



THURUNKA

MARCH 2016

Newsletter of the
Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.
And the
Aust. Lines of Communication Signals Association



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Our Calendar - 2016

Update your diary NOW!

Activity	Day	Date	Time	Location
ANZAC Day March	Mon	25-Apr	1000h	Sydney CBD
RASigs Reunion	Mon	25-Apr	1000h	Mr Tipples Hotel
Rhumb Corps Luncheon	Wed	1-Jun	1200	CTA Club
THURUNKA June edition		mid-June		
Committee Meeting 2	Sat	18-Jun	1100h	Kirribilli Club
'Battle for Australia' Service	Wed	7-Sep	1100h	Cenotaph Martin Place
Rhumb Corps Luncheon	Wed	7-Sep	1200h	CTA Club
THURUNKA September edition		mid-September		
*ER Corps Dinner	TBA	*Nov	*	*
Remembrance Day	Wed	11-Nov	1100h	Cenotaph Martin Place
*Annual Memorial Service	Sun	*Nov	1100h	Signal Hill Vacluse
*Annual General Meeting	Sun	*Nov	1230h	**Paddington RSL Club
Rhumb Corps Luncheon	Wed	2-Dec	1200h	CTA Club
*Committee Luncheon	TBA	*Dec	*	*
THURUNKA A December edition		early-December		

* TBA Dates/details to be announced. ** TBC Dates/details to be confirmed.

NB: Dates and other details of events may change but are constantly reviewed in an attempt to advise changes to members in a timely manner.

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ANZAC DAY 2016

RASigs Ass'n (NSW)
March and Re-union

Sydney CBD

**Change in Form-Up Point
and timings and route**

See inside for further details

We look forward to seeing you there.

Rhumb Corps Luncheon

Wednesday, 1st June, 2016

D R Davies Lounge & Bistro

CTA Club Sydney

Cnr Castlereagh Street & Martin Place

Association websites:

<http://www.rasigs.com/nsw>

<http://rasigsassociationnsw.weebly.com/>

Our Facebook page: rasansw

Next Issue

Copy for the next issue of
THURUNKA must be in

the hands of the Editor,

Ken Forway

33 Oaks Avenue

LONG JETTY NSW 2261

Or by e-mail:

thurunka@hotmail.com

NO LATER THAN

13th May, 2015.

Coming Events

Association Matters

Our President's Report



Sydney ANZAC Day 2016 March

The Sydney ANZAC March has a new route for this year. The form-up-point for the Association has changed as is now in the **corner Loftus and Bent Streets, Sydney.**

The timings have changed, also, Form-Up **from 0930 hrs**, to March Off **from 1000 hrs.**

Be early and catch up with your old service mates. All current and former members of the Corps are welcome to join Association members in the march. Spread the word and 'bring-a-mate-along'.

With the upgrade in George Street, the march will proceed down Elizabeth Street to Liverpool Street. The March is slightly shorter than previous years and The Cenotaph will play no part in the march this year.

...and the re-union...

The Signals re-union venue is again Mr Tippy's Hotel (formally City Hotel), corner of King and Kent Streets, Sydney from 1000 hrs. This venue will be closed to the general public until late afternoon and bar snacks will be available. A voluntary donation is being requested from attendees to help cover the costs of bar snacks.

The reunion is a great opportunity to get together with old and new, serving and retired, members and friends of the Corps. Come along and 'Relive and Remember'.



You would be aware from the report by Mike McEvoy, Acting President of the Association dated 8th November, 2015 that without some infusion of new blood to the Association's Committee, the Association would most likely have to close.

For more than 40 years, the Association has worked hard to support both serving and former RASigs personnel in NSW. We have been very fortunate to have outstanding Association President's for much of this time - Pat Buckley, former Corps RSM and then Chris Ballantine, a long serving member of the Corps. More recently, Mike McEvoy, our long serving Secretary, kindly stepped into the position whilst we sought a new President and members for the Committee.

I was determined not to let the Association fold, so I resigned as Patron of the Association and at the Committee meeting on 6th February, 2016, was elected as President.

Carol Ward, former Commcen Supervisor and Paul Hummerston, former CO of 8 Sig Regt, have been elected as Treasurer and Vice President respectively. Both Carol and I have served on the Committee in the past. Mike McEvoy has kindly agreed to continue on the Committee, which is important, as Mike is the repository of much knowledge of the operations of the Association. Thank-you, Mike.

A full list of Committee members is set out in this edition of *THURUNKA*.

The new Committee is committed to furthering the aims of the Association and acting as a bridge between current serving members of the Corps in NSW and former members.

WHY HAVE AN RASIGS ASSOCIATION?

I have been asked the question, 'why have an RASigs Association?' In my view, the Association provides an important con-

duit of communications to both current and former members of the Corps on current developments and key events of interest to all Sigs. The Association aims to help maintain the spirit-de-Corps in NSW.

The Association is an all-ranks organisation that also provides support to our ill and infirm members.

Membership of the Association is dirt cheap--only **\$10 per annum**--less than the price of two drinks. Owing to careful financial management by the Association's Committees over the years, the cost of membership has not increased for about 30 years.

And last, we are here to support you, the members.

SYDNEY ANZAC DAY MARCH

A MESSAGE FOR ALL SIGS IN SYDNEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

If you have not experienced a Sydney ANZAC Day March before and you would like to march, then come along and march under the Association's banner. Some years ago, our then Head of Corps, MAJGEN Ian Gordon, marched with us and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Owing to construction of the light rail in George Street Sydney, the march will be along Elizabeth Street to the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park, so it will be a pretty easy going march.

The Form-Up Point will be on the **corner of Loftus and Bent Streets, Sydney; Form-Up at 0930 hrs and March-Off at 1000 hrs**, although we are awaiting confirmation of the time from the RSL. **Look for the NSW RASigs Association Banner.**

The 8th Signal Regiment has kindly agreed to provide the banner party.

Note that despite the construction works in George Street, the Sydney Dawn Service will be held at the Cenotaph in Martin Place at 0430 hrs.

(cont>>)

POST ANZAC DAY MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Whether you march or not, all Sigs are most welcome to join us for post-March celebrations at **Mr Tipples Hotel, 347 Kent Street** (corner King and Kent Streets), Sydney.

We will have the Hotel to ourselves from 1000 hrs – the Sigs hotel. The Hotel has agreed to charge only the regular drink prices, unlike last year when the drink prices were inflated.

We will be asking for a gold coin donation to help fund the bar snacks. See you there.

NEW APPOINTMENT FOR OUR



HEAD OF CORPS

BRIG Marcus Thompson. Our current Head of Corps. He was appointed as Commander of the 6th Brigade

I am pleased to advise that, in November 2015, BRIG Marcus Thompson, our current Head of Corps, was appointed as Commander of the 6th Brigade, with his HQ in Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

Whilst we have had Sigs who have been Brigade Commanders in the Army Reserve (Bill Artis, COMD 5 Bde in 1971/72, Kathryn Campbell, current COMD 5 Bde and myself (COMD 8 Bde in 1998/2000), this is the first time that we have had a Sigs Regular Army Brigade Commander since the Regular Army was re-raised post WW2 and probably the first in the history of the Corps, so congratulations to BRIG Thompson.

It is also the first time in my memory that we have had a Head of Corps in Sydney, so hopefully we should be able to see a bit more of the Head of Corps than we have seen in recent decades.

BRIG Thompson has a distinguished Sigs pedigree - he has commanded 103 Sig Sqn and 3rd Combat Signals; has worked in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; has experience in Special Operations Command; and in 2015 he completed a PhD in cyber security at ADFA.

More recently, BRIG Thompson has been appointed as the Chief of Army's Special Adviser on Cyber Security and Cyber Security - another first for a Sig, but regrettably, without any extra pay.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations also to WO1 Leanne (Pip) Iseppi, OAM who has been appointed RSM of the 2nd Division at Pozieres Barracks, Randwick. In a double first, RSM Iseppi is the first RASigs RSM to be appointed RSM of a Division and the first female soldier to reach such an exalted level.

MODERNISATION OF THE CORPS

The Corps has embarked on a process to identify the structures, trades and capabilities that the Corps requires in the next 10 to 15 years to support Army in the digitally enabled, cyber aware military environment in which we will operate.

The process of modernisation of the Corps will consist of a number of steps that will be undertaken in rapid time, at least in Army terms.

The first step will be to undertake an "End-to-End" Capability Review of the Corps, which will provide the intellectual rigour to underpin a review of all RASigs trades (RASigs Employment Category Review) and a Corps-wide Unit Establishment Review.

This process is being championed and resourced by the MAJGEN within Army Headquarters responsible for modernization of the Army to ensure that the RASigs modernisation aligns with the current programme of Army-wide modernisation.

Whilst there are considerable risks involved in the process, there are lots of opportunities. The end result should see a restructured Corps with new trades that is agile and effective in the highly complex digitally enabled, cyber aware military environment.

I will provide further information as the Corps modernisation process is rolled out.

SEMINAR ON CYBER AND SPACE

The Royal United Service Institute (RUSI) NSW is conducting a seminar on Cyber and Space on 31st May, 2016 in Parliament House, Macquarie Street – see the attached programme and registration form.

Cyber and Space have joined Sea, Land and Air as major domains of current warfare and are expected to given much emphasis in the 2016 Defence White Paper, expected to be released in the next few months.

RUSI NSW has put together a varied and interesting range of speakers, including our Head of Corps, BRIG Thompson, who will be speaking about the "Military Aspects of Cyber Warfare".

Cyber warfare provides enormous opportunities for the Corps and will be very influential in the process to modernise the Corps – see above.

All current and former Sigs should attend this seminar – you will not be disappointed. The seminar will provide a great opportunity to be brought up-to-speed with this important topic and to ask questions of the panel, which includes our Head of Corps.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS TO SIGS

Heartiest congratulations to:

LTCOL Martin White who was awarded a CSC for outstanding achievement as CO 7 Sig Regt; and WO1 Peter Zajac CSC, who was awarded an AM for meritorious performance of duties as RSM of the Defence Command Support Training Centre and Ceremonial-Army.

(cont>>)

VALE – JOHN WYNN-JONES

With a sad heart, a number of members of the Association recently attended the funeral of MAJ John Wynn Jones (Ret'd), former long-standing Treasurer of the Association.



John Pettit, Ken Myers and Chris Mugdan



Paul Irving, John Jackman and Bob Eaglesham

John was a quiet and cheerful bloke who was unflappable when things were going down the gurgler. He always took the time to help others regardless of rank. Many Mess Treasurers and Mess Auditors who could not get the books to balance would seek out John who was always willing to sort out the problem.

John was the Treasurer of the Association for many years and always performed his duties with the minimum of fuss.

John, we will miss you.

Paul

Paul Irving
President
RASigs Ass'n (NSW) Inc.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (NSW) Inc.

Committee 2015-2016

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Publisher of THURUNKA	Ken Forway		
Honorary Auditor	Bob Eaglesham		



Annual Subscriptions

Yes, Annual fees are now due and payable.

Again this year we have included a payment slip with your copy of THURUNKA if you are in debit. This payment slip is designed to assist you when you make your payment.

- If you do not receive a slip, then you are up-to-date with your subscriptions and do not need to pay any money.
- If you are a member of the Australian Lines of Communication Signals Association, you no longer pay fees and therefore will not receive any notice at all.
- If any details are in error please advise us by correcting the slip with your remittance.

You are requested to keep up-to-date and make your remittance at the **ANZAC Day Re-union** or forward by post to the Acting Treasurer by the **end of April**.

Ms Carol Ward CSM
285/57 Empire Bay Drive
KINKUMBA NSW 2251

If you want, you can pay more than one year's fee in advance. You may pay as many years in advance as you want.

Now you can pay by direct deposit.
Just deposit your remittance to the Association's bank account:

Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.

BSB: 112 879.

Account No: 126 925 501.

DO NOT FORGET to include your name in the narrative field available in your on-line banking service. Otherwise your EFT/DD transfer may not be credited to your account.

OR advise the Treasurer of the deposit, with your name, date and time of transaction by:

e-mail:

cward049@bigpond.com, or

TPN (02) 4368 6381, or

mobile 0408 443 302,

so that she is able to account for your deposit.

Receipts are available for cash payments. If you require a receipt just ask. If you are paying by post and require a receipt; please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your remittance.



RASigs Association Ties

Have you got your RASigs Ass'n neck tie yet?

If not, order now through the Secretary, Or...

if there are any left, you can get one at the Sigs re-union at Mr Tippley's on ANZAC Day.



**MAJ John Wynn-Jones
RFD (Ret'd)**

**Born 21st May 1934,
Died 12th January 2016,
Aged 81.**

One of our Association's longer-serving members and a former committee member and treasurer, John Wynn Jones, passed away in January, after a long period suffering Alzheimer's disease.

John was born in Kenya, the son of a clergyman. Later, the family moved to Australia. He had a brother and two sisters.

John studied at Trinity Grammar and was very involved with the school as an "old boy".

He was married twice; his first wife died of cancer and his second was killed in a MVA on the Northern Road at Cobbitty. He had two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.

Bob

Maj Bob Eaglsham (Ret'd)

...a few words for John...

...Lt Col John Petteit (Ret'd)

John was not the demonstrative type; I found out more about John at his Memorial Service than I did while we were serving together.

John was very methodical and supportive Officer and his well-considered opinions were well received. The soldiers' welfare was always a high priority for John.

Along with the "usual" collection of extra regimental appointments, John always found time to assist newly appointed Mess Supervising Officers with his considerable financial accounting experience.

The large gathering of family, work colleagues, Lodge members and Army Reserve colleagues at John's memorial service was a testament to the high regard and affection in which John was held.

John

...Maj Ken Myers (Ret'd)

I learned more about John at his funeral that I did when I served with him.



I was OC Admin Sqn, 8 Sig Regt from 1 Jul 70 to 19 Jul 71 then to HQ Comms Z and back at 8 Sig Regt on 1 Apr 73 as OC 143 Sig Sqn. John and I both arrived back at the Regt together as bosom mates.

From the best of my memory, John and I were still Captains and I talked him into fully qualify for Major because the ARes needed him as a Major for the future. He was my 2IC of 142 Sig Sqn in 1977.

John was a quiet man with a good sense of humour. He carried out his responsibilities as 2IC of 142 Sig Sqn with such ease you wondered. When it came to Mess accounting his favourite phrase was, "How much profit do you want to make". At first this was frightening as the Commonwealth Audit Board was extremely thor-

ough; but his of his expertise was better. Did he cook the books? Never!

John's father was a member of the clergy; that is how John came to play the Organ. Trinity Grammar was his Australian High School. He was a past master and member of the Grand Lodge NSW.

Ken M.

...Maj Chris Ballantine (Ret'd)

I never served with John however my father, John Ballantine, did.

From my Association records, John served on the committee, as follows: Treasurer 1975 – 1992 Secretary 2003 – 2005 Committee Member 2000, 2002, 2006 – 2010.

Apart from the Association, John was heavily involved as a Mason, his GPS Old Boys Association (Trinity Grammar) and was Company Secretary for the big diesel engine manufacturer (Cummins). He was also an active member of RUSI.

Chris

VALE

**Aust. Lines of
Comms Sigs Assoc'n**

Norm McMahon has informed us of the following:

Our members are content with the bare information. We have their memories.

VALE—Gordon Newman
17 L of C Sigs
29th January 2016 ,aged 94.

VALE—Ray Pascall
17 L of C Sigs
13th November, 2015.

Norm

Norm McMahon

VALE—John Byrnes

Via Adam West
15/01/2016

I have received notification of the passing of 235207 John Kenelm (Jack) Byrnes Headquarters, Australian Force SVN 13/06/1967—19/06/1968

Thanks to Ross Eastgate for the following notification.

Arthur Fittock has had advised that his RMC classmate (1961) Brigadier Jack Byrne, formerly RASigs and CO 1 Sig Regt. passed away yesterday after a long illness, just a couple of days short of his 77th birthday. I believe he was living in Mudgee.

He was a bloody character, a larger-than-life one at that, who left his mark on our Corps and the Army generally.

Ross

Ross Eastgate OAM

VALE—Norman Olsen

Via Adam West
24/02/2016

I have received notification of the passing of 313627 Norman Linburg Olsen 110 Sig Sqn SVN 14/04/1971—19/01/1972

Thanks to Brad Read for the following notification.

See: <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/norman-olsen-dies-in-hospital-after-alleged-coward-attack-when-he-came-to-the-aid-of-a-woman/news-story/9e068090ec3e2d99332f32a0233b765a>

The short version of the above is: Norm tried to stop a male assaulting a female on a Toowoomba Street. He was pushed away by the alleged offender, fell and died as a result of hitting his head. **See also RASigs Facebook Closed Group 25 Feb 16.**

(cont>>)

In accordance with the highest standards of the Service, the Corps and his own moral compass he tried to help another human being. He paid the supreme sacrifice for doing the right thing.

Brad

Brad Read

VALE—Daryl McPhee
Via Adam West
20/01/2016

I have received notification of the passing of 16752 Daryl Michael McPhee 547 Signal Troop SVN 06/02/1969—28/01/1970

Thanks Bruce:

Adam

Please pass on the following information. Daryl was mostly at 7 Sig Regt, but I presume others will know of him

Daryl passed away in hospital after a long battle with leukaemia.

Bilko

Bruce Fitzsimmons

VALE—Peter Staples
Via Adam West
15/12/2015

I have received notification of the passing of 42215 Peter Alan Staples. Thanks Doug.

I have just been informed of the death of Peter. He passed away last night in the Repat. hospital here in Melbourne. He served in SVN on two occasions, once July to November 1967 and another time which I cannot find dates. He was a Tech. Elec. and my next-door neighbour.

Any contact can be through me and I will pass anything on to his wife Margaret.

Doug

Doug Purcell
doug@ihug.com.au

VALE—Edward Diamond
Via Adam West
30/01/2016

I have received notification of the passing of 3796673 Edward John (Eddie/Legs) Diamond.

104 Sig Sqn SVN
14/05/1970—12/05/1971

Thanks to Vince Dunn.

My mate Ed Diamond passed away today (Australia Day) after a five-year battle with bowel cancer. A much loved brave husband, father, grandfather, soldier and ripper bloke. Fittingly he left us who love him on Australia Day. It was perfect timing for a proud Aussie. See you up there, mate.

Vince

Vince Dunn
102 Battery RAA.

VALE—Graeme Cornwall
Via Adam West
14/02/2016

I have received notification of the passing of 39920 Graeme Desmond (Corny) Cornwall

104 Sig Sqn SVN
14/05/1969—14/05/1969
HQ, 1 ATF SVN
15/05/1969—20/05/1969
104 Sig Sqn SVN
21/05/1969—14/05/1970

Thanks Andy Anderson.

I received the following from Kerrie Auer (Graeme's sister). Graeme passed away at 17:20, 11 Feb 2016.

DoB: 18 May 1950.

DoD: 11 Feb 2016.

RIP Corny.

(Note he was in-country before turning 19).

Andy

Ex 39675
Robert L. Anderson

VALE—Gordon Phillips
Via Adam West

23/02/2016

I have received notification of the passing of 2800649 Gordon Bruce Phillips.

Thanks to Lynette and Natalie for letting us know.

Adam

My daughter Natalie and I would like to inform you and the RASigs family that 2800649 Captain (Ret'd) Gordon Bruce Phillips passed away yesterday, Sunday 21st February 2016

Would you mind passing this information onto any RASigs groups or friends that may have known him?

Lynette

Lynette Phillips and
Natalie Phillips
0466 689 056
042 111 8610

VALE—Joyce Hogan
Via Adam West
24/01/2016

I have received notification of the passing of Joyce Hogan (nee Cole)

Joyce joined the AWAS in 1942 and is the only member to serve through the WRAAC and then into the Signal Corps.

Thanks to Sandy for the following notification.

It is with regret that I wish to advise that ex WO2 Joyce Hogan (nee Cole) passed away in the Clare Holland House (Canberra) on Friday, 22nd January, 2016.

As per her wishes, she is to be buried in her home town of Mudgee.

Messages of condolences may be sent to Sandy Oxley at:

sanoxley@optusnet.com.au.

These will be passed onto her husband John Hogan (an ex WO2 RASigs).

Sandy

Sandy Oxley

Secretary/Treasurer/Welfare Officer
WRAAC Association (ACT)

VALE—Peter Weir-Smith
Via Adam West
14/02/2016

I have received notification of the passing of 53163 Peter John Weir-Smith.

HQ AAF SVN
03/11/1965—09/01/1966

HQ AAF SVN
17/04/1967—15/01/1968

110 Sig Sqn
12/08/1971—23/12/1971

Thanks to Bruce Fitzsimmons for the following notification.

Peter John Weir-Smith
Born 9 March 1936

Passed away 5th February 2016, aged 79 years

Condolences etc to his widow:

Mrs Sally Weir-Smith
Unit W1-3 Dudley St
Randwich NSW 2031

Bilko

Bruce Fitzsimmons

VALE—Keith Rossi
Via Adam West
26/01/2016

I have received notification of the passing of 352046 Keith Vincent Rossi AM OBE RFD ED

CO 3 Sig Regt circa 1958—1963

Thanks to Rex Kingham for the following notification.

Keith was primarily a gunner, but after WW2 he changed Corps to Sigs. In the years about 1958 to 1963 he was CO of 3 Sig Regt (South Melbourne). On completion of his tour of duty as CO 3 Sig Regt, he transferred back to Arty, to rise to the rank of BRIG.

Rex

Rex Kingham

VALE (cont)
 from 'Certa Cito'
 Newsletter of the
 RASigs Ass'n (Vic)

VALE—James Pavich
 VX125195 Sig James Benedict Pavich
 Born 14-8-1922 Footscray Vic
 Died 29-6-2015 Melb Vic, 92 years
 En 8-3-1943, Disch 19-2-1946 with 8th Aust Inf. Bde Signals Section

VALE—Dorothy Ellis
 NF451923 Sig Dorothy May Ellis (nee Hart)
 Born 12-7-1923 Sydney NSW
 Died - 7-12-2015 Victoria, Aged 92 years,
 En 16-2-1943, Disch 21-3-1946 with AWAS

VALE—
Anthony Shuttleworth
2787598 Cpl Anthony Neil Shuttleworth

Born 6-1-1947 Auburn NSW
 Died 2-12-2015 Melbourne Vic, Aged 68 years
 Served 110 Sig Sqn, SVN 17-6-1968—25-6-1969

VALE—
Audrey June McKenzie
 VF511260 LCpl Audrey June McKenzie (nee Young)
 Born 1-6-1925 Bendigo Vic
 Died 27-11-2015 Geelong Hospital, Aged 90 years
 En 15-6-1943

Disch 21-5-1946 in Aust Women's Army Service—Signals
 Member: RASigs Ass'n (Vic)

VALE—Peter Post
37645 Sgt Peter "Percy" Barry Post
 Born -19-01-1942 Kew Vic
 Died - 3-12-2015, Melb Vic, Aged 73 years
 Served 709 Sig Troop, SVN 16-4-1966—21-4-1967
 And completed 20 of service

Sadly, we have lost more valuable servants of the Corps and Country....*Lest We Forget.*



Norm McMahon

Norm has not had it too easy of late. He has been in and out of hospital, but is now back home enjoying his own surroundings.

He is still anxious to get out-and-about, but a bout of shingles has upset his calendar for about a month and he finds it difficult to sit down for long periods,

Norm takes this opportunity to thank all those who have contacted him and given their support; he finds this encouraging.

We wish you well, Norm, and look forward to seeing you out-and-about soon.

Ken. F
 Ken Forway

Michael Gategood

Chris Ballantine
 Date: Fri, 12 Feb 2016

Dawn Gategood rang me this morning to advise that Mike has very serious health issues. He recently underwent surgery for the removal of a malignant melanoma on his face and has subsequently been diagnosed with three tumours in the lungs and two melanomas over his brain. He is still mobile; however, his speech is slurred and facial muscles drooping. He is currently in Tamworth Base Hospital and is to be transferred to specialist care at John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle tomorrow.

Mike does not like any fuss, but he can take calls on his mobile 0467 262 299 at present. Dawn can be contacted on mobile 0427 054 669 although she is in no state at present to take calls. She has undertaken to keep me informed.

I am sure we all wish Mike our best wishes and that Dawn has the strength to continue supporting him.

Regards
Chris

...UPDATE ...21 Feb 16.

Michael has been in John Hunter Hospital and had two melanomas removed from his head; he is awaiting the pathology test results.

My wife and I stopped off to see Michael on Sunday, 21st at the John Hunter Hospital, but missed him by two minutes as stated by the Ward Sister. He was being transferred back to Tamworth Base Hospital ICU.

I am saddened that I did not get to see Michael but wish both him and Dawn all the best for what appears to be difficult times ahead. I trust that 2016 proves to be the year of improvement for them both.

Ken. F
 Ken Forway

Jim Stedman

Jim has had a bad ending to 2015 and sends in this update....

Date: Sun, 20 Dec 2015

Hi Guys.

Have you ever come home from hospital (or dreamt of doing so?) where

your condition is worse than going into hospital? Well, I can assure you it is not fun!

On 10th September 2015, I had to go into the Joondalup Health Campus with fluid on both lungs, heart pumping at a third of its rate and a kidney with only ten percent of its function; only one left and that is failing.

They have looked after me pretty well and I was all set to go home on the 14th October; I had a fall in the hospital room and fractured my left shoulder. I had the usual X-ray which was not a pretty sight but the worst to come as you will see.

They could not keep me there too long (after 5 weeks), so they then sent me to Brightwater Transition Care Home where my treatment continued. Quite a few people there were suffering from Alzheimer's, Dementia, recovering from strokes etc.

The treatment got my Diabetes under control and was informed that my shoulder healing is a matter of time.

Two days before they were to discharge me to go

(cont>>)

home (eight weeks in the Care Home), I had another fall in the bathroom attached to my room and as Murphy's Law will dictate I fell on my fractured shoulder, really adding insult to injury. I will not try to describe the pain but you can imagine.

I also have a frozen right shoulder, where I am unable to raise my arm above my waist. It is miserable not being able to use both my hands especially when eating.

Anyway, upon discharge (as per my request) I arrived home on Wednesday, (09Dec15), exactly three months to the day from when I started my journey.

Two days later, I had my follow up X-Ray done and we found that the top end of the humerus was completely shattered from the second fall; so, I am a real mess! However, it will take time to heal.

I have female Carers coming in every day to shower me and Mary is looking after me providing 24/7 care more than I can hope for. She is doing an excellent caring for me.

Regards

Jim

Jim Stedman
vk6srg@yahoo.com.au

Thanks for the up-date, Jim and we wish you and Mary both well for 2016...ED.

Bert Lane

Via Adam West
20/12/2015

Bert Lane is not travelling too well. Thanks to Chris Brown for letting us know.

I have just learnt this evening from Popeye Sams that Bert Lane suffered a stroke

last Thursday in Perth. His wife Lois 'phoned Popeye to advise him of this only some hours ago. Popeye phoned me tonight.

Bert is in Royal Perth Hospital; he can speak of sorts but suffers paralysis down the right side including his arm.

I or Popeye will talk to Lois in a few days once the shock settles down for her. He lost his son only last year so Lois is going through a hard time as you would understand.

Please let the Signet know, and I will get back to you with more news and information as it becomes available. Bert has many Sig mates in Perth, so do not be surprised if some others close to Bert also report to you.

Cheers

Brownie

Chris Brown

...then...

Bert Lane - Messages of Support - Delivered

Via Adam West
12/01/2016

Norm is happy to continue the SDS service, thanks mate

I made Bert smile; I walked in with my beret on and hands full of printed emails, saying I had an SDS delivery for Bert Lane. Surprising to me, I recognised him after not having seen him since the mid-1970s. He was extremely grateful for all the messages of support.

I will visit him again and pass on any well wishes.

He is obviously affected by the stroke and undergoing physio and general rehab but looks good and is keen to get back his mobility.

Bert sends his thanks for the well wishes and support and hopes to respond personally as soon as he can.

Cheers,

Norm

Norm Dennis

Bert Lane - UPDATE

Via Adam West

Thanks to Julie Stewart for the information.

I have just been to see Bert at Fiona Stanley hospital. He is looking good, but still cannot use his right arm or leg, although speech is pretty good.

Bert says g'day to all and thanks every one for their support.

Regards

Julie

Julie Stewart
Feb 16

Rod Lumb

Via Adam West
12/01/2016

Thanks to Gommer Haycock for letting us know.

Rod Lumb is on the wounded list; he had a run-in with his bull 12th December and came out second best with a broken pelvis.

He has been in traction in Princess Alexander Hospital Brisbane since then.

I visited him Sun 10th January and he is in good spirit now that the traction has been removed.

Rod is hoping to get transferred to Kingaroy Hospital for the next phase of this recovery within the next week or so.

It is hard to contact Rod anyone wishing to send messages via me is okay.

Regards

Gommer

Gommer Haycock
haycock1@bigpond.com

Rod Lumb - UPDATE

Via Adam West
29/01/2016

Please advise all that Rod is at home and mending slowly. He sends the following message;

"Rod has been deeply touched by your messages of support. Thank you all.

Both the OLD BULL and the young bull are doing well".

Regards

Gommer

Gommer Haycock
haycock1@bigpond.com

Keith Colwill

Via Adam West
20/01/2016

Keith Colwill is not travelling too well.

Messages of support can be sent though Alan Mitchell
alanmit@optusnet.com.au

Thanks to George Powell for letting us know.

Just to let you know that Keith Colwill had a stroke at home on the 6th December and is now a patient at Como Private hospital in Melbourne undergoing rehab.

Contact
Sec. Army Lodge
Alan Mitchell
email:

alanmit@optusnet.com.au

Regards

George

George Powel



CORPS MATTERS



Corps website: <http://www.defence.gov.au/army/RASIGS/>

RASigs Reunion Vietnam

50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan

9 DAY TOUR/REUNION—VIETNAM—15 AUGUST—23 AUGUST 2016

<p><i>Extract from website:</i> Vietnam Reunion 2016 Payment Accommodation will be at the hotels listed in the Itinerary with the contact details shown below. You will need to advise if you want twin beds or a double bed. Hotels used for the tour are listed below. The cost for the tour in United States Dollars (USD) is USD \$990 per person twin share with the Single Supplement an additional USD \$300 for those wishing to be in a single room. To register for this tour, please complete the Registration form attached to the WebPages Payment details are as follows: We request payment of the Reunion fees prior to 31 March 2016.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are in a Twin/Double sharing you are required to remit USD\$990.00 per person. If you are requiring a Single room then you are required to remit USD\$1290.00 <p>To make payments easier for you, the Committee has decided to use the Treasurer's bank account in Australia which saves on transfer fees and also any teething problems in effecting an international money transfer. We request that you add your names to the payment details (example below) and then send an e-mail to: greggdickson110@hotmail.com stating that your payment has been sent. Please note that you can go to the "XE Live Exchange" website to calculate the amount to be transferred; i.e. to convert the reunion payment amount from US Dollars to Australian Dollars.</p>	<p>The URL for this site is: http://www.xe.com/. Alternatively, check with your bank. If you have any queries in relation to these payments please contact the Reunion Treasurer at e-mail address: rasigsvn2016@outlook.com On the day of transferring money you will have to check with your bank as to the exchange rate from US dollars to Australian Dollars. The bank details are: GREGORY JOHN DICKSON ST GEORGE BANK PEEL STREET TAMWORTH NSW 2340 BSB: 112 879 ACCT: 126926271</p>
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Hotels used for the tour (please note that hotels are not yet finalised and the two below are examples of previous hotels used):

Destination	Hotel & Resort	Room	Websites
Saigon	Aquari Hotel	Deluxe	www.aquarihotel.vn
Vung Tau	Muong Thanh Vung Tau Hotel	Deluxe	http://muongthanh.vn

WHAT? You have not registered yet?
Well, you had better be quick or you could be left behind. Go to website:
<http://www.buddhas-place.com>
for registration and details.

<h2>Staying connected</h2> <p><i>Signallers ensure others get the message</i> CAPT Bradley Richardson reports, A MODERN Defence Force requires modern communications systems, regardless of where in the world it finds itself. At the Taji Military Complex (TMC) north of Baghdad the combined Australian and New Zealand communications team has</p>	<p>literally made sure everyone gets the message. Signals officer LT Iain McLeod is responsible for the new communication site at TMC, where Task Group Taji is providing training to Iraqi security Forces. "The team has laid more than 15km of cable, set up over 200 workstations including laptops, peripherals and phones, and manages over 200 radios", he said. "This is the first time Australia and New Zealand have deployed together for a</p>	<p>while, so it's exciting and a privilege". The combined communications force consists of headquarters personnel, communications systems operators, information system technicians and telecommunication technicians. The team arrived in May 2015 to set-up the information technology infrastructure and communications systems to keep in contact with other coalition forces in Iraq and with Australian and New Zealand command elements</p>	<p>both based in the region and back at home. "We have a variety of radios that operate off a number of different frequencies", Lt McLeod said. "They enable us to easily talk amongst ourselves and with our coalition partners when out conducting training. "We have several satellite dishes which we maintain to ensure we can talk back home as well". SIG Natasha Miller, who (continued overleaf)</p>
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**104th SIGNAL SQUADRON
50th Anniversary Re-union
28th to 30th May 2016
(Saturday to Monday)
WEEKEND ON THE GOLD COAST
At Twin Towers Services Club
(Coolangatta/Tweed Heads)**

The 104th Signal Squadron 50th Anniversary Re-union 2016 is being hosted at the Twin Towns Services Club and Resort on the Gold Coast 28th to 30th May 2016 celebrating 50 years since the unit was raised on the 30th November 1965 for service in South Vietnam.

This re-union is for 104th Signal Squadron past and present members, their families plus veterans who supported the squadron, drank with a squadron member or would have liked to have been a squadron member.

Also welcome are the younger 104th Signal Squadron veterans who served in the **Solomon Islands, Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and Peacekeeping missions**, plus other members of the **1st Combat Signal Regiment**. It is your time - please attend!

Widows and family members of deceased Ex 104th Signal Squadron members most welcome.

Reunion Programme

Saturday 28th May 2016

- Register **from 10am to 4pm** at Visions Function Room (Twin Towns Services Club) and renew old friendships. Bar closes **at 3pm** to allow room to be prepared for the Meet and Greet function later in the evening.
- Meet and Greet function **from 6pm** in Visions Function Room (Twin Towns Service Club).

Sunday 29th May 2016

- **11am** service at the Twin Towns Services Club War Memorial which is adjacent to the club in Chris Cunningham Park. Medals should be worn. There will be an opportunity for reunion attendees to lay a wreath or other memorial during the service.
- Dinner function (three course meal) in the Showroom (Twin Towns Services Club) **from 6:30pm**. Function Bar open **at 6pm** for pre-dinner drinks. Guest speaker, etc.

Monday 30th May 2016

- Farewell lunch function (two course meal) in the Showroom (Twin Towns Service Club) **from 12pm**. Function Bar open **at 11am** for friendship drinks. Kick off next reunion, committee, etc.

Reunion Admin

Limit on Attendance: Because of venue changes since our last re-union in 2011, this re-union is **limited to 350** attendees.

Function Cost: \$160 per head if paid **before 11th April 2016** (Early Bird Pricing). \$170 from 11th April 2016. Remember this re-union is limited to 350 because of the venue, so registrations close once the 350 is reached.

Re-union Shirts: Polo and Chambray shirts are \$35 each. No orders after the 11th April 2016.



CORPS MATTERS

Time Zones: All timings are Queensland times but daylight saving will not be operating in NSW - so what is the big deal!

Reunion Dress Code: Minimum dress for all functions as per the Twin Towns Service Club rules. Neat, casual and closed shoes.

Stubbies, singlets and thongs will not quite meet the dress standard. We love you but, Twin Towns will not let you into the functions!

Reunion Committee 2016

Denis Hare
Ph.07-5438 7512
Mob. 0419 334 535

Don Sutherland
Ph: 07-3269 8298

Peter Thorne
Ph: 07-3285 4823
Mob. 0409 633 353

John Bertini
Ph: 07-3397 1058
Mob.0423 491 460

See Reunion Web Site at:

Reunion E-mail:
reunion@au104.org
All Correspondence

104 Sig Sqn Re-union 2016
PO Box 115
Glass House Mountains QLD 4518

Proudly sponsored by:
Signals Vietnam Veterans Association Queensland



Staying connected (cont)

is deployed as a communications systems operator, is responsible for ensuring commanders can communicate with the trainers through satellite terminals and radios, which can be used for mounted and dismounted tasks.

"As radio operators, our primary role is manning the radio communications 24/7 and the management of these

systems", she said.

"The priority for our communications is to enable the passage of information from the trainers to the commander".

LT McLeod said that an important part of their job was ensuring welfare systems were operating for the 400-strong combined training force,

"We are always trying to improve services for the guys

and girls to speak to their families", he said.

"Given we are on operations and away from home for a long period of time, our communication networks are crucial for morale".

The signals detachment has been fortunate to deploy as a combined Australian and New Zealand force, which requires an understanding of the differences in each other's communications sys-

tems to make things work.

"I have learnt a lot in the past few months", LT McLeod said.

"It's a privilege to be in another country and be responsible for establishing all the communications from scratch for the task group.

"It's exciting; it's what everyone joins for".

From Army newspaper.
Edition 1361. 8 Oct 2015



RASigs

National Reunion

Yarra Valley, Victoria

9th to 14th November 2016

**Format for Reunion**

The 'Intention To Attend' Form is on the last page of *THURUNKA*

Wednesday 9th Nov 2016:

- All attendees and members arrive in the Yarra Valley;
- Get settled into caravan parks & accommodation;
- 12 noon start—Attend BBQ/meet & greet at Healesville RSL. Pick up gift pack;
- The rest of the day is free to explore the area.

Thursday 10th Nov 2016

09:30am Start:

Hire of buses for transport—DVA Grants for whole day

- Attend Shrine of Remembrance for Tree/Plaque dedication or wreath laying. *This dedication should be no longer than 15 to 20 minutes.*
- Healesville Sanctuary tour; OR
- Winery tour. *We can organise a bus if we get enough numbers.*

Friday 11th Nov 2016

10.00am start:

Hire of buses for transport—DVA Grants for whole day

- Vietnam Veterans can do a tour of the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Phillip Island. *We can organise a bus if we get enough numbers.*
- 11:00am—Attend the Shrine for the Remembrance Day service
- Buses to Simpson Bks for tour of RASigs Museum, DFSS and Barracks
- Sgts' Mess for BBQ and Drinks
- 7.00pm—back on the buses.

Saturday 12th Nov 2016:

Hire of buses for transport—DVA Grants for events

- Visit the old area/site of Balcombe Bks for those who want.
- 6.30pm for 7:00pm—**Formal Dinner** MCG members dining room Level 2 (\$120.00 per person at this stage. May be cheaper—Yet to be confirmed) *This is a Black Tie affair.*

Sunday 13th Nov 2016:

12 noon start (Possibly earlier):

- Official parade in Healesville—Inspection of Troops by Reviewing Officer, Mayor, RSL, President of Assn
- After parade, back to Healesville RSL for lunch
- Official closing of Reunion

Monday 14th Nov 2016:

- Hand-over to next State Association for next reunion
- Good-byes and farewells and Everyone heads home.

Contact Details:

Mr Gavin Lee (Vic President)
gavin.lee18@hotmail.com or 0425 722 347
Mr Phil Nelson (Vic Treasurer)
philkris@bigpond.net.au or 0407 215 501
www.rasigs.com go to the Victorian box and follow the prompts.
Return details to email: info@rasigs.com



Go to: RASIGS Association National Reunion Nov 2016.

Learning is streamlined**Signallers Undertake Improved Corporals' Course***Cpl Mark Doran*

The Defence Force School of Signals (DFSS) Regional Training Wing (RTW) at Gallipoli Barracks is taking field training to the soldiers.

On the Subject Two for Corporal (S2CPL) course with 1 Sig Regt, which finished on August 28, 30 soldiers qualified as RASigs detachment commanders.

Since its formation in January 2014, RTW's role has been to assist and mentor RASigs units as they conduct communications training at their home location.

CAPT Angela Rose, of

RTW, said after initial employment training, S2CPL was the first DFSS career course to combine all the signals trades to learn the roles and responsibilities of a detachment commander.

"For many years the course was conducted just as it was the year before, with units making their own improvements and having little guidance from DFSS," CAPT Rose said.

"Now it is a course that units conduct on behalf of DFSS with the dedicated support and guidance from RTW.

"Sigs can learn in their work environment, receive instruction from their immediate hierarchy and develop enduring relationships with their peers with RTW mentoring course staff to ensure training meets the quality standards required for Army as a registered training organisation."

SGT Angela Glasson, of RTW, said the constant improvement to the promotion course to meet the unique needs of RASigs' units and the requirements of Army was a focal point for RTW.

"The electronic learning platform 'eSchool' was also

used during the 1 Sig Regt course, allowing trainees to participate in virtual lessons for some of the course," Sgt Glasson said.

"eSchool" was first trialled on the S2CPL course in October 2014 and since then has been refined, developed and used on S2CPL courses conducted in Toowoomba, Darwin and Melbourne.

"The learning platform 'eSchool' is interactive and easy to navigate."

Students who have experienced the "eSchool" component of the course

(continued overleaf)

Don't be fooled...Another 50th Birthday Anniversary...

145th Signal Squadron

will be holding its 50th Anniversary on 1st April 16 (no this is not an April Fool's prank - had to get it out first)

OC, MAJ Simone Reynolds, has given me the task of canvassing former members of

the 145th Signal Squadron in attending this very special event to be held at Holsworthy Barracks.

We would be especially honoured if the original members from 1966 are able to attend as this milestone marks not just the recent work of the squadron, but also show the contribution of the very first members who paved the way.

If you could kindly e-mail me (no spam please) at my

work with your details so that we could send out formal invitations.

You could also leave a message on our Facebook page, if you are comfortable, and we shall arrange to have an invitation sent out to you.

Time, like most of us know, is fast approaching so if you are also aware of members who would like to attend, not just RASigs member, it would be highly appreciated if

you could pass on the message. Again this is not just for RASig but also other corps who were part of the team that made 145th Signal Squadron what it is now.

Regards,

Jeff

Renato "Jeff" Villavicencio
renato.villavicencio@defence.gov.au

Corps Matters (cont)

Learning is streamlined (cont)

have found it to be an efficient way of learning and agreed it allowed for self-paced learning.

SGT 'Glasson said a new assessment strategy, which could be adapted to meet the unique needs of a unit, had also been developed for the S2CPL course to provide the best learning Opportunity for students.

"As an example, lessons on orders build towards the students' summative assessments", she said.

"Students are given their higher orders from instructors and expected to extract relevant information to deliver orders to their detachment during the field phase of the course".

CO DFSS LTCOL Deane Limmer said he was committed to making DFSS training relevant to Army, RA-

Sigs units and soldiers.

"The S2CPL course is an example of how DFSS is working to adapt training," LTCOL Limmer said

"There is always room for improvement and my intention is to keep the training current and ensure it meets the needs of today's soldier".

From: Army newspaper.
 Edition 1360. 24 Sept 2015.

FYI

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DISCLAIMER: The thoughts and ideas and any views expressed in the articles of THURUNKA are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of The Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc. or the staff of THURUNKA. While contributions are welcome not all of them might be published and other articles may be held over for future editions of THURUNKA. Those published may be edited for length and clarity. Contributions are acknowledged as from our source, unless told otherwise. Contributions cannot be returned unless arrangements are made with the Editor prior to or upon submission of the contribution for publication. We encourage contributions and thank those who contribute to the pages of THURUNKA.

Information wanted...Sergeant John Herbert Bingham

Information pertaining to Sergeant John Herbert Bingham-stationed Mataranka.... WW2.

Via Adam West
 22/01/2016

Graham Donley and Bev Gates are looking for information about a WW2 Signaller - Sergeant John Herbert Bingham.

Can you help?

From: Graham and Dorothy Donley

In answer to an advertisement to obtain information about the late Cec Sainsbury, who authored a draft manuscript from which we are producing a book "Kokoda Linesmen", I received this request for information about a World War II and Maralinga Signals person.

Bev Gates has now given her ap-

proval for this to go on your 'Net' and I ask, please send this request out in the hope that we will be able to assist in gaining information for her.

Regards

Graham

MAJ Graham Donley (Ret'd)
pronto5@bigpond.com
 8 January 2016

From: Beverley Gates

Dear Sir,
 Sorry if I am being a nuisance... this does not pertain to L/CPL. Sainsbury.

However, I am wondering if you can assist me in finding out about my father's War history as we believe he was 2IC of the Wireless Division stationed at Mataranka during the WW2.

His name was Sergeant John Herbert Bingham.

My eldest son, who is a highly Peacetime Decorated Defence force person, WO Stephen James Gates Aviation Systems, obtained his War record but it was rather uninformative.

Having seen mention of your Association our hopes are that we can obtain more information.

If you can spare the time we would very much appreciate hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Bev

Bev Gates
bevvy.l.gts8@gmail.com
 5 Jan 2016



Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales presents the 2016 Seminar on Military Strategy

The Strategic Significance of Cyber and Space

Tuesday, 31st May 2016
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street, Sydney

PROGRAMME

The 2016 Defence White Paper is expected to give increased emphasis to Cyber and Space, which have joined Sea, Land, and Air as major domains of warfare in the 21st century.

This seminar will promote informed understanding in the broader community of the strategic significance of Cyber and Space; and contribute to the continuing professional education of defence and national security professionals.

1300—1330 REGISTRATION

[Attendees to be seated by 1325]

SESSION 1: THE NATIONAL SECURITY DIMENSION

Chair: Air Vice-Marshal Brent Espeland, AM (Ret'd)

National President, Royal United Services Institute of Australia

1330—1335 Welcome to Parliament House

Captain The Honourable Reverend Fred Nile, ED, LTh, MLC

Assistant President of the Legislative Council

Member, Royal United Services Institute, New South Wales

1335—1345 Official Opening

His Excellency, General The Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd)

Governor of New South Wales
[to be confirmed]

Patron of the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales

1345—1425-2016 Blamey Oration:
The cyber and space domains in 21st century warfare

Mr Stephen Meekin, AM
Deputy Secretary (Intelligence and Security), Department of Defence, Australia

Member, United Services Institute of the Australian Capital Territory

This presentation will provide an overview of 21st century warfare and of the contributions of the cyber and space domains to it, drawing on the 2016 Defence White Paper and the National Cyber Security Strategy to provide Australian context.

1425—1430 Presentation of the 2016 Blamey Medallion

Major General David McLachlan, AO (Ret'd) [to be confirmed]

President, Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Memorial Fund

The Blamey Oration perpetuates the memory of Field Marshal Sir Thomas Albert Blamey GBE KCB CMG DSO ED, Australia's highest ranking service-person, who was commander-in-chief concurrently of the Australian Military Forces and the Allied Land Forces, South-West Pacific Area, from 1942 to 1945 when Australia's security was directly threatened by Japan.

1430—500 Cyber Warfare

Mr Clive Lines
Head, Australian Cyber Security Centre
This presentation will describe how cyber warfare is conducted in the 21st century and its effects on countries like Australia.

1500—1530 Space Warfare

Air Commodore Stephen Osborne, CSC

Director of Strategy and Planning – Air Force

This paper will describe the potential for, and likely effects of, warfare in space during the 21st century and will outline the Australian response to it.

1530—1600 AFTERNOON TEA/COFFEE

SESSION 2:

THE MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL DIMENSION

Chair: Major General Paul Irving, AM, PSM, RFD (Ret'd)

Vice-President, Royal United Services Institute, New South Wales.

1600—1630 Training and Education for Cyber security, Cyber Defence and Cyber War

Professor Jill Slay, AM
Director, Australian Centre for Cyber Security, University of New South Wales, Canberra

This presentation will outline the Australian approach to training and education in all aspects of cyber space security and defence for the ADF, government and industry.

1630—1700 Military Aspects of Cyber Warfare

Brigadier Marcus Thompson, AM
Commander, 6th Brigade, Australian Army and Chief of Army's Special Adviser on Cyber Security and Cyber Warfare

This presentation will outline operational and tactical considerations in the military use of the cyber domain.

1700—1740 Panel Discussion

Moderator: Group Captain Doug Roser (Ret'd)

Past President, Royal United Services Institute, New South Wales

Aim To explore and debate key issues arising from the presentations

Panel Mr Stephen Meekin, AM
Mr Clive Lines

Air Commodore Stephen Osborne, CSC

Professor Jill Slay, AM
Brigadier Marcus Thompson, AMAir Vice-Marshal Andrew Dowse, AM.

1740—1750 Summation and closing remarks

Brigadier David Leece, PSM, RFD, ED (Ret'd)

President,
Royal United Services Institute,
New South Wales

1750—1800 Guests are to vacate the Parliamentary precinct by 1800.

Military history



103rd Signal Squadron 50th Birthday Celebrations



103rd Signal Squadron with the Princess Anne Banner at the 50th Anniversary Parade for the forming of 103rd Signal Squadron for service in South Vietnam

The Parade was an absolutely outstanding; perfect drill and formation. Everybody was so impressed. The 1RAR Brass and Drum band was just simply amazing. They started the day as a Military Band on a Ceremonial Regimental parade during a sweltering morning, and morphing into a ten piece rock band at the function in the Casino, that would have left AC/DC band for dead. No one wanted them to stop playing and the crowd just did not want to stop partying.

At this point, I have to thank the CO for his kind invitation for both Gommer Haycock and myself to officiate as Masters of Ceremony for the Regimental Ball held at the Townsville Casino. The Ball was a huge success and attended by at least 400 people. The planning and preparation for the Management Team, who had the responsibility to organise, practice and dealt with difficult logistical requirements to make sure the activities went ahead without a hitch. This Team is a credit to the CO and the Regiment.

In Summary

It was an honour to be present in Townsville for the 50th and I believe our new Regiment and 103 Sig Sqn members are left in no doubt, that they not only belong to a very proud tactical Squadron, but they are part of it, and will always remain part of it. Because they own it now, it belongs to them, and they have a duty to make sure that we never forget those who served and take time to remember.

About the Author:

Christopher Brown, OAM (AKA Callsign Bullworker) is an original member of 103 Sig Sqn and served in South Vietnam in 1966/67 as an L/Cpl Operator, Keyboard and Radio (OKR). He served 31 years in RASigs and retired as a Major.

From 'Certa Cita Queensland' newsletter of Signals Vietnam Veterans' Association Queensland, January 2016 issue.

KU-RING-GAI...

...Rich in Comms History

While travelling through the Ku-ring-gai electorate one cold Wednesday morning, I spotted a small group of people on a street corner in Wahroonga, sitting by a table on the grass verge beneath some waving Australian and Welsh National Flags.

After pulling to the side of the road and introducing myself, I learnt that it was the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society observing the anniversary of the first wireless message from overseas to Australia.

It was September 22nd, 1918 when the then Prime Minister "Billy" Hughes sent a message from the Marconi Station on the other side of the world outside Carnarvon, North Wales, to an aerial attached to the back of the home of the man who would establish the giant communications company AWA, Ernest Fisk, at Wahroonga.

"I have just returned from a visit to the battlefields where the glorious valour and dash of the Australian troops saved Amiens and forced back the legions of the enemy. Filled with greater admiration than ever for these glorious men, and more convinced than ever that it is the duty of their fellow-citizens to keep these magnificent battalions up to

their full strength".

Every year, members of the historical society return and place a statue of Mercury on the memorial at the front of the home and replay a recording of the Hughes message. Mercury is then packed away for another year.

It hit home to me how important that moment was in resolving the tyranny of distance and what a significant place in Australia's history a residential property in the middle of leafy Wahroonga holds.

Thank you Ku-ring-gai Historical Society for keeping our history alive.

Article submitted by Norm McMahon.



ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE
NEW SOUTH WALES

2016 SEMINAR ON MILITARY STRATEGY
“THE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF CYBER AND SPACE”
REGISTRATION
RSVP and payment by 20 May 2016

TITLE/RANK: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

SURNAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

PHONE: () _____ MOBILE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Payment method used: _____

TUESDAY, 31 MAY 2016
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney
1.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Attendance fees: RUSIA members \$40.00; non-members \$60.00;
non-member concession (students; Current ADF members) \$46.
Pre-event registration is essential

Preferred Registration and Payment Options

EFT: BSB: 062028 Account No: 11383565
Account name: RUSI of NSW
Please use your *name and "SSCS"* as payment reference
then **e-mail: office@rusinsw.org.au** to send your
contact details: Name, phone, address and e-mail.

Post: RUSI of NSW
Locked Bag 18, DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

Include Cheque and your contact details. Cheque/Money
Order payable to 'RUSI of NSW'.

Alternative Payment Option

Via the Website: www.rusinsw.org.au using the secure credit card payment facility via PayPal <http://tinyurl.com/SSCSPP>

104th Signal Squadron 50th Birthday in Darwin

by Callsign Rabbit



Military
history
(cont)



1CSR on parade for the 50th Anniversary of the forming of 104 Sig Sqn from service in South Vietnam. 104 Sig Sqn (left), 105 Sig Sqn (Right) and the Princess Anne Banner in the centre in front of Vietnam Veteran ACV Callsign 85C.

Background

104th Signal Squadron (104 Sig Sqn) was raised on the 30th Nov 1965 at Wacol, Brisbane. It replaced 103 Sig Sqn in South Vietnam as the Task Force Signal Squadron in April 1967 and remained until November 1971, when the 1st Australian Task Force was withdrawn.

On returning to Australia it has been at Ingleburn NSW, Holsworthy NSW and is now at Palmerston near Darwin NT and is still supporting 1st Brigade (Renamed 1st Australian Task Force). It has maintained the armoured communications skills that started development on the battle fields in Vietnam and developed many other skills since, including supporting airborne operations.

The unit is no longer an independent squadron and is now part of the 1st Combat Signal Regiment (1CSR), which has had involvement with deployments to Solomon Islands, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

50th Birthday Parade

A few ex members of 104 Sig Sqn including a small number of Vietnam Veterans made the long trip to Darwin to help 1CSR celebrate the 50th and the first event was the parade. After passing through security, which was streamlined for us old warriors, the first thing noticed was the parade ground at the front of the large 1CSR compound; it had a number of vehicles and antennas. The vehicle in the pride of place, at the

centre of the parade ground, was our old Armoured Command Vehicle (ACV) from the Vietnam war, Callsign 85C! This set the awe-inspiring day for all who attended.

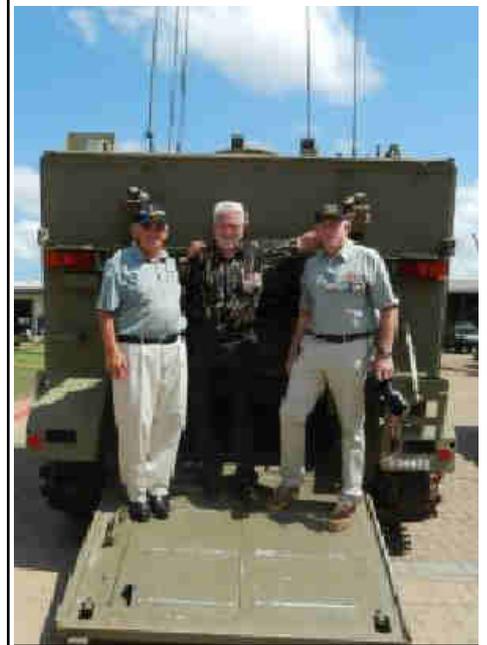
104 Sig Sqn and its sister 105 Sig Sqn marched on to the parade ground along with the Princess Anne Banner and other members of 1CSR under the command of CO, 1CSR, LTCOL Darren Moore. The temperature was 35 Deg and the Brigadier was a little delayed to review the troops but not one man or woman succumbed to the heat. A well conducted parade in the Darwin weather as it builds up to the wet season. We were all so proud of our old squadron and our new regiment.

Morning Tea and Display

After the parade it was off to the large covered area at the front of the Abraham Club for a bit of morning tea with the troops. The OC, 104 Sig Sqn, MAJ Brenton Lawlor, addressed the gathering and welcomed the visiting old and bold. He also invited us to view some of their equipment and weapons which were setup in a display by 1CSR.

While all our Vietnam equipment has long gone to museums and the tip, the new equipment included Satellite Terminals, Tactical Servers, VHF and HF Radios in 6 wheel Mercedes-Benz and Bushmasters (PMV) vehicles. Also lots of weapons including 5.56mm and 7.62mm belt-fed machine guns which replaced our old Vietnam-era "Pig" M60's.

However one bit of equipment has survived and that distinctive noise of the tracks on the roadway was heard as old Callsign 85C fired up and came from the parade ground into the compound display area under her own stream and parked next to an FFR PMV Bushmaster. The Vietnam Veterans were like groupies, with glazed eyes, all over the old track!



*Left Photo: ACV Callsign 85C
L-R Denis Hare, Ross Stickman
and Ken Mackenzie.*

Memorial Service

After the morning tea and display, a small memorial service was held at the 104 Sig Sqn memorial to our Vietnam war dead. 104 Sig Sqn, visitors and other members of 1CSR gathered



Ross Stickman (insert left) and Ken Mackenzie (insert right) laying the wreath at the 104 Sig Sqn memorial, at the front of RHQ 1CSR. Ross arrived in South Vietnam on the 16 Apr 1967 and Ken left South Vietnam in Nov 71.

The two 104 Sig Sqn war veterans were representing our almost-five-years-war-service in South Vietnam by honouring our war dead.

Note the chook near the memorial - its last owner was Saddam Hussein!

around the memorial, which is located at the front of RHQ. The OC and padre said a few words and two Vietnam Veterans, Ross Stickman and Ken Mackenzie, laid a wreath on behalf of us all, remembering Cpl Denis Donnelly, Sig Alexander Young and Sig Dennis Abraham, who made the ultimate sacrifice in South Vietnam. Let's we forget.

The two 104 Sig Sqn war veterans were representing our almost-five-years-war-service in South Vietnam by honouring our war dead. Note the chook near the memorial - its last owner was Saddam Hussein!

Dinner

The 104 Sig Sqn 50th Anniversary Dinner was an all-ranks affair based on a formal dinner but a little semi-formal, that allowed all ranks to enjoy the evening, with the Vietnam Veterans and other visitors mixed across the tables. This gave the young soldiers a chance to meet the past members of the unit and enjoy each other's company.

On display at the dinner was memorabilia from 104 Sig Sqn service to the nation over 50th years. One was a 104 flag that had watched over us in South Vietnam many years ago at Nui Dat. It

had been located in South Australia and presented to 1CSR by Malcolm Ferguson early in the week.



OC, 104 Sig Sqn and attending Vietnam veterans at the war memorial at 1CSR. L-R MAJ Brenton Lawlor, Ken Mackenzie, Denis Hare, Mick Beeston, Mal Fergusson,

Being based in Darwin, 104 Sig Sqn now has a crocodile in its unofficial signage and a young crocodile was also present!

A number of presentations during the evening were made, including a plaque and gift voucher on behalf of the 104 Sig Sqn veterans, by me, to the 104 Sig Sqn soldier of the year, Signaller Andrew Gordon. The \$100 gift

voucher from the military shop was funded from the 104 Sig Sqn old and bold reunion account. Also at the dinner was the traditional birthday cake, which was formally cut by Major Brendon Lawlor (OC) and youngest soldier from 104 Sig Sqn, Signaller Dylan Neumann; a very enjoyable night.

In summary

It was great to see and talk to the Officers, SNCOs, men and women of 1CSR. All were very engaging and clearly enjoyed having us old fellows with them for the day. Many are war veterans also, so the understanding of each generations service to our nation, was of great respect.

Well done 104 Sig Sqn and 1CSR you did us proud. We hope to see some of you on the Gold Coast in May 2016 and we are planning to attend the 100th

birthday in Nov 2065 (maybe)!

About the Author: Denis Hare, BEM (AKA Callsign Rabbit) served in 104 Sig Sqn in South Vietnam in 1967/68 as a Cpl Draughtsman Signals. He served 23 years in RASigs and retired as a WO1 Supervisor, Technical Telecommunications (RSTT).

From 'Certa Cita Queensland' newsletter

**Looking For...
...Mark "Fwit" Frawley**

Via Adam West
03/03/16

Can you help Dave Brogden with his search for Mark "Fwit" Frawley?

Adam

Roger "Slim" Whitman and I would like to make contact with the above ex chook.

Thanks

Sprogg

WO1 (Ret'd) Dave (Sprogg) Brogden
(dave.brogden@gmail.com)

103rd Signal Squadron 50th Birthday in Townsville

by Callsign Bullworker



**Military
history**
(cont)



Past members of 103 Sig Sqn L-R: Derek Webster; Lofty Evans, OAM; and COL Roger Joy, AM at the new dedicated Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Plaque.

COL Roger Joy is a past OC of 103 Sig Sqn and both Derek and Lofty are volunteers at 3CSR, helping to maintain the Regiment's History.

Introduction. Well, it's come and gone. The long awaited 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Independent 103rd Signal Squadron (103 Sig Sqn) for service in South Vietnam, providing tactical communication for the 1st Australian Task Force, designated as part of the coalition of Foreign Forces, committed to support the Government of South Vietnam, against an insurgence, and hostile bid, by North Vietnam with its communist intent on defeating the South.

Now, all that may sound long-winded, but at the time when I was a young 20 year old Signaller, it sounded pretty serious to me and my mates. So with that, I am glad I hung around for the encore 50 years later, just recently, planned, presented and choreographed by the 3rd Combat Signal Regiment (3CSR) in Townsville. No need for a history lesson here about 103 Sig Sqn. But it is relevant to remind members that our unit existed as a Squadron of 1 Signal Regiment since 1960, as a semi-autonomous Combat Operations Signals Squadron supporting the Brigade units in Holsworthy Barracks and in Victoria. This was no ordinary unit birthday celebration. At the same time this was also an Operational Memorial Dedication Service for 3CSR, in its involvement with numerous NATO forces, in its many humanitarian peacekeeping missions, and the Regiments role in providing tactical and strategic communications support for Allied Forces also, involved in the many warlike conflicts around the world.

It is a good time to be alive, when many of my contemporaries are no longer here, to experience the accolades of genuine respect for a unit, whose brief beginnings had an extraordinary life. And to think throughout decades of Army reorganisation and change, the unit still has its original designator...103 Sig Sqn likewise 104 Sig Sqn. For that I am grateful, for it gives us all a sense of belonging and ownership, of a unit which is continually called upon throughout the ages to do what it does best, and that is to establish and maintain communications. As an original member of the Squadron, I was very proud just to be there in the Regiment, to be part of the celebration. The unit is still alive and kicking, as past members and current members have shown, when they all came together for a week, in a party of brotherhood, mateship and family. I have never experienced an occasion like this since I retired 26 years ago.

Bullworker

From 'Certa Cita Queensland' newsletter of Signals Vietnam Veterans' Association Queensland, January 2016 issue.



FYI

(CONT)

The Soldiers' Medallion recognises the hard work and exemplary service of personnel throughout the Army. Here are the recipients for 2015. Out of the 17 medallions awarded, 14 went to RASigs personnel?

Or were they all RASigs personnel?

Well done those 17 soldiers!...ED.

Top Soldiers Awarded

Sig A.T. – SASR
Sig D.A.J. Bryant – 3 CSR
Sig M.S. – SOHQ
LCpl B.J. Corsini – 7 CSR
Sig S.T. – 2 Cdo Regt
Cpl C.M.A.P. Fridell – 3 CSR
Sig D.N. Aturaliya – 1 CSR
Cpl P.M. Hawker – 7 Sig Regt
LCpl C. Belletini – 143 Sig Sqn

Sig R.J. Morris – ASD
Cpl C.J. Bourke – 1 Sig Regt
Sig C.S. Niutta – 7 CSR
Cpl B.A. Butler – 1 CSR
Cpl W.T. Tournoff – 1 Sig Regt
Cpl S.A. Butler – 145 Sig Sqn
Sig R.A. Ziegler – 1 Sig Regt
Sig M.F. Brick – ASD

Extracted from Army Newspaper, Edition 1363, 5 November 2015,



Letter to the Editor

*17 Line of Comms Sigs
Mt Isa & Alice Springs*

From:

Joyce Kirkham
Chester Hill NSW.
(Aged 92½ yrs)
28 December 2015

To Ken Forway and Norm McMahon

I was reading in *THURUNKA* about the 17 L of C Sigs _ Mt Isa & Alice Springs.

I was in Mt Isa from September 1944, after going from ALHQ Brisbane, to June 1945. We went by truck to Alice Springs (about 13 of us).

In mid December 1945 we were all sent home.

The only other person that I know of is:

Mrs Doris Smith (nee Jones.)
Wayville SA.

Joyce

Joyce Kirkham
Nee Thorby

In reply...

Joyce.

Thank-you for your letter and the information. I have passed the letter on to Norm and he was very pleased that you were able to contribute to his historical précis.

Once again, Thanks and wish you well for the future.

Ken. 7

Ken Forway

Footnote

Norm McMahon has informed me of three other of his female members who served in 17 Line of Comms at that time; they are: Ivy Barnes of Padstow, NSW; Hilda Johnson of Bassendean, Qld; and Charlotte (Lottie) Prior of Kingsgrove, NSW.

I am reliably informed by Norm that all these ladies are well and he suspects they might all be in their 90s, as he said he was the youngest and he is 92 now.

Thanks Norm and we wish you and all your mates from 17 Line of Comms well....Ed.

Tail-end Charlie

A Soldier's Soldier

First RSM-A honoured at WONCO Academy with some of his service items on display

THE WONCO Academy unveiled a legacy to Army's first RSM-A WO "Wally" Thompson on November 2.

A portrait, WO1 Thompson's mounted service medals and his pace-stick are now on display at Cannugra, Qld

CO WONCO-A, LTCOL Troy Francis, delivered a short address during the unveiling, saying the pace-stick was a badge-of-office symbolic of the RSM.

"It is the most recognised symbol of office carried in today's Army", he said.

"The Royal Regiment of Artillery was the originator of the pace-stick. It was used by gunners to ensure correct distances between guns on the battle-field, thus ensuring effective fire.

"The original stick was more like a walking stick, with a silver or ivory knob; it could not be manipulated like a pair of callipers. The infantry then developed the stick to its present configuration, as an aid to drill"

RSM WONCO-A WO1 Rod Cornick; Commander Land Warfare Centre COL David Hafner; Wally Thompson's children Brett and Catherine and former RSM-A WO Dave Ashley attended the unveiling, which coincided with the start of the 1/15 RSM course.

Mr Thompson said when his parents passed away, the children were given responsibility for ensuring the legacy of their father's service continued.

"But we soon realised the significance of the symbols of Dad's service and dedication - his medals and pace-suck - meant they could not belong to any one person and that we were mere stewards", he said, "I can think of no greater honour than to pass on this stewardship to the Army via the trainees on the RSM course."

The Service Life of

WO Wally Thompson

WO Wallace (Wally) Talbot Claxton Thompson joined the Citizen's Military Force in 1950.

In 1954 he joined the Australia Regular Army and saw active service in Malaya with 2RAR.

This was followed by active service in South Vietnam serving in three tours.

His first tour was as a member of the Australian Army Training Team - Vietnam in 1964.

During this tour he was, awarded the South Vietnamese Cross Of Gallantry with Silver Star.

On his second tour in 1968, he served as CSM, B Coy 1RAR.

During this tour, he was badly wounded during the Battle of Coral-Balmoral and was returned to Australia.

For his third tour in 1970, he served as RSM 4RAR.

Later WO Thompson took up appointments as:

RSM Jungle Training Centre at Canungra (1973);

RSM Infantry Centre at Singleton (1975); and

RSM Army Training Command in Sydney (1979) and RSM 1 Bde (1982).

In 1983, he was selected and appointed Army's first RSM-A.

WO Thompson retired in 1987 after 37 years of loyal service

For the next 25 years, he continued an active interest in all things Army and worked tirelessly to improve the soldier's lot.

WO Thompson committed 62 years of his life to the Army before his death on 19 April 2012 in Sydney.

*From Army Newspaper
Edition 1364,
19th November, 2015.*

RASIGS NATIONAL REUNION: To be held at HEALESVILLE Victoria 9th to 14th November 2016**Intention to attend RASIGS Reunion:****Name:****Partner /Guest Name:**

Event Date:	Event:	Attending: Yes or No & Number
9th Nov 2016	Meet & Greet at Healesville RSL	
10th Nov 2016	RASigs Plaque & Tree dedication at Shrine of Remembrance (Morning), Healesville Sanctuary tour (afternoon) or Winery tour (afternoon)	
11th Nov 2016	Simpson Barracks tour: Museum, New School of Signals (DFSS), Barracks area, and BBQ at Sergeants Mess.	
12th Nov 2016	Visit old Balcombe site (Possible if enough numbers). Formal Dinner – MCG Members Dining room	
13th Nov 2016	Official parade down main street in Healesville, then back to RSL	
14th Nov 2016	Farewells	

Your contact details:**Address:****Email:****Contact phone numbers:****RETURN YOUR DETAILS TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS: info@rasigs.com****Details for the event including costs are at:**www.rasigs.com

Facebook page: RASIGS Association National Reunion Nov 2016

Mr Gavin Lee (Vic President) gavin.lee18@hotmail.com or 0425 722 347Mr Philip Nelson (Vic Treasurer) philkris@bigpond.net.au or 0407 215 501**Your information MUST be returned no later than 30th September 2016 to allow for catering and transport requirements. Thank you**