



# THURUNKA

December 2008

Newsletter of the  
Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.

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## Coming Events - 2009

Update your diary now

Committee Meeting 1	Wed	25 Feb	1800 hrs	RACA Club
Rhumb Corps Luncheon	Wed	4 Mar	1200 hrs	CTA Club
<b>THURUNKA</b> March edition Mid-March				
Committee Meeting 2	Wed	25 Mar	1800 hrs	RACA Club
ANZAC Day March	Sat	25 Apr	1030 hrs	City
Signals Reunion	Sat	25 Apr	1200 hrs	City Hotel
Committee Meeting 3	Wed	27 May	1800 hrs	RACA Club
Rhumb Corps Luncheon	Wed	3 Jun	1200 hrs	CTA Club
<b>THURUNKA</b> June edition Mid-June				
Reserve Forces Day March	Sun	8 Jul	1030 hrs	Sydney CBD
Committee Meeting 4	Wed	29 Jul	1800 hrs	RACA Club
Battle for Australia Service	Wed	2 Sep	1100 hrs	Cenotaph Sydney
Rhumb Corps Luncheon	Wed	2 Sep	1200 hrs	CTA Club
<b>THURUNKA</b> September edition Mid-September				
Committee Meeting 5	Wed	30 Sep	1800 hrs	RACA Club
* Eastern Region Corps Dinner	Sat	Nov	1900 hrs	TBA
* National RASigs Re-union	TBA	Nov		Vietnam
* Annual Memorial Service	Sun	Nov	TBA	Signal Hill, South Head
* Annual General Meeting	Sun	Nov	TBA	Paddington RSL Club
Rhumb Corps Luncheon	Wed	2 Dec	1200 hrs	CTA Club
* Committee Luncheon	Sun	6 Dec	1200 hrs	TBA
<b>THURUNKA</b> December edition Early-December				

\* TBA: Dates and details to be announced / TBC: Dates and details to be confirmed

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



*The President and Committee of the Association and the Staff of THURUNKA all take this opportunity to wish you and yours a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.*

*Lest we forget*

The Association's Memorial, Signal Hill, Watson's Bay, Sydney

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## Next Issue

Copy for the next issue of **THURUNKA** must be in the hands of the Editor, Ken Forway, 28 Mendelssohn Avenue EMERTON 2770.

Or by e-mail:

[thurunka@optusnet.com.au](mailto:thurunka@optusnet.com.au)

NO LATER THAN

20<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

# Recent Events

## 'Battle for Australia' Day Memorial Service

The Cenotaph, Sydney, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008



General Peter Cosgrove AC MC

Once again, Association members attended the 'Battle for Australia' Memorial Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place Sydney. The Governor General had proclaimed in June 2008 that 'Battle for Australia' Day will be observed on the first Wednesday in September each year - marking the first defeat of Japanese forces on land in the Battle of Milne Bay. As a result members of the Government kept referring to it as the inaugural year of the service, though it has been supported and financed by governments for many years.

That aside, the day was perfect when an estimated 1500 service men and women, veterans, friends and general public paused for a few minutes to remember with thanks

those that suffered the conflicts so many years ago. We were again honoured with the attendance of three tribal chiefs from Papua New Guinea, one of whom is an original Fuzzy-Wuzzy Angel, all in full tribal regalia.

General Peter Cosgrove was the official guest, laying a floral tribute on the Cenotaph. He was followed by representatives of the federal, state and local governments and senior members of the three services, nurses', veteran and civilian associations. In his few words General Cosgrove said that all of us in Australia were lucky and should be thankful for those who had fought to give us the life-style that we have to-day and that many had suffered hardship with many not surviving.

Towards the end of the service the general public was asked to come forward and place their tribute on the Cenotaph. After a moment of quite reflection the official party departed and Sydney went back to live the life-style that others had so generously and thoughtlessly given to them.

## Eastern Region Corps Dinner

Randwick Barracks Officers' Mess

21<sup>st</sup> November, 2008

Thanks to the ambitious members of the Corps, the ER Corps Dinner was conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2008. About 50 members and guests of the Corps gathered to celebrate the Corps' birthday at Randwick Barracks Officers' Mess. Our thanks go to the CO 17<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment,

LTCOL James Roche for accepting the challenge of putting on the Dinner and the subalterns of the 17<sup>th</sup> determined to make this a great night. It was a friendly evening and went over very well.

The Representative Colonel Commandant, MAJGEN Paul Irving AM RFD, represented the HOC, who apologised for his inability to attend. General Irving thanked the members and guests for their attendance and congratulated the Corps for its high standard of communications in our military role. He continued that HOC's main concern was the need for the Corps to communicate better within itself

and to Corps Associations around the country. A proposal for a national body to interface the state associations and the use of the intranet and internet to keep in touch was mentioned.

The General thanked all those who were

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Eleven and a half of the Association members who attended the ER Corps Dinner.**

They are (L to R) Wayne Marscham, Chris Ballantine, Andrew Butler, Chris Mugdan (kneeling), John Wynn Jones, Paul Irving, Barry Izzard; Ken Myers (kneeling), John Rowlands, Tony Staas, Ernie Flint and Ken Forway (the half).

# National Corps Reunion

## Adelaide November 2008

**A** National Corps Reunion was held in Adelaide 7-11 November 2008, hosted by the Royal Australian Signals Association (SA) with over 300 current and former Corps members from around Australia and overseas attending. Our Association was represented by President Chris Ballantine and members Bob Daniels and John Scott. Our Patron Major General Paul Irving AM RFD attended in his capacity of Representative Colonel-Commandant. The Corps was also represented by the Deputy HOC and the Corps RSM. There were many other attendees from NSW.

Registration and welcoming drinks occurred on Friday 7th



November 2008 at 144th Signal Squadron, Keswick Barracks. A round of golf was also organised for the so inclined. President Chris, Bob and John found the 144 Sig Sqn bar more appealing.

Saturday was cool and overcast however that did not stop over 200 attendees enjoying the bar and BBQ facilities at Bonython Park. Old friendships were renewed and new friendships forged at this very successful function.

The Corps Day Parade by 144th Signal Squadron was held at Keswick Barracks on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The parade was commanded by OC Major B Dalton (RAAOC) and reviewed by Major General Paul Irving.

The squadron has several troops in Adelaide and one in Tasmania however numbers on parade were reduced by the deployment of squadron personnel to the Solomon Islands. The Princess Anne Banner was paraded and the large group of guests agreed that the standard of drill and dress was excellent. The squadron hosted a luncheon following the parade and the mess profits received another significant boost.

A formal reunion dinner at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre was held on the Monday evening. Over 300 reunion attendees and guests were present at this excellent evening. It was hard to recognise some of the blokes in dinner suits or at least a collar and tie. Coopers beer and SA wines got another boost on the evening.

The reunion concluded with a Remembrance Service at 1100 hrs, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Keswick Barracks followed by fellowship at a local pub where once again, Cooper's beer flowed for the afternoon.

Congratulations are extended to President Bruce Long and his dedicated committee for the planning and conduct of this most enjoyable reunion. Whether you are a veteran, former full-time or part-time member of the Corps, or are currently serving, I commend subsequent national reunions to you. Well done South Australia!

*Chris Ballantine*

President

Our President, Chris Ballantine, and our Patron, MAJGEN Paul Irving, with the President of the RASigs Ass'n (SA) Bruce Long and his wife at the National Corps Reunion in Adelaide.

(Continued from page 2)

## Eastern Region Corps Dinner

active within the Corps, especially to our own Association and the participation we take in our role. He congratulated Chris Ballantine, the President, and the staff of *THURUNKA*, Ken Forway, the Editor and Michael Gategood, the Publisher, for the high standard that is *THURUNKA*, and that *THURUNKA*, is the best of all the Associations' newsletters that he has seen.

The General also spoke of the new (you guessed it) Corps review and restructure that was taking place, including the development of the new trades and the development of the training courses in those trades and the need to review the roles of the units.

After the Kangaroo court, all retired to the bar to taste the wide variety of beverages at and around the bar. We thank the PMC and members of the Randwick Barracks Officers Mess for allowing us to use the facilities of the mess and to the staff and stewards for good food, good wine and good service.

# Association Matters

## Annual Memorial Service

23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2008

On a day dampened by a persisting drizzle, twenty members, guests and family attended the Association's Annual Memorial Service at Signal Hill, Watson's Bay. The persistence of the rain was matched by the persistence of those gathered to pay due respects to the memory of those who have fallen. We particularly remembered those members who have fallen since our last gathering at Signal Hill, including one of our own Corps, Signalman Sean McCarthy, with his tragic loss in action in Afghanistan.

Our prayers went out to protect all our Defence members who are serving around the world and for a safe return home.

Our appreciation is extended to the contributions made by members of



The President places the wreath on the Association's Memorial.

both the 8<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment and the 17<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment in making this a successful day under such difficult conditions.

*... and afterwards...*

The President invited those in attendance at the Memorial Service to accompany him back to the Paddington RSL Club for refreshments.

## The Annual General Meeting - 2008

After the Annual Memorial Service at the Association's Memorial at Signal Hill, we retired to the Paddington RSL Club for refreshments with family and friends. At the appointed time of 1230 hrs the President summonsed all of the Association's members to attend the Annual General Meeting. The President presented his annual report, see below, which was accepted by the meeting, along with the Auditor's Report (see after).

The President then declared all positions on the committee vacant and nominations for Committee Members were called for.

The following committee was elected to the respective positions for the following twelve months.

President	Chris Ballantine
Vice President	Tony Staas
Treasurer	**Chris Ballantine
Secretary	Mike McEvoy
Membership Offr	Geoff Davidson
Members	Barry Izzard
	Ken Myers
	John Rowlands
	John Wynn Jones
Hon Auditor	Robert Eaglesham
Editor <b>THURUNKA</b>	Ken Forway

\*\*As there were no nominations for the position of Treasurer; the President, Chris Ballantine agreed to act in this position until a suitable person could be found. If you know anyone in the Association or you wish to nominate yourself for the position of Treasurer, please contact either the President or Secretary. All enquiries will be considered strictly 'in-confidence' until the final appointment is made.

The President also confirmed that Michael Gategood would continue as Publisher of **THURUNKA**.

Bob Eaglesham agreed to continue as Honorary Auditor for the Association.

The President welcomed the new committee and thanked them for their continuing on the Committee. At the end of the meeting, all members returned to their family, friends and guests for lunch and a social chat.

# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC.

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

I present to the members of the Association my 8<sup>th</sup> annual report as your President and look forward to being able to contribute to the Association in the future.

As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 members' funds totalled \$15,389, an increase of \$317 over the previous year. The financial health of the Association enables us to support Eastern Region Signals Units. This year we granted 17<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment \$250 towards its inaugural year book and I encourage any reasonable application from Eastern Region Signals Units to fund awards or assist the funding of specific projects.

Membership currently stands at 248 and six affiliated WW2 unit associations. Membership declined during the year following the removal of 27 members who were over three years in arrears of fees. Over the past several years we have also had 14 members pass away and 12 resign for various reasons. Only several of those resignations related to a grievance with the committee.

The past 12 months has been busy. In February I represented the Association at the 142<sup>nd</sup> Signal Squadron all-ranks dinner and at the Line of Communications Signals Association Darwin Bombing Remembrance Service at Bankstown.

The ANZAC Day March and Reunion in April were, as usual, our major activities and it is pleasing to see the support we attract on ANZAC Day from serving and former members of the Corps. It is also our major recruitment activity of the year.

During June, Secretary Mike McEvoy and I attended a liaison meeting with the CO 8<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment and CO 17<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment at Holsworthy Barracks. I have more to say on the matter of Corps liaison further in my report. The Reserve Forces Day Parade in early July attracted the usual small group of Association stalwarts together with several new

faces.

Mike McEvoy and I represented the Association during August at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra to unveil a plaque dedicated to the signals units that served in South Vietnam 1965 - 1972, followed by a reunion of attendees. It was pleasing to see other Association members present, including Peter Emery and Tony Ballantine. The Royal Australian Signals Association (ACT) is to be congratulated for the excellent planning and conduct of the ceremony. I also attended the 17<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment Second Anniversary Dinner at Holsworthy Barracks during that month.

Most of the committee attended the Battle for Australia Commemorative Service in Martin Place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008, followed by the quarterly Rhumb Corps luncheon at the CTA Club.

More recently I attended the National Corps Reunion in Adelaide, the details of which will be included in the December edition of our newsletter, *THURUNKA*. A great deal of effort went into this five-day activity and President Bruce Long and his South Australian Committee are to be congratulated. The year culminated with the Eastern Region Corps Dinner at Randwick Barracks on 21<sup>st</sup> November and our annual memorial service at South Head on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

The quarterly Rhumb Corps luncheons continued at the Commercial Travellers Club, Martin Place with numbers ranging from about six to twelve. Commencing at this December luncheon, guests from other Corps have been or will be invited to the luncheons to widen our interests. I encourage members to attend at least one luncheon a year - great venue, great food and drinks and great company.

During the year we formalised the appointment of Major General Paul Irving as our Patron. General Irving

has also held the appointment of the Corps Representative Colonel-Commandant. I have appreciated the support provided by General Irving during the year and his more recent "plug" for the Association at the Eastern Region Corps Dinner.

On a continuing note, it is pleasing that the new HOC, Brigadier Mike Milford is listening to the Associations' call for improved domestic liaison between HOC, Signals Units and the Associations. The Victorian Association recently re-invigorated the debate on this issue and has proposed a number of organisational models to improve our communication; liaison; recruitment and retention of Association members. I have made a number of recommendations relating to a National Committee or Secretariat and the restoration of regional Corps Sub-Committees to improve liaison between the serving members of the Corps and the Associations.

Related to this issue is the need for our own committee to improve liaison with the 8<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment, 17<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment, 126<sup>th</sup> Signal Squadron (CDO) and 301<sup>st</sup> Signal Squadron (CDO). I recommend to the new committee that it consider inviting a representative of each of those units to become an ex-officio member of the committee.

I have been honoured to lead the Association over the past 8 years. This task has been greatly assisted by the effort and wise counsel provided by the members of the committee - Tony Staas, Mike McEvoy, Barry Izzard, Ken Myers, John Rowlands, Ken Forway and John Wynn Jones. Geoff Davidson joined the committee later in the year as our Membership Officer. These duties were taken over from Ken Forway who has been maintaining our membership database. As I reported last year, our previous Treasurer, Errol

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Hazlewood, stood down from the committee owing to ill-health. In the past twelve months Errol has unfortunately spent two months in hospital with a range of ailments. During September I had the pleasure of presenting Errol with a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts on the committee since 1982. I was also pleased to be able to present committee stalwart, John Wynn Jones with a similar certificate. John was foundation Treasurer in 1975 and has been on the committee for most of the subsequent years.

An unsung hero of the Association is our newsletter publisher, Michael Gategood from Manilla, NSW. Once Ken Forway has gathered all the material for *THURUNKA* he submits a draft document to me for review and then Ken

sends the draft electronically to Michael who performs his skills in desktop publishing to produce the high quality newsletter you receive each quarter. I continue to receive very positive feedback from around Australia about the quality of *THURUNKA*. Congratulations to Ken and Michael.

In conclusion, I wish all members of the Association, their families and friends, a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

*Chris Ballantine*

President

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION (NSW) Inc.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Last Year \$</b>	<b>This Year \$</b>
Members Subscriptions	2495	1930
Sale of merchandise	121	128
Interest Received	486	515
Sundry Income	41	106
Contra – Functions	315	130
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3458</b>	<b>2809</b>

#### **MEMBERS FUNDS**

Represented by:

St George Bank Balance 30/6/08	\$13,638
Association Equipment	\$ 837
Merchandise O/H @ cost	\$ 914
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>	<b>\$15,389</b>
	(2007=\$15,072)

*Chris Ballantine*

President/Acting Treasurer

21 July 2008

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Last Year \$</b>	<b>This Year \$</b>
Newsletter	646	500
Merchandise	282	-
Admin & Allowances	442	496
Committee Expenses	315	381
Grants & Donations	435	250
Wreaths & Presentations	333	306
Depreciation	210	-
ANZAC Day Subsidy	-	450
Banners & Equipment	330	162
Contra Functions	705	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3698</b>	<b>2545</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficiency)</b>	<b>(240)</b>	<b>264</b>

## Auditors Report AGM 2008

To the members of The Royal Australian Signals Association (NSW) Inc.

I have examined the financial records of the Association kept by and presented to me by its acting Honorary Treasurer and have conducted tests and reconciliations of these records and accounts.

I have obtained all the information and explanations requested from these accounts and records in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association.

I am informed that the Association is a Non-Profit organisation and is exempt from Income Taxation liability whilst it conducts and promotes its affairs within the applicable regulations of the Income Taxation Act.

I am satisfied that the accounts appear to record and explain correctly the transactions and financial position of the Association for the year ending 30th June, 2008.

*Robert J Eaglesham*

Hon. Auditor.

21<sup>st</sup> July 2008



**VALE - Robert Arthur (Bob) PLATT**

221157 WO2 (Ret.)  
DoB 21 December 1953  
DoD 1 September 2008

We have learnt of the passing of another valued servant of Australia. Bob served with Royal Australian Infantry before seeing the light and transferring to Royal Australian Signals, although he never lost the desire to live in the bush. Messages of

condolence may be passed to:

Ms Tracey Platt  
Twenty Mile Rd  
Gin Gin QLD 4671  
Phone 07 4156 3508  
Fax 07 4156 3046

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

Phone 07 5499 3704

...a few words for Bob...

Bob was the ARA SC and Trg WO in the reformed 8 Sig Regt and helped me a lot as STT when we were in Op Spt Sqn together. He was very helpful and obliging and was an asset to the Regt; probably because he was a dedicated soldier and wanted others to achieve their best. I found him easy to work with. I am saddened to hear of Bob's demise.

*Ken Forway*

**VALE - Duncan John Harvey RSTT 217972 WO1 (ret)**

We have learnt of the passing of another valued member of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. Duncan was a true larrikin with never a bad word of anyone, always supportive and a true professional; he will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Messages of condolence may be forwarded to:

Mrs Caryll Harvey  
2 Silvester St  
North Lakes Estate  
Mango Hill QLD 4509  
Phone 07 3204 4480

Or via e-mail to:

Denis Hare

Email: [dhare@au104.org](mailto:dhare@au104.org),

who will collate the condolence emails for presentation to the family.

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

**VALE - Bruce (Groucho) Waterson 36282**

104 Sig Sqn Vietnam 1970-71

We have learnt of the passing of another valued servant of the Corps. Sadly, Bruce's wife predeceased him. I am sure that our thoughts are with Bruce's step-daughter Kerry and step-son Peter at this time.

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

**VALE - Leo Francis Powning 2107763**

104 Sig Sqn Vietnam 1969  
DoB 8 October 1932  
DoD 19 October 2008

It is with sadness that we have been advised of the passing of another great servant of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. I am sure that our thoughts are with his family at this time as he reports to the final Commanding Officer.

Messages of condolence may be passed to:

Mrs Margaret Powning  
14 Margarita St  
Hampton VIC 3188  
Phone 03 9598 3115

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

**VALE - Raymond (Flash) Kent**

DoD 11 November 2008

Again, with sadness, we have learnt of the passing of another valued member of the Corps of Signals. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Lest We Forget

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

**VALE - Rodney (Slaps) Kirkman 229539 WO1**

UN MINURSO, UN INTERFET

DoD 12 November 2008

A very popular member of the Corps, 'Slaps', has passed on and will be sadly missed by many.

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

**VALE - WO1 Bruce Hillier 33690 (ret)**

It is with great sadness that we have learnt of the passing of another servant of the Corps. Our thoughts are with the family at this time as Bruce reports to the Greatest Commanding Officer. I am informed that Bruce served with ARA as an Operator before transferring to CMF and going 'regimental' and becoming an RSM. Messages of condolence may be forwarded to his daughter:

Ms Alexandra Hillier

PO Box 128

Broadwater NSW 2472

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

...a few words for Bruce...

It is with deep regret that I have heard of the passing of Ex RASigs Sgt Bruce Hillier. I served with him at BRITCOM Base Sig Regt. JAPAN, CCK Sig Sqn KOREA and 208 Bde Sig Sqn. Bruce was a bl..dy good bloke.

*Ron 'Blucy' Still*

*Lest We Forget*



## SICK PARADE

### Errol Hazlewood

Errol has returned home after two months in hospital and thanks those who have enquired after him. He is being regularly visited by a nurse and Home Care. We wish Errol an improvement in his health and especially his mobility.

### Illness - Barry James Billing 38724

110 Sig Sqn Vietnam  
 VVAA NSW Advocate  
 All replies direct to:  
 Barry Billing  
 5 Bangalla Pl  
 Forestville NSW 2087  
 Phone 02 9453 2758  
 Mobile 0419 845 350  
 E-mail: [baza1@bigpond.com](mailto:baza1@bigpond.com)

Barry gave me a phone call this morning and he asked that I inform our RASIGS e-mail network why he has been uncontactable for several weeks. As you are aware, Barry had an aggressive breast cancer earlier this year (I believe that 3% of all breast cancers are attributed to male persons), had a mastectomy on his right breast and removal of lymph nodes and was undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. He suffered a major infection setback and was taken to hospital in a critical condition where he was medically treated aggressively and even had a Priest administer the Holy

Sacraments; Barry is a Christian and he says the old adage 'there are no atheists in foxholes' still rings true. Barry sounds like he is back to his old optimistic and 'give them hell' attitude and welcomes contact from old and new mates.

Regards

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

Phone 07 5499 3704

### Sick Pde - Steve Thurlow

Steve Thurlow has just had a stint in Liverpool Hospital for respiratory problems. We wish our fellow member well for a speedy recovery.

*Chris Ballantine*

### Father John Francis 'Tink' Tinkler, RAACHD

216684 LTCOL (ret), Army Padre, HQ 1 ATF Vietnam  
 G'day folks, don't know how many know or knew Padre Tinks but he needs our (moral) help now. I have just been informed that Father John (Tinks) Tinkler the Army RC Padre of our time is extremely ill. He has been released from the Epworth Hospital and is now on recuperation leave. For those who may wish to send a Get Well card, you can send them to:

Rev J Tinkler  
 PO Box 11  
 MOAMA NSW 2731  
 Phone 03 5480 0141

*John Watson*

## RASigs Reunion Vietnam November 2009

### Registrations now being accepted

*The RASigs Reunion Vietnam committee advises that the web site is now fully functional and is awaiting your registration for the November 2009 Reunion. Chris Ballantine met with the reunion committee in Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam, during his visit in September last and commends the reunion to all members, irrespective of background. Chris will be attending the reunion in November, 2009.*

Please remember that there is only one registration per person as we require passport details along with shirt and hat sizes.

There is no registration fee but full payment is required by 30th June 2009 through the PayPal system. Payment can be made any time up until that time.

The web site can be found at: [www.rasigsvietnam.com](http://www.rasigsvietnam.com)

The committee awaits your arrival in Vietnam to be able to join in the friendship, camaraderie, the Asian cuisine, the unforgettable sights and the amazing people that is Vietnam.

Each participant will receive one each of the memorabilia in their kit but if you wish to order more they are available in the memorabilia section of the web site.

Regards,

*Gregg Dickson*

Chairman of Committee  
 RASIGS Vietnam Reunion 2009  
[gregg.dickson@rasigsvietnam.com](mailto:gregg.dickson@rasigsvietnam.com)  
[www.rasigsvietnam.com](http://www.rasigsvietnam.com)



[www.rasigsvietnam.com](http://www.rasigsvietnam.com)



# CORPS MATTERS

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

## 3 CSR/103 Sig Sqn Museum, Townsville.

*Here is an update on the 3 Combat Support Regiment /103 Signal Squadron Museum. The first day and it is up and running! However valuable assistance is required in further donations and identification of items and in particular the pictures. Chris Ballantine has donated to the museum uniform accoutrements that belonged to his late father, Capt John Ballantine, RASigs. So if you are passing by, why not hop in and have a chat and see how you can help....Read on....*

### First day in the Museum

Well, Loftus and I spent our first few hours in what is to become the central point of the 3 CSR/103 Sigs Museum.

The Regiment has kindly made a room available for us to work in so we hit it yesterday. We re-organised the kit that had been acquired (doesn't matter what generation of soldier we have, they all manage to acquire things) and got the place looking very official. Along with the necessary am/fm rock-box to provide the "tunes" we have a computer (DRN access to come), phone, all the paper, pens etc and more items to come.

We are looking at getting some gear for the processing of pictures, documents etc. To help us out with this the Regiment is hopefully going to provide a computer program, along the lines of Photoshop, so we can copy, restore if needed and store pictures in electronic files. We have got a 'conex' that is being placed in a secure, shaded area for the storage of

equipment. The Geeks are building us a couple of reconditioned lap-tops so we will have standalone capabilities and the CO is hoping to get a top of the line printer/scanner set up so we can digitalise all the pictures and documents.

All in all, it is looking very promising. I would like to have a display on 103 Sig Sqn's first deployment to Vietnam and the Regiments latest deployment to Iraq to highlight the differences the years have had on gear and personnel. We are expecting a plethora of pictures and maybe some gear and I invite you to come and share a coffee with us in the office/museum, have a look at what we are attempting to do and give some advice where needed. Any pictures that we do not have names, details, etc will be displayed for members to provide all the missing information. At times we will also place pictures on the Regiments website for information so keep your eyes open on that as well.

*Mr Curator*

(aka Derek the good)

All comments, replies etc direct to:  
President  
RASIGS Assn Nth QLD / 103 Sig Sqn (Vietnam)  
WO1 (Retd) Geoff 'Lofty' Evans  
6 Urara St  
Vincent  
Townsville  
Australia 4814  
Phone: 07 4775 1625  
E-mail: [loftuse68@aapt.net.au](mailto:loftuse68@aapt.net.au)

## New Training Facility for Signals

Work has started on a \$101.3 million upgrade for the Defence Force School of Signals (DFSS). The project will provide a lecture theatre, office accommodation, classified training classrooms and living-in accommodation for students.

The rationalisation of CIS training at a single campus will improve the ability of each of the services to deliver improved joint and networked outcomes. The collocation of the school's maritime wing from HMAS Cerberus is also expected to provide operational synergies according to Defence Minister, Joel Fitzgibbon.

Source: *Army Newspaper* November 27, 2008

## WANTED

### 103 Sig Sqn Radio Tp Sign

Peoples,

Whoever has the Radio Tp Sign/Painting stored in their shed for safekeeping could they send it back to Townsville - we want to put it up on our wall.

If you have the sign already nailed to YOUR wall and don't want to part with it, would you be so kind as to take a few photos of it and send it to me and we may be able to copy/reproduce it.

Thanks in anticipation

*Lofty*

If anyone can assist the request below, please contact:

President  
RASIGS Assn Nth QLD  
Geoff 'Lofty' Evans (ex-WO1 RSC)  
6 Urara St  
Vincent QLD 4814  
Phone 07 4775 1625  
E-mail: [loftuse\\_103\\_ss@hotmail.com](mailto:loftuse_103_ss@hotmail.com)  
(underscore between 'loftuse' and '103' and between '103' and 'ss')

## Current Issues

*In the last edition of THURUNKA we introduced a new section where we aim to present current issues. This is an attempt to keep you informed with what is going on around us that may be of interest to us relevant to the Association. In this issue of THURUNKA we continue with listing the Federal Government's Media Releases that we feel fall in to this category....Ed.*

## Media Releases

*We are receiving many Media Releases from Government ministers, etc. via our network with other associations concerning the Defence Force, and particularly, veterans. We are unable to include all the content of these releases within the pages of THURUNKA, so what has been decided is to list them for your reference with the relevant media contact details should you choose to follow them up. This, by far, is not the full list, but those brought to our attention considered relevant to us. If you wish to receive the Minister's media releases automatically by e-mail please go to: [www.minister.dva.gov.au/subscribe.htm](http://www.minister.dva.gov.au/subscribe.htm) ....ED.*

### Media Release.

**Defence 117/2008- \$6 Million to Maintain Vital Air Force Capabilities.**

The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, announced today a new \$6 million package that will offer selected Air Traffic Controllers and Air Field Engineering trades personnel retention bonuses as part of broader strategies to maintain capability in these vital categories.

### Media Release.

**New veterans' council holds first meeting at Parliament House**  
Friday 10 October 2008

The fourteen members of the newly established Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters have met for the first time.

### Media Release – VA084

Friday, 29 August 2008

**SA And WA Schools Take Out Top Honours**  
Winners also from every state and territory

The experience of fighting along the Kokoda Track and the stories of those lost on the battlefields of the First World War have inspired two school projects winning the 2008 Anzac Day Schools' Awards, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin announced today.

### Media Release VA085

Sunday, 31 August 2008

**'Battle for Australia' Day to Be Marked Across Australia**  
Proclaimed by the Governor-General in June 2008, Battle for Australia Day will be observed on the first Wednesday in September each year - marking the first defeat of Japanese forces on land in the Battle of Milne Bay.

### Media Release VA087

Wednesday, 3 September 2008

**Merchant Mariners Commemorated Today**

Merchant Navy Day today is an opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of merchant mariners during time of war, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, said today.

### Media Release VA094

Thursday, 25 September 2008

**\$865,000 to Improve Community Support for Veterans**

Eighty-three community projects across Australia will receive on average, more than \$10,000 each to improve veteran health and independence, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, announced today.

### Media Release VA096

Thursday, 2 October 2008

**Record Entries for Victorian Veterans' Competition**

More than 700 entries were received in the 46th annual Victorian veterans' Story Writing and Art Competition, up from less than 600 in 2007, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Alan Griffin said today.

### Media Release VA098

Tuesday, 14 October 2008

**Bonus for 326,000 Veterans' Affairs Pensioners**

Students and carers also benefit

More than 326,000 veterans' affairs pensioners will receive the Rudd Government's bonus payment of \$1400 for singles and \$2100 for couples, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, announced today. This action is an immediate down payment on long term pension reform.

### Media Release VA099

Monday, 27 October 2008

**Gallipoli road works**

Resurfacing of the Second Ridge Road started in late August. The Turkish authorities informed the Australian Government of this work, which was completed according to plan. However, following that resurfacing work, further work on the roadside verge appears to have caused some damage. As soon as the Australian Government learned of this damage, we requested that work be stopped, to which the Turkish authorities immediately agreed.

### Media Release VA111

Thursday, 13 November 2008

**Deeming Rates to Be Lowered For Veterans**

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, today said that lower income test deeming rates would apply for veterans from payday 4 December 2008. This is to reflect the recent reduction in interest rates and the impact the global financial crisis is having on returns on the investments of veterans.

# 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. Nor are we able to attest to the accuracy of the information so contained. While contributions are welcome not all of them can be published. Those published may be edited for length and clarity. Contributions are acknowledged as from our source, unless otherwise informed. Contributions cannot be returned unless arrangements are made with the Editor prior to or upon submission of the contribution for publication. We welcome contributions and thank those who contribute to the pages of THURUNKA.

## Don't be alone....Get a loan!

### DVA to run home loan subsidy scheme

DVA has won the right to administer Defence's new home loan subsidy scheme, further strengthening its links with Defence and Australian Defence Force members.

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Warren Snowden announced in April that DVA had won the tender for Scheme Administrator of the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS), subject to the passage of legislation.

The scheme is one of several initiatives to improve ADF recruitment and retention rates. It provides progressively higher home loan subsidies to Permanent and Reserve members who serve beyond critical separation. DVA will also take over administration of the existing Defence Home Owners Scheme (DHOS).

The DHOAS is set to commence on 1 July 2008. DVA will be responsible for assisting ADF members with inquiries, determining entitlements and processing Subsidy Certificates and payments.

DVA is setting up a dedicated DHOAS (and DHOS) client service centre and website.

ADF members are advised not to contact DVA about DHOAS until 1 July 2008.

*From an article submitted by Ernie Flint.*

## Army announces replacement of the venerable Land Rover fleet

The ADF has announced a \$350 million contract to replace the current Land Rover light vehicle fleet with two-tonne all terrain Mercedes-Benz Gelände-Wagens (G Wagons). 1200 G Wagons have been ordered initially with a total of 7000 vehicles over the next decade.

Six different variants have been ordered, including trailers. The engine is diesel 2.8L V6 turbocharged intercooled; range of 800km fully laden with a 96L fuel tank. All vehicles will have power steering, automatic transmissions and air conditioning.

Some 60,000 G Wagons are in service with the defence forces of Canada, Austria, Germany, US and Singapore.

A further contract will be let for 1200-1300 joint light tactical vehicles with armour protection in 2010. Under consideration are the Swiss Mowag Eagle IV and the Italian

Iveco option.

Source Army Newspaper Nov13 2008

## Don't bury me; I am not dead...Yet!

### B70 Is Still Alive!

*Yes, believe it or not, we have been contacted by Chris Jones, an Ex-TA in RSigs, who is enquiring of us about the SHF SR B70. Now retired, he is researching the B70 and has come to a halt. His original request is for an SRDE document:*

One particular area of interest is a reported frequency stability problem that SRDE (Signals Research and Development Establishment) investigated. But despite numerous approaches to various UK archives I have been unable to track down a copy of the report produced in 1967. In 1968 a "No 2" variant was issued with a DC power supply at least in part to circumvent this problem; the report about that came to light fairly easily. Having said that, any snippets or other insights into the B70 and its use would be of considerable interest.

*Dean Davidson brought this matter to our attention and Ken Myers has reviewed this matter and made his response to Chris. But more help is needed. So if any one out there knows of the SRDE documents involved or is able to help in any way, contact me, the editor, and I can put you in touch with Chris.*

*Ken Forway*

*Editor*

## For Veterans and Historians

*Vietnam War Resources - For Veterans and Historians.*

If you are interested in everything...and I mean everything... about the lovely country of Vietnam check out this site.

Vietnam War Resources: <http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

Regards

*Warren Whittle*

[wocca@alphalink.com.au](mailto:wocca@alphalink.com.au)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE from the DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS (DVA) Arrangements during Christmas and New Year

Veterans will be able to access key services throughout the Christmas and New Year period the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin said today, despite the closure of the DVA offices between 5pm on Christmas Eve and 9am Friday 2 January 2009.

Mr Griffin said key services will continue to be available to the veteran community during this period, including:

- Crisis counselling - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service offers 24-hour crisis counselling through Veterans' Line. This service is available toll free on 1800 011 046 to veterans of all conflicts and their families, including members of peace operations;
- Transport - if transport is not booked prior to the Christmas period, it will need to be paid for up-front and re-imburement can be sought from DVA at a later date;
- Hospital admissions - doctors can admit DVA patients into hospital and request admissions approval, where required, when DVA re-opens on

Friday 2 January 2009; and

- Defence Service Homes Insurance - help with policy and claim enquiries is available 24-hours a day on 1300 552 662, while payments can be made on 1300 304 989, for the cost of a local call.

**Pensions due to be paid on 1 January 2009 will be paid earlier, on 30 December 2008.**

"I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all veteran, defence force and ex-service communities and their families, a safe and happy Christmas and New Year," Mr Griffin said.

Media inquiries: Laura Ryan 0437 863 109

The VVCS - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 011 046.

To receive the Minister's media releases automatically by email subscribe at [www.minister.dva.gov.au/subscribe.htm](http://www.minister.dva.gov.au/subscribe.htm)

## Support Wanted for Graeme Clare

44726 Graeme Andrew (Hair-Bear) CLARE  
110 Sig Sqn Vietnam 1970-71

All replies direct to:

Don McPherson

Geelong Veterans Welfare Centre

Phone (03) 52511963 (home)

Phone (03) 5222 6003 (work)

E-mail: [dmcp2575@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dmcp2575@bigpond.net.au) (home)

Sadly, Graeme has been diagnosed with the terminal cancer mesothelioma (asbestos related disease).

Don McPherson (9 RAR Vietnam) of Geelong Veterans Welfare Centre is preparing a claim for Graeme and needs our support if at all possible. Please see below for Don's request and reply as soon as possible if you can support Graeme's claim.

I am sure that our thoughts are with Graeme and Glenda at this stressful time. I think I speak for all who remember Hair-Bear as one of the good guys.

Graeme would also like to hear from old mates via

Email: [gmlclare1@bigpond.com](mailto:gmlclare1@bigpond.com)

Regards

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

Don writes:

I am after information to assist with his claim, this is what I need:

- Anyone who attended Ex Iron Man in 1975 at Singleton with Graham;
- Anyone who assisted in preparing the Communication Centre in the old accommodation block during the same exercise;
- Any information about the condition of buildings containing asbestos building materials. (i.e. damaged roofs, damaged walls); or
- Anyone who actually laid cable or telephone lines etc in any ceiling space.

I can be contacted on:

Phone (03) 52511963 (home)

E-mail: [dmcp2575@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dmcp2575@bigpond.net.au)

Or at the Geelong Veterans Welfare Centre on any Monday on 03 5222 6003.

Thank you

*Don McPherson*

## In The Blue Corner

*Any similarity between the name of this column and that of 'Blue' Hawkins is completely intended and no error on our part. We do not have Blue's approval for the naming of this column, but neither do we have his disapproval. No insult is intended and we are sure that none is taken. But I feel that somehow 'Blue' will find out and advise us of his thoughts, duly spelt out in perfect tone. We thank you, Blue, for the contribution you make to the Corps and are pleased to pass on your output to our members....ED.*

*Blue Hawkins has advised us of the following. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following persons or any other relevant information, please contact the person and ask them to contact the enquirer directly....and 'Blue' in all cases.*

Ted 'Blue' Hawkins  
(Keeper of the RASIGS contact dbase)  
23 Belcher St  
CABOOLTURE QLD 4510  
Phone 07 5499 3704  
E-mail: [hawkins2@aapt.net.au](mailto:hawkins2@aapt.net.au)

*Thanks...Ed.*

## Medals found for Anthony Rowe

RASIGS - 43436 Anthony David Rowe, 709 Sig Tp Vietnam 1966-67

Medals Found by LTCOL Glyn Llanwarne  
<http://vesca.tripod.com/fpdb/Mortality%20With%20Units.xls>

The above website shows the member was tragically killed in a car accident in 1967. If you have contact details for the above member's NOK, please advise:

Ted (Blue) Hawkins  
(For our RASIGS contact dbase)  
E-mail [hawkins2@aapt.net.au](mailto:hawkins2@aapt.net.au); and  
LTCOL Glyn Llanwarne  
(Seeker and returner of lost medals)  
E-mail: [llanwarne80@hotmail.com](mailto:llanwarne80@hotmail.com)

## Missing addresses for '104' blokes

In 2011, it is planned to have another reunion of 104 blokes and to make contact with the 60 plus that no contact details are held for. I have attached a list of these names.

This would not be necessary if ex members used the automatic update form on the 104 web site [au104.org](http://au104.org) as this form is directed back to me so I can keep this list up to date. I realise that there are some members who want to stay in the fox hole and some who don't have internet. BUT there are

other ex mates who may want to say hello.

The nominal roll that I have is secure and no details from it are sent or given to non ex 104 members (except for Blue Hawkins). I have about 830 plus names on the list and only 60 plus addresses are missing so we are getting close.

I don't care how many e-mails I get to update the list - the more the merrier, so if ex members have moved in the last couple of years please let me know and if an ex member knows the address of anyone on the attached list I'd love to have the task of following it up.

This task has enabled me to find Bluey Joseph (who is alive and well) and Ian Becker (Sgt Cook 104 '71). I'd love to find the jolly green giant Joe Blevins ex US Sigs with 104 in '71.

Regards,

*Brian Fisher*

1/399 George St  
Deniliquin NSW 2710  
03 5881 3132  
0429 813 132  
[brfisher104@bigpond.com](mailto:brfisher104@bigpond.com)

## Scrounging old Corps Badges

Peoples,

We are looking for some old Corps Badges - we have plenty of the new plastic ones with the pins large and small. Some old metal ones (left and right) with pins but only two old style metal with loops and no crowns.

If you have a couple of spare old style metal badges with loops complete with crowns that you are willing to donate we shall be grateful.

We have had a few problems with the internet site - we must have hit the wrong button but it now appears to be working. The IT bloke is making the sign of the cross every time we see him - it happens.

With practice I hope we shall get better.

Cheers

*Lofty Evans*

[loftuse68@aapt.net.au](mailto:loftuse68@aapt.net.au)

## An Introduction to Allied Communications Publications

<http://www.jcs.mil/j6/cceb/acps/>

Combined Communications Electronic Board (CCEB)

An Introduction to Allied Communications Publications

The above may be of interest to the old and bolds; you can actually download the publications - just think of the old ACP-117 (Routing Indicators) and ACP-131 (Q and Z Operating Signals);

(aaaaahhhh, the memories of tape and Morse!!!!)

Regards

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

## Desperate RSLs Dump Vets for Eternal Youth

The once-great RSL brand is vanishing as clubs distance themselves from their veteran roots to attract younger crowds - throwing ex-Digger welfare programs and ANZAC ceremonies into doubt.

In an attempt to recoup income lost from anti-smoking laws, clubs are either dropping the "RSL" from their titles or are amalgamating and closing.

RSL and Services Clubs Association chief executive Graeme Carroll said yesterday clubs were trying to re-invent themselves and shake the perception they were only for older people.

"It is one of Australia's iconic brands but the bottom line is that the RSL brand is slowly disappearing and sub-branches are losing their homes as they either close or amalgamate," he said.

Both The Epping Club and The Kirribilli Club, in Sydney, have dropped the RSL moniker from their brands.

The Engadine RSL and Citizens Club has become Club Engadine.

Meanwhile, the former Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Club and Wollongong Ex-Services Club have become the trendier Diggers at The Entrance and Wollongong City Diggers clubs.

"A club in Bourke has just gone into administration and the area's veteran welfare activities come under threat as you start to lose those threads in those towns," Mr Carroll said.

"In a country town, if you lose an RSL club the ANZAC Day activities that occur there disappear in a time where we have seen a resurgence in those activities."

The dire outlook for the RSL comes as NSW clubs report their worst financial year on record, with overall revenue down by \$385 million - an 11 per cent fall on the previous year.

Clubs spent \$422 million building outdoor smoking areas in an attempt to recoup lost revenue from anti-smoking laws introduced on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, last year.

Some clubs have even engaged hypnotists and are providing programmes offering nicotine patches and nicotine tablets in an effort to help their members kick the habit.

Despite these efforts 24 NSW clubs have either closed or amalgamated since the anti-smoking laws.

Another seven RSL clubs - at Wyong, Hardy's Bay, Caringbah, Lidcombe, Granville, Maroubra, and Nelson Bay - have moved to amalgamate in the past few months.

ClubsNSW chief executive David Costello said the worst affected region was the Sydney CBD followed by outer western Sydney, with the Eastern Suburbs faring the best.

*From Morrison Hussey*

To have the RSL insignia on the front door costs approx \$11,000 pa so little wonder that small clubs drop out, especially when the badge belongs to the ex-serviceman and not the organisation.

*David Woodcock*

-----  
Note that this article applies to NSW but could, in the future, apply to other states.

All comments direct to your own relevant Sub-Branch, District or State RSL body.

Regards

*Ted 'Blue' Hawkins*

Phone 07 5499 3704

*I am a member of 'diggers @ the entrance', formerly 'Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Club', and I was told that the club was sold to raise funds for other RSL projects....Ed*



## Search and Find

### New E-mail Addresses

**Phillip John Clohesy**

104 Sig Sqn Vietnam  
Adrienne & I are changing e-mail addresses and from now on will be on [paclo@bigpond.com](mailto:paclo@bigpond.com)

*Phil Clohesy*

**David Mynott**

103 Sig Sqn & 104 Sig Sqn Vietnam  
Just to let you know a change of e-mail address.

[davidmynott@optusnet.com.au](mailto:davidmynott@optusnet.com.au)

Take care

*David Mynott*

**Robert (Bob) Baker**

38254 (Liney)

Bob welcomes contact from old mates.  
Just to let you know I have just changed my E-mail address it is [rba38254@netspace.com.au](mailto:rba38254@netspace.com.au)  
Lineys forever!

*Bob Baker*



## Letters to the Editor

### The Rhumb Corps

*This is in response to an e-mail I received from one of our members. NO, I am not going to rename the column 'e-mails to the editor'! I have journalised it to the letter format...ED.*

Dear Ed,

I am hoping that you can throw some light on the origins of the RUM CORPS which Pat Buckley was always talking about.

Your assistance would be appreciated.

Regards

*Bert Lane*

*My response...*

Dear Bert,

The Rhumb Corps Dinners that Pat Buckley always talked about was nothing to do with the Rum Corps Rebellion in NSW and the overthrow Governor Bligh in January 1808. It is to do with the 'rhumb line' in navigation, which is a line on the earth's surface that crosses every meridian at the same angle. While not a straight line it is the line of least distance on a sphere, such as the globe. It is therefore considered to be the true line, straight down the middle.

This extends to the Rhumb Corps Dinners (or luncheons as we refer to them to-day) as a gathering of Corps members to discuss matters relevant and not relevant in discussion at hand and a way to keep in touch with those with others who attend. In general, the luncheon is a way of keeping in touch, reminisce and discuss in a friendly, first name basis events that are of interest to the gathering at the time.

Why it is held on the first Wednesday of the month of the winter and summer solstice and spring and autumn equinox is not known to me. However it has proven to be practical as it has not clashed with other festivals, holidays, etc, to my knowledge.

I trust that this info is to your satisfaction.

Regards,

*Ed*

## HELP East Timor kids need dictionaries

Dear All,

I am the Secretary of the Diamond Valley Viet Veterans sub branch. We are collecting dictionaries for East Timor schools. The dictionaries can be delivered, on any Friday, at Greensborough RSL in Victoria. Fridays are good, 3.30 pm onwards; we have bubbly "arvo tea". Please visit!

Or post and all replies direct to:

MAJ (ret) David Fry  
Secretary DViets  
PO Box 542  
Greensborough Vic 3088  
Phone (H) 9459 0294  
E-mail: [dfry3@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dfry3@optusnet.com.au)  
Regards

*David Fry*

2<sup>ND</sup> HAND DICTIONARIES



WANTED

## WANTED

### 2 Sig Regt Flags

#### RASIGS - 2 Sig Regt - Radio Tp Flag & Gading V 1975 Flag

Ray Lundberg is seeking the above items, which went missing from 2 Sig Regt, Watsonia, for forwarding to 17 Sig Regt, Holsworthy which is the current version 2 Sig Regt.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the Radio Troop Flag (2 Sig Regt) back in the 1980s please advise. It mysteriously went missing.

**It is a soldier with a '77 set' on his back and fishing rod distinguished as a 10 foot whip antenna.**

Great flag, would love to be able to retrieve it and have it displayed somewhere appropriately (forever).

Also the "GADING V" Flag 1975 that went missing; if anyone knows its whereabouts please let me know; that would be nice too.

All replies direct to:

Ray Lundberg  
Mobile 0419 896 467  
E-mail: [lunny5@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lunny5@optusnet.com.au)

# Tail-end Charlie

*It is now that time of year when celebrations are the order of the day. Not to be denied a good time I, too, like to participate and spend a bit of relaxation and fun time with family, friends and others. We have the right to have a good time! However, we also have responsibilities, so I have extracted this article from the Defence Force's publication as a gentle reminder...ED.*

## Responsible Consumption of Alcohol

Alcohol is a common part of many social occasions and the most widely used drug in Australia. Its misuse, however, can impact on your work performance, military career, promotion opportunities, friendships and family relationships.

Abuse of alcohol is associated with divorces, separations, administrative actions, violent crimes, traffic accidents and is a factor in obesity and high blood pressure. If you are drinking too much, you can improve your life and health by cutting down.

### HOW WILL I KNOW IT IS A PROBLEM?

Do you drink alone when you feel angry or sad?  
 Does your drinking ever make you late for work?  
 Does your drinking worry your family?  
 Do you ever drink after telling yourself you won't?  
 Do you ever forget what you did while you were drinking?  
 Do you get headaches or have a hangover after you have been drinking?  
 If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, you may have a drinking problem.

### Low risk drinking is:

No more than four standard drinks per day for men  
 No more than two standard drinks per day for women  
 At least two alcohol free days a week  
*To drink more than this could put your health, family and career at risk.*

### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

There are ways you can reduce the amount you drink:  
 Start with a soft drink to quench your thirst,  
 Eat before drinking so the alcohol is absorbed more slowly,  
 Avoid salty snacks that make you thirsty,  
 Avoid shouts, and drink at your own pace,  
 Do not top up, finish each drink completely,  
 Make every third drink non-alcoholic,  
 Stay busy, do not just sit and drink,  
 Try a low alcohol alternative,  
 Have alcohol-free days, and  
 Be an individual and do not be pressured.  
 Be a leader by setting a good example to others  
*If you consider that you, or somebody you know, is at risk or may require counselling in this matter, discuss it with your GP.*