



The North-Western Ranger

8th/7th BATTALION – 2RVR ASSOCIATION Inc.
VICTORIA'S OWN COUNTRY BATTALION
(Including the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum Newsletter)



If undeliverable, please return to:
8/7 Bn – 2 RVR Association
c/- 3/519 Peel St North
Ballarat, Vic, 3350
Post print approved pp: 100019194

Vol. 29 No. 2, June 2025

This newsletter was printed by the office of:

JULIANA ADDISON
MEMBER FOR WENDOUREE

The North-Western Ranger



8th/7th BATTALION – 2RVR ASSOCIATION Inc.
VICTORIA'S OWN COUNTRY BATTALION
(Including the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum Newsletter)



Patron: The Commanding Officer, 8/7 RVR, Lt Col Paul O'Donnell

Vol. 29, No. 1, June 2025

Contents:

- P3 A New Website & Upcoming Events
- P4 ANZAC Day Reports – Abroad and Interstate
- P5 ANZAC Day Reports – Cavendish and Kyneton
- P6 ANZAC Day Report – Shepparton
- P7 ANZAC Day – Ballarat
- P11 ANZAC Day Report – Warrnambool
- P12 Visit to Ranger Barracks & Photo Collection
- P13 Feature – The film: Bravery and Betrayal
- P14 Feature – Vietnam Veterans Day – Song: I Was Only 19
- P16 Whatever Happened To: Adrian van Hamond
- P17 Vale: Fred Pattison
- P18 Vale: Peter Polwarth & Catch Up Vale – Peter White.
- P19 Men's Health & Membership
- P20 New Photo & Merchandise
- P21 Museum Matters

Committee:

President	Dick Wilkie	richardwilkie@outlook.com
Vice President	Chris Liston	
Secretary	Jason County	
and Property Officer		
Treasurer/Welfare/Membership	Barbara Birthisel	
and Warrnambool		
Editor	Neil Leckie	87th2rvrassoc@gmail.com
Committee Members 2024/25	Greg Code	
	Bruce McKinnon	
	Ian Nunn	
	Les Taylor	
	Barry & Heather Harris	
	Rob Chatfield	

8/7 Battalion – 2 RVR Association

This newsletter was printed by the office of:

Annual Activities:

- ANZAC Day** – Ballarat, Warrnambool & Shepparton
- Annual Dinner** – Warrnambool, October
- Annual Dinner** – Ballarat, October/November
- AGM – Ballarat**, October/November

JULIANA ADDISON
MEMBER FOR WENDOUREE

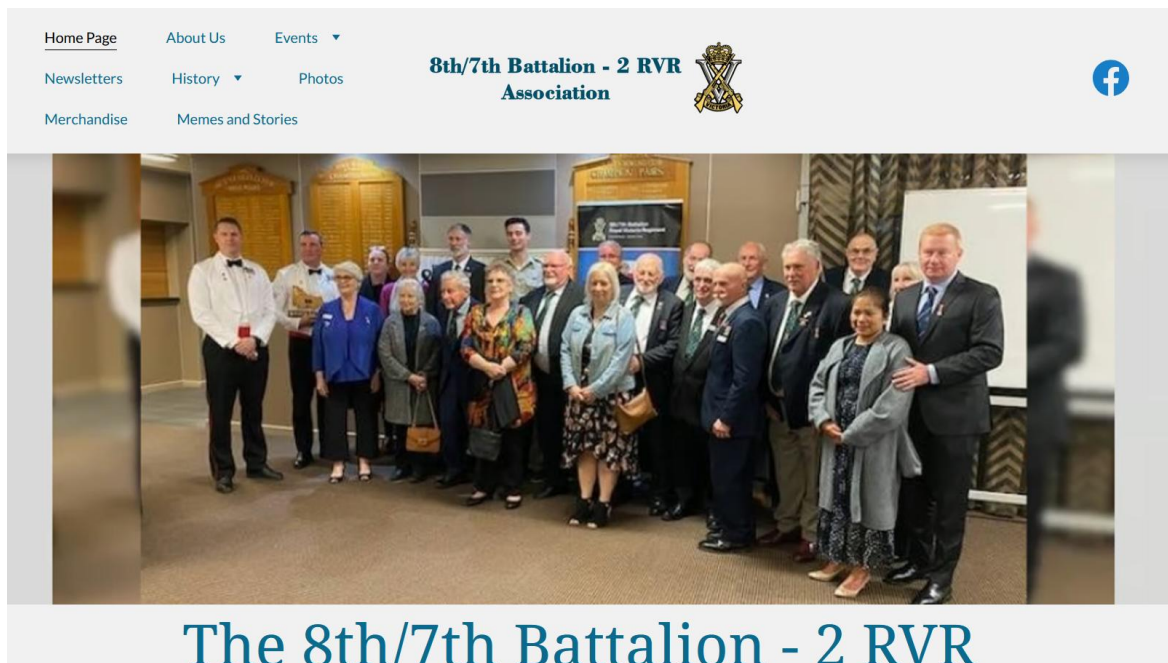
Monthly Activities:

Committee Meeting – normally the First Tuesday of the Month, Alfredton Sports Centre, Cuthberts Road, or Ranger Barracks, Ballarat.

The Association's Newsletter Editor's email address is 87th2rvrassoc@gmail.com
For urgent newsletter matters please use nkaleckie@outlook.com

NEW WEBSITE

Rob Chatfield has now set up a new association website. Use @87bn2rvr.asn.au (then go to the 'Home' or other pages!) So far, it is just the basic website and needs input in the way of photos and further information. Every battalion member had a part to play in the history of the battalion, so send in your photos and stories to photos@87bn2rvr.asn.au For enquiries on the website contact Rob at shop@87bn2rvr.asn.au



Merchandise shows photos and pricing, but is not yet operational. Contact Jason County for any orders.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reserve Forces Day, 6 July 2025

The RFD March and Service will be held at The Shrine of Remembrance commencing at 1000 hours on Sunday 6 July. The Ex 22 RVR Association participates and holds a lunch meeting afterwards.

2025 Mid-Winter Gathering!

Following this and last year's ANZAC Day Services at the games between Ballarat and Wendouree Football Clubs, the association has been asked by the Ballarat Football Netball Club to join the club's members for an afternoon tea during the Ballarat-Wendouree return match at Alfredton Recreation Reserve, 89 Cuthberts Road, Alfredton, on 19 July 2025. The Ballarat Football Club will be hosting us. Members, friends and family as well as currently serving and former troops are most welcome.

Entry is free, simply advise the gate person that you are a member of the 8/7Bn – 2 RVR Association and head to the clubrooms on the right side of the oval. However, if you wish to support the club you can pay for entry. For catering purposes, numbers are essential. Please advise Barry Harris (phone number on Page 2) by 14 July of your attendance. Afternoon tea is provided free and drinks will be available at bar prices. Please arrive early and make your way to the clubrooms by 1pm. Dress is 'football casual' but it is suggested that you wear some form of association dress to identify yourself as an association member. For more information contact Jason County at j_county@hotmail.com There will be just good people and good times there, and for those that want to watch, a great afternoon of footy. The committee looks forward to seeing many Ballarat and District Association Members there!

Annual Dinners: Warrnambool: 11 October 2025, and Ballarat: 18 October 2025.

Annual General Meeting:
Ballarat, 19 October 2025

Ex-22 RVR-A AGM Weekend: 24 – 26 October 2025, location TBA, probably Horsham!

ANZAC DAY REPORTS

ABROAD: Alan Donovan, former Platoon Commander, Bacchus Marsh.

What I was able to achieve was very limited. Carolyn and I are travelling around UK and Ireland, totalling six weeks, having now finished our time in England and Wales, and about to start the Ireland/Northern Ireland and Scotland components.

While being unable to get back to London for ANZAC Day Commemorations there, we found out while visiting the Staffordshire Regiment Museum on 24 April, that there was to be a service at the nearby Cannock Chase Commonwealth Military Cemetery on Sunday 27 April. Again, unable to attend that as we would already be in Ireland, we attended the cemetery on ANZAC Day by ourselves and had some reflection there. As usual, a beautifully maintained military cemetery.



Many Kiwis are buried there, as New Zealanders were stationed in Staffordshire during WWI. There was also a POW camp in the area, so many Germans are buried there also, with Commonwealth War Graves tending to them on behalf of the German government. There are a handful of WWII graves, mostly aircrew from both sides, but most graves are from WWI, and a high proportion of those died from illness, including Spanish Flu.



Left: 1988: CO Lt Col Douglas Ball, with B Company officers, Platoon Commanders 2Lts Alan Donovan and David Clark and OC Captain Eddie Boucher. Alan and David received the Prince of Wales Award, which gave them the opportunity to travel overseas, and while there they visited the Battalion's allied unit, The Staffordshire Regiment.

INTERSTATE: BRISBANE (Bill Randall)

Bill spent ANZAC Day in Brisbane with his son Sam, who is a member of 8/9 RAR.

CAVENDISH (Pat Dixon)

Pat Dixon was born on 7 June 1949. He was living with his parents at Glenormiston when joined Support Company, 2 RVR as 3177742 on 6



March 1967. He reached the rank of Corporal. He married Brenda, known as 'Kay', and moved to Cobden. By the time he discharged in 1978 Pat had reached the rank of Sergeant.

Right: Kay and Pat Dixon.



Pat is now the Secretary/Treasurer of the Cavendish RSL Sub-Branch. The Sub-Branch is only a small group whose main purpose is to maintain the ANZAC Service and community involvement in their town. On ANZAC Day they have a small march and a service at the Cenotaph followed by a service and morning tea in the Soldiers Memorial Hall.

Above, from left: RSL President, Alan Cordy (Retired RAN –Vietnam), Vice Pres, Xavier Wells (Retired Army - Afghanistan and Iraq), Secretary/Treasurer Pat Dixon (Retired – 2 RVR) and Daniel Lewis (Retired Army – Iraq).

KYNETON (Bob Anderson)

Bob Anderson served in 2 RVR as 3100788 from April 1983 until January 1985, after which he joined Victoria Police. His short time of Army service meant that he unfortunately could not be awarded the Australian Defence Medal (ADM). However, he was awarded medals for his police service, which compensated for not receiving the ADM.

Despite being deep into 'Light Horse' territory, Bob, a former Infantryman, this year celebrated his 30th year as the ANZAC Day Parade Commander at Kyneton. Prior to his retirement as a Sergeant in 2019 he commanded the parade in Police Uniform, and he understands that he was the only serving Police member in Victoria to do so. Bob remembers one notable occasion in 2014 or 2015 when there had been a "viable terrorist threat" to ANZAC Day Commemorations, and he was required to wear a firearm throughout the proceedings. Until 2023, 4th/19th PWLH provided the Cenotaph Party.

Below left: Bob Anderson with Retired Major Craig Bryne, the MC at Kyneton RSL on ANZAC Day. Below right: Bob leading the ANZAC Day Parade at Kyneton.



SHEPPARTON

The Shepparton 8/7 RVR & Bolds' marched on ANZAC Day 2025 in Shepparton. Dee Downie, former Corporal with A Company, 8/7 RVR, reported that the march in Shepparton went well and attended by Lee Coote, Robert Dowell, Trevor Faull, Ben Geerling, Leigh Johnson, Mitch Kennedy, Kris Madden, Denis Scott, Mark Stephens and herself. The march always gives the marchers a sense of pride, family and mateship. There appeared to be a larger attendance this year. The Air Force Cadets were in good numbers and took Dee's mind back to her days at Recruit Training!



'Olds
a
was

Below: 8/7 RVR 'Olds & Bolds' Kris Madden, Trevor Faull, Leigh Johnson, Dee Downie, Leigh Coote, Mark Stevens and Robert Dowell, at the Gordon Ayre MM, sculpture. The Bela Angyal sculpture, Mateship, unveiled in 2000, was inspired by the famous war photographer Damian Parer and his image of a temporarily wounded and blinded Private Wally Johnson being helped by 58/59 Australian Infantry Battalion's Sergeant Gordon Ayre, of Shepparton, across the Francisco River in Papua New Guinea. A Stretcher Bearer, Gordon Ayre was awarded the Military Medal for 'Outstanding Courage at Old Vickers Position & North Coconut' in July 1943. The Soldier's Club at Shepparton is named after him.





Left: Rear: Kris Madden and Ben Geerling. Foreground Robert Dowell and Leigh Coote.

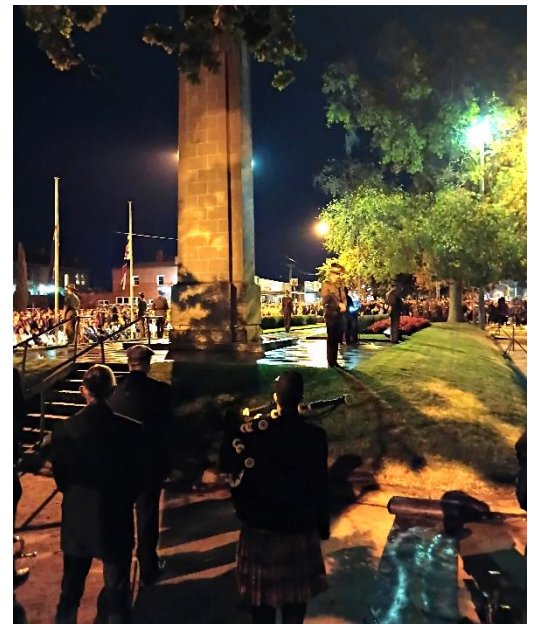
Centre: Lee Coote, Robert Dowell & Trevor Faull.

Right: Leigh Johnson in an association shirt.

BALLARAT

As usual, ANZAC Day in Ballarat and District was very busy and one must thank the City of Ballarat for its whole-hearted support. On a day where the rain held off until after all ANZAC commitments were finished, the day started with Dawn Services at the Cenotaph in Sturt Street, Ballarat (right: The Dawn Service). Ballarat's service saw both sides of Sturt Street, and the crossing with Lyons Street, absolutely full of respectful people. At 7am the Cardigan and Windermere CFA Fire Brigades held a ceremony at the Fireman's Memorial on Remembrance Drive.

The Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour/Grieving Mother service was held at The Arch at 8am (see separate article), as was the Bungaree Cemetery Service. This was followed 30 minutes later by the Sebastopol Service at the Sebastopol Cenotaph. A further 30 minutes later a service was held at the Ex-Prisoner of War Memorial in the Ballarat Gardens.



After the Dawn Service, Creswick held further services at the Cemetery at 9.30am, the RSL Hall at 10am with their main march and service from 10.30am (and 'Two-Up' later in the day). Miners Rest held their service at 10am at their Cenotaph and Buninyong at 10.15am at the Buninyong Memorial Park.

The main Ballarat March and Service 'Stepped Off' at 10.30am, with a good crowd in attendance and a good number of marchers. To limit the numbers, schools were limited to representative marchers. The association had a good number of its members, with some 'blow-ins' also marching. An excellent crowd was present. The Guest Speaker was well-known Ballarat born Bruce Roberts, these days a WIN-TV newsreaders based in Wollongong. Bruce spoke of his father, retired Doctor Tom Roberts, who at 91 still attends all the Ballarat Services. Bruce read his very moving tribute to his mother's uncle: A Ballad for Frankie McNab (see separate article).

For association members there was a lunch at the Alfredton Sports and Recreation Centre, where the association committee meets most months for its monthly meeting (shared with Ranger Barracks).



Last year the association participated in the pre-match ANZAC Day Ceremony at Alfredton before the Ballarat and Wendouree senior football match. This year it was Wendouree's turn to host the match and the ceremony. Ballarat Mazda provided an 8-seater (Hyundai) minibus to transport the association members to the Wendouree ground. They were made welcome by the Wendouree club and participated in the pre-match ceremony. Some of the association members returned to Alfredton, where they picked up their own vehicles and headed to Ranger Barracks for some more food and drinks, while others went to the Ballarat RSL for a game of 'Two-Up'.

All-in-all, a big day for those who participated. However, those who did participate will, no doubt, go around again next year.



The Arch of Victory/Avenue of Honour Service.

Jeremy Johnson AM, welcomed the several hundred people to the service and introduced the Committee President Garry Snowden who gave the ANZAC Day 'Reflection'. Garry's topic this year was the 20 pairs of brothers who have streets named after them in the newish suburb of Lucas, named after the prominent Ballarat business E. Lucas and Co. (1888 - 1968). The brothers are:

Ivan and Harry Bastow	John and Samule Brew	Stanley and Percy Coltman
Norman and George Craven	James and Willian Daly	Harold and Eric Ewart
Charles and James Gitsham	Joseph and Percy Grose	Charles and Frederick Harris
Edward and Harry Holgate	James and John Lumsden	Austin and Clement McCallum
Ernest and Maurice McLeod	Ina and Clement Moore	Richard and Syd O'Shannassy
Frederick and Sydney Rawlings	Cornelius and Ernest Rowley	Samuel and William Sells
Ivan and Bertram Shortbridge	Harold and Arthur Yates	

Garry mentioned a few things about most of the brothers, but in the local newspaper there were photographs of the Moore boys, twins Ina and Clement. 'They entered and left the world together!'



Ina Tempest 'John' Moore, of 83 Peel Street South, Ballarat, was a married 36-year-old Engine Driver when he signed his enlistment papers on 9 July 1915 in Ballarat. He was allocated to the 13th Reinforcements, 14th Battalion, 4th Brigade and commenced his service on 19 July. Clement Lockhart Moore, of 409 Windermere Street, Ballarat, was a married 36-year-old carpenter when he signed his enlistment papers on 12 July 1915 in Ballarat. He was also allocated to the 13th Reinforcements, 14th Battalion, 4th Brigade and commenced his service with Ina on 19 July. When allocated to the 14th Battalion reinforcements, Ina was

allocated Number 4256 and Clement 4257. The twins served in Ballarat, Williamstown and Broadmeadows before embarking on the HMAT A64 Demosthenes at Port Melbourne on 29 December 1915 and joining the 14th Battalion at Serapeum, Egypt on 2 April. Now members of A Company, on 1 June 1916 they embarked at Alexandria, Egypt, for France, landing at Marseilles one week later.

The twins were on a work party in the trenches near Bois Grenier, France, when hit by an artillery shell. Ina was reported as Killed in Action on 3 July 1916, but Clement was reported as Missing on 3 July, but when his body was found, this was later amended to Killed in Action on 2 July. Ina left behind his wife Alice and three sons James, Arthur and Ina, while Clement left behind his wife Caroline, son Gordon and daughter Ethelwyn.

Further details about the Moore brothers are available in the book 'Just Soldiers', pages 165 – 170, written by WO1 Darryl Kelly in 2004. But some of this information does not match their service records!

A Special Song: At the service attendees heard that singer Frank Bernardi was a regular traveller from Adelaide to Melbourne for football games and often drove along Remembrance Drive and through the Arch of Victory into Ballarat. This inspired him to write the song named *Honour Avenue* about Gallipoli. Frank first performed the song on 19 April 2023. <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8k7sng>



We arrived by rail and marched out from the station, paraded through the city's steamy asphalt streets, cheered as heroes. At the docks, all gleaming in new khaki, leather and brass, my proud mother farewelled me through her tears and choked, "Son, *I do not know you.*"

On the deck of the Queen Mary, sun-tanned and wind rippling my hair... "A grand way to go to war" they said, as we steamed-out through the Heads... "Boys, *you will not know yourselves.*"

Sweating with tropical heat and building barricades in the Singaporean sun, as the Poms loafed about. A mate joked he'd never seen me work so hard, and laughed aloud "Frankie, *I do not know you!*"

As the bullets flew and the shells fell and Japs appeared from every side, I caught my fearful reflection in a window pane near the Causeway and thought "Boy, *I do not know you.*"

What followed was hell... from Changi's frozen floors to that God forsaken railway. Men slipped-away daily from our grasp and at every turn. Disease, violence and hunger were many a mates' cruel ends. On the jungle floor one early morning, I stumbled across another broken comrade.

Underneath our hidden red ensign, we buried him where he lay. My nerves affray, my compassion wilted, all I could say, was "Sorry, *I did not know you.*"

On the Japs' surrender... we bivouacked in their quarters. In a grimy half broken mirror, a hollowed-eyed man stared back at me. His chowat loin cloth tightened till there was no more material to knot... *I did not know him.*

The grand Grey Ghost did not sail us home. From there, it was all corridors, wards and whispered conversations. Camphor, iodine and powdered eggs become my scents at the Repat. Doctors, nurses and government chaps half-smiled and talked with hooded eyes, keen to look away, as if they *did not want to know us.*

At the showgrounds we mustered in fresh but rough khaki, as families arrived, as shy as first night brides. A man came to my side and said, "Mate, I see by your shoulder patch you must have served with my son. He's a big bullocking lad called Franky McNab, about your height and hails from the Goulburn." I said, "Dad, it's me."

My father stumbled back a pace... and took in my frame, some six stone lighter than my last harvest, my wrinkled face no longer a teen's, my eyes no longer twinkling, keen to steal a sip of his Sunday beer... and he wept. He embraced me in his farmers' arms and shook. "Sorry son, *I did not know you!*"

WARRNAMBOOL

ANZAC Day recognises the more than two million Australian service personnel who have served our country in wars, conflicts and peace-keeping operations. 2025 marked the 110th Anniversary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli as a part of the Allied invasion of Turkey in 1915.

On ANZAC Day 2025, Warrnambool held a Dawn Service at 5.30am and later held its march at 10.30am and a service following. While about 15 association members marched, there were a number, who were unable to march, watching with the onlookers. It was noted that there were five members of 8/7 RVR present, in uniform, and that one man, Nathan Henman, wore a genuine WW2 jacket during the march.

Desmond King marched for the last time with his father's medals this year. The medal set, which included a Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), will be donated to The Shrine of Remembrance. In The Great War, Patrick King enlisted, aged 27, as a Reinforcement for the 6th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, and was in Egypt when the evacuation happened on Gallipoli. After the battle at Glencorse Wood in France on 20 September 1917, Patrick King was recommended to receive the Victoria Cross, however, this was not approved and he was awarded the DCM.

After the wreath laying, the Last Post and The Reveille were played by Ben Bolton, a 15-year-old Leading Cadet from the Australian Air Force Cadets.

The association members then went to the RSL for lunch. Over 20 attended the lunch.

Meanwhile, in nearby Panmure, association member Ian Wallace presented a portrait, which had been found in a 'Skip' in 2018, to Lorna, the daughter of the man in the portrait, Private Ronald Richard Bence. Ronald was a Farm Labourer from Nullawarre, ten kilometres from Panmure, when he enlisted in the Army on 16 September 1940. He was a member of the 2/29th Battalion fighting the Japanese in Java when he was captured. Altogether, nine men from Panmure became PoWs. Panmure dedicated a plaque to the local soldiers this year.



VISIT TO RANGER BARRACKS

To assist in bringing together the association and the Battalion's members, the association has been invited to attend the depot and meet with the Ballarat soldiers after parade on a Tuesday evening. The first such visit happened on Tuesday 3 June 2025 when President Dick Wilkie, Secretary Jason County, Editor Neil Leckie and Committee Member Greg Code attended. They were photographed some of the Ballarat soldiers that night outside the Percy Lay MC MM CdeG Club.



PHOTO COLLECTION: FROM THE PREVIOUS EDITION

More names added! Can you name the un-named **ARA Chief Clerk**?

2 RVR Sgts Mess 1970s (Tassie Long's first period as RSM 1970-73)

Rear: 1. Gil Richards 2. Brian McInnes 3. Jeff Whitten 4. **ARA Chief Clerk**
5. Bob Lingham 6. Stuart McLeod ARA 7. Kevin Fiscali 8. Gary Thornton
9. John Whatley 10. Dick Wilkie 11. John McDonald

Front: 1. Barry Wilson ARA 2. Jack Elliott 3. Alan Douglass 4. Tassie Long (RSM)
5. Noel Sutherland 6. Jack Littlewood (ARA - QM) 7. Tom Sainty



PHOTO COLLECTION: RECENTLY RE-DISCOVERED



The photo at left was in a folder marked 'Photographs' in the Ranger Museum at the barracks. It helped identify two SNCOs in the 1970s Sgts Mess photo: McLeod and Wilson!

Left" Captain Ken Loveridge (CMF). Captain Ben Morris (ARA – Adjutant, WO1 Tassie Long (ARA – RSM, WO2 Stuart McLeod (ARA) and SSgt Barry Wilson.

The three SNCOs in this photograph were all in the photograph in the previous newsletter.

FEATURES

BRAVERY AND BETRAYAL a film by Wandering Warriors

Developed by ex-SAS veterans a new documentary film is stripping back the myths and telling the true story of the SAS experience in Afghanistan. BRAVERY & BETRAYAL – The True Story of the SAS in Afghanistan began a tour Australian cinemas, after ANZAC Day this year.

After 9/11, Australia sent the SAS into Afghanistan – and into harm's way. Some 25 years later, the hardship and suffering of what they experienced lives on with those who returned.

For the first time ever, the SAS are telling their story of what really happened in Afghanistan and Iraq through this unique documentary. The film features, exclusive interviews with officers and soldiers of the SAS, interviews with three Afghanistan-conflict Prime Ministers, interviews with brave pilots of the American Army who fought alongside our SAS and heartbreaking stories from wives, mothers, widows and children left behind. Many of the 400 SAS soldiers who fought in Afghanistan feel their service and sacrifice has been forgotten amongst the turbulence of politics and negative headlines.

Produced by Australian film-maker Simon Heath over five years, and supported by veterans' charity Wandering Warriors, Bravery & Betrayal was initiated by ex-SAS servicemen to set the record straight, and tell their own story. More than 30 veterans, political leaders, and family members were interviewed in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, New York and Washington



Quotes from a former SAS serviceman involved in the film:

“SAS soldiers were the first to deploy to Afghanistan, bore the brunt of the intense fighting, while also deploying to Iraq during the same period. We shouldered the heaviest combat to alleviate pressure on our fellow diggers and to support the broader mission objectives.

“By dismantling networks, gathering actionable intelligence, and neutralising threats before they reached Australian soil, the SAS created a buffer that ensured Australians sleep safe at night – most without ever knowing how close the threats had come.

“What Australians are also not aware of are the sacrifices SAS soldiers and their families made due to the commitment required.

“The SAS conducted 95%+ of the combat missions in Afghan – in excess of 3,000 missions.

“It was either freezing cold or extreme 40+ heat. That’s just the physical side. Mentally you left your life, family and friends to risk your time and life for your country and fellow Australian military.

“From time immemorial, soldiers have been returning home from conflict, changed. They see and do things not generally expected of the wider community. As a society we can sympathise, but rarely can we empathise. How do you explain your experiences? Most times you fall short, and this can be incredibly frustrating.

“At their core, SAS soldiers are grounded in the same values as everyday Australians. They are fathers, brothers, sons and friends. Men who sacrifice time with loved ones to serve their country with unwavering dedication. This documentary aims to set the record straight – to honour the service and sacrifices of SAS soldiers, expose systemic failures, and advocate for meaningful reforms in the treatment of veterans, both during and after their service.”

How to see the film

The film premiered in Perth, the home of the SAS, on 26 April and is now touring the country, showing in all the capital cities as well as regional centres, RSLs and country towns.

To find a screening near you, please [visit Wandering Warriors](#). Ticket sales will be used to fund the tour of the film. Donations to support the work of the Wandering Warriors would be much appreciated.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY – SONG I WAS ONLY 19

The Vietnam Veterans Day is held on 18 August, the anniversary date for the Battle of Long Tan in 1966. The best-known Australian songs from the Vietnam War are Red Gum’s ‘I was only Nineteen’ and Cold Chisel’s ‘Khe Sanh’. What was the song ‘I Was only Nineteen’ all about?

For the Officer Training Unit (OTU) Association newsletter, The Scheyvillian, Neil Leckie, an OTU Scheyville, Class 3/68 Graduate wrote: As a Nasho who did all of his Recruit Training at 2 RTB Puckapunyal before attending Scheyville, I have always thought that there were a few factual errors in the song ‘I was only 19!’ I asked a good mate, Bill Akell, a Regular Army soldier who was the Administration Company Net Signaller for D Company 6 RAR at the Battle of Long Tan, what the song was about. Bill said that the song was about Frankie Hunt, a member of 6 RAR who stood on a mine. **Frankie was 19!** Bill said: ‘When I went back to Vietnam in 2016 with (OTU Class 1/65) David Sabben’s tour for the 50th Anniversary of Long Tan we actually visited the site where Frank stood on the mine. The group gathered around as David gave a brief on the incident then our Vietnamese guide played the song ‘I was only 19!’ A few tears, especially from the ladies present.’

Redgum's John Schumann was the right age to fight in Vietnam, but his number didn't come up. He never forgot how close he came, and when those who did fight returned, he paid attention to their struggles. "They were fundamentally altered," he said. "I started to think about what it would be like to come back from a very unpopular war and not be welcomed home."



Schumann decided to write a song about Australia's involvement in Vietnam, but he didn't want to write fiction. One night, Schumann's girlfriend Denise, also known as 'Denny' (in the song), brought her older brother Mick Storen to a Redgum performance. "I remember being told that Mick had been to Vietnam (Recruit Training at 2 RTB Puckapunyal and 6 RAR second Tour 8 May 69 – 12 May 70) and had been involved in an awful mine incident," Schumann said. "I also knew that he didn't talk about it to his family." Left: The Storen family at 2 RTB.

After the gig they went out for a few drinks. "I was probably flying on adrenalin and I just remember plucking up my courage and asking if he would talk to me about what happened." he said. "To my surprise, he said that he would."



Schumann and Storen spent a few hours with the veteran's photos, a tape recorder and a couple of beers. Later, on tour, as his bandmates used their new 'Walkmans' to listen to music, Schumann played the tapes back. Back at home, he woke up one day, walked into his North Carlton backyard with a coffee, a pad and a biro, and wrote the words. "It's as simple and as complicated as that," he said. But Storen had only agreed to share his Vietnam war experiences on the basis that he could hear the song first. Left: Mick Storen.

The approval: Schumann told Storen the song was ready at a family function. He pulled out his guitar and started to sing. After the intimate performance, the room was silent. "He looked at me," Schumann said, "he didn't say anything. He just stared at me. "By this stage I'm pretty sure Denny and I were engaged and I'm thinking: this guy's going to be my brother in-law and I've really trodden in it." But when Storen was finally able to speak, his decision was made. "It was just incredible!" Schumann said.

Storen's story had made the song real. There was one thing Storen wasn't happy about, though. In the original lyrics Schumann wrote: "Tommy kicked the mine." The name was made up, and Storen, who didn't know any 'Tommy', thought the line was weak. "I didn't really understand why," said Schumann. "For me names were immaterial, it was the story. But it was important to Mick."



Who kicked the mine? A real Australian soldier did step on a mine on July 20, 1969, though. That soldier was Storen's skipper, Peter Hines (Lt 6 RAR), who died the day after the incident. "Peter" suited the rhythm of the song but Storen didn't want the name used out of respect for Hines's wife and child. So, they went through the names of those in Storen's platoon. They hit "Frank": Frank Hunt had been badly wounded in the same mine incident.

A few months later Schumann was passing through Hunt's home-town of Bega on the south coast of NSW. "I have to say Frank was not all that keen on opening the door to

a long-haired, left-wing pinko," said Schumann. Schumann got out his guitar and Hunt's reaction was the same as Storen's. "He wanted to hear it again and again until I begged him to allow me to play it into a cassette so I could stop playing it."

After the song's release, Hunt helped Schumann promote the song. "Obviously they had some pretty deep and meaningful conversations, otherwise he would not have come out with a ripper of a song like that," said Hunt.

Michael Walter Storen, born Adelaide, SA, 18 December 1948. Enlisted as 4720141 in Mid-1968. He served in Vietnam as an Infantry Corps Private with 6 RAR on its second Tour, 8 May 1969 to 12 May 1970.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO: (By Adrian van Hamond)

Adrian van Hamond was born Adrianus van Hamond on 11 January 1945 in The Netherlands. He was the eldest son of Lambertus (Bert) and Adolphina (Fien) van Hamond. His siblings would be Dutch born Gerarda (Gerda), born in 1946, Johannes (Hans), born in 1949 and Marian born in Australia in 1956. The family lived in Utrecht, Holland before migrating to Australia on 20 March 1953.

Like many people in Holland the Second World War had been hard for my family with adequate housing in short supply and employment likewise was scarce. In late 1952 Dad & Mum decided to migrate to Australia to give their children and themselves a better chance in life. Having passed all the necessary medical tests the family was told that there was a six to twelve month waiting period. This did not worry them as it left them plenty of time to learn some more English and make adequate plans for their journey they were about to undertake to a new country.

In January of 1953 severe floods struck Holland with severe damage to homes and buildings with the government having to go into overdrive to aid those affected, so they brought forward their immigration policy. Early in March Dad was called into the Immigration Office to be advised that if he and his family still wanted to migrate to Australia they had to be ready to leave by 20 March. Those people who had passed all migration requirements were being moved out as quickly as possible to provide housing for the flood victims, This left the family very little time to sort their possessions; all they were allowed to take was about three cubic meters of personal possessions.

On 20 March 1953 there were tearful farewells to parents and family at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam. Flying K.L.M. on board the Flying Dutchman, the journey to Australia in those days took about seven days with stopovers every night in places like Rome, Damascus, Karachi, Calcutta, Singapore, Perth and finally arriving in Melbourne.

After arriving in Melbourne, we were transported by train to Bonegilla an Ex-Army Camp near Wodonga. Here the accommodation was in galvanized Ex-Army huts, with communal showers and dining facilities. Life was not easy for families in their first months in a new country with little of the English language and the heat and size of the country also amazed them.

After several months in the Bonegilla camp the family moved to Daylesford for several months and from there we moved to Ballarat and then finally settling in Creswick. Where we were one of the first Dutch families to settle there. The Catholic Church at that time had just purchased the old Railway Hotel in Creswick to convert into a Migrant Hostel. Dad & Mum were asked by the Church if they would like to manage the hostel on a voluntary basis, which they did for many years until it was closed down.

The family were naturalised as Australian citizens in late 1958. After going back to Holland in 1973 they were very disappointed at what they saw and were never interested in going back. They bought themselves a caravan and travelled around Australia extensively for many years and enjoyed the Australian life style.

Dad (Bert) and Mum (Fien) have now passed away, Dad on 23 August 2004 aged 89, and Mum passed away on 8 April 2007 aged 90. We as a family are very grateful to our parents for making the move to Australia though we are also proud of our Dutch heritage.

In 1966 Adrian married a wonderful Australian girl, Nora, and we have five wonderful children Toni-Louise, Michael, Paul, Lisa and Mandi. They and their partners between them have eleven children. They all live in various parts of Australia. Nora died on 17 June 2010 and is buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery. For many years Adrian lived in Soldiers Hill in Ballarat, but some two years ago moved to BUPA in Delacombe. This move was discovered when it was found that Adrian's former home was vacant and his letter box was full! Hans's son passed on the contact details for Adrian.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS DID: Jack Haley



Look for one thing, find another: For many years Jack Haley, from Maryborough, attended association events and especially Past Officers Dinners in Ballarat. These days Jack is confined to Residential Care in Maryborough.

When 'Looking for one thing' and finding another' the Editor came across the photo at left showing Jack as an Under 14 Girls Basketball Coach in Maryborough.

'Well done that man!'

VALE:

Frederick Alexander Pattison was born in Maryborough, Victoria, on 6 June 1947 to Sam Pattison, who had emigrated from England in 1929, aged 19 years, and Sophia 'Jean' McRea from St Arnaud. The couple had married in 1943. Post-WW2, Sam, a Returned Serviceman, took on a Soldier Settlement block near Glenthompson, not far from Hamilton in South-Western Victoria. Jeanette would come along later and become Fred's younger sister.

Fred was educated at Glenthompson Sate School, Hamilton College and Lake Bolac High School. When he was just 15, his father had a heart attack and Fred left school to take over the running of the family farm. With his father being restricted in what he could do on the farm, Fred could not go into the Army for 2 years of National Service, so he joined the CMF as 3177658 with Support Company, 2 RVR, on 12 September 1966 to avoid being drafted. While in the CMF, Fred earned the name 'The Phantom' as when on exercise he could never be found and therefore never captured. The day he joined the CMF Fred started a life-long friends with Warrnambool's Trevor Johnstone and his wife Cheryl. Trevor had been issued with the



Regimental Number that followed Fred's. After completing his five years of CMF (which had been reduced from the original six years), Fred discharged on 1 February 1973



Sam and Jean built a retirement house in St Arnaud, but Sam died on 2 June 1977 just weeks before the couple were to move in. As a youngster Fred was a good tennis player. He later took up Speedway Driving, where he drove 'Mortlake 6'. Later in life, Fred had a fall, which led to a spinal injury. He could no longer run the farm, so he leased it out and moved to St Arnaud with his mother. Jean died in St Arnaud on 20 April 2003. Fred's health prevented him doing much and he moved into care in Hamilton in 2021. He didn't like the life there but had no choice! A brother-in-law of Terry and uncle of Carol and Paul, Fred died on 1 April 2025. His funeral was held by Guyett's Funerals at the Eastern Park Chapel, Warrnambool, on 9 April 2025. This was followed by a burial at the Ellerslie Cemetery, Ellerslie being located between Warrnambool and Mortlake.

Peter Richard POLWARTH was born in Ballarat on 27 September 1942. He attended Queen Street State School in Ballarat East from 1947 – 1952 and the Ballarat Junior Technical School from 1953 – 1956. He found employment with the National Australia Bank in Ballarat, which had just taken over the Ballarat Banking Company. Peter moved to Bendigo and from 1989 worked in accounts payable at Bendigo Health.

Peter had joined the CMF in 1962. On 31 October 1977 he was Taken on Strength at 2 RVR and when he moved to Bendigo was transferred to 15 Transport Squadron. He was discharged from the Army in 2002. Peter was also a long-serving member of the CFA and by 2008 had risen to the position of a Deputy Group Officer. Peter was a well-known military historian and member of the Bendigo Ex-service family.



Peter had married Nina and they had a son, Andrew. Nina died at Bethlehem Aged Care, Bendigo on 17 June 2022, aged 77, and was buried in the White Hills Lawn Cemetery. Peter passed away peacefully at Bendigo Hospital on 8 August 2024, aged 81 years. He is also buried at the White Hills Lawn Cemetery.

CATCH-UP VALE:

Peter White had a few 'stints' in the Army. Born on 11 October 1948, his Next of Kin was his father Mr. A. G. White of Webster St, Ballarat. Peter joined the CMF as 359246 on 12 February 1968 and was transferred to Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) on 1 February 1970. He was then 'Taken on Strength' of 2 RVR on 27 May 1971 as a Temporary Sergeant. By then his Next of Kin was his wife Mrs. Jennifer White. They lived in Drummond Street North and later in Sebastopol. Peter was discharged on 20 February 1979 with the rank of Sergeant. He rejoined the Reserve and was commissioned in January 1981, serving with 7 Field Engineer Regiment, 22 Construction Regiment and 3 Training Group. Peter discharged from the Army in November 1996 with the rank of Captain.



In civilian life Peter was employed for many years within the finance industry (banking) before moving to a role in government where he was a Procurement Officer. Peter was a husband, father, grandfather, football coach, Defence Force member, loyal employee, Scout Leader, and a taxi driver for the kids (just to name a few). Peter and Jenny built a new home in Ballarat just before Peter died on 10 September 2020, age 71.

LATE ADDITON: CATCH-UP VALE

During a ring around of members, the Editor found that Gary Magill had died.

Gary Peter Magill left this world at 2pm on Thursday 2 May 2024 at home at Ballarat East, happy, pain free and he had everyone laughing, cognac in Hand surrounded by his wife and beautiful daughters that he loved so much. His Funeral Service and committal were held at the Sovereign Chapel, Ballarat Crematorium on 13 May 2024. 'Forever flying First Class, sipping a glass of Dom!'

MEN'S HEALTH MATTERS (Peter Malcolm)

Association member Peter Malcolm is one of the leaders of The Warrnambool Prostate Support Group. On behalf of the group, Peter is inviting association members to attend their bi-monthly meetings, held at the Men's Shed, 91 Hyland St, Warrnambool. The next meeting will be on 6 August 2025, commencing at 1930 hrs (or 7.30pm for those who have forgotten their military timings!) The Warrnambool Prostate Support Group has been formed for several years and is one of 29 support groups in Victoria. The Prostate Support Groups' website is: www.pcfa.org.au

Leaders of the Warrnambool Prostate Support Group are:

Peter Malcolm: 0438 030 520 – Email: pandsmalcolm@bigpond.com

John Malin: 0409 433 640 – Email: brolgal@outlook.com

Nikki Payne: 0435 391 278 – Email: NPayne@swl.net.au

Prostate cancer affects partners, family members, loved ones and workmates. Statistics show one-in-five Australian men are likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, but as one Ballarat Specialist said: you will die of it, or with it!

The Warrnambool Prostate Support Group was formed to support all those who have been affected. It recommends men diagnosed with prostate cancer attend at least one group meeting and should include your partner. The group would also appreciate all visitors to have input, be it as a speaker or to join in a general round table discussion at our meetings.

Right: John Malin and Peter Malcolm.



Come along, be part of our group and ask questions.

What is PSA and do I have to ask my Doctor for a PSA test?

Are all prostate cancers the same?

What are the symptoms and do all men have symptoms?

What treatments and aids are available?

Do I qualify for government support?

How are you coping? Do you need help? Can we talk about it with you?

MEMBERSHIP – Making it Difficult for the Treasurer!!!

From our last newsletters – no result! “Our Treasurer, Barbara Birthisel has advised that a Cash Deposit for \$55.00 was paid into the Ballarat Branch of the CBA. Unfortunately, there was no identifying reference of either the depositor's name, or what the money was for. If you paid into the Ballarat Branch, CBA in late October, please contact Barbara and advise the date, how much the amount was and what it was for.”

A friendly reminder – if you have not paid your 2025-2026 Membership (\$25) as yet it would be appreciated if you could do so asap. Bank Details: 8/7th Bn 2RVR Association Inc BSB: 063 502 Acc No. 1035 4333 Please ensure you use your 'Member Code' or surname as a reference!

Contact the Treasurer, Barbara Birthisel on 0438 504 260 or at barbarabirthisel@bigpond.com

RECENTLY RECEIVED PHOTO (Peter Malcolm)



Left: Photo taken at Portland 'Depot'.

Do you know when and what was the occasion?

Left, Peter Malcolm, Trevor Dennert?, Kevin Baker, Danny Heaver, David Schneider & Doug Solly.

MERCHANDISE:

8/7 Battalion-2 RVR Association Merchandise as at March 2025. Postage is separate.



New Item:

Winter is coming!

Well not quite, but the cooler weather is. To help with this we have added a woolen jumper to our range of merchandise.

They are available for \$68 plus postage. If you are interested please send us a direct message or contact Jason via email at j_county@hotmail.com

Item:	Price
Polo Top, Black	\$45
Polo Top, Green	\$45
Cap	\$20
Tie	\$30
Lapel Badge	\$10
Association Patch, Green	\$10
Association Patch, Black	\$10
RVR Emblem Patch	\$10
Cold Weather Jacket	\$96
Cold Weather Vest	\$55
Nametag	\$7



For all orders: contact Jason on email (preferred) at j_county@hotmail.com

BALLARAT RANGER MILITARY MUSEUM MATTERS (Neil Leckie, Manager)

Defence has two categories of museums. The first are Defence fully-funded museums, such as the Australian War Memorial, Tank Museum, Artillery Museum, Infantry Museum and so on. The second category is a 'Unit Historical Collection' or UHC. The Ranger Museum is classified by Defence as a Unit Historical Collection, but with its history it becomes a 'Unit Historical Collection – Open to the Public' (there are four or five in this class. Funding for UHCs comes under the Commanding Officer's allowance, so one can imagine that there is not much finding available for a UHC each year. Fund-raising is critical to most UHCs.

After being closed for a couple of months for the Army to undertake a Workplace Health & Safety 'Audit', the museum has now reopened. The audit was undertaken while the process of moving displays from the existing hut into the containers, where a walk-through 'potted history' of the Army in Ballarat is being set-up. A bit annoying!!! In addition, a Reserve Member has been photographing every item in the display so that it can all be placed on a catalogue on the Army's system. Hopefully by the end of the year all the WH&S issues will be completed and the museum will fully settle down to normal operations!

While the museum has been 'closed', the work of the museum continues. The manager recently gave a talk on Ballarat's Army from 1858 – 1921 (from the start until the closure of the AIF post-war, in 1921. A member of the Bacchus Marsh Library staff heard of the talk and invited the Manager to give the talk during a 'BaccChat', a monthly talk held on a Saturday morning at the Bacchus Marsh Library. The Manager accepted, but with the help of Bob Prewett, a Bacchus Marsh local, added some Bacchus Marsh history.

One story in particular amused the Bacchus Marsh crowd: "When the Bacchus Marsh Light Horse Troop was 'disbanded'!"

'Back to Bacchus Marsh and I am sorry to have to tell you this story. New Rules and Regulations had been approved in 1868. In 1875 the Bacchus Marsh Troop was invited to participate in a Victorian Rifle Association Challenge against teams from Castlemaine, Maryborough and Sandhurst (now Bendigo). Bacchus Marsh were to supply one Maryborough man with a horse, but didn't, so the Maryborough team was disqualified. The officer in charge of the competition made some amendments to the rules, which he clearly read out to all the teams and there was no dissension from the three competing teams. The competition was to ride 200 yards, stop and fire five shots at a target, either from the horse, or on the ground, ride forward and jump two hurdles, and stop and shoot five more shots at the target, then ride to the finish. The time taken was included in the new rules. Sandhurst had one rider disqualified when his horse failed to jump a hurdle and Bacchus Marsh lead Castlemaine on the shooting, but Castlemaine were clearly ahead on the time and therefore won the competition. After the announcement of the winning team, the Bacchus Marsh team protested against the change of the rules.

'By early 1877, the Bacchus Marsh men were still smarting over a comment made in the report on the matter: the word 'filching'. (Does anyone know what filching means? Filching: to take something, especially of little value, in a furtive manner. It is synonym of stealing!) By this time the majority of the Bacchus Marsh members had resigned over the matter and the Troop was no longer 'Effective', so it was disbanded later that year.'

Now the Bacchus Marsh Historical Society know why their records of the Bacchus Marsh Troop of the Prince of Wales's Victorian Volunteer Light Horse stopped in 1877!

Right: A Light Horse Competition



BOOK REVIEW: Militia Units of Maryborough 1860 – 1901, Michael Garnett, OAM
Reviewer: Lieutenant Colonel Neville Taylor RFD, March 2017

MILITIA UNITS
OF
MARYBOROUGH
1860-1901
(Victoria, Australia)

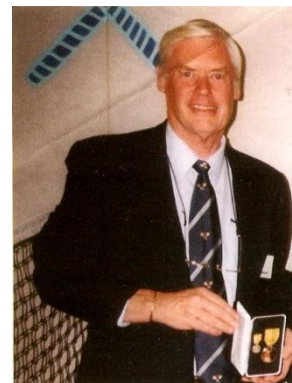


Michael P. Garnett

Historical Publications

This monograph is a companion to Michael's *Kyneton Mounted Rifle Corps* that was published in 2013 and examined the 150 years of the volunteers who served as mounted troops in the Kyneton region of Victoria. As well as the Maryborough unit, this volume also briefly mentions the other units it trained with, for which histories are yet to be written – Daylesford, Lauriston, Maldon, and Malmsbury.

Victoria gold rush towns, with populations more than treble their numbers today, were ripe for the establishment of rifle and mounted units. An Act in 1854 approved the raising in Victoria of a Volunteer Corps limited to 2,000 men. A quoted article dated 27th August 1860 in the *Mount Alexander Mail* indicated that the limit had been raised to 10,000 men and that Maryborough was to 'renew its application' for a Rifle Corps. The *Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser* of 2 November 1860 reports on one of Maryborough's first drills.



Units elected their own officers and Senior Non-commissioned Officers. They were also able to design their own uniforms. Maryborough's was 'invisible green' with red shako headgear (similar to the tall cylindrical cap of the Hungarian Hussars) that later had black horsehair plumes added. Military reviews were a highlight as it brought local units together for a massed street parade followed by keenly fought military skills events.

In May 1861 the Maryborough Volunteer Rifles participated in the Grand Review in Castlemaine to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday. The event was extensively reported in *The Argus* (Melbourne) and is quoted in full, including the parade, the rifle match, officers' dinner and theatrical performance. The detail and eloquent description indicates the importance of these events to the communities involved.

The Maryborough unit consolidated at 70 personnel. A Drum and Fife Band was established. The mounted troop joined the Prince of Wales' Victorian Volunteer Light Horse from 1872 to 1875, when lack of numbers saw the troop disband. December 1883 saw the disbandment of the volunteer units because the Militia System was being introduced. Maryborough tried in May 1884 to re-establish, but with the available number of units already allocated, Maryborough was left with no option but to wait, so instead established a mounted rifle club. The 1880s and 1890s saw school children eagerly joining Cadet units – Maryborough High School included.

Members volunteered for service in the Boer Wars, and Post-Federation saw the establishment of the Australian Imperial Force. In the book, smaller local units are also discussed as is the manner in which the slouch hat was incorporated into both Australian and overseas units.

This most readable history contains numerous photographs covering the period as well as some current photographs of monuments and buildings that have survived. There has been considerable attention to detail wherever this was available to the researcher, and there is an index included. The use of well-selected articles from contemporary newspapers enables the reader to 'be there'. With Michael's passion for the recording of the history of his local region, we are sure to see further works on this relatively unexplored element of Victoria's history in the near future.

Militia Units of Maryborough is available from the author Michael Garnett OAM, 71 Barry Street, ROMSEY VIC 3434, or at garnettm@bigpond.net.au

8th/7th Battalion – 2RVR Association Inc A0035094M