



I am a Queenslander, born in Maryborough. My Father was a WW2 Digger and after discharge he took up a Soldier Settlement farm just south of Maryborough; as with most of the government ideas it was too small to make a living, cane and milk neither quota big enough. The farm went broke and my parents wandered across the outback of Queensland for the next 20 odd years.

I spent most of my Primary years doing Primary Correspondence School, in one location or another. After Scholarship (Year 8 if you remember), my parents decided that I needed to attend a Boarding School and I went to Thornborough College in Charters Towers. It was a good School with a great environment but they did not have a very co-operative subject to work with. I was interested in football (League) and Cadets and that was it (and girls of course.)

After school I worked briefly for my father in the Post Office in a small country centre in the far northwest and also in the main Post Office in Mount Isa.

On 14 Feb 1966 I enlisted in the Australian Regular Army and was as happy as a pig in mud - I had come home, I was to serve 25 Years and should have stayed then but I did not; for the best of reasons, I made the wrong decision for the right reasons.

After Kapooka, I was posted to RASIGS and wanted to be a Driver but ended up as a Switchboard Operator (my PMG Training did come through for me there). I was a competent Manual Switch Board Operator and slid into that niche. I was to spend the next 6 years as a Switchboard Operator; the trade was good for me it gave me two tours in Viet Nam – and I was lining up to go back for a third trip when the Government changed in 1972.

In the shambles that the end of National Service left the Corps in, I slid sideways into the Line Trade stream. I think that I spent most of the next year at Watsonia doing courses to catch up and obtain qualifications in the trade stream.

After Viet Nam I was posted to 1 Sig at Ingleburn, this was where I made the transition from the defunct “Switchie” trade to “Liney” and continued to build on the reputation that was started in Viet Nam.

In 1974, I was posted to 2 Sig in Watsonia; in this posting cycle I was to meet a young WRAAC from Toowoomba, Rhonda Kahl; marrying her and having the sense and luck to stay married was one of the few smart things that I have done in my life - 36 and a bit years later we are still together, we have 2 sons both ARA one in Signals (139 Sig Sqn) and one is a Cavalryman currently posted to B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt in Townsville. He has already been to Iraq.

1978 - posted to 139 Sig Sqn and promoted to Sergeant. Line Sergeant 139 - in a lot of respects this was the peak of my career, alas this posting was fated to last but 4 years and I was posted back to 2 Sig.

Queens Birthday Honours 1987 was very special for me. I was awarded the OAM for “services to the Army particularly as Line Sergeant 2 Signal Regiment”. I only ever thought that I was doing my job but others obviously thought different. I regard my award as recognition to the Troop as a whole.

Three postings to the Watsonia Area, two to 2 Sig split by Long Service Leave and then the School as Staff Sergeant Senior Line Instructor. Somewhat ironic in fact because I was one of the

many who ‘canned the school product and when I went there I did so with the famous last words “I going to put out a Tradesman who knows what is what”.

Hey guys, do I need to tell you the next line when I got to the School? I discovered there were many reasons for the low ability of some of the tradesmen coming out of the School. In fact I had to eat my words I am quite prepared to admit that.

In my first year at the School, I was involved in a motor vehicle accident on my way to work. All in all, I was not that badly hurt - broken leg and a few bits and pieces, however one of the side effects was that I could not be FE again.

Long story short, I took discharge in the beginning of 1990, 24 years and 4 days from my enlistment.

I transferred to the Army Reserve and spent 15 odd months as SSM Support Squadron on a semi-full time basis then went out into the General Reserve while I tried to find a job, which I eventually did.

What I had to offer and what the G RES wanted were two different things!

I was getting very browned off with the whole shooting match when I was invited to be part of a push to raise a Cadet Unit in the Lockyer Valley. 139 Regional Cadet Unit was formed and I was the foundation OC. I served 15 and bit years, as an Officer of Cadets. I was retired on medical grounds early in 2009; the Medical Grounds were a side-effect from a condition that I had been carrying for 40 years that dates back to my Viet Nam service.

I have been a member of the Association for some 20 odd years but probably not continuously. I am a Life Member of the RSL (Toowoomba), still involved on the Committee and I am President of the Army Pistol Club (AACCPC) at Cabarlah.

Certa Cito.

R. D. (Huey) JAMES OAM J.P(Qual)

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**EDITORIAL**

The midyear function went off well with over 35 folks enjoying the lunch at the Redcliffe RSL.

During the course of the day we held our Annual General Meeting and elected our new office bearers for the next 12 months. Not a lot has changed except for the Presidency.

A big thank you to Shady for the last couple of years and also big thanks once again to our auditor, Ian Willoughby, for being able to sort out the mess this amateur makes.

Lots of things have happened in this house over the last couple of months. Straight after the mid-year function we set off for nearly 6 weeks of holidays in the USA. Only been back a week or so and got a call (1 day’s notice) to go to DFSS for a course for 2 weeks. After 7 days in Melbourne

and another 7 in Canberra, I now know why I decided to move to warmer climes over 40 years ago.

Hope to see you at the Christmas luncheon on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

Chris



Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Redcliffe RSL on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011

<u>Cheque a/c</u>	\$ 1,247.05
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$10,918.20</u>

Meeting opened at 1320 by the outgoing President, Keith 'Shady' Lane with 20 members present.

'Shady' moved the report be accepted  
Seconded Bill Van Roosmalen

The President then had great pleasure in presenting Stan Conlon with Life Membership of the Assn.

Carried (by all)

A vote of thanks was once again recorded for the work of the auditor Ian Willoughby by all.

The President then declared all positions vacant for the election of office bearers for the coming year. 'Shady' had already declined the office of Presidency and as no other members were keen the position was left in abeyance. (Post the meeting, 'Huey' James accepted nomination by 'Shady' and has been elected into the position).

Functions:  
For the Christmas function, the Committee talked about returning to the Geebung RSL which is close to transport, including rail. Doug Warden offered to help in organizing and post the meeting has been able to confirm we have a room there for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 11.

All other positions were nominated by Bill Van Roosmalen and seconded by Ken North to continue in their current capacities.

General Business:  
Ian Willoughby moved a motion that all accounts for payment should include signatures and details of expenditure. This was seconded by 'Shady' and carried by all. (A form has been provided by Ian to the Treasurer).

Correspondence In:  
Various club newsletters only

Several members mentioned the 104 reunion in Nov at which all are welcome.

Correspondence Out:  
Nil

Reports:

Next committee meeting to be organized for some time in October

Treasurer:  
Chris presented the audited financial position of the Assn as follows as at 6 June 2011:

No other business, the Meeting closed at 1345.

Online saver a/c     \$ 9,761.15



**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

It's always the time of the year when I can accept your dues; **it's only \$5 per year!**

You can post them to:

RASigs Assn QLD  
The Treasurer  
PO Box 772  
Albany Creek QLD 4035

or do a bank transfer to

Royal Australian Signals Association (Queensland) BSB 638-260 Acc No 11247649 S26

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**VALES**

213902 CPL (ret) Dennis Russell Hanks. Det 547 Sig Tp Vietnam, DOB 29 December 1947 DOD 12 March 2011

5/2902 LCPL Dudley McKean, 28 Comwel Bde Malaya 1957-59, DOB 1938 DOD 4 September 2011

Duncan Hutson, WW2 British paratrooper, 140 SIG SQN, DOB 1921, DOD 15 September 2011

Faye Walsh, wife of member Brian Sullivan, DOD 21 September 2011

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith was a member of the “royal order of the Dispatch Riders” at Gallipoli - <http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/fiftyaustralians/28.asp>

The following article is extracted from our Victorian counterparts and is very relevant to our own situation. I include it here to arouse your interest and maybe get some dialogue happening.

Please feel free to phone or write via any means to me and I will circulate to the rest of the committee here in QLD.

Chris

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***Discussion paper from John McMillan. Your input is requested***

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John McMillan prepared a discussion paper for consideration by the committee. To do this properly, the committee has decided to meet and spend half or a whole day brainstorming and considering any suggestions that it receives from members.

The Corps plans to arrange a meeting of Signals Associations in November 2011 to discuss how to revitalise the Associations. Your committee will prepare a presentation for this meeting. Please send us your thoughts and tell us what you would like the Association to be doing.

**THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION MOVING FORWARD  
DISCUSSION PAPER**

New members to the associations committee bring with them an opportunity to consider the role and future of the association from a fresh perspective.

At our last meeting some time was spent on discussion regarding the challenges facing the association. To a large extent these were inconclusive, however they did serve to highlight the need for further discussion.

Currently, as I understand it the activities of the association are limited to four activities each year. Viz:

- Anzac Day activities
- Publication of the association magazine
- One lunch
- Presidents Christmas BBQ

One has to question if the charter and aims of the association are being fulfilled given the activity programme described.

As a new member I ask myself a number of questions as follows:

- Does the association lend any ongoing support to members
- Does the association provide a platform for social activities for members
- Does the association provide a lobby function in support of members interests
- Is the association effective in maintaining links between members

More fundamentally, one has to question if the need (demand) for associations such as ours still exists?

I submit that it would not be unfair to describe the association as having its roots in WW2, and that any efforts to involve members from Malayan, Korean, Vietnam and more recent engagements have had limited success.

Similarly efforts to interest serving ADF members, both regular and reserve, have to date failed.

Obviously, the few words above do not purport to present a reasonable analysis of the current situation. It does however pose sufficient questions to suggest that as a minimum the association needs to review its standing moving forward.

To this end, I propose that a dedicated (say half day) meeting be convened to discuss this most important matter.

John Mc Millan  
Committee Member





government and Papua New Guinea's foreign minister.

In November 2007 Australian mining firm Frontier Resources announced plans to divert a section of the track to make way for a [copper](#) mine. The plan has the support of the local landowners and the Papua New Guinean government but has been criticized by trekking operators.<sup>[5]</sup> Former Australian Prime Minister [Kevin Rudd](#) has said he will lobby the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir [Michael Somare](#) to stop the proposed move. The track has been closed numerous times by villagers along the route in response to various grievances. In May 2009 villagers at Kovelu - near Kokoda village - blocked the track after complaints that money collected from trekking fees was not being distributed fairly.

Since 2001 there has been a rapid increase in the number of people walking the track (see table right). Six Australian trekkers have died from natural causes while attempting to walk the track. Four of those deaths have occurred in 2009, with two in the same week in April and another two 8 days apart in September and October. The deaths have sparked calls for mandatory fitness tests for all walkers before starting.

As popularity for walking the track has increased there have been calls for more regulation of trek operators with some operators taking as many as 150 walkers in a group. In response the Kokoda Track Authority has announced that from the beginning of 2010 tour operators must have a commercial licence which will "address things such as training requirements and first aid details".

In August 2009 the Kokoda Track was the destination for a group of trekkers that were killed when their light plane, [Airlines PNG Flight 4684](#), crashed en route to Kokoda village. All 13 people on board, including 9 Australian trekkers, were killed in the crash. As a result, the Australian Government committed \$1.8 million to improve safety along the track. Funds would be used to improve the safety of airstrips at [Kokoda](#), Menari, Kagi, Melei, Efogi, and Naduri, all towns located along the track. A second radio channel would also be installed to deal with emergencies and maintenance work.

In October 2009 Mr. Don Vale became the oldest Australian (at 83) to successfully complete the Kokoda Track.

In November 2009, Australian paralympian [Kurt Fearnley](#) (born without the lower section of his spine) completed the track, crawling north to south, in 11 days. A multiple paralympic gold medalist (T54 Marathon in Athens and Beijing), he used customized shin pads and wrist guards. His journey was to raise awareness of men's health issues and was inspired by the story of Corporal John Metson, who crawled the track for three weeks, refusing the assistance of a stretcher on the grounds it would burden his comrades. There has been much debate in Australia about whether it should be called the "Kokoda Trail" or the "Kokoda Track". The monument at Owers Corner uses both terms: "Track" on one side and "Trail" on the other. "Kokoda Trail" was gazetted as the official name of the route by the Australian administration of Papua New Guinea in 1972.

The earliest mention of the route in an Australian newspaper may be in [The Argus](#) on Wednesday 29 July 1942 in a map when it refers to "the Buna Kokoda-Moresby track".

According to historian Stuart Hawthorne, before World War II, the route was referred to as "the overland mail route" or "the [Buna](#) road". He states that "Kokoda Trail" became common because of its use in Australian newspapers during the war, the first known instance being in Sydney's *Daily Mirror* on 27 October 1942.

However all three terms Kokoda Track, Kokoda Trail and Buna-Kokoda road were commonly used during World War II in Australian newspapers from September 1942.

The diary of the Australian Army's 2/33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion records the route being officially designated as the "Kokoda Trail" in September 1942. The Australian Army has used "Kokoda Trail" as a battle honour since 1957. The Australian War Memorial (AWM) says that "trail" is probably of United States origin but has been used in many Australian history books and "appears to be used more widely".

Despite the historical use of "Trail", "Track" gained dominance in the 1990s, with the Australian Macquarie Dictionary stating that while both versions were in use, Kokoda Track "appears to be the more popular of the two".

The track can be walked from either direction. Some say that from Kokoda to Owers Corner is easier, even though in that direction you actually have to climb an extra 550 metres in height. The track can take anything from 4 days to 12 days to complete, depending on fitness and rest time involved. Locals are renowned for being able to regularly complete it in 3 days. The best time to trek Kokoda is from April to September, during the 'dry' season.

There are a number of guesthouses located along the way, some at villages and others at traditional rest spots. The main villages passed through (from Owers Corner) are Naoro, Menari, Efogi Creek 1 & 2, Kagi or Naduli (if shortcut is taken), Aloo, Isurava, Hoi, Kovolo. Villagers are increasingly taking part in the commercial opportunities created by the growing number of tourists; in October 2006, some were known to be selling cans of soft drink and beer at double the price payable in Port Moresby.

Guides and porters can be found more easily at the Kokoda end of the track by asking the local police station for a reputable person.

The Kokoda Track Authority (the PNG Special Purpose Authority with responsibility for managing the Track) requires tour operators to hold a Commercial Operators License to led treks along the Kokoda Track and purchase a trek permit. Licensed operators carry first aid kits, undertake first aid training, carry radios and/or satellite phones, respect the people who live along the Track and ensure their porters and guides are treated in a professional manner. A list of licensed operators is available on its web site. Trekkers walking with unlicensed operators will be stopped by the KTA Rangers and the local people.



**HELP WANTED**

**RAEME - Searching for National Serviceman**

**5714520 Gregory Noel HOLMES**

**102 Fd Wksp Vietnam**

<http://www.vietnamroll.gov.au/VeteranDetails.aspx?VeteranId=1230052>

**All replies direct to his mate and his daughter:**

**His mate:** 5714842 Colin Douglas (Crossey) Cross  
P 08 9581 8367  
M 0427 911 058  
E [colandroscross@bigpond.com](mailto:colandroscross@bigpond.com)

**His daughter:** Kaylene Holmes  
E [leo081977@westnet.com.au](mailto:leo081977@westnet.com.au)  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=149977925026228>

**I seek your help please (and please pass this email on, more eyes out the better).**

**13 years ago, my Dad disappeared into the night. I am asking your help to find him. His name is Gregory Holmes.**

**After an incident in his news-agency in Mosman Park Western Australia, he disappeared. He is a Vietnam vet, and also suffering post traumatic stress. We have not seen him since 13 April 1998. We found his car (a white Barina) at the Warwick train station a few days later.**

**On 1st August 1998, my 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday, we had a phone call. There was no one speaking on the other end, but I know it was my dad. We traced the call to Geraldton WA. That was the last contact we had. In 2000 my dad was found by police in the eastern states of Australia under an assumed name, he indicated he was not yet ready to return to his former life. Now I think he feels it has just been too long, but it is never too late to make amends, even if we could just get a letter to him.**

**He is a short man, about 162cm would probably be almost bald by now, he had a black moustache then, and may have a beard, or may be clean shaven, who knows? His build was slim to medium. He also wears glasses. He would be 65 years old now.**

**Why now? So long after the event? We have tried so many things to locate my dad, this came to me in a dream and I believe in the power of people and friendship, and hoping someone, somewhere can help us. My Dad has only met one of his grandchildren and I would really like my kids to grow up knowing their granddad - he has 9 grandchildren.**

**Thank you  
Kaylene**

**PS I hope you can help, or have somewhere I can contact. We have tried every place we can think of, and not a word, not a whisper.**

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Queensland separated from New South Wales in June 1859 and by March 1860 a troop of mounted rifles had been raised. The force quickly grew with infantry and cavalry being joined by growing numbers and artillery being added – all this by volunteers.**

**In January 1876 the formation of a Corp of Volunteer Engineers, (which included both Engineers and a Torpedo and Signalling Corps) was recommended. But it wasn't until the war scare of 1878 and the**

passing in parliament of the “Volunteer Act” that a Torpedo and Signalling Corp was raised with W.J.L Cracknell as Captain (Capt), Officer Commanding (OC). The unit was formally disbanded in 1879 and its duties were reallocated to the Engineers.

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**PAUSE A MOMENT**

Paddy says "Mick, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador.  
"Really," says Mick, "have you seen how many of their owners go blind"

Man calls 000 and says "I think my wife is dead".  
The operator says “How do you know?”  
He says "The sex is the same but the ironing is building up!"

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

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**CHAPLAINS NEEDED**

**Australian Defence Force - Army / Navy / Air Force**

- Catholic - <http://www.military.catholic.org.au/index.htm>
- Anglican - <http://www.defenceanglicans.org.au/index.php?q=about>
- Lutheran - <http://www.lca.org.au/action/chaplains/defence.cfm>
- Army - <http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/army/Jobs/Chaplain/?entryTypeId=5>
- Navy - <http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/navy/jobs/Chaplain/>
- RAAF - [http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/airforce/jobs/Chaplain/?KEYWORD\\_K=air%20force%20chaplains&TRACKING\\_ID\\_K=37c5362d-90b6-5608-4a98-0000663e3086&CHANNEL\\_K=google&CAMPAIGN\\_K=PJ:%20Chaplain&AdGROUP\\_K=Bd-B](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/airforce/jobs/Chaplain/?KEYWORD_K=air%20force%20chaplains&TRACKING_ID_K=37c5362d-90b6-5608-4a98-0000663e3086&CHANNEL_K=google&CAMPAIGN_K=PJ:%20Chaplain&AdGROUP_K=Bd-B)

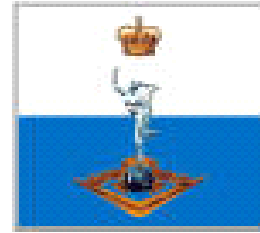
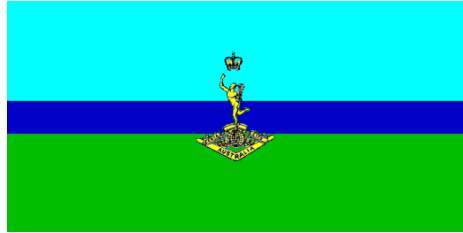
Have **YOU, or someone close to you**, considered a vocation as a Chaplain in the Australian Defence Force? If so, the above websites may be of interest to you.

*“A Chaplain’s mission is to ensure that the pastoral care of all those associated with Australia's defence is provided at the highest possible level. This requires chaplains to be both holy and dedicated and thoroughly trained professional members of the Armed Services. It is a unique and challenging ministry. In simple terms, Chaplains are dedicated to serving those who serve.*

*Australia is best defended by members who, enlightened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, are dedicated to their vocation to be special ministers of peace, freedom and security. This is a commitment which includes readiness, sacrifice and a spirit of solidarity beyond even personal and family interest. Service personnel will make a genuine contribution to the establishment of peace by being the first to work to overcome the temptation to violence and by working to defend the rights of peace and love.”*

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**RASigs Assn (QLD) Christmas 2011 Luncheon**

**All former and current RASigs members and families welcome**

**Date:** Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Time:** 1130 for 1200

**Place:** Geebung-Zillmere RSL  
Cnr Newman Rd & Collings St  
Geebung QLD 4034  
P 07 3265 3711  
E [info@gzrsl.com](mailto:info@gzrsl.com)  
W <http://www.gzrsl.com/>

**Cost:** \$15 per person

**RSVP:** Names and numbers by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to either:

**Ken North**  
E [ken13linda@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ken13linda@optusnet.com.au)

Or

**Bill Van Roosmalen**  
11/102A Moores Pocket Rd  
Tivoli QLD 4305  
P 07 3813 5040  
M 0427 733 342

**Also let them know how you intend to pay for the lunch; on the day or sending payment to the Treasurer. You can use the same method as for the membership dues.**



Royal Australian Corps of Signals Association (Queensland)



Christmas Luncheon, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Where:** Geebung-Zillmere RSL, Cnr Newman Rd & Collings St, Geebung QLD 4034  
P 07 3265 371 E [info@gzrsl.com](mailto:info@gzrsl.com) W <http://www.gzrsl.com/>

**When:** 11.30 AM for 12 Noon Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Dress:** Neat casual

**Cost:** \$15.00 per person – unlimited tea / coffee – **buy your own drinks**

**Menu:** Alternate drops of Roast Chicken or Beef  
Desserts  
Tea and Coffee

**RSVP:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Email**  
Ken North  
E [ken13linda@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ken13linda@optusnet.com.au)

**Postal**  
Bill Van Roosmalen  
11/102A Moores Pocket Rd  
Tivoli QLD 4305  
P 07 3813 5040  
M 0427 733 342

..... *Detach and return as above* .....

**Name(s) attending** .....

**Contact details** Address .....

Phone Home .....

Phone Mob .....

Email .....

**Cheques / Money Orders to be made payable to RASigs Assn (QLD)**

**Payment of \$15 per person enclosed** Total payment \$ .....

Receipt Number .....