



THE MESSENGER

OF THE GODS



Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Signals Association (SA) Inc

Disclaimer: The views expressed in articles in the “Messenger” are those of the writers/contributors and not necessarily those of the “Committee” or “General Membership” of the Royal Australian Signal Association (SA) Inc.

RASIGS Association, PO Box 881, Kent Town. South Australia. 5071.

September 2015

Web site address www.rasigs.com

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From The President’s Desk

Dear Members,

Here we are September already.

The last few months have been quiet for the Committee.

Mr. David Matthews was invited to be the Patron of our South Australian Association. He was very honoured to be asked and has formally accepted the role.

The appointment has been acknowledged by the Head of Corps of the Royal Australian Signals – Brigadier Marcus Thompson AM and Colonel Commandant – Colonel Michael Brennan.

I wish to sincerely thank Brigadier (Retired) Max Lemon AM for his services to the Role over many years.

At our last Committee meeting, Michael Southern tendered his resignation from the Committee.

On behalf of the Members and Committee, I wish to formally thank Michael for all his work and service to the Association over 13 years. Michael has contributed many hours to setting up the Website and administering the site.

The Annual Corps Dinner will be held on Saturday 24 October 2015 at Seven22 (formerly Eagles Bistro), 722 Port Road, Beverley SA. I appologise for the change of date. 7th November 2015 – 103 Sig Sqn Reunion in Townsville and 21st November 2015 – 104 Sig Sqn Reunion in Darwin.

Unfortunately, this gives us 7 weeks to prepare for the Dinner.

Please support the Annual Corps Dinner; for members/non members and partners it is our main function for the year.

I look forward to seeing most of you at the Corps Dinner.

Regards

Sally Napper
President

*****Warning Order*****

The Annual Corps Dinner, only seven weeks away, book now so you don't miss out on a fun night.

Venue: Seven22, 722 Port Road, Beverley SA

Date: Saturday 24 October 2015

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Menu: 3 Courses (choose any entree, main or desert) plus bread roll

Cost: Members - \$30.00 Non- Members - \$37.00

Dietary Requirements: Cater for any. (Menu at back of Messenger)

Drinks: One free drink on arrival.

Payment Details for Annual Dinner

* PayPal and accessed through the website www.rasigs.com (please note small surcharge by PayPal)

* Direct to Commonwealth Bank, Salisbury Branch.

Account Name: Royal Australian Signals Association South Australia

BSB: 065 122 Account Number: 00904932

Reference: Name

Or

* cheque/money order to the Secretary, RASigs Association SA, PO Box 881 KENT TOWN SA 5071

Membership

There are no new members who have joined the association.

2nd Reading Lionel Matthews AWN

The AWM (Australian War Memorial) has advised that CAPT Lionel Matthews GC MC will be commemorated for a second time on Saturday 7th November 2016.

The reason for that there will be a second reading of his story is that RASigs is having there national reunion at the time and the AWM in conjunction with RASigs Association have determined that CAPT Matthews is a suitable ex member of the RASigs Corps to be recognised at the reading on this day, notwithstanding that he has already been commemorated (this is very unusual because it is going to take hundreds of years to commemorate all the names on the Roll of Honour so they do not repeat any names)

VALE

It has come to the attention of the passing of Bob Eckert, our records do not have many details about Bob as to service records, it is our understanding that he came from Sigs in Victoria and was a Life Member of RASigs Association Victoria he given the same privilege here in SA. He was for many years our Right Marker at the Anzac Day march. He was member of the Association from 1986. RIP Bob.

FYI

Obligation to notify DVA

If you are receiving a means-tested pension, you are obliged to provide information about any changes that could affect either your eligibility for the pension or the rate at which it is paid. If you are informed that you are likely to receive an award, payment or settlement of a compensation claim, you are legally obliged to contact DVA to determine how this payment might affect your pension. More detailed information about your obligations if you are receiving any kind of DVA payment is included in the *Managing Your Pension* booklet.

If you currently receive other DVA benefits or payments and are granted compensation payment

You are obliged to notify DVA if you are already receiving a pension or other benefit and you are awarded compensation under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA) or *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA). If you already receive a pension including a war widow's/widower's pension or any treatment entitlement, you must inform DVA within 21 days of receiving compensation approval. If you receive Service Pension or Income Support Supplement, you must notify DVA within 14 days, (28 days if living overseas or receiving a Remote Area Allowance), to ensure the Service Pension is not overpaid. If you do not inform DVA about a change in circumstance within the legal time periods, you will be asked to pay any overpayment back.

DVA23 - Notifying DVA of your compensation payment (HTM) DVA23 - Notifying DVA of your compensation payment (PDF 96 KB)

If you currently receive any DVA payment and your circumstances change

You are legally obliged to contact DVA in writing or telephone to advise of any change in circumstances which may be relevant to compensation payments and any other DVA payments you are receiving. More information about the types of changes you need to report to DVA is included in the *You and Your Pension Booklet*. The sorts of changes you need to contact DVA about are:

Personal circumstances: You need to inform DVA if your personal circumstances change in a way that may change your eligibility to receive DVA payments.

Circumstances: You need to inform DVA if your residential circumstances change in a way that may change your eligibility to receive DVA payments

Pension eligibility: You need to inform DVA if your pension eligibility changes in a way that may change your eligibility to receive DVA payments.

Financial circumstances; Your individual financial circumstances such as the type of pension you receive, whether you are single or partnered a home-owner or a non-home owner, and your mix of income, financial assets and non-financial assets all affect your rate of pension.

You need to inform DVA if circumstances change in a way that may change the rate or pay ability of your DVA payment. Details can be found in *You and Your Pension*.

Contacting DVA

You can find more details on how to contact through the contact DVA webpage. For all forms needed same site.

The last of its kind

German WWI tank on display in Canberra for Centenary of Anzac commemorations

TANK enthusiasts are encouraged to visit the world's only surviving German A7V tank, which is on loan to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) for the next 18 months.

AWM Director Brendan Nelson said the WWI tank, named Mephisto, was one of only 20 the Germans were able to produce. Eighteen survived the war.

"They were scrapped shortly afterwards and only one survived –that's this tank," he said.

"It's an imposing piece of engineering.

"Men had to wear asbestos-lined suits to deal with the heat of two twin-engines running with internal radiators and every time there was any substantial artillery or anything that hit the tank, fragments would fly off and hit the men inside."

The tank was left disabled in a ditch at the second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux on April 24, 1918, but continued to be used by the Germans as a machine-gun post.

In July 1918, soldiers from the predominantly Queensland and Tasmanian 26 Bn hatched a plan to capture it so it could not be used against them.

Dr Nelson said they got hold of a couple of British tanks and snuck out under cover of darkness to recover the tank under the noses of the Germans, while the Germans continued firing at them.

It later found a home in the Queensland Museum. "It was a cheeky thing done by those Queenslanders, so for that reason in particular, the Queenslanders are keen to see it stays in Queensland," he said. AWM Curator of Military Heraldry and Technology Garth O'Connell said the British were keen to get their hands on Mephisto and the tank got as far as Dover in England. "At this stage the Aussies said, 'it's time to take it home with us', and they just took it basically," he said. "The Brits had some A7Vs at the end of the war, two of them captured by the Kiwis. But now the only part of an A7V, apart from this one; is a gun that was taken from one of the Kiwi captured tanks, in the Imperial War Museum in London. "Mephisto was put in a Sydney bound ship in 1919 and unloaded



in Brisbane. Two steam engines dragged it on its tracks from the wharf to the Queensland Museum, damaging several Brisbane streets and corner buildings along the way.

Mr O'Connell said it was exciting for the AWM to have Mephisto on display, particularly because the memorial (in its early form) had the tank's gun from 1919. "When the Queensland government got some money for the 1988 bicentenary they decided to do up the tank, so we sent the gun up there to them," he said.

Reunions

104 Sig Sqn 50th Anniversary Reunion 2016

Will be held at Twin Town Services Club **28-30 May 2016**.

Full details and registration form on the reunion website at:

Restricted to 350 attendees because of venue reconfigurations! ICSR looking at possible unit activities in Darwin in November 2015 which may include old and bold.

For further details follow link <http://2016.au104.org>

Vietnam 50th Anniversary of Long Tan Reunion 15th to 23rd Aug 2016.

See details at: http://www.buddhas-place.com/avietnam_2016_1admin.html

RASigs Reunion Melbourne 9-14 Nov 2016 – To be held in the Yarra Valley, Victoria.

Being hosted by RASigs Assoc Vic. For more details contact Gavin Lee (President RASigs Assoc Vic) gavin.lee18@hotmail.com **please see end of Messenger of proposed venue details**

WRAAC 65th Anniversary (including RAANC) – Canberra 12 to 15 Feb 2016

Should any WRAAC/RAANC Corps members be interested in attending the 65th Anniversary, please contact Anniversary Organising Committee (AOC) Secretary wraac65@gmail.com or write to the AOC Secretary, WRAAC 65 PO Box 73, JERRABOMBERRA NSW 2619.

National News

RSL defines “veteran” as anyone who has served in a uniform

- By: *Ian McPhedran National defence writer*

When is a veteran not a war veteran?

Veteran debate ... What makes a veteran a veteran? A line has been drawn in the sand. *Source: News Limited*



For decades that question has generated heated arguments in RSL clubs, pubs and lounge rooms across the nation.

Finally the Returned and Services League (RSL) appears to have drawn a line in sand and decided that anyone who has served in the military uniform can be referred to as a “veteran”.

Given that the full term is actually “war veteran” some who served in harm's way overseas are offended that even those who have never left Australian shores can adopt the hallowed moniker.

The law as defined by the 1986 Veterans Entitlement Act is quite clear and divides service categories into “defence”, “war” or “warlike.”

Ask many veterans who have seen action against the enemy and they will say that the term “veteran” should be reserved for them and their ilk.

Others don't care and are happy to march alongside other “veterans” on Anzac Day who served exclusively in Australia or on relatively benign deployments such as Kashmir or the Sinai.

According to the South Australia, Queensland and Victorian State Branches of the RSL the following is the official line:

“The definition favoured at the moment is that anyone who has served in any of the services at any time is a Veteran — this is to ensure that no one is excluded from membership of the RSL or from receiving entitlements assistance through DVA. Entitlements are a completely different matter and being called a ‘Veteran’ does not immediately transfer entitlements to the individual. The RSL has not wanted to discriminate between service members because it is important to us that we engage with everyone who has served regardless of where, when and for how long.”

RSL National President Ken Doolan told News Corp that the term “veteran” had meaning under the Act, but many younger veterans don’t like it because it makes them sound old.



Veteran discussions ..RSL National President Ken Doolan chats with Eric Maxton and other veterans at the Albany centenary event. Picture: Daniel Wilkins. Source: News Corp Australia

Under the Act there is no specific definition, but only those who have “warlike” service can apply for certain entitlements. For example those who have had operational “warlike” service can apply for a Veterans Gold Card at age 70 when those who hadn’t deployed could not.

“We don’t want to get hung up on words and we want to be as inclusive as possible,” Admiral Doolan said.

“No one size fits all and really people can call themselves what they want.”

Iraq War Veteran Aaron Gray, who served seven months as a gunner on a light armoured vehicle in 2006-07 said he has always believed the “veteran” term applied only to those who had deployed on operations.

“I have always felt a bit odd when people who have not deployed overseas have referred to themselves as a veteran,” Mr. Gray said. “For me it a term reserved for someone who has served their country in conflict.”



Former soldier Aaron Gray from Bomaderry NSW during his Iraq deployment. Picture: Supplied. Source: Supplied

President of the Queensland Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Federation Malcolm Wheat supported the RSL position.

“During the 1970s and 1980s there was a long period when there were no overseas deployments. Should those people have their service to the country reduced? I don’t think so,” he said. “Anybody who serves deserves recognition.”

Mr. Wheat said it was time to breakdown the “them and us” attitudes in the veteran community.

Biography – Colonel Michael John Brennan

Colonel Mike Brennan was born in Three Springs, Western Australia in 1956. He enlisted as an Army Apprentice, at the age of 15, in 1972. After completing a four year apprenticeship as an electronics technician he was posted to 126 Signal Squadron (Special Forces). He was selected for officer training in 1978 and graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea in June 1979 as a second lieutenant.

Colonel Brennan’s regimental appointments included troop commander, 1 Signal Regiment (1970-80); troop commander, 152 Signal Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment (1982-1984); operations officer and squadron commander, 1 Signal Regiment (1988-89) and the Commanding Officer 8 Signal Regiment (1997-98).

In 1990 he was selected to attend the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, UK and trained as a technical staff officer. During this posting he was awarded membership of the City and Guides of London Institute (MCGI) for a military project. Colonel Brennan’s technical staff appointments include Materiel Division – Army (1991-92); Logistics Command-Army (1994-95) and the SOI Command Control, Communications and Information Systems, Force Development (Land), Australian Defence Headquarters(1996).

In 1999, following his appointment as the commanding Officer, 8 Signal Regiment he was posted as the SOI Communications and Information Systems Development (J68) Headquarters Australian Theatre. During late

1999 he deployed to US Pacific Command, Hawaii as a liaison officer to assist with planning for Operation Stabilise, East Timor. He was also involved in a number of planning activities in East Timor including the establishment of commercial communications for INTERFET and the development of communications infrastructure for the newly established East Timor Defence Force. During July-December 2000 he was deployed to Bougainville on Operation Bel Isi as the commanding officer, Monitoring Team-Wakunai, Peace Monitoring Group.

Colonel Brennan completed a Grad Dip Eng (Telecommunications Systems Management at the Swinburne Institute of Technology. He is a graduate of the UK Command and Staff Course, Division II, Shrivenham and graduate of the Australian Army Command and Staff College, Queenscliff.

He was promoted to Colonel in January 2004 following a two year posting as the Australian Army Liaison Officer to US Army Communications Electronics Command, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. His final appointment in the Australian Regular Army was as the Director Combat and Operational Support Systems, Defence Material Organisation (2004-2005). He retired in January 2006 and has continued to work on a range of Defence projects as an Army Reserve officer.

Colonel Brennan is married to Irene and they have three adult children. He enjoys travel, military history, reading and working as a volunteer at the Army Museum of Western Australia. He has been the President of the Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia for the past two years.

Honouring our WWII Veterans (Courtesy Caboolture - Morayfield RSL Sub-Branch)

This one of the most ambitious and time important photographic projects undertaken in Australia.

With the generous support of AIPP **Accredited Professional Photographers** and the AIPP membership, supported by the RSL and Australian War Memorial "Reflections" aims to photograph the remaining Veterans of WWII to create a significant archive for the nation that reflects a sensitive portrayal of their elderly state and provide a cognisant comparison to the wartime images of young active men and women.

Veterans will receive a commemorative print in an embossed presentation folder to honour their participation and the images archived with the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

"We will remember them" is a commitment for all Australians to keep, if you want to honour that commitment and demonstrate your support sign up today, they did 75 years ago for a different cause and it is our time to show them how much we respect what they did.

Coral / Balmoral 1968 Vietnam (Courtesy Caboolture - Morayfield RSL Sub-Branch)

Veterans mark the anniversary of one of the fiercest but seldom remembered battles of Vietnam. Former Vietnam War soldier Norm Peatling was commander of 12 Platoon 3 RAR during the battle of Coral-Balmoral in 1968.

It was one of the most ferocious yet least known campaigns of the Vietnam War.

In 26 days of torrid fighting during major enemy assaults on their fire support bases, 25 young Australian soldiers from the 1st and 3rd battalions were killed and almost 100 wounded.

More than 270 enemy were killed and dozens wounded and 11 prisoners taken.

This month marks the 45th anniversary of the battles of coral-Balmoral with veterans still wondering why the fighting has not been given the historical recognition it deserves.

The two bases, north of Bien Hoa, were established to disrupt enemy troops withdrawing from Saigon during the so-called "Mini-Tet" offensive under an Operation codenamed Toan Thang.

Australian troops supported by centurion tanks repelled numerous frontal enemy assaults by well-trained North Vietnamese army regular troops and Vietcong guerrillas.

The first attack occurred at coral on May 12 and Balmoral was hit at 2.30am on May 26.

At the point of the enemy spear was 12 platoon of Delta Company 3RAR under the command of national serviceman Lieutenant Norm Peatling from Melbourne.

Lieutenant Peatling, from bayside Brighton, and three other soldiers from his old school, Highett High School, served with "D" Company in Vietnam.

Two platoons faced a battalion sized force in the first assault on the morning of May 26, 1968 and numerous assaults were repelled by Peatling and his men and their fire support units.

"They never broke our wire and they lost a lot of people trying," he said. "after the second battle of Balmoral they never tried it on again."

The lack of official and unofficial recognition for the efforts of the soldiers at Coral-Balmoral, by far Australia's biggest action of the War, has always been a mystery to Norm Peatling.

He has all the history books on his shelf and he says none of them do justice to the efforts of the 1st and 3rd battalions in Warding off highly professional enemy units.

"I was a platoon commander and no author has ever spoken to me about the battle," he said. "The only people who talk to me are other diggers."

Peatling said it was appropriate that Long Tan was the iconic action of the War due to the actions of Delta Company 6 RAR but he is very proud of the work that his men did at Balmoral. "They handled themselves very well," he said.

Operation Toan Thang marked a watershed for the Australian task force with commanders forced to review tactics following the close calls during several key battles. Intelligence would play a greater role in determining patrol strength and quick reaction forces and rapid indirect fire support were stood up to back-up sub-units in the field.



Norm Peatling (L) during his service in Vietnam

The combined arms team approach still applies today.

Coral-Balmoral also proved once and for all the value of heavy armour as the tanks were credited with winning the day on several occasions. That led to the army resisting all attempts to this day to remove tanks from the order of battle.

Norm Peatling said the tanks did a wonderful job, but when the enemy was on the wire the only thing that stopped them were the diggers in the gun pits.

It takes courage to poke your head above the pit and attack the enemy. The machine gun barrels burnt out they fired so many rounds," he said.

Mr Peatling said the battlefield resembled a meat market after the initial assault and he and his men buried at least 50 enemy bodies in a B52 bomb crater

Former digger Brian Cleaver from Perth has spent several years and made numerous trips to Vietnam to search for the enemy remains. "That is the right thing to do," Mr Peatling said.

Vietnam War Roll of Honour Image Gallery (Courtesy Caboolture - Morayfield RSL Sub-Branch)

Vietnam Veterans' Day (18 August) was this year commemorated, in part, with the release of a new online Vietnam War Roll of Honour Image Gallery. Announced by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Gallery is a historic collection of photographs of the 521 Australians listed on the Vietnam War Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.

The collection comprises a remarkable variety of images; from cherished family photographs to enlistment portraits and candid pictures taken in Vietnam; that depict a diverse range of men, and one woman, and provide some insight into their characters.

The images were collected over several years by the Office of Australian War Graves. Many were provided by relatives and friends, while others were sourced from official archives. Together, they convey a simple message: these were real people, not just names or statistics, and each face tells its own story.

The collection is displayed in an interactive online image gallery, which allows visitors to the site to view and reflect on all the photographs on a single page. Search functions allow visitors to find family members and friends by name or to sort the photographs by categories such as Service, their home state in Australia, or year of death. For example, visitors can quickly discover how many Royal Australian Navy personnel on the Vietnam War Roll of Honour were born overseas. By selecting a single image, visitors are provided a profile of the individual, a larger image and some biographical details.

If you would like to view this extraordinary commemorative gallery, please visit DVA's Australia and the Vietnam War website, at <http://vietnamwar.commemoration.gov.au/honour-roll/profiles.php>

Bernard Sidney Gordon VC, MM (16 August 1891 – 19 October 1963)

(Courtesy Caboolture - Morayfield RSL Sub-Branch)



Was an Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross during the First World War. Gordon was born at Launceston, Tasmania, and enlisted in the AIF in September 1915. He soon showed that he had considerable courage and initiative, although he was not always a model soldier when away from "the line".

Gordon was 27 years old, and acting as a lance corporal in the 41st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force when, during the First World War Battle of Amiens, the following deeds lead to him being awarded the Military Medal occurred.

On the 8/8/18 during the attack east of Hamel Pte Gordon single-handedly attacked a machine gun crew which was holding up his section. He killed the crew and captured the gun. Later on in the day he stalked and killed an enemy sniper.

Throughout the operation he displayed much bravery and devotion to duty.

(Brigadier General J.H. Cannan, 11th Brigade AIF)

This action occurred on the "Black Day" of the German Army, in which the Australian Corps destroyed their opposition. As a result of this, on 9 August 1918 the Canadian Corps advance lead to a general retreat by the German troops. The Australian 3rd Division continued to advance toward the bend in the River Somme. During this period the following action, for which Gordon was awarded the Victoria Cross, took place:

During the operations of the 26/27th August 1918 East of Bray this N.C.O showed most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the face of the enemy.

He led his Section through heavy enemy shelling to the objective which he consolidated. Then single handed he attacked an enemy machine gun which was enfilading the Company on his right, killing the man on the gun and captured the post which contained one Officer (a Captain) and 10 men. After handing these over at Company Headquarters he returned alone to the old system of trenches, in which were many machine guns, entered a C.T. and proceeded to mop it up, returning with 15 prisoners in one squad and 14 in another, together with two machine guns.

Again he returned to the system, this time with a Trench Mortar gun and crew, and proceeded to mop up a further portion of the trench, bringing in 22 prisoners including one Officer and 3 Machine guns. This last capture enabled the British troops on our left to advance, which they had not been able to do owing to Machine Gun fire from these posts.

His total captures were thus 2 Officers and 61 other ranks, together with 6 machine guns, and with the exception of the Trench Mortar assistance it was absolutely an individual effort and done entirely on his own initiative.

(Brigadier General J.H. Cannan, 11th Brigade AIF)

Gordon was wounded on 1 September 1918 (Bouchavesnes Spur – Battle of Mont St Quentin). He was evacuated and sent to England on 4 September 1918, where he was awarded the Military Medal on 15 September 1918. He was not awarded the Victoria Cross until 20 December 1918 (after the Armistice), the citation for which states:

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men:-

No.23 L/Cpl. Bernard Sidney Gordon, M.M, 41st Bn., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 26/27th August, 1918, east of Bray.

He led his section through heavy shell fire to the objective, which he consolidated. Single-handed he attacked an enemy machine gun which was enfilading the company on his right, killed the man on and captured the post, which contained one officer and ten men. He then cleared up a trench, capturing twenty-nine prisoners and two machine guns. In clearing up further trenches he captured twenty-two prisoners, including one officer and three machine guns.

Practically unaided, he captured, in the course of these operations, two officers and sixty-one other ranks, together with six machine guns, and displayed throughout a wonderful example of fearless initiative.

Gordon's Victoria Cross was sold at auction in Sydney on 28 November 2006 for A\$478,000. The medal was sold by one of Gordon's daughters, who needed money to keep the family farm in operation. The VC was purchased by an agent of media tycoon Kerry Stokes, the same man who paid a world record price of A\$1,214,500 in July 2006 for the VC awarded to Alfred Shout, A\$180,000 for the George Cross of Lieutenant Commander George Gosse, and in conjunction with the South Australian Government, the VC of Major Peter Badcoe. All four medals are on display in the Australian War Memorial.

Ed:- Article originated from an email request and research via Wikipedia— https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Entrée

Salt & Pepper Squid

Served on a bed of greens, julienne cucumber, onion & dressed with a light vinaigrette

Chicken Tenderloins

Served on baby spinach & finished with a balsamic reduction

Main

Scotch Fillet 250g

Cooked Medium

Served with julienne of beetroot, zucchini & pear & finished with a shiraz glaze

Chicken Breast

Stuffed with pancetta, mushroom & spinach served on homemade potato rosti

Barramundi Fillet

Oven Baked & served with potato scales, asparagus & a butter emulsion

Dessert

Baked French Meringue

Finished with fresh cream & a raspberry coulis

Sticky Date Pudding

Served with a toffee sauce & fresh cream



Royal Australian Signals Association (Victoria) Inc



Format for National Reunion – 9th to 14th Nov 2016: Yarra Valley.

Wednesday 9th Nov 2016

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

Thursday 10th Nov 2016

- Morning to your own devices or
- Shopping for the ladies or
- Healesville Sanctuary tour or
- Winery tours
- Meet at Greensborough RSL @ 3.00pm for BBQ and Drinks, Dinner?
 - www.rsl-greensborough.com
 - (03)9435 1884

Friday 11th Nov 2016 – *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
- Attend the Shrine for the Remembrance for the service
- Buses back to Simpson Bks for tour of RASigs Museum, DFSS & Barracks
- Sgts Mess for BBQ and Drinks in afternoon

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 to
- Ladies tour of either Chadstone shopping centre or DFO
- Formal Dinner – RSL, Winery or MCG – **6.30pm for 7.00pm start**

Sunday 13th Nov 2016

- Official parade in Healesville – 12.00pm start
- Inspection of Troops by Reviewing Officer, Mayor, RSL, President of Assn
- After parade, back to Healesville RSL
- Official closing of Reunion

Monday 14th Nov 2016

- Hand over to next State Assn for next reunion
- Say good byes and farewells
- Everyone heads home.

Gavin Lee

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