent to Gladstone as an operations manager with a view to becoming the Centre Manager in the not too distant future. This all happened. I moved my family to Gladstone where we bought a house and lived quite nicely.

Eighteen months later I was asked to return to Mackay as the Centre Manager. The pay rise was substantial. It turned out there had been some fraud enacted by the centre manager although I didn't know that at the time. I returned to Mackay and set about setting up systems etc. that I felt were lacking. This activity exposed the fraud which I reported to the General Manager. He confirmed the fraud and told me that I had got the Centre Managers job over others because I was obviously honest. I managed that shopping Centre for about a year resigning when the company was not honest with me.

I applied for and got the position of General Manager at Australia Fair Shopping Centre at Southport on the Gold Coast about 6 weeks after leaving Kern Corporation. The centre was under redevelopment (it was called Scarborough Fair initially). This was a big job and although the management of any centre is similar regardless of its size I was not skilled in development issues regarding construction and the like. There were many problems that were new to me but with the aid of others we got it done.

Two years after we opened, the ownership of the centre changed hands and that honesty I had displayed at Mackay was not all that appreciated when I told the CEO of the new company that owned Australia Fair that he had “no idea what he was doing”. He sacked me on the spot but he agreed to pay me 3 months’ salary in lieu of notice. A blessing in disguise.

My next move was to Perth to work for a billionaire. I was to live in Perth for two years and then relocate to the Eastern States to take charge of a large portfolio of commercial and retail property. My long suffering wife had had enough by now. She flew to Perth to find a suitable place to live but announced on arrival we were getting divorced. She flew home and we got divorced.

I subsequently did 20 months in Perth and then relocated to Geelong where the group owned Bay City Plaza the paramount shopping centre in Geelong CBD. From there I moved the office to St Kilda Road when we purchased an office tower there. This was a job of managing the managers of various Large Real Estate Management companies. The portfolio in the East was growing and at one stage was worth 2Bn dollars. I then relocated the office to North Sydney where we owned two commercial office towers. I spent a few years in North Sydney. A great place to have an office and a great place to live near the harbour. I was responsible for all aspects of the assets.

We expanded the portfolio on the East several times and also of course sold some assets on the way.

I worked for Stan Perron (the billionaire) for twenty years. I retired in 2012. I worked in South Australia on a shopping centre acquisition, and went to NZ twice in the pursuit of a shopping centre in Christchurch. I did some work in Brisbane and returned to Perth twice a year for various briefings, and conferences. July this year will mark ten years since my retirement. Working for Stan was an absolute privilege. He died four years ago at the age of 96. He was a man of integrity and always insisted that the company always acted ethically. He was like a father to me. Strange as it may be to discover a father figure so late in life.

I have remarried (7 years ago). We live in Cape Bridgewater near Portland in Victoria. I remain good friends with my former wife Sandra. I have two sons the eldest Robert lives on the gold coast and celebrates his 50th birthday in July this year. My youngest son Brett lives in Sydney. He is 48 this year and celebrated 18 years of marriage recently. I have two grandchildren (one each for my sons) but I also have step grandchildren due to Robert marrying a woman who had two adult children by a previous marriage.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022. I hope everyone had a good festive season. I would just like to add to John's comment that the Committee would like to see as many people as possible to this year's reunion from the Malaya tour and both South Vietnams' tours.

The Association have memorabilia available including Caps, Plaques and Ties.
I would like to see more contributions from members to the Newsletter please.

Subscriptions

For the small number of members that elect to pay their membership fees annually they are now due. If you decide to become a Life Subscriber cutting out the need to pay every year the scale below is what it will cost depending on your age.

<u>Current Age</u>	<u>Subscription</u>	<u>Saving</u>
70	\$90	\$11
71	\$84	\$17
72	\$78	\$23
73	\$72	\$29
74	\$66	\$35
75	\$60	\$41
76	\$54	\$47
77	\$48	\$53
78	\$42	\$59
79	\$36	\$65
80	\$30	\$71
81	\$24	\$77
82	\$18	\$83

83	\$12	\$89
84	\$ 6	\$95
85	Congratulations on still being with us.	

Otherwise if you wish to continue to pay annually it is \$10.

The Association's Bank Account is with the Commonwealth Bank. Name of the Account: 101 Field Battery Association BSB : 064413 Account No: 10066148 or you can send a cheque to The Treasurer Ross, at 19 Edro Avenue, BRIGHTON EAST. VIC. 3187.

Passing Parade

2788784 Darrell Gordon Johnson passed away in October 2021 from a Brain Tumour. Darrell served with SVN with 101 Battery in 1969/70 as a Life Member of our Association.

Condolence Emails

May He Forever Rest in Peace LEST WE FORGET and Best Wishes to his family from Tony Green 3 month medic from 1AFH. From Anthony Green.

My condolences to Darrell's family. From John Achilles.

2782026 Hilary Kelvin "Rusty" Boulding passed away on 25th January 2022 with complications from Dementia. Rusty served in SVN with 101 Battery from 19 September 1966 to 12 June 1967 and was a member of our Association.

Condolence Emails

I never knew the Gentleman, RIP Rusty. From Allan Baldwin.

RIP Rusty my condolences to the family another gunner to the gun park in the sky. From Terry Porter

Sick Parade

Tony Curtis had a major stroke last February and is in an Aged Care home. Karen, Tony's wife has advised that physically he is not too good but can conduct a conversation. He is Anan Cara Aged Care, Lavarack Road, Bray Park, Brisbane. His mobile number if you wish to call him and say giddy is 0403236535.

Association Reunion Coffs Harbour 13-14 May 2022

The Reunion will be held at the Coffs Harbour Services Club, C.ex Coffs, on the corner of Grafton Street (Pacific Highway) and Vernon Street.

The Secretary has already advised members of accommodation available; because there is also a major golf tournament on that weekend I would advise booking sooner than later.

On Friday night the Committee will supply finger food on several platters at no cost. Drinks will be at member's expense.

We have arranged for drinks purchased at the bar over the weekend to be at Club members prices.

The meal on the Saturday night is two courses, main and desert served alternatively and will cost \$30.00 a head.

Red and White wine will be on each table and the Committee will put money over the bar to defray the cost of drinks.

The reunion format:

Friday 13 May - Meet and greet 6.00-9.00pm

Saturday 14 May-AGM 1.30-2.30pm

Saturday 14 May-Dinner sit down 6.30pm food served 7.00pm,

Finish time TBA

For those wishing to attend the reunion please advise the Secretary by email with the any dietary requirements for the dinner. Also if your partner is attending please advise their name. Email b.collins13@outlook.com or phone 0407162620.

New Book on Vietnam

“The Crucible” – The Australians in Action in Vietnam. The following is the author, Don Tate, insight on the book and a review and cost:

I'm very pleased to announce that my new book- *Crucible: The Australians in Action in Vietnam* is now available.

I think you will find it to be something completely different to other books about the war.

It is not (nor could it possibly be) a description of *every* battle or contact that occurred during the war. (As you know, whole books have been written about some individual battles!)

But it *is* a collection of 370 matters taken from the histories and Narratives of the Australian involvement in the Vietnam War...from all branches of the Service- aspects of the great battles (and even the fleeting contacts) in which great heroism was displayed, or not made public; the terrible tragedies; the misadventure; the controversies; and some of the more contentious issues....(A couple of sample pages are attached.)

Veterans should find this book will provide more detailed information about some matters than otherwise previously made public.

And if nothing else, it would be a useful tool to give relatives and friends who could never really appreciate what the Vietnam experience did to those who fought in it- and perhaps explain, to some extent, why YOU are the person you are, having gone through it.

EARLY REVIEW:

'Hi Don, love your book, presentation and format are great! Easy to read, so much information- very interesting! Stirs up emotions- compassion for the brave soldiers who passed, imagining the sadness and despair of their families when learning of their demise! Frustration at the corruption of men in high places and those in it for their own glory! Wow- a great read! Really opens up your eyes to the horrors of war and also to the absolute bravery, selflessness and sacrifice of so many young men! I just want to say Thank you to you and all the brave men for doing this for our country and thank you Don for all the time and effort you put into producing this wonderful resource!'

Costing \$35 (which includes packaging and postage anywhere in Australia) it can be purchased via Paypal (go to the **Facebook page titled 'Crucible'**) or by direct contact with me on FB, or by **email to me at: [warvet 69@yahoo.com](mailto:warvet69@yahoo.com)**

A preview copy was seen by a number of significant veterans who provided additional content and/or clarified points here and there (veterans would confirm that war is a detailed, complex business of many moving parts..names, dates, units etc etc....and there are differing accounts of this and that).

Health – Current Repatriation Benefits for Gold Card Holders

Here is a list of the Pharmacy Medications available to Gold Card Veterans. When you go to your doctor, make sure you take the list as he/she may not be aware of all these medications being available to Veterans under the RPBS Scheme. If you do have problems ask your Doctor to contact DVA Pharmacy approvals on 1800 552 580 for an authority.

This is a list of products that are available on a Doctor's prescription, for Gold Card Repatriation Patients. **Skin Care:** Sorbolene and Glycerine Cream, Calmurid Cream, Pinetarsol Solution, Hamilton Skin Therapy Wash, QV Bath oil, QV Cream – (DVA Authority Required)

Hair Care: Sebistar Shampoo, Sebi Rinse Conditioner, Selsun Nizoral Shampoo, — (DVA Authority Required)

Sun Care: 15+ Cream, Lotion and Solarstick, Ego Sun Sense 50+, Aquasun.

Oral Hygiene: Savacol Aquae Spray for Dry mouth.

Allergies: Telfast, Claratyne, Zyrtec, Phenergan, Drixine Nasal Spray, Sudafed, Demazin Tablets.

Cough Mixtures: Senagar & Ammonia, Durotuss

Fibre Supplements & Laxatives: Nocolox, Normacol, Metamucil, Coloxyl with Senna, Senokot, Movicol powder sachets, Glycerine Suppositories.

Dressings: Micropore Tape, Cutilfilm Plus Waterproof Dressings, Melolin Dressings, Handy Bandages, Cotton Wool, Betadine Antiseptic, Solugels, Barrier Creams, Disposable Gloves, Prantal Powder, Bactroban Cream or Ointment.

Haemorrhoidal Treatments: Proctocedyl Ointment –(DVA Authority Required), Suppositories, Anusol.

Ear Preparations: Ear Clear for Wax, Waxsol, Ceromol Ear Drops.

Eye Drops: Ircal Eye Ointment, Refresh Tears Plus 15 ml.

Vitamins and Minerals: Calcium Sup Tablets (Caltrate), Vit B1 (Betamin), Magnesium Tablets (Mag-Min), Accomin Liquid Tonic, OsteVit-D – (Vitamin D) – (DVA AUTHORITY Required), MultiVitamins –(DVA Authority Required), Fish Oil Capsules 1000mg –

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(DVA Authority Required). Joint Pain & Arthritis: Metsal Cream or Liniment, Arthro-Aid (Glucosamine). Osteaomol 665 Paracetamol (Replaces Panadol Osteo Tablets), Voltaren Emugel –(DVA Authority Required), Fish Oil Capsules –(DVA Authority Required).

Sexual Health: Viagra, Cialis, Caverject.

Pain: Asprins – Cartia, Astrix Capsules, Cardiprin, Paracetamol. Ibuprofen, Panamax Co, Panadeine Forte.

Weight Loss: Optifast, Xenical.

Various: Nicorette Patches (Quit Smoking), Vermox, Immodium, Gastro-stop, Ural Sachets (Urinary Alkaliniz- er).

Always check with your GP as this list changes from time to time. (You could have been paying full price for any of these items without realising you could have them on a prescription, there-by reaching the Safety Net of \$383.00 sooner.

Remember after your 60 prescriptions per annum, at \$6.80 each, your prescriptions are free. · Some pharmacies are charging discounted scripts at \$5.40 each, be aware if you take the discounted price you will need to achieve \$388.80 (72 scripts) to reach the Safety Net.

DVA Service at Home compared to Residential Age Care

The following is an answer received from DVA in relation to equipment provided by DVA at home and in Aged Care

“The difference here is that when the Old Digger is at home we supply the RAP equipment etc – when the Digger heads into Aged Care principally the Aged Care home provides the general requirements – chairs, equipment and alike.

The difference for DVA clients is that we will provide additional services based on clinical need. An example is physiotherapy – the Aged Care might provide a physio for general mobility, but if the person needed specific physiotherapy treatment – pain relief, attention to a particular condition the veteran has then DVA can pay for additional treatment.

The veteran may require particular equipment - we can provide it where the Aged Care provider might not.”

Security on the Web

The following handy information has been submitted by John Zanotti:

Do you know what is the difference between [http://](#) and [https://](#)?

I don't know how many of you are aware of the difference, but it is worth sending to anyone who does not.

The main difference between [http://](#) and [https://](#) is it's all about keeping you secure.

HTTP stands for Hyper Text Transfer Protocol.

The "S" stands for "secure".

If you visit a website or web page and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: [http://](#)

This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular "unsecured" language.

In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website.

If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site.

This is why you **never ever enter your credit card number**

in an [http://](#) website!

But if the web address begins with [https://](#), that basically means your computer is talking to the website **in a secure code** that no one can eavesdrop.

If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with [https://](#).

If it doesn't, you should **NEVER** enter sensitive information such as a credit card number, SS #, etc.

Australian Artillery History on show in England



The following face book post was discovered by John Pollock. If you look closely at the unit insignia in the photo above you will note that it says 101 Battery:

Dean Burton – Artillery of the 20th Century

“Hi, First outing for my 1962 L5 105mm howitzer at the Military Odessey show in Kent, England in August 2021. Painted in Australian green to depict the Vietnam era. These were used by Australian and NZ batteries in Vietnam from 1965 to 1967. They were then replaced by the US 105mm howitzer. They normally have a shield fitted but in Vietnam they were removed for ease of movement and the fact that in most instances they were set up in fixed positions. If anyone has see the film “Danger Close” that depicts the battle of Long Tan it gives an accurate depiction of the way the guns were set up and deployed. Some of the shells and fuses are originals and others are 3D printed. I have managed to obtain a genuine L1A1 sight and other accessories from the UK, New Zealand and AAustralia so next show season in 2022 it will be fully equipped and any missing bits fitted.”

Artillery WA

If you would like a read the above newsletter please open the above attachment.

28 SEPTEMBER 2021

Overview of the Defence and Veterans Legal Service

The Defence and Veterans Legal Service (**DAVLS**) is a national service that provides free and independent information and legal advice to support Australian Defence personnel and veterans, as well as their families, carers and supporters, to safely share their experiences with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide (**the Royal Commission**).

DAVLS is an Australia-wide service and, in the ACT, it operates through the ACT Office of Legal Aid. DAVLS is independent and separate from the Royal Commission, the Department of Defence, and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

DAVLS can provide legal advice about:

- taking part in the Royal Commission;
- your legal rights when sharing information with the Royal Commission; and
- available legal protections when sharing information with the Royal Commission.

DAVLS can support you in:

- making a submission to the Royal Commission;
- arranging a private session with the Royal Commission; and
- connecting you with other services, like counselling, advocacy, and other legal support not related to the Royal Commission.

We are not replacing ex service organisations in their valuable work representing veterans in their claims for compensation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

All discussions between clients and our lawyers are treated in confidence and at no charge to the individual.

Contact details The DAVLS contact telephone is 1800 33 1800 or you can visit the website at <https://defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au>. If you are deaf, hard of hearing and/or have a speech impairment, you can contact DAVLS using the [National Relay Service](#). If you require an interpreter, you can request one on the call to DAVLS or you can call the free Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

Request from Barrie WinsorThe Secretary has received a request from Barrie Winsor asking if anyone in the Battery during the 1966/67 tour has a photo or photos of his rifle which was badly damaged when hit by shrapnel at the time of the Kiwi drop short incident with D company 6RAR in February 1967. It would be appreciated if one is available for it to be sent to the Secretary who will send it on to Barrie.

The Association would like to thank the office of Terry Young MP, Federal Member for Longman for the printing of this Newsletter.

