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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last three months have again shown a pleasing increased awareness of our Association with another number of members joining, or in some cases re-joining after a number of years, more of this in the Secretary's report.

There has been not much happening since the last newsletter apart from the normal news regarding members who have sadly passed away or have become ill. Our thoughts go out to them and their loved ones. I believe as we all get older, but not wanting to admit it these notices will unfortunately increase. The Committee would appreciate any news regarding the health and wellbeing of our members, where possible we will try to contact the member or family to see how they are travelling so that they can be made aware they are not forgotten, and their old mates still think of them.

At our reunion in May last, members commented positively on the newsletter and the content. To that end we would really appreciate any articles or information which might be of interest like; Veterans health and other issues which could affect our members, places worth visiting you have recently been to, coming events etc.

In conclusion thank you all for the support you have given the Association over the years and that this newsletter finds you and your extended family in good health, or as well as can be expected at our age.

UBIQUE

John Pollock

PROFILE

NEIL BRADLEY **1966/1967 TOUR**



That's me 2nd from the right front row, the short arsed Nasho

Well guys this is my story and I'm sticking to it (until someone gets to censor it). May 1965 working In Melbourne for Mayne Nick transport in Footscray Rd, my mother informed me that I had to go and do a medical for the army as I had been called up for two years' service. Why not go and do it as it would just be another job can't be that hard as I was doing 10 hours a day. Must be better than picking fruit in the sun, driving tractors or dozers with no air-con cab freezing me tits off, sheering sheep, droving cattle, bloody fencing, digging post holes, carting hay, cutting burrs, milking cows. Hey you get a bed, uniform, boots, a gun and learn lots of good stuff, paid to go places and meet a lot of blokes. Went and did a medical, passed it without any troubles as the work I was doing was not sitting in an office. Went back to Berrigan, next thing I now is they are sending a taxi from Wagga Wagga to Berrigan to pick me up, the army did need me!

Well Kapooka hear I am this is the start off my army story.

1965 Kapooka, lined up with a bunch of blokes, there were cooks, bank tellers, rodeo riders, farmers, car mechanics, roustabouts, shearers, furniture salesman, post office workers, school teachers, Uni students and truck drivers. They gave me a number 2782048 the one thing that has stayed in my head since 1965.

Cut me bloody hair! Now me and that bloody barber had words because he cut it too bloody short and I didn't have me curl. Next they gave me a uniform, some boots, oh and polish and a bed in that Nissan hut with air-con in silver city. Them there brick buildings weren't finished, just as well I was used to sleeping in shearing quarters with blokes that snored (not in the same bed.) Learning to march, learning to polish boots, learning to make a bed, hell that bloody bed I never seemed to get to use it as some people did. Not like me to have my beauty sleep. Polishing boots to me was a waste of time because they only got dirty! Then they found me a gun, "that's not a gun it's a rifle it's a rifle private" oh hell it is a rifle ok. Now me and the boss had a meeting about me being a bad shot because the blokes holding the target seemed to get a lot of dirt sprayed over them as I missed the target and hit the post or the bloke next to me had 7 or 12 holes in their target when they should have 5 or 10 holes. Now that is when I got another five or ten rounds so to site in the gun (ok rifle). Considering that roo or rabbits had to be head shot or pig shooting now that is if you miss you could be pig tucker cause pigs like meat. Maybe me being a bad shot did me a favour, I didn't go to Infantry. That rope climbing was really fun as I was only about 8 stone or 50-55 odd kgs so it was not body weight to lift, use your feet Bradley I'm climbing not walking. That bloody boiler for hot showers stoking that cheesed me off no end when cold shower in the morning in June was not amusing and that shaving every day was fun because I only used to shave if I was going chasing sheilas. Learning to salute them officers - many a time "private don't you know how to salute an officer?". Then they gave me a paper asking where I wanted to go, gee that was a good idea as I had sort off worked out that what you wanted you got the opposite yeh smart arse me put Arty first, Tanks second, Transport third, I wanted transport of course, failed again, School of Arty here I come.

On the train to Sydney well a young bloke like me might get thirsty on long train trip so the pub near the station made a quid and I wasn't thirsty all the way to Sydney. Now at the school Gee I got a new name "Gunner Bradley". Now how does a first intake nasho wind up at the School with a bunch of Regs, my opinion is that they wanted classy, intelligent, good looking gentlemen like me (uh oh that was another army failure). Did the gun course and part of a Sig course. Gee I found out that if it didn't move you polished it, brass

every where, and those bloody boots polishing them, if that boss only bought his own mirror to shave. Oh yeh me and Manly Hotel had many good times, it caused me and the boss man many meetings. One day me and the Boss man had a meeting and it was about I had to sign some paper work so I could be discharged as my father had got a bloody politician to claim I was needed at home in his contracting business, that didn't happen as I wanted to stay in the army. That parade ground and me seemed to have a lot of meetings boss man new who I was cause it was often said "Gunner Bradley what have you done this time?".

Now boss man asked me where I wanted to go I said to him the pub his reply was there's a pub up near Wacol so me and Ian Toy and a couple of the boys headed for 108 Bty. Poor boss man I was leaving, I wonder if he shed a tear because I was leaving or was there a party (the latter I assume).

108 Bty here I am.

There was this Bombardier doing SLR gun drill showing us how to disassemble SLR gun (I meant rifle get off me case) any way I said "do that with me eyes closed" that Bombardier took me up on the challenge I did it without a problem, now 57 years later I that realised that the Bombardier thought I was Reg (How could a Reg be so smart?). Just got settled when boss man on parade one day said "those gunners that want to go to 101 Bty step forward" and I did, might as well go places even if it was just across the road. Went to 101 Bty, Bob Booth's gun crew. Uh oh me and the boss had a meeting he wanted to know why I took a couple of days off without him knowing (cause me misses was lonely) Oh well dixie bashing for seven days Sergeant's Mess oh nothing new got used to that. Now that parade ground got used a bit, WHO caused that? WHO would leave a parcel on the orderly room steps? Gee it was a long time standing on parade ground. Did them bosses find out WHO had done it?

Middle of a fire mission "Fire fire fire" yelled some gunners "No no no" yelled a certain boss, "fire fire" yelled some gunners "no no" yelled a certain boss, until he sees the grass on fire. Canungra a certain boss found out that I knew a little about radio procedure so got to carry the radio, when we stopped for a smoke, time to get going I forgot to pick up the spare battery another x against me. Talking about Canungra there's rumours of a gun crew that went on a walk (oh not marching) toward a little hill, that there compass must have broke because this gunner call for a holt and says to boss man "weren't we here before?" uh oh.

Nam

Boss man though it would be a good idea to put the command post underground so we dug a swimming pool then he got sandbags and corrugated tin to cover it. My

mate Cranky had sign posts painted so as when you had to many cans to drink you could find your way to your tent like howitzer ave, koala pad, kitchen, command post, ammunition point, Malacca Rd. Yeh that ammo tent spent a lot of time there with Cranky stacking ammo, at least when you had to get rounds they were in order not like when we got there it was all tagged and in order.

What have I done since 1967 (Not in order)

Driven trucks all over Australia road trains two and three trailers carrying general freight sheep and cattle. Drove the first twin steer tri axle DAF truck carting explosives around Australia, yeh 10 tonnes gelignite plus 10000 detonators of ICI products. Operating cranes Operating dozers scrappers road grader worked on Seymour by pass. Harvesting contractor, bailing hay, carting grain. Got my pilot's licence bought an airplane, don't tell anybody but me and airplane had a meeting with power wires. Power wires took off the nose wheel but I landed without the nose whee. I phoned my mother told her what had happened, "you ok son" mother replied, "yep". Phoned eldest daughter she replied "get rid of the plane", phoned youngest daughter she replied "burn that bloody plane", phoned middle daughter "dad see I told you that you have pissed a lot of people off and now you have even pissed god off". My excuse is battery went flat and I needed to charge it! Health wise I have been doing ok, mid 90s had pain in the gut so doc gave me a zipper on the gut - bowl cancer. 2014 got a bone cancer waldenstroms cancer.

At the minute I am employing a few thousand Bees for honey. Well guys do I regret, would I change what I have done with my life? No way 1965 to 1967 is one job that I had and what I learnt has stayed with me. Well guys that's my story, I may have done two years as a nasho and met a lot you 57 years ago good luck. NOW GET Off ME CASE I WAS ONLY A NASHO. Neil Bradley Mooroopna Victoria

PROFILE

ALAN CRABB

1969/1970 TOUR

Born 01/01/1947 at Waikerie Memorial Hospital, South Australia to parents, Richard & Pat.

Waikerie pop. 1500 when I was going to School. where I gave all my teachers headaches. My father was a "blockie" Citrus and Grapes. When we kids were "old

enough??" We all helped Dad get off the crops when due. Elder brother Richard, Myself, sister Juliet, we all arrived between 1945 & 1948!!!!

We all played sports, we played the usual plus I was into horse riding-equestrian for 8 years, then the Army stuffed that up. Then I got married in 1971, that stuffed it up then kids, I gave up.

Anyway, when I left School I worked for The Bank of Adelaide, which was taken over by The ANZ Banking Group Ltd. I worked for 40yrs and lived all country S.A.

Wife Bev (poor soul), she has lasted for 50 plus years and still going strong. 3 kids, Sarah, Benjamin & Emily - all married and got jobs plus we have 4 grand kids - 14 down to 8 years. So everyone has gotten older!!

Army stuff - Conscripted 1/10/67-69, 10th intake. Puckapunyal / School of Artillery North Head Sydney (Arty. Sig), then Enoggera, Vietnam 20/1/69 for a lovely holiday-not!! Trained as a command post sig whilst in Qld only to be told by 104 Fld Bty WO that I was to be sent to 4RAR/NZ- C Company. Then the proverbial happened, didn't it!!!, then "B" Cav until good ole 101 came into country. So I was in my element wasn't I. 1st shift - 1600 to 2100.thanks to all those fwd observers!!! Anyway yall got rid of me in one piece on exactly 20/09/69!

SO - fully retired been OI/S and beat around the bush, all around Aussie over a period of a number of years plus horse riding in the High Country of Western Victoria, so been there and done that. Had a new house built and in a gated community with a creek and lawns & gum trees etc, PLUS a Tennis Court. So we play "social" when we feel like it

Sorry folks but due to me being a "dinosaur" on this contraption - No photos!!!

So life is great.

Cheers everybody

Crabby.

Oh! I've caught up with a few of you Old Boys, at interstate Reunions.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Association welcomes aboard a new member/Life Subscriber Mick Moore who was with the 101 Battery in 1976 and also served with a Locating Battery.

Also welcome back as a financial member of the Association after many years in the "Wilderness" Alan Miller.

It is good to see past members of the Battery joining the Association.

Passing Parade

Vale **235116 Nicholas "Nick" Hugh Marshall MID** he was 84 years of age. His daughter Brigitte sent an email advising "It is with great sadness that I let you know that Dad died yesterday, Tuesday 23rd. August.

He deteriorated quickly in the last week though left us painlessly and peacefully.

We are having a private service for him this week here in Sydney.

Thank you for sending your newsletters, he did so love reading them, or having me read them to him"

Nick was the Battery Commander 101 Field Battery South Vietnam 1966/67 and was the CO of 4 Field Regiment. Nick was also a Life Subscriber to our Association.

R.I.P. Nick

UBIQUE

Vale **17741 Mervyn "Merv" Lennon** sadly passed away last month. Merv lived at Coombadah, Qld and was a member of our Association.

R.I.P. Merv

UBIQUE

Sick Parade

Craig Campbell 1966/67 tour has had a stay in hospital but is out now and hopefully on the road to recovery. All the best Craig.

David Ryan 1969/70 tour isn't doing too good. Hope things go well for you in the future. All the best David

Distribution of Members by Location

At the last AGM Dave Richard-Preston asked was it possible to do a breakup of members by location with the view for maybe future reunions. Of course nothing is too difficult for the Secretary! So here is the breakup as accurate as possible:

North Qld (north of Hervey Bay) – 7 Western Qld (West of Toowoomba) – 1

South East Qld – 60

New South Wales (north of Coffs Harbour) -5 (West of Blue Mtns) – 4

-8-

South East NSW -34

Western Victoria – 9 (Eastern Victoria including Melbourne) – 15

South Australia – (Close to Adelaide) – 6 South Australia (Country) - 1

Western Australia - (Perth Surrounds) - 10 North of Perth - 3

Tasmania - 4

101 Battery Association Memorabilia

The Association can now procure 101 Bty Shirts and we can order 1 at a time so if you want one contact the Secretary by phone or email and they take about 2 weeks. One restriction is can only order up to size 2XL. Cost \$40 plus postage.

101 Bty Association adjustable caps are available for \$30 including postage.

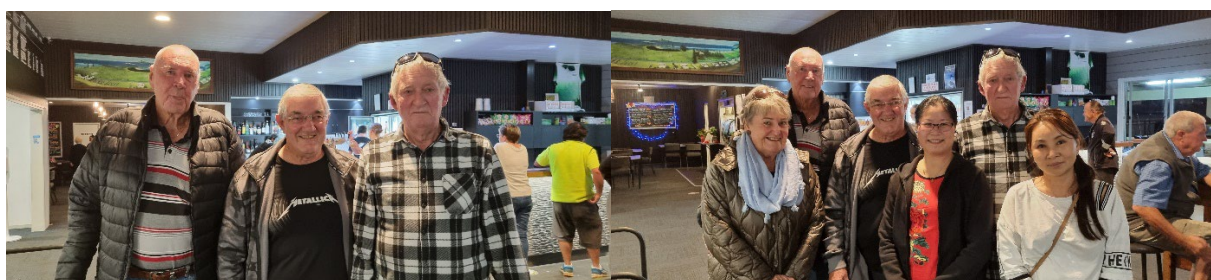
101 Bty Plaques are also available for \$70 including postage. The plaques are a little different and better than your normal plaque in that they can either be hung on the wall or stood up on a desk or sideboard.

55 Year Catch Up

John Pollock and Brian Collins and their wives holidayed on Norfolk Island recently. Ross Teshendorff informed us that Neil McWaters, 66/67 Tour lived on Norfolk, so Brian emailed Neil and we made arrangements to catch up for a couple of chats and a couple of drinks. (See photos below).

Neil said anyone intending to travel to Norfolk is quite welcome to email or phone him to renew old acquaintances. Neil has lived on the Island with wife Marie for 8 years since moving from Sarina in Qld.

Neil's phone number if phoning from Australia is +672352614 and if phoning within Norfolk Island with a local sim card is 52614. Neil's email is marieandneil@gmail.com



(L to R) Neil, Brian, John

(L to R) Marie Mc, Neil, Brian,
Jane C, John, Hongye P

South-East Queensland Gunner Lunches

The Association has many members living in the Southeast region of Queensland. Many will not be aware but there are a number of Gunners living in the region who hold an informal lunch on the first Wednesday of each month from 10.30am to around 2.00pm. The lunches are held at Caboolture Sports Club at Morayfield which is central for people living in and around Brisbane and people living on the Sunshine Coast. We have around 8 to 15 turn up each month so would like to see a few more.

We have a good mix of Vietnam Vets and younger Vets from more recent conflicts, they are from all branches of Artillery, Field, Loc and AD.

All Gunners are most welcome to attend, if you are interested and would like to come, please contact me on 0459468228 or our Secretary Brian on 0407162620 .

John Pollock

Tribute to 41 Soldiers Who Lost Their Lives in Afghanistan

If you click on the following link you will see a wonderful tribute to the 41 soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan. https://youtu.be/GgruIJ_Q5BQ

How to understand a Military Veteran

To understand a Military Veteran you must know:

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We smoked and drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time honoured ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

We have dealt with victory and tragedy.

We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will ever understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches. We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away. It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service.

But when we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.

So, if you know a veteran, remind them to stand tall and proud, for they have earned the right to be called a Veteran

Military Spectacular Honouring Younger Veterans

Convenor: Neil Dearberg Email: neil@militaryspectacular.events P.O. Box 303 Cooroy Qld, 4563, Australia MILITARY SPECTACULAR HONOURS OUR YOUNGER VETERANS THIS IS YOUR INVITATION The inaugural Australian Military History Spectacular will shine the spotlight on one of the most demanding periods in our nation's defence history. In a vibrant three-day extravaganza on Queensland's Sunshine Coast the Caloundra RSL's Function Centre and Memorial Gardens will showcase this firsttime event from 14th to 16th October. Not seen like this before, untold stories of our military activities since the Vietnam War will honour and commemorate our veterans, past and still serving. You will not have heard these stories before. And there is much more. Eighteen astounding speakers; military police attack dogs; engineer explosive detection dogs; military band of 1st Regiment Royal Australian Artillery entertaining with pop, rock and military music; big guns, small guns and specialist vehicles; the Shadow 200 mega-drone; 155mm artillery gun; defence contractor exhibits; books authored by those who did the job; dinners with keynote speakers; photos and videos of the actions. A concentrated program of activities and events will bring our recent living history to light to commemorate our service men and women's courage, professionalism, resilience, innovation and pride. From the Function Centre indoors to the Memorial Gardens, personal story presentations of those who served, demonstrations of military equipment and performances will showcase how the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has lived the past and is preparing for the future. It will trace the key changes that have shaped our society and show how Australia's national security has evolved in the period between distinctly different wars. These are real stories, not media selectivity. More expansive than a Military Tattoo. From peacekeeping in the Africas, Europe, the Middle East and Pacific, to conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, nursing officers, doctors,

infantry and special forces, naval and submarine officers, dog handlers and airmen will step forward painting a colourful picture and adding vital knowledge about our military heritage. The real-world experiences of veterans who have shaped our recent history will be captured through professional audio-visual recordings ensuring their service and stories are preserved for future generations with dignity. The fascinating line-up includes the first female Executive Officer of a submarine; the female General who commanded a mixed force of 600 UN police and military in Cyprus; the Captain of HMAS Darwin in the Persian Gulf; the infantry force commander and female doctor awarded the Medal of Gallantry in Rwanda; the Bush Tucker Man; a Commando officer; the RAAF officer supervising the extraction from Afghanistan who was 'last man out'; the war dog and handler who found the largest intelligence cache of the Afghan war; and many more. Their stories have rarely – if ever – been told in public but are crucial to our military heritage. The Military Spectacular is expected to attract hundreds of visitors to Queensland's Sunshine Coast region, giving locals and visitors alike a real understanding of Australia's modern wartime heritage through the eyes of those who lived and created our history. This is an ambitious event being organised 14 - 16 OCTOBER 2022 MHS QLD by the Military Historical Society of Australia's Qld Division, a not-for-profit association. All proceeds will be donated to a variety of Veteran welfare and assistance groups. PLEASE now go to www.militaryspectacular.events where you can 'register your interest' without obligation, to receive updates and early bird specials.

Note

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

Anniversary Greeting 2022



Order of the Day Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Anniversary Greetings 2022

This year marks the 151st Anniversary of the formation of a permanent component of the Australian Artillery when the New South Wales Artillery was formed. A part of this Regiment was later designated A Battery and continues in service on the RAA Order of Battle to this day. This is also the date that, by convention, we celebrate not only the beginning of the Australian Gunner journey, but also its continued service as the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery to the Army, our Nation and the Commonwealth.

As is customary on the 1st of August each year, our Representative Colonel Commandant has written to Her Majesty The Queen, our Captain General, on behalf of the Colonels Commandant, the Head of Regiment, and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment to convey to Her Majesty our respect and loyalty on the marking of another milestone in our history. Congratulations were also extended to Her Majesty on the occasion of her recent Platinum Jubilee, and our appreciation was expressed for the enduring leadership and dedication shown by Her Majesty to the service of the people of the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier S Roach AM (Retired), and our Colonels Commandant, I sincerely thank all ranks of the Royal Regiment, both serving and retired, for their outstanding service. Let us also remember at this time the members of the Regiment who have passed away during the last year and please join me in appreciating and honouring their service. They will be sadly missed.

Finally, our thoughts are with those members of the Regiment who still remain deployed on operations around the world. We wish them all good shooting and a safe return to their families.

Ubique,

DJ Hill, AM
Brigadier
Head of Regiment

1 August 2022

