

101 BTY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

Hi Everyone, the new Committee elected at the recent AGM is as follows:

President:	John Pollock
Vice President:	Trevor Madeley
Secretary:	Brian Collins
Treasurer:	Ross Teschendorff
Asst Secretary:	Russell Robertson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi everyone this will only be a short report as we are still settling the new committee in.

However, Brian and I have discussed how we can encourage members who have not renewed their membership to do so. Mail outs are too expensive at \$1.00 a letter so Brian will attempt to contact as many as he can on the last known Email addresses, to that end if anyone knows of other members who may not be financial and have Email addresses please let Brian know. The alternative may be to telephone them but I don't want anyone out of pocket. Another matter raised at the AGM in Newcastle was members asked if we were getting anymore memorabilia, caps, shirts etc. We need some indication of who wanted them and what items would sell. Please advise the committee. Hopefully Brian will have received and can include in this Newsletter the link to the Gunner Dinner in August 2019 at Caloundra. I have arranged for anyone thinking of attending to ask for their names to be put on the 101 Battery SVN tables. The 101 Battery Malaya have a table booked but are more than happy to have our tables adjacent to theirs. You do not pay until mid-2019 but please register your interest on the link

The two day event is a little dearer than most but I have attended the previous two and they have been excellent. We could kill two birds with one stone and make it next year's reunion venue. '

We plan to print around four newsletters a year, Brian and I would like contributions from you, reports on holidays, special events. Brian and I thought members may be interested in what has happened to our members after Vietnam so to start it off both Brian and I will print our Profiles in this edition.

UBIQUE

PROFILE JOHN GREGORY POLLOCK

I joined the Regular Army in 1961 and joined 101 Field Battery 4 Field Regiment at Wacol in early 1962.

I served in 101 Battery until 1967 after returning from SVN I rose from in rank from Gunner to Sergeant in 1965.

On return from SVN was posted to 2 Recruit Training Battalion Puckapunyal for two years, several jobs, Platoon Sergeant, Platoon Commander and finally promoted to WO2 Company Sergeant Major. Then School of Artillery instructor Gunnery Wing for one year.

Posted to Royal School of Artillery Larkhill UK on the long gunnery staff course for 18 months then attached to the British Royal Artillery Training Establishment in Germany for several months as an instructor.

Returned as instructor Gunnery Wing School of Artillery 1972 - 74.

BSM 105 Field Battery and regimental Gunnery instructor 1 Field Regiment Wacol 1975 – 76.

Returned as Senior WO instructor Gunnery wing School of Artillery 1977 – 78.

Promoted WO1 Master Gunner Proof and Experimental Establishment Port Wakefield South Australia 1979.

Posted as Master Gunner Field Force Command working with the Brigadier who was Commander of Field Force Artillery, regular and army reserve Artillery 1980 – 81.

Final Army posting was as Master Gunner School of Artillery 1982 – 1985 when I elected to take my discharge.

After I left the Army I joined the Commonwealth Public Service, I was recruited as the bodyguard for Justice Stewart, the head of the newly formed National Crime Authority in Sydney. A very interesting job, like changing cars two or three times a week, changing number plates daily and not without some real threats on the Judge's life from time to time.

I did that job for nearly three years then was promoted to the security section responsible for vetting new staff, carrying out

security need inspections and supervising insulation of the devices on Lawyer staff homes. Daily checks on key access to various floors of the building to ensure staff did not attempt access to restricted areas.

After five years the stress was building so I transferred to Social Security in Newcastle as a fraud investigator and ended up in charge of all the fraud investigation teams in the Hunter area, I had 22 staff and a fleet of cars to maintain.

In 1995 my health declined and I was diagnosed with PTSD and had to retire. I must admit the highlight at the end was to punch my boss who was bagging Vietnam Vets.

Since then I caravanned for nearly 20 years, some trips were of 10 months duration. Sold the van and had an extreme off road camper trailer and crossed all the major deserts, some twice.

I have visited 32 overseas countries over the years including my first trip back to Vietnam in 2017. I was fortunate that my stepson rose to Colonel in the Army and was posted to UK, Singapore, Washington DC, Belgium and Pakistan. I visited him in all locations and travelled to adjacency countries.

I am planning to live in China for a few months in future with my new partner before returning to Australia.

PROFILE BRIAN LAURENCE COLLINS

1964 – February enlisted in the Regular Army.

1964 – October, posted to 101 Field Battery, 4 Field Regiment at Wacol.

1966 – Posted to South Vietnam with 101 Field Battery, 1 Field Regiment and worked in the Orderly Room.

1967 - Posted to 103 Medium Battery, 8/12 Medium Regiment, Holsworthy and promoted to Bombardier in the Orderly Room.

1969 - Posted to Central Army Records Office in non corps posting for a short while and promoted to Sergeant.

1969 – Posted to HQ 6TF/SQ area in Brisbane as a Register of Assets Clerk.

1973 - Posted to HQ Training Command, Sydney in the Coord Section in charge of the Staff Message Control Centre.

1974 - Corps transferred to Ordnance Corps.

1976 - Posted to 1 Field Survey Squadron, Brisbane as Chief Clerk.

1978 - Posted to 1 Aviation Regiment, Oakey as Chief Clerk and promoted to Staff Sergeant.

1980 - Posted to 32 Supply Battalion, Broadmeadows as Chief Clerk and promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2.

1982 - Posted to 3 Army Recruiting Unit, Ballarat. as a recruiting officer responsible for Western Victoria. Loved the job

as my golf game improved while I was there as the golf clubs were always in the back of my personal army sedan.

1984 - Posted to Army Welfare Unit, HQ 1st Military District. Very rewarding job responsible for investigating

Applications for Compassionate postings and organising funeral arrangements with the Next Of Kin of

Deceased soldiers and following up with their entitlements. It sought of felt like a civilian job as I wore civilian clothes and drove a commonwealth car.

1986 - Discharged from the Army and my first civilian job was Administrator of the Bar Association of Queensland

Which entailed looking after about 400 Barristers in the Association. Highlight of the job was having lunch with

The Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, (with about 199 other representatives of different organisations. (that is

Another story!).

1991 – Bought my own Carpet and Cleaning business on the northside of Brisbane.

1997 – Sold previous business and bought a fruit juice run delivering to Restaurants, Bakeries, etc.

2006 – Retired

2009 - Returned to Vietnam as a tourist and my tourist guide around Nui Dat who was very good, was the son of a VC in the Nui Dat area . I was not impressed in the Task Force area there were dumps and run down farms in its place, however was impressed with Vung Tau as it seemed like a thriving town.

2010 - Married for the 3rd time, this time I went to China and married a Chinese lady. We return to China every year

To visit her family and do a bit of touring.

2016 - Moved into an over 50's resort in Caboolture, Queensland which has the best clubhouse in Queensland! Very

Happy.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

101 Bty Merchandise

There is a small amount of merchandise available for sale. If anyone is interested please contact me by email b.collins13@outlook.com or phone 0407162620 or post to Villa 263, Living Gems, 176 Torrens Road, CABOOLTURE SOUTH, QLD. 4510.

101 Bty Polo Shirt - 3 Large – Cost \$40 plus postage.

101 Bty 50th Anniversary Operation Bribie, Phouc Tuy SVN 17 Feb 1967 Polo Shirts - 1 Mens, 2 Lge – Cost \$40 plus postage.

101 Bty Ties Qty 9 - \$20 each plus postage.

There has been some interest in obtaining 101 Bty Caps, so that we can gauge if it is worthwhile having caps made could you please indicate if you would be interested in purchasing a cap if we went ahead and had them made. Please indicate when you return your updated personal information. Thanks.

Payments can be made to the Treasurer, Ross, by post to 19 Edro Avenue, East Brighton, Vic, 3187 or by the preferred method to 101 Battery RAA Association, BSB 064413 ACCOUNT 10066148.

Subscriptions

As mentioned by John, payments for subscriptions would be appreciated. Cost is as follows:

Life Subscriber \$101 Yearly Subscription \$10 (payments can be made as mentioned above)

Members Particulars

Could each member receiving this newsletter please supply the following information and return it to me by email or post (as mentioned above) so that we can keep everybody up to date with what is going on with the association:

First

Names.....Surname.....

.....

Regimental Number.....

Overseas Service: Malaya/Vietnam/Other

.....Year of Tour.....

If did not have overseas service with 101 Bty, what year were you with 101 Bty.....

Postal

Address.....

.....

Home Phone Number.....

Mobile Phone Number.....

Email Address.....

Proposed 50th Year Reunion 69/70 Tour

It is proposed to hold a reunion for the 69/70 Tour of SVN in 2019. Planning is in the very early stages at this point in time. So that a picture can be drawn as to where to hold it, etc. anyone that has an interest in attending could they please phone Jim Booth on 0417731393 or email him at jamesbooth1@bigpond.com

2019 National Gunner Dinner

The Royal Australian Artillery Association are holding their dinner on Saturday 24th August 2019 at Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. For

information on the dinner go to australianartilleryassociation.com and click on 2019 National Gunner Dinner. If you intend to go please contact me at b.collins13@outlook.com or phone 0407162620. We can arrange a group booking for a table of 101 Bty members. Also if enough interest is shown our annual reunion can be held at the same time.

Sick Parade

Gnr Kev Perkins, 1st Tour Sig on Nick Marshall's FO Party is very ill, so as many positive thoughts and prayers that we can provide for Kev would be appreciated.

If anyone is in ill health we wish you a speedy recovery. If anyone knows of somebody in the association not in the best of health please let us know so we can pass on our best wishes and other members can know about their mates.

As this will probably be the last newsletter before Christmas, the Committee wishes everyone a happy and safe festive season and look forward to a healthy and good year in 2019.

Do You Remember When?

The following was received by Neil Bradley (SVN 66/67 tour) and is an extract of the Australian Vietnam Forces National Reunion Update dated 14th August 1987:

GROWING NUMBER OF VIET. VETERANS EMERGING

Vietnam Veterans are coming forward in their thousands requesting information on the forthcoming National Reunion of Vietnam Veterans to be held in Sydney from the 3-5 October 1987. Peter Poulton, the Chairman, and Geoff McGibbon, the Deputy Chairman of the AVF, have recently returned from a promotional tour covering all Australian States and Territories. Mr Poulton said he was delighted with the media coverage received Australia wide and the amount of interest it had generated with Veterans and the public. It also afforded him the opportunity to speak with State Co-Ordinates in identify, first hand, the problems that the States were encountering.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Friday 2:10:87

Unit Smokos as shown on reverse page. These functions are just an informal gathering so you can meet your mates and have a grog & yarn – All Welcome.

Saturday 3:10:87

.0430 Dawn Service – Sydney Cenotaph

.0530 Remembrance Serv. RAR Ass. Memorial

.0700 March Form-Up Sydney Domain

.0900 March Steps Off Sydney Domain

.1200 March Breaks Off-Hyde Park Sth

.1230 Unit Reunions-Sydney RSL Clubs

Sunday 4:10:87

.0900 Church Services – Sydney Churches

.1100 The Concert – Sydney Domain

Monday 5:10:87

.1100 Luncheon Cruise – Sydney Harbour

Or

.1100 Opening of Woolongong Vietnam War Memorial

Tuesday 6:10:87

NSW & Interstate Tours

THE MARCH

.Assemble in Sydney Domain beginning 0700

.Tea/Coffee will be served by Everyman's & Red Cross

.Info booths will be established in & around the City Centre from 0600 to distribute info sheets detailing unit assembly areas etc.

.The NSW RSL Anzac Day March Committee will act as Marshalls assisted by NSW Police, NSW Ambulance, St. Johns Ambulance & NSW RSL members and volunteers

.Wheelchairs/vehicles for the Disabled or sick will be available at the assembly area.

.A guard of honour of WW2 veterans will form up either side of Sydney Town Hall to pay tribute to the Vietnam Veterans.

.Don't Drive To Town – unless unavoidable as the city centre will be blocked off & cars will be towed away by the Police – use public transport.

.Disabled veterans should use the Domain Carpark.

. At 0845 vehicles carrying the Disabled/Sick will travel from Domain & wait at cnr.Pitt/Martin Plce & will move off at 0900 followed the leading units.

.The ABC will televise the Welcome Home March nationally, two cameras will be manned at the Cenotaph & Sydney Town Hall.

.The salute will be taken at the Sydney Town Hall by the Administrator Sir James Rowlands as the Governor General will be overseas.

.The Leaders of the Parade have been nominated by popular request, - there will be one from each of the Services. More on these personalities late in UPDATE.

. Veterans who served with two or more Units may march with the Unit of their choice.

- . Veterans may march with the unit they were attached to or with their Corps.
- . Dispersal will take place in Elizabeth St. buses if necessary will convey vets. to Unit Reunions.

ORDER OF MARCH

(Abridged version)

15. R.A.A.C.

16. R.A.A.

17. R.A.E.

GUNNERS

Accommodation available from evening 2nd October 1987 until 1200 hrs 4 October 1987. Notify WO2 Mike Grimes , School of Artillery (02) 9761104 (0830 – 1600hrs). Meals will be available at a nominal cost.

Smoko at School of Artillery (Friday)

Post March Reunion at Bowlers Club, 95 York St, Sydney.

No Longer a Boy & Not Yet a Man

The following poem was supplied and read out at this year's Annual Reunion by Graham Pember (SVN 69/70 tour) and worthwhile repeating in our newsletter:

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired tight muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, old enough to buy a beer and old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's but he never collected unemployment either.

He is a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old car and has a steady girlfriend who either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip hop or rap or jazz or swing and 155mm howitzer. He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk. He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of the machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional. He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march. He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty he'll share his water with you and if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low. He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life or take it because this is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humour in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed. He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention while tempering the burning desire to square away those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful. Just as his Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather, he is paying the price for freedom

Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is the AUSTRALIAN Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years. He has asked nothing in return except our friendship and understanding.

Remember him always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood. And now we even have women over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to war when our nation calls us to do so. As you go to bed tonight remember this shot. A short lull, a little shade and picture of loved ones in their helmets.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands,
Protect them as they protect us.

Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our
Time of need.

AMEN

And say a prayer for our ground troops in AFGHANISTAN, sailors on our ships and airmen in the air and for those in IRAQ. For the families and friends of young men who have died in this conflict. Of all the gifts you could give an

AUSTRALIAN Soldier, Sailor, Coastguardsman, Marine, or airman, prayer is the very best one.