

The North-Western Ranger



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



Patron: The Commanding Officer, 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment
CO LTCOL Derek Sonogan

Vol 26 No1 FEBRUARY 2022

A Message to Our Valued Members

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The AGM to be presented on the 3 April 2022 at Sebastopol RSL this year, is especially important and the Association needs your input and attendance to determine the future of the Association.

Barbara Birthisel and I will not be standing for election.

The vacant positions for the committee required are.

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership officer
- Newsletter editor
- Property Member Filled



New postings for the Battalion, 2022.

COMMANDING OFFICER.
LTCOL DEREK SONOGAN.

ADJUTANT.
CAPT. JARROD FRENCH.

We wish them all the best on
their postings.

We are both retiring due to health and family issues; therefore, these positions are required to make an effective committee.

Eleven years ago, Kevin informed me that I was now the Secretary and 'boy that was a challenge', but now I wish to thank you all for your support in my time as Secretary and I am sure you all appreciate the work that Barbara has put in as Treasurer, but now it is time to move on, we wish you all the best in your endeavours to continue the good work.

If you would be interested in taking on one of these positions, or know of someone who would, please contact Dick Wilkie, President.

COMMITTEE.

President Dick Wilkie
Vice Pres Bruce McKinnon
Secretary Tom Chambers
Treasurer Barbara Birthisel
Brian Driscoll **Warrnambool**
Welfare

Lindsay Govan
Ian Nunn
Les Taylor
Allan Wettenhall

For Warrnambool Hospital Visitations

Bluey Frank

President's Message Feb. 2022

Greetings all, we have reached a milestone in Association history. Now is the time to regroup and focus on our core values of welfare, social activity with respect for our past, present and future membership including the Ballarat based Army Reserve Unit 8th /7th Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment.

The future of the Association depends upon appointing three key Office Bearers, that of Secretary, Treasurer and vital position of Newsletter Editor for the North-Western Ranger. On behalf of all members please join me in congratulating both our retiring committee executives Tom Chambers and Barbara Birthisel on their long service, dedicated outstanding contribution to the association and its various members. We thank you all.

Secretary, Ranger Editor, Property Manager, Membership Officer, Records Officer, Welfare, Committee and attending to other secretarial tasks Tom and his very capable wife Lorraine.

Treasurer, Barbara Birthisel, Welfare, Membership, Liaison Officer maintaining detailed accurate transparent financial records and supported by Peter Birthisel. We wish to thank her for traveling from Warrnambool each month to attend our committee meetings.

We wish you both good health, good fortune, safe travelling.

I would like to thank our sponsors for your ongoing support, it is much appreciated.

Our committee has remained strong and active, well done.

Not least of all, we appreciate the continued support of our members and welcome your ideas and communication to progress our association, it remains with us all "To get with the program."



Cheers. Dick Wilkie, President.

The Annual General Meeting of 8/7th Battalion-2RVR Association Inc. for the Financial year ending 30th September 2021, will be held at the Sebastopol RSL Sunday 3rd April 2022

A **free BBQ** at the conclusion of the meeting will be provided. Drinks will be available.

Business of the Meeting shall be:

To Confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General meeting.

To Receive and adopt the Reports and Financial statements for the year.

To hear the Declaration of Nominations for the Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee Members for the ensuring financial year.

To hear any statements from the newly elected Committee Members, who may want to address the meeting.

To vote on any proposals to changes to the Constitution, (any changes will require two weeks' notice to members prior to meeting)

To Close or Adjourn the AGM.

Open Members' Meeting.

To transact any special business of which four (4) week's written notice has been given to the Secretary.

To transact any such business, as the chair will allow.

NOTICE BOARD

AGM

The next AGM is to be held on the 3 April 2022 at Sebastopol RSL. Open 1000hrs for 10.30 start. Please attend as this is an especially important meeting and the outcome may decide the future of the association and how it moves forward.

There will be a free BBQ at the completion of the meeting and drinks will be available.

ANZAC DAY

BALLARAT

Dawn Service: 05.45hrs at the cenotaph. Main service: 10.00hrs, form up in Lyons Street.

Let's make this a great turnout of our members, march behind the banner, and enjoy some fellowship afterwards. We would be very happy to see you there.

Ballarat RSL will be holding a gunfire breakfast after the dawn service and activities after the main service.

Ranger Barracks will also be holding a gunfire breakfast. **Members of the Association** are invited there.

SEBASTOPOL

Main service.

Form up outside the RSL in Burwood Ave at 0830hrs.

1200hrs, fellowship will be held in the facilities at the Alfredton Recreation Reserve. Cuthberts Road.

Food and drinks at reasonable rates

WARRNAMBOOL District.

From Secretary RSL Via Email. They are holding only one dawn service with march off at 0625 at the usual area of Liebig Street. The service will be held at the cenotaph.

SICK LIST.

Norman Thornell is having his ups and downs, all the best Norm.

Tim Latrobe is now residing in sunny Ocean Grove. A member of the unit band and our intrepid bus driver from the past, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Hank Van Oorschot has had a spell in hospital and is now recovering at home.

Both John Egan and Hank Oorschot have joined the list of those with Parkinson's and we wish you well in your treatment.

To all those who are not well may we look forward to you having a satisfactory outcome.

For those interested the Avalon Air Show will be held February **28, 2023 - March 5, 2023**

The committee has discussed having like-minded groups join in **with** social activities this may encourage younger members to come along i.e., Bus Trips, BBQ's, Dinners etc.

4th Brigade - Australian Army - From Father's Day 2021



Most of us has served with at least one of these 'villains':

Trevor, Allan, or Wayne Beales

Three generations of men to have come through 4th Brigade, and all through the same unit - 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment.

"It's been a real honour to serve alongside my dad, and it's something to look back and feel proud about." said Sergeant Wayne Beales. "Although it feels normal to me, we are in the same occupation for both Army and civilian career - I

recognise that it's something rather special."

Read more about the soldiers in the Beales family, and what having a father in the Army is like here:

<https://news.defence.gov.au/.../celebrating-generations...> Note we don't have the space but it makes interesting reading. Ed.

What was the British involvement in the formation of the Australian Army 1903?

Sir Edward Hutton, the founder of The Australian Army (based on ADB Biography)

Sir Edward Thomas Henry Hutton (1848-1923) was born on 6 December 1848 at Torquay, Devon, England, only son of Edward Thomas Hutton, banker, and his wife Jacintha Charlotte (née Eyre). Hutton was educated at Eton after which he joined the 60th Rifles as an Ensign in 1867. He was promoted Captain in 1879 and Major in 1883. In 1879-85 he saw much active service in Africa, in the Zulu War (1879), the first South African War (1881), the occupation of Egypt including the battle of Tel-el-Kebir (1882) and the Nile Expedition (1884-85). During this period, he became deeply interested in the training and employment of mounted infantry with which he thrice served on operations. At Aldershot, England, he raised and commanded mounted infantry units in 1888-92, becoming recognized as one of the leading proponents of this form of mobility. Hutton was a good speaker with a flair for publicity.



In 1889 Hutton was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and on 1 June, at St Paul's Anglican Church, Knightsbridge, London, he married Eleanor Mary, daughter of Lord Charles Paulet and granddaughter of the marquis of Winchester. His marriage and his appointment as Aide-de-Camp to Queen Victoria in 1892 afforded him a degree of influence unusual for an officer of his rank.

'Curly' Hutton's first connection with the military in Australia came in 1892. He was promoted to Colonel and became Commandant of the New South Wales Colonial Military Forces with the local rank of Major General in 1893. The advent of an able leader committed to military reform and with recent war experience revived the flagging spirit of the New South Wales forces. Hutton inspected units in every part of the colony, addressed public gatherings and brought the Army before the community, beginning with a major review in Sydney in July 1893. On one of his inspections, he travelled 680 miles (1,094 km) in twenty days including 500 miles (805 km) on horseback. He visited training camps and exercises, delivered lectures to officers, fostered rifle clubs, and supported the movement for raising national regiments such as the Irish Rifles.

Valuable as the public side of his work was, Hutton's reorganization of the New South Wales forces was even more important because it gave the Colony an Army capable of taking the field as part of a Federal Force. He restructured the headquarters staff, persuaded the government to transfer the influential Department of the Military Secretary from the Chief Secretary to his own command and organized administrative services to support the fighting arms. All this was achieved in a period of acute economic depression and in the face of political and military opposition.

At the outset of his command he quarrelled bitterly with the premier, Sir George Dibbs, who had insisted on a reduction of £30,000 in the defence estimates, the practical result of which was the cancellation of the Easter Training Camps. When Hutton's views on this were reported in the press the premier publicly censured his Commandant saying, *inter alia*, 'he is a good soldier, but he writes and talks too much. He means well ... but he has much to learn regarding his official duties'. There was substance in this criticism. Hutton from the start aroused suspicion in some quarters by his outspoken remarks on helping 'England in her hour of need'. He also vigorously supported the movement for Federal Defence; in a speech at Bathurst in January 1894 he advocated one defence policy for the six colonies, a common organization of their forces while preserving their identity, a Federal Regiment of Artillery and a Federal Council of Defence.

At the intercolonial military conference of October 1894 Hutton recommended the establishment of a council of Defence, composed of delegates from all the colonies, to take charge of the forces in time of war or general emergency. This was supported by the conference, but its recommendations made little impression on the Colonial Premiers. However, the startling successes of the Japanese forces in the war with China in 1894-95 provided Hutton with a useful argument for greater preparedness which he placed before his government in March 1895. A second meeting of the Commandants, chaired by him, in January 1896 reaffirmed their proposals for the employment of the forces of every Colony in the joint defence of Australia under the control of a Council of Defence, while rejecting a

suggestion from London (backed by Hutton) that their Field Forces should be liable to serve beyond Australia. By this time the political movement for Federation was overtaking the military movement and political leaders were looking for Federation as the necessary preliminary to National Defence.

Hutton returned to England in March 1896. By the end of his command, he and his wife had won the esteem of the New South Wales forces and Hutton had become an important public figure. A convinced Imperialist, he quickly began to propagate his ideas on Australian defence, addressing Members of Parliament on the topic and the Aldershot Military Society on 'Our comrades of Greater Britain'. In that address the concept of the Australian soon to be popularized by historian C. E. W. Bean was already discernible: 'The Australian is a born horseman. With his long, lean muscular thighs he is more at home on a horse than on his feet, and is never seen to a greater advantage than when mounted and riding across bush or a difficult country ... Fine horsemen, hardy, self-reliant, and excellent marksmen, they are the beau ideal of Mounted Riflemen ... Accustomed to shift for themselves in the Australian bush, and under the most trying conditions of heat and cold, they would thrive where soldiers unaccustomed to bush life would die'. This address was widely reported in Australia as well as in Britain. In April 1898 he read a paper on 'A co-operative system for the defence of the Empire' before the Royal Colonial Institute in London, using the Australian Federal defence scheme as the pattern for a scheme of Empire Defence.

After a staff appointment in Ireland Hutton went to Canada in 1898 to command the Canadian Militia, a force which presented him with opportunities of reform as far-reaching as those in New South Wales. His aim was to build a National Army for Canada which would also be available to serve abroad. Unwisely, he became involved in Canadian politics; his efforts to pursue a military policy of his own became known to the Canadian government and his public speeches at the time of the South African War in 1899, with other devious activities, led to a crisis in which he was forced to resign. He returned to his true sphere, serving in South Africa where, as a Major General, he commanded a strong brigade of Mounted Infantry with great distinction in the advance to Pretoria. His brigade included Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and British units and he chose his staff largely from the Colonial Forces. His letters reveal his enthusiasm for the colonial citizen soldier and his awareness of a special responsibility in such a command which seemed to him as much political and Imperial as military. For his services in South Africa, he was appointed K.C.M.G. in 1900.

In 1901 the first Australian government appointed Hutton to command and organize its land forces. He was recommended by Field Marshal Lord Roberts after several other officers had refused or were rejected by the government. He returned to Australia in January 1902 to tackle the congenial task of transforming the six Colonial Forces into a National Army. He was warned by his friends about speech-making, his intemperate language and the need for tact when dealing with Ministers, but such warnings were quickly forgotten.

Hutton came with high hopes and with the intention of organizing an Army capable of supporting Australian and British interests beyond the Australian Commonwealth. His command began with personal frustrations owing to the refusal of the War Office (London) to promote him Lieutenant-General despite his much wider responsibilities and the refusal of the Australians to allow him to bring his own Aide-de-Camp. The government was without a defence policy, having withdrawn its first Defence Bill after it had been roughly managed in parliament. Confident and ambitious, Hutton submitted a minute in April 1902 outlining the strategic situation of Australia and the military organization he considered appropriate to it. He proposed a Garrison Force (of Volunteers) to defend the major coastal centres and ports and a Field Force (of paid militia) which could be sent wherever Australian interests might require it. His proposals aroused adverse criticism not only in Australia but also in the Colonial Defence Committee in London. A new draft defence bill, prepared by Hutton at the request of the Prime Minister, was passed and finally proclaimed in March 1904 but it made no provision for sending Australian troops overseas, much to Hutton's and the War Office's disappointment. Nevertheless, the general shape of the Australian Army as proposed by Hutton was preserved.

Meanwhile Hutton was merging the Colonial Militia Forces into an Australian Citizen Army, although not without difficulty. He was furiously attacked in parliament and the press over the disbandment of small volunteer units whose disappearance was necessary to the development of a meticulously organized force. There was an alarming shortage of trained officers but the posting of a regular officer to a command in place of an elderly and inefficient Militia Colonel aroused a storm of protest. Similarly, the transfer of instructors from one State to another caused a crisis between South Australia and the Commonwealth in 1902. Hutton fought a losing battle in trying to maintain a headquarters staff adequate for its task, but reduction of the numbers of permanent officers and soldiers was a ready and popular way of saving money, especially as there were no pensions for those retrenched.

Hutton promoted efficiency, discipline and training in every department of the new Citizen Army. Much that he proposed had to wait for better times and the better atmosphere which the General Officer Commanding was incapable of creating. Among his proposals were a Military College, an Army Service Corps, an Ordnance Corps, and superannuation for the permanent force. He was successful in creating the Field Force and the Garrison Force, with complete war and peace establishments. The Cavalry and other mounted units he transformed into Mounted Infantry known as Light Horse. On the other hand, he could not obtain funds for the equipment and rearmament of the forces. He instituted staff rides for the tactical training of officers and non-commissioned officers and began the process of producing an educated Officer Corps. These changes involved a degree of control and centralization which inevitably aroused resentment in the States. That some officers were also members of parliament or influential politically hindered his plans.

Hutton quarrelled frequently with his Ministers, some of whose interventions were petty or foolish in the extreme. A more tolerant man would have made allowances for their inexperience and ignorance and for the very novelty of the experiment in which all were engaged. But Hutton the autocrat and fighter was in a hurry. He had insisted on a three-year appointment rather than the five he had been offered and there was still much to be done. Fortunately, he had an eye for talent; chief among his protégés were Lieutenant Colonel (later Major General Sir) W. T. Bridges, Lieutenant-Colonel (later General Sir) Harry Chauvel and Captain (later General Sir) Brudenell White, all of whom were to play important roles in the development of the Army, especially in World War I. His constant battles with his Ministers were Hutton's undoing. In 1904 a succession of Ministers worked at revising the Defence Act like the lines of the recent reorganization of the War Office where the Commander-in-Chief had been replaced by an Army Council. No government wanted another G.O.C., whether British or Australian. Hutton strongly opposed this policy but the bill providing a Military Board in place of the G.O.C. was passed by the end of the year. By that time, he had resigned after another furious quarrel over payment for a cable in cipher, the contents of which he refused to divulge.

The handicaps under which Hutton worked cannot be disregarded. He began his task in years of recession when weak governments were struggling to reduce expenditure. In three years, he had to deal with four Prime Ministers and six Ministers of Defence. Parliament and the Army itself included men of parochial outlook in military affairs and there was widespread popular suspicion of regular officers who were associated with 'militarism' and 'gold lace'. For all his soldierly qualities, professionalism, experience and zeal, Hutton was devoid of the tact which might have eased his relations with the Ministers whom, too often, he despised. Perhaps his chief difficulty arose from his desire to serve two masters, the War Office and the Australian government. He saw the Australian Military Forces and the armies of other dominions as branches of one great British Army. He intended to give Australia an efficient citizen force for its own defence, but he also wanted it to be ready to defend any part of the Empire. Despite the strength of the Imperial ties, Australian national sentiment and a growing appreciation of the country's proper interests were too strong for Hutton. However, much he was disliked, and distrusted, by politicians he was held in affection and admiration within the Army and he left his mark on those who were to lead the Australian Imperial Force.



On his return to the United Kingdom, he was given charge of administration in the Eastern Command and made G.O.C. of the 3rd British Division. At last, in November 1907, he was promoted Lieutenant General on the eve of retirement. He was appointed K.C.B. in 1912. When Bridges was raising the Australian Imperial Force, he suggested that it be commanded by Hutton. The government rejected the suggestion, but Hutton was recalled by the War Office to organize and command the 21st British Division. A riding accident in 1915 brought about his retirement.

During World War I Hutton corresponded with Bridges, Chauvel, White and others, rejoicing in Australian successes. After the victory of Romani in August 1916 he congratulated Chauvel, commanding the ANZAC Mounted Division. 'You and your men are establishing Australia as a Nation great by land and sea — which shall stand for British Freedom, Justice and Honour in the Southern Seas for all time.' Senior officers of the A.I.F. would visit the old soldier whose health was declining. He died on 4 August 1923 and was buried with full military

honours at Lyne near his home at Chertsey, Surrey. He was survived by his wife; they had no children. Portraits by Tom Roberts are in the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and Victoria Barracks, Sydney

Humour: Red versus Brown

During the royal wedding, millions around the world saw that Prince William chose to wear a uniform that included the famous British "red coat." Many people asked, "Why have the British worn red coats in battle?"

A long time ago, Britain and France were at war. During one battle, the French captured a British Colonel. They took



him to their headquarters and the French General began to question him. Finally, as an afterthought, the French General asked, "Why do you British officers all wear red coats? Don't you know the red material makes you easier targets?"

In his casual, matter-of-fact way, the officer informed the General that the reason British officers wear red coats is so that if they are wounded, the blood won't show and the men they are leading won't panic.

And that is why, from that day forward, all the French Army officers wear brown trousers!

Electric bikes finding role on battlefield



The subtle buzz of a battery-powered motor is all you will hear from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment's (Queensland Mounted Infantry) (2/14LHR [QMI]) trial stealth reconnaissance e-bikes.

Left: Trooper Damian Day and Corporal Thomas Ovey from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland patrol on Australian Army Stealth Reconnaissance E-Bikes at Townsville Field Training Area, Queensland. Story by Captain Taylor Lynch. Photo by Corporal Nicole Dorrett. Mounted Infantry) conduct a scouting

With a top speed of 90km/h and range of 100km, the stealth reconnaissance e-bikes have improved the regiment's capability to scout for information while remaining under the detection threshold, usually deploying as a detachable element of the Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicle.

Corporal Thomas Ovey was one of the first soldiers to pioneer the new capability as part of 2/14LHR's (QMI) A Squadron trial and explained the advantages the e-bikes provided when gathering information on the battlefield. "It allows us to do safe-handing of information, whether that's information people have found on the battlefield, or even if one of the troops takes photos on their phone and wants to send it back to headquarters," Corporal Ovey said.

"They'll call us up, we'll get the stealth bikes out, head down there and grab the information. It's a lot quicker.

"We cover more ground much faster, and it saves time instead of waiting for troops to come to us when they've found something.

"It's easier to punch out the e-bikes and return."

Corporal Ovey outlined the types of tasks he had been using the e-bikes for during training exercises this year.

"It helps us achieve a lot with our reconnaissance work, sighting routes for the Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicle, including reconnaissance of creek lines so we can determine whether we can get the vehicle through," he said.

Corporal Ovey also explained why the e-bikes were superior to a motorbike, and how much he was enjoying riding them.

"The footprint is minimised due to less power, less noise, and you're not kicking up much dust that could be seen by enemy forces," he said.

"It's much more effective than a standard motorbike."

Corporal Ovey said the e-bike also brought some unexpected work benefits. "We all join the Army to find a little bit of excitement," he said. "This is one of those things about the job that's exciting, fun and awesome."

A report on the potential employment of the e-bikes in the combat brigades will be provided by the end of the year.

NEWS FROM THE BATTALION – The Battalion Family Day



The day consisted of a BBQ hosted by the Vietnam Veterans, with children’s activities, weapon and other displays. The association had a good roll up and talking with those who were able to attend it was an exceptionally good day.

Left: PTE Pen Wang and CPL William J Paffrath with the RSM WO1 Allan Ashman, during the presentation before being presented with the prizes from our association for the “Champion Soldier” and “Best Junior Leader” for 2021.

The Commanding Officers Commendation for 2020:
PTE. J.M. Russell, Champion Soldier
CPL. D. R. Vistarin, Best Junior leader.

Congratulations on achieving your goals. As part of the family day members on the promotion list were presented with their certificates of achievements.

Promotion list for 2021

Congratulations on your achievements and now it is time to put those new skills into action. Well done all!

8597651	CAPT	Nicholas Kitchen	8609585	LCPL	Christian Durso
8248893	WO2	Glenn Ludeman	8611802	LCPL	Tyson Hore
8509321	SGT	Lennie, Stewart	8614332	LCPL	Juan Zuleta-Arias
8249423	SGT	Antonius Vidot	8618742	LCPL	Jack Booth
8503490	SGT	Brendan Perrottet	8618782	LCPL	Taylor Bisognano
8226617	CPL	John Webb	8620010	LCPL	Daniel Ryan
8530931	CPL	Scott Chapman	8620562	LCPL	Corey Toomey
8545390	CPL	Jack Terrill	8623773	LCPL	Steven Cobden
8555206	CPL	Brent Mottram	8624728	LCPL	Jessica Russell
8558574	CPL	Patrick Aulich	8626008	LCPL	Daniel Godson
8563863	CPL	Garth Studham	8635735	LCPL	Bradley Aulich
8578629	CPL	Alistair Cameron	8642120	LCPL	Gary Byers
8578963	CPL	Minas Karipoglou	8642939	LCPL	Christopher Nugent
8589580	CPL	Navarre Bellefemine	8644068	LCPL	Peng Wang
604928	CPL	Ammar Hujdurovic	8589323	LCPL	Nicholas Gray
8608286	CPL	William Paffrath	8597684	LCPL	Harris Tsesmetzis
8442917	LCPL	Charles Carrucan	8598001	LCPL	Nicholas Watson
8518185	LCPL	Sharon Jaudzemis	8607700	LCPL	Byron Gallagher
8521216	LCPL	Dahle Jobling			
8537317	LCPL	Matthew MacGillivray			
8557022	LCPL	Scott Balshaw			
8570646	LCPL	Philip Ho			
8585553	LCPL	Caleb Maxwell			
8604928	CPL	Ammar Hujdurovic			
8442917	LCPL	Charles Carrucan			
8518185	LCPL	Sharon Jaudzemis			

A special thankyou to Neil Leckie for his aid in sourcing subjects and his help in proofreading the newsletters.



Dick handing over the prizes.



Members of the army band entertained throughout the day.



Above: L/CPL Wang a single dad, with his proud family members.



Right, LT COL Shaun Richards was bestowed with a farewell gift, the framed banner showing the 8/7 RVR badge framed with "special" pieces of timber. One of the trees from the Ballarat Avenue of Honour fell during a recent storm, then with permissions, the Ballarat Wood Workers Guild cut and shaped the timber into the frame. The tree was planted in memory of a 58th Battalion AIF soldier from Ballarat and will be replaced at the proper time.

There were many soldiers recognised for their service.

Some received their Australian Defence Medal, others were promoted as per the list, a few received Commendation awards recognising service on operations, COVID assist and bushfire assist.

Well, the word is out, we are looking forward to being at the next Family Day this year!

Photos. Bob Prewett

VALE

INGRAM, Barrington George William (Barry) (CO, 1975 – 1978)

BARRINGTON GEORGE WILLIAM INGRAM (1932 - 2021), was born on the 29 September 1932 at Caulfield, Victoria, the eldest of three children of Victorian born parents, Edgar Cooper Ingram, builder, and his wife Grace, nee Holman, whose father William Holman, a mining engineer from Bendigo, invented the 'Holman Compressor', still used in mining operations.

Barrington, best known as 'Barry', was born during Australia's 'Great Depression', a 'Polio' epidemic was rife in Melbourne's schools, and in his seventh year of age, World War II commenced. Fortunately, he spent many of those formulative years with relatives on Victorian country properties.

His initial education commenced in Melbourne, at a State School, continued with secondary study at Wesley College. The HQ US Army occupied the Wesley College Senior school premises. During those years most men were absent at War, his teachers were often the same age as his senior classmates; the workload was shared by women and veterans from the First World War. School yards included 'slit Trenches', and anti-bombing drills were conducted each day. Most suburban households had a bomb shelter, and gas masks and the street Air Raid Warden conducted drills. As an Army School Cadet Barry maintained his personal issued 'Lee Enfield .303 Rifle' at home and learned to use it at rifle ranges.



On the 8 August 1952, 'Barry' enlisted as a Recruit, 373808, into the 5th Battalion, Victorian Scottish Regiment (5 VSR). Subsequent service included selection as a member of the Queen's Quarter Guard during her initial visit to Victoria. Advancing through the ranks to Sergeant, he was commissioned Lieutenant on the 6 August 1957.

On the 29 October 1955, at the Wesley College Chapel, he married Pamela (nee Wells), and they raised a son, Matthew, and daughters, Penelope, and Amanda (Mandy). Pamela would pre-decease Barry.

Barry's commercial life commenced in 1949, as a warehouseman in a Textile Company, later developed with import and export activities as Managing Director of his personal company, and final years with a major retail corporation, retiring in October 2006.

From 1957 to 1964 he completed postings as Platoon Commander, Staff Officer HQ 4th Infantry Brigade, and was promoted to Captain. In the 1960 Army re-organization, he was posted to the 1st Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment (Pentropic) (1 RVR), as a Company 2IC, and then as Battalion Intelligence Officer. Between 1964 and 1968, after receiving the award of best result at the 3rd Military District Command & Staff Training Unit 'Tactics & Administration Course', he was promoted to Major and OC Support Company 1 RVR (Post-Pentropic). Within another Army re-organization, he retained the posting, serving with the newly formed 5th Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment.

Upon the formation of the 3rd Military District Officer Cadet Training Unit, he was appointed Senior Instructor, and then the same role with the 3rd Military District Command & Staff Training Unit.

During the period 1969 to 1971, while the Vietnam war was being conducted, he completed postings with HQ 4 Task Force (as DAA&QMG), active duty during a CMF Officer's Tour of Vietnam with 6th Battalion, Royal Australia Regiment from 6 – 20 August 1969, Second in Command 1st Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment, and with HQ 3rd Infantry Division, as Chief Instructor Centralized Recruiting. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he assisted with planning the forthcoming Army re-organization at HQ 4 Task Force.

From 1972 to 1974 he commanded the 1 RVR, the metropolitan battalion. He was also tasked to create a 'Ready Reserve Battalion' (3 RVR), by combining all resources available to Infantry within Victoria. From 1975 to 1978 he commanded the 2 RVR, the country battalion, the predecessor to the 8/7 RVR.

From 1979 until 1982, he completed postings as Chief Instructor 3rd Military District Command & Staff Training Unit, Staff Officer Grade 1 HQ 3rd Training Group, and completed a Senior Officer's Tactics Refresher Course at the Australian Land Warfare Centre (Canungra).

Barry passed away on 13 October 2021.



STEWART Andrew Wilson (Jock) 17 March 1962 - 29 October 2021

Jock served with B Coy. 2RVR Ballarat from 1979 to 1986 as a rifleman.

He passed away after a lengthy battle with liver cancer.
Our sincere condolences to Jenny and family members.



BURKE John 18 January 1948 - 28 October 2021

The association was advised that ex 22 RVR Association Member and former 2 RVR and 8/13 VMR officer John Burke had passed away in hospital. He was the Postmaster at Strathmerton for many years and a man with many military interests.

John was assaulted by a man that he did not know at about 1.15am on 8 August at the Strathmerton Roadhouse on the Murray Valley Highway. Police said emergency services were called and John was taken to The Royal Melbourne Hospital suffering from a brain bleed, a broken hip and a broken pelvis. The 42-year-old Numurkah man was charged with his death.

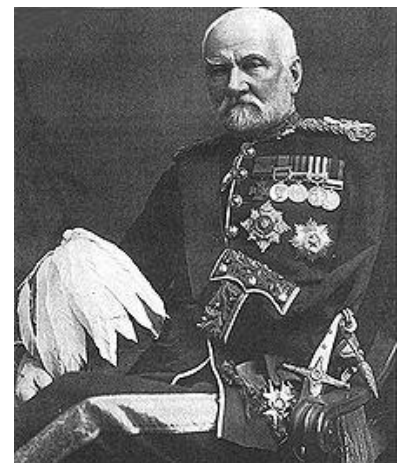
Origin of the Sam Browne Belt.

The Sam Browne belt is a wide belt, usually leather which is supported by a strap going diagonally over the shoulder. It is most often seen as part of a military or police uniform. In the 19th century officers always carried a sword into battle it hung from a little metal clip on the waistbelt, called a frog. However, the scabbard tended to slide around a lot when they charged the enemy, meaning that it had to be steadied with the left hand before being drawn.

Where did the name come from? You guessed it, Samuel Browne! The story:

General Sir Samuel James Browne V.C. GCB, KCSI was a 19th-century British Indian Army officer who had a long and brilliant military career in India.

He lost his arm lost his left arm to a sword cut and a slash to his leg on a successful attack on an enemy cannon in the Sepoy Rebellion. The loss of his arm made it difficult for him to draw his sword, because the left hand was typically used to steady the scabbard while the right drew out the sword. Browne produced the idea of wearing a second belt which went over his right shoulder to hold the scabbard steady. This would hook into a waist belt with D-rings for attaching accessories. It also securely carried a pistol in a flap-holster on his right hip and included a binocular case with a neck-strap.



Sam Browne missing his left arm and beltless in a full dress uniform with sash.

Other officers began wearing a similar rig and eventually it became part of the standard uniform.

During the Boer War, it was copied by other troops and eventually became standard issue.

Earlier infantry officers wore a variant that used two suspender-like straps instead of the cross-belt.

It was supposedly invented in 1878 by Lieutenant Basil Templer Graham-Montgomery, of the 60th Rifles, while serving in India. Due to its former use as equipment for carrying a sword, it was traditionally only worn by those to whom a sword would historically have been issued, namely commissioned officers and warrant officers. His Sam Browne is currently held in the National Army Museum in Chelsea.



Right: Major General Harold 'Pompey' Elliott, wearing a highly polished Sam Browne.



Bombing of Darwin Day – 80 years since Australian came under attack

Each year on 19 February, Australia marks Bombing of Darwin Day to commemorate the first time that the Australian mainland came under direct attack during the Second World War.

Darwin was an important port and was regarded as a vital asset in Australia's defence against Japanese Empire forces, which had recently captured Singapore and were rapidly invading the then Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) to invade Australia's

The explosion of a ship, filled with TNT and ammunition, hit during the first Japanese air raid on Australia's mainland, at Darwin on 19 February 1942. In the foreground is, HMAS Deloraine, which escaped undamaged.

Darwin came under attack by Japanese fighters and bombers on 19 February 1942, the first of many air raids that were conducted across northern Australia. The two raids on this day, separated by about 80 minutes, killed more than 250 Australian and Allied service personnel and civilians. The air raids on Darwin involved more than 240 enemy aircraft.

During the first raid, the American Destroyer U.S.S. *Peary* was sunk, killing 88 American sailors and wounding 13 – the greatest single loss of life on any ship attacked that day.

Further raids took place in April, June, July, November 1942, and March 1943, usually conducted by 30 to 40 aircraft. Between these large raids, smaller sorties of Japanese aircraft also carried out other operations on Darwin.

On 12 November 1943, the 64th and final air raid on Darwin occurred. Over almost two years, northern Australia had seen a total of 97 air attacks, and while these ceased, enemy air reconnaissance continued over the region for the majority of 1944. On the 80th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin, we remember those who died during these attacks and in defence of our nation.

More Humour: Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger, neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, and why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

So, one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

A Blast from the past early 1960.

Taken on a course at Puckapunyal? (Not sure) our older members might remember the miniature (25yard) ranges used for zeroing, pistol and Owen gun practises located at the base of the infamous Tit Hill.

Note the introduction of the new 7.62mm SLR and the khaki uniform with AB boots and gaiters. On the right features the .303in Bren gun that was replaced by the 7.62mm GPMG M60.

The Bren gun made a comeback as a 7.62mm but head spacing problems along with its extreme inaccuracy (waist of ammunition) led to its demise.



Oh No! not again.

A black guy goes for a job at sea.

The Captain says, "Have you had any experience at sea"?

No says the guy, But I'm Honest"! The Captain takes him on and off they sail. After three weeks at sea the Guy is busy mopping the decks, when a big wave crashes over the bow and sweeps him overboard. The First Mate goes running to the Captain, "You know the new guy we took on ...the one who said he was honest...? Well, he's just run off with your mop.

The Ballarat Ranger Military Museum



The Unit Historical Collection of

The 8th/7th Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment



MUSEUM OPEN HOURS

Open Thursday afternoons
1 – 4pm,
Fourth Sunday of the
Month, 9am – 12noon

Or by appointment.

Phone
Neil Leckie,

Museum Matters

Neil Leckie Manager

We are now open and looking for new members to help with the running.

At the building inspection on Thursday 3 Feb. 22 we were informed that the museum is to be re-roofed, a new paint job and other minor works in the very near future.

Bill Akell has been flat out catching up with the cataloguing and bringing the records up to date. He has progressed a long way, but it is a challenge with such limited space and so many items to record.

Scanning of all the photos and Roll Books is well on to being finished, till the next lot come in, but that is how it works. Well done Danny & Dave D. - Ed.

THE 39th BATTALION AIF, BALLARAT'S "REAL" GREAT WAR BATTALION?

Our 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, gains its numbers from the 8th Battalion of Militia (City of Ballarat Regiment) from 1921 until the end of WW2, with Mildura's 7th Battalion (North-West Murray Borderers) from 1936 until the end of WW2. The two battalions were amalgamated in 1948, when the Post-WW2 Citizen Military Forces were re-raised as the 8th/7th Battalion (North-West Victorian Battalion).

Ballarat was very proud to be considered the 'home' of the 8th Battalion in The Great War. It is quite true that a majority of the original 8th Battalion came from Western Victoria, but Ballarat only had a small portion of its original members. Lieutenant Colonel William Bolton, who at the outbreak of war was the Commanding Officer of the CMF 70th Infantry (Ballarat Regiment), was tasked with raising a battalion based on his 70th Infantry. The other battalion with a country connection was the 7th Battalion which had a catchment from Moonee Ponds, through Essendon up to the Murray River. It was raised by Lieutenant Colonel 'Pompey' Elliott, a CMF member with a connection to Ballarat through his schooling at Ballarat College.

On returning to Queenscliff to where the 70th Infantry had been 'called out' on the outbreak of war, from Victoria Barracks after his appointment as CO 8th Battalion, Bolton addressed his battalion and called for volunteers. Only 32 members of his 70th Infantry enlisted as a result of his appeal. According to Ron Austin's 'Cobbers in Khaki', Bolton is reported as saying 'The very small percentage of existing Citizen Forces volunteering for service was disappointing.' Of course many more from the 70th Infantry would go on to volunteer for service.

Initially, the 8th Battalion was comprised of eight companies. Before landing at Gallipoli, this would be reduced to a more practical British system of four companies. The men came from:

A Company: Ballarat B Company: Geelong C Company: Creswick/Ballarat/Geelong

D Company: Colac/Ararat/Hamilton/Melbourne/Maryborough/Wimmera

E Company: Ararat/Stawell/Horsham F Company: Mildura/Warracknabeal

G Company: Canterbury/Surrey Hills/Box Hill G Company: Gippsland & Kooyong

When the 3rd Division was raised in early 1916, the 10th Brigade was made up from three Victorian and one Tasmanian battalions: 37th Battalion (Seymour), 38th Battalion (Bendigo), 39th Battalion (Ballarat) and 40th Battalion (Tasmania).

On 21 February 1916 the 39th Battalion was raised in Ballarat and began training at the old Ballarat Showgrounds in the Burnbank/Gregory Streets area near Lake Wendouree. The 39th Battalion was raised in Ballarat, trained in Ballarat and its surrounding districts and took the train from Ballarat to Station Pier in Melbourne on 27 May 1916 for embarkation on the HMAT A11 Ascanius.

The 3rd Division undertook further training in England before finally embarking for France in late November 1916 just as the worst winter in more than twenty years was engulfing Europe. The 39th fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7–9 June 1917.

As most of the initial 39th Battalion's men came from country Victoria, and as the battalion was trained in Ballarat and referred to as the 39th (Ballarat) Battalion, which is the real Ballarat battalion: the 8th or 39th??



Photographs:

The 39th (Ballarat) Battalion formed up outside the Town Hall before heading off to Melbourne and Embarkation for war.



The 39th (Ballarat) Battalion march down Bridge Street before heading off to Melbourne and Embarkation for war.

Neil.

1884 MEDAL AT THE RANGER MUSEUM

A service medal issued in 1885 to Quartermaster Sergeant James Gullan, of Ballarat, is held in the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum. The museum welcomed the opportunity to buy the medal when it became available through a medal dealer some years ago.

A Ballarat Courier photo, at right, shows the then Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant, WO2 Geoff Hallam. Geoff joined the Army in 1966 and has served in Infantry Battalions for his whole Army career. (PS. Was he ever that young?)

The Victorian Volunteer Long and Efficient Service Medal recognised 20 years of service in the Land Forces of colonial Victoria and is made of silver, on a magenta and grey ribbon.

James Gullan was one of the first Quartermaster-Sergeants of Ballarat's own unit, which after many name changes has been known since 1987 as the 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment.

The first such medals were presented in Ballarat in 1881, when the recipients included eleven Ballarat men and four from Creswick. In 1882 further medals were presented to three more Ballarat men and a further two from Creswick. Along with Staff Sergeant T. Buckham, Quartermaster Sergeant Gullan was presented with the medal at a Battalion Parade on 26 January 1885, by the Assistant Adjutant-General of the Victorian Land Forces, Lt Col Brownrigg.

Gullan served originally with the Ballarat Volunteer Rangers and later in the 3rd (Ballarat) Battalion, Victorian Rifles. He was still the QMS at the time of his death in 1887 at the age of 50 years. Gullan was buried on 15 August 1887 with full military honours in the Ballarat Cemetery.

The funeral of the late Quartermaster-Sergeant James Gullan, of the 3rd Battalion Militia, and was largely attended, the deceased being buried with military honours. The remains of the deceased, which were conveyed on a gun carriage, were interred in the Ballarat Old Cemetery. The funeral procession was headed by a Shooting Party, consisting of twenty privates of C Company (to which company the deceased belonged), followed by the band playing the "Dead March". The gun carriage came next, after which followed three mourning coaches and then the members of the Militia to the number of about 150. Several the brethren of the Ballarat Loyal British Lodge, P.A. of which body the deceased was a member, also followed on foot. The Pall Bearers were Sergeant-Majors Brenchley, Burrow, Brough, Carey, Algie Thompson, and Sergeant Howarth; the coffin-bearers being members of the battalion. Amongst the mourners were many old Volunteer comrades of the deceased with whom he was deservedly popular. At the grave the Rev. W. L. Morton read the burial service, after which the Firing Party fired three volleys, the band playing the between each volley.

THE NEW SIGN AT THE MUSEUM

Visitors to the museum will now see a large red and white sign on the wall of the museum. Why is it there?

22 RVR was one of the five mainland CMF Battalions to be raised in 1966 to allow the mainly country men to opt to undertake six-years in the CMF in lieu of going into the National Service Ballot. When National Service ended after the 2 December 1972 election, C Company 2 RVR (Shepparton & Echuca) was transferred to 22 RVR. Eventually, on 30 June 1975, 22 RVR was closed, and C Company returned to 2 RVR. As neither Puckapunyal, nor the Tank Museum, were interested in the sign, with the connection to Shepparton and Echuca, the sign has been brought to the Ranger Museum.



On 27 February 2022, the Ex 22 RVR Association celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Presentation of the Colours on 27 February 1972 at 'S' Block, Puckapunyal. 29 Ex 22 RVR Association members, relatives and friends attended the day at Puckapunyal. For control and security movement around Pucka was by coach, which picked up the attendees at the Main Gate Car Park. The day commenced with a visit to Site 4 where 22 RVR's first four camps were held over the years 1967/68. The next stop was the Tank Museum where there was what many might have considered a very in-depth lesson on the development over the last century of the tank!

The third stop was the Ex 22 RVR Association's spiritual home at 'S' Block (1969 – 75). Not much remains of 'S' Block, mainly the roads, although some have been washed away, one in particular having been washed down straight through the centre of the Parade Ground. The bitumen Parade Ground is now virtually in two parts, each with a steel 9m x 4m 'Training Shed' on it. The association had hoped to hold a small ceremony there, but the CATC RSM said 'Too dangerous!' If it had held at 'S' block there would have been quite some time spent with brooms and shovels cleaning off the stones! The fourth stop was back across the creek to the small Parade Ground beside what was once the B Company, 2 RTB Classroom. There is a 'Training Shed' there and it gave shelter to those not 'on parade'.

Part 1 of the 50th Anniversary ceremony was the unveiling of the 22 RVR Sign. The sign came to the association's attention from Facebook via the RVR Association. A welcome addition to the day! The sign was unveiled by Anne Dudgeon (widow of the ARA Bn IC Noel Dudgeon) and Mark Malone (son of the CMF Bn 2IC Jim Malone). Jim served in the old 8th/7th Bn and 2 RVR before transferring to 22 RVR.

Part 2 of the ceremony was the short parade. The Parade CSM was Tony Melis, an Ex 22 RVR soldier who served for many years with 8/7 RVR. He marched on the Main Body and handed over to the Parade Commander. The Parade Commander then ordered the banners to be marched on. As the Colours were laid up in the Shrine in Melbourne an Australian flag and an association flag were used as Banners. The two-Colour Ensigns from the Presentation of the Colours in 1972 were present and carried the banners. The Parade Commander then gave a speech on the history of 22 RVR, the Colours Parade and the Ex 22 RVR Association. Following the speech there was a 'Salute', where the banners were 'dipped'. The Parade Commander then order the banners to be marched off. He then handed over to the CSM who marched off the Main Body. Following the ceremony, the attendees were coached to the Pucka Cricket Club where a spit roast/salad lunch had been prepared by two of the Cricket Club members. With the bar open, they made a healthy profit then as well as from the lunch! The last movement for the day was the attendees being coached back to the Main Gate Car Park.

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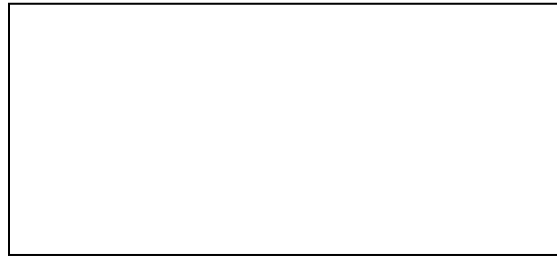
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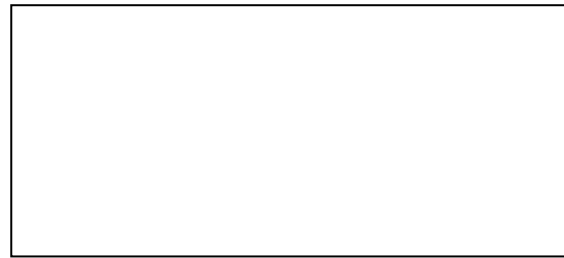


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