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, 8/7 RVR, Lieutenant Colonel Derek Sonogan

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RIP Brian Driscoll

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 RESERVE FORCES DAY CEREMONY, 2 JULY 2023

To honour and recognise those who have served as members of the Reserve Forces in Australia, a Reserve Forces Day Ceremony will be held on the forecourt at The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, commencing at 1000 hours on Sunday 2nd July 2023.

The Program is:

1000 hours	March on of Members/Associations and Banners
1005 hours	Ceremony to include: Welcome, Guest Speaker, Wreath Laying, ODE, Last Post, Australian National Anthem
1030 hours	Flypast of RAAF Pt Cook Museum aircraft
1035 hours	Ceremony concludes.

Dress:

Male:	Beret, jacket with medals, trousers or suit, black shoes
Female:	a similar or suitable attire is expected
Seating:	Seating will be available on forecourt

Light Refreshments: There will be refreshments after the ceremony. Supplied by the Salvation Army – a Gold Coin donation.
Wet Weather Plan: Ceremony moved to Shrine Sanctuary.
Live Streaming: The Shrine will be Live Streaming the Ceremony https://www.facebook.com/shrineofremembrance/
Post ceremony: a visit to the Shrine is recommended

If attending, please advise Dick Wilkie by text on 0413 530 537
Depending on numbers a bus may be provided.

ALL PAST AND PRESENT RESERVISTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

DINNERS AND AGM

Further details will be provided on these activities in the next newsletter!
Warrnambool Dinner: 14 October 2023 at the Warrnambool RSL
Ballarat Dinner: 18 November 2023 at Ballarat
AGM, Ballarat: 19 November 2023 at Ballarat

ROTARY CLUB OF BALLARAT SOUTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY RAFFLE

The association again supported the 2023 Rotary Raffle. Due to the hard work of a number of association members 100 books were sold, many of those sold online. The income from this raffle is the biggest income for the association each year. This year it provided nearly $1,600 for the association.

The winning ticket was sold by a school in Kew. The second prize was won by a Sebastopol person.

RECENT EVENTS

Remembering the 11th Marines in Ballarat 1943

A Civic Reception was hosted at the Town Hall by The Mayor of the City of Ballarat, Cr Des Hudson on 24 February 2023 on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the 11th Marines stay in Ballarat in 1943. The reception was opened by the Deputy Mayor, Amy Johnson (top photo), who introduced the Mayor who then welcomed all in attendance. Mike Marletto (second photo), a retired Colonel from the 11th Marines, spoke on the history of the Marines in Ballarat and handed over to Colonel Patrick Eldridge, the current Commanding Officer of the 11th Marines. Deputy Mayor, Cr Johnson then closed proceedings and the guests mingled for photographs and refreshments.

REMEMBERING THE HISTORY

In the summer of 1942, the Japanese were working to isolate Australia from the U.S. with a two-pronged offensive. One attempting to push across the Owens Stanley Mountains along the Kokoda Track in New Guinea to capture Port Moresby to threaten the north shore of Australia and a second through the Solomon Islands to Guadalcanal.

On Guadalcanal they were constructing an airfield to support air power that would cut the sea lines of communications between the U.S. and Australia and preclude the U.S. from using Australia as a springboard for future operations against Japan.

While Australians fought doggedly along the Kokoda Track, the U.S. launched its first ground offensive of the war when the U.S. Marines landed on Tulagi and Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942.

Over the next five months the 1st Marine Division engaged in a brutal fight with both the Japanese and the jungle environment.

Malnourished due to shortages of food throughout the campaign and ravaged with malaria and other tropical diseases, as early as October 1942 it was recognized that the Division needed significant rest and refit once the campaign was completed.

The Division fought on for another two months and was finally relieved in December 1942.

Australia was selected as site for the 1st Marine Division's post battle reconstitution and the citizens of Victoria welcomed the Division. The Division occupied camps in Melbourne and across the State.

The 1st Marine Regiment famously camped in the grandstands of the Melbourne Cricket Grounds while the 5th and 7th Regiments occupied camps south of Melbourne in Mt Martha and Balcombe. The Division's artillery regiment, the 11th Marines was sent west to Ballarat where they arrived in early January 1943.

The 11th Marines encamped in a tent city in Ballarat's Victoria Park. Initially focused on regaining the health of the individual Marines and Sailors suffering from malaria and other tropical diseases, the young men from a cross section of America were soon embraced by Ballarat's citizens who opened their homes and hearts.

In the welcoming environment the Regiment regained its fighting efficiency, and many lifelong relationships were formed. When the Marines departed Australia, they received more mail from Australia than the U.S.

In September and October 1943, the 11th Marines departed Ballarat for staging bases in New Guinea for the upcoming battle of Cape Gloucester. Their hopes for a return to Australia were dashed and the time in Australia became the last contact with civilization for many Marines.

The lasting memories of the time Down Under became codified in the traditions of the 1st Marine Division with the Division's crest including the Southern Cross and the adoption of Waltzing Matilda as the Division song.

The dedication of a historical marker for Victoria Park will serve as a permanent remembrance of the friendships forged in 1943 and the key part that Ballarat played in the eventual victory in the Pacific.

ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day was commemorated all over Victoria by association members, probably the largest group being in Ballarat, but also a healthy number in Warrnambool. The Ballarat March was led by association member and Ballarat RSL Sub-branch President Alan Douglass.

The association banner was prominent in the March.

Right: A couple of ‘old timers’, committee member Ian Nunn and President/Secretary Dick Wilkie had a comfortable ride to the Cemetery.

The association members who participated in the Ballarat ANZAC Day March
(with Kevin Fiscalini via his daughter)

THE GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION, 29 MAY 2023

Through the RVR Association the 8/7 Bn-2RVR Association was given a number of invitations to attend the Victorian Reception for the King's Coronation. Dick Wilke, the President, Jason County, the Assistant Secretary and Neil Leckie, the Editor, attended, with Dick and Neil also representing the Ex 22 RVR Association. The reception was held in the ballroom of Government House, Melbourne. Also in attendance were former commanding officers of 8/7 RVR Paul Riley, Rob Marsh and Murray Duckworth along with Bob Prewett, Peter Baird, Trevor Beales and Glen Ludeman. The Governor's Aide-de-Campe was a former 8/7 RVR member, the now Colonel Daniel Strack.
Right: Dick Wilkie and Neil Leckie arriving at Government House.

Government House is the official residence of the Governor of Victoria, currently Linda Dessau. It is located in Kings Domain, Melbourne, next to the Royal Botanic Gardens. It was opened in 1876, on land that had originally been set aside in 1841. Previous Governors' Residences included La Trobe's Cottage (1839–1854), Toorak House (1854–1874), and Bishopscourt in East Melbourne (1874–1876). Melbourne's Government House was designed by William Wardell, the Inspector General of the Public Works Department, in the Victorian Period Italianate style, and modelled on Queen Victoria's summer residence, Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight, to which it bears a strong resemblance. The building reflects the extravagant style of the period with a booming economy due to the Victorian gold rush

The main building consists of three parts: the south wing with its extravagant single storey State Ballroom (slightly larger than that in Buckingham Palace), a grand staircase hall entrance to the three storey State Rooms and two storey vice-regal apartments to the north. Rising from the building is a 42 metre high belvedere tower. The mews, a paved area surrounded on three sides by stables, coach houses and staff living quarters, is nearby.

The land for Government House was set aside by Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, Charles La Trobe, who lived in La Trobe's Cottage, in 1841. In 1857, Ferdinand von Mueller, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, landscaped the whole area, including Government House Reserve, as one parkland. Construction of the building did not start until 1871 and was completed in 1876.

The garden was designed by John Sayce in 1873 and is thought to be the "most intact 19th century mansion garden remaining in Melbourne" by the Victorian Heritage Register. William Guilfoyle, who followed Von Mueller as Curator of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens from 1873, further refined the original garden design with "many fine mature trees, including conifers, Australian rainforest species and deciduous trees, which are characteristic of the era and which also reflect Guilfoyle's personal taste.".

Between the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901 and 1927, Government House was the official residence of the Governor-General of Australia. This occurred during the period when Canberra was still under construction and Melbourne was designated as the temporary seat of government. When the Federal Parliament commenced sitting in Canberra in 1927, the Governor-General stayed at Government House at Yarralumla in Canberra while Parliament was in session, but at other times continued living at Government House in Melbourne until 1930. After this time Government House was given back to the Victorian government. During this period Governors of Victoria lived at Stonington Mansion in Malvern. Government House has been in continuous use by the Governors of Victoria since 1934.

The Governor of Victoria's Speech at the Reception for the Coronation of the King and Queen Government House, Melbourne, 6pm, 29 May 2023

The 500 invited attendees began arriving at Government House from 5pm. Many were greeted by Colonel Strack and given a quick run-down on the event. Drinks were available. At 5.55 Colonel Strack brought the event to attention. He then introduced the Governor, Linda Dessau, who spoke for some fifteen minutes. The following was published on the Government House website:

Thank you for joining us this evening to mark the recent Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Obviously enough, this evening's acknowledgement of the Coronation is being held after the event.

Like the other State Governors and the Governor-General, I was invited to attend the ceremony in Westminster Abbey. Although I attended as a part of a broader Official Visit in the UK, as well as in Türkiye, Israel and Singapore, I suppose it's not surprising that many people have asked only about the Coronation Day. I can assure you that it did not go over my head that it was a privilege to represent our State on such an historic occasion. The pageantry was, characteristically, perfect. The organisation and logistics, awesome.

I have read recently that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth had not particularly liked the word 'modernisation.' That said, she had understood the need for evolution: that for continuity, change was needed. Since becoming Monarch, and during the recent Coronation and its surrounding events, the new King has demonstrated his own understanding of a need for the hallmarks of tradition but adapted to our modern times. Not only did the Coronation of Their Majesties take place in front of a crowd around one quarter the size of the Late Queen's, but it was also apparent that the guests were more diverse, as were elements of the formal service.

And, although more than 20 million Britons watched Her Majesty's Coronation, (a television 'first', at the time), it is reckoned that a global audience of some 400 million people watched the recent Coronation Ceremony.

When the Ceremony commenced, His Majesty The King's very first words were '…I come not to be served but to serve.' What struck me in the days around the formal ceremony was that those words did not represent something new to The King or to his role as Monarch. They reflected how he had already lived across his many decades as the longest serving Heir to the Throne.

The theme nominated by His Majesty, for the specially declared Coronation Bank Holiday, is a case in point. His Majesty encouraged Britons to use that day as an opportunity to focus on giving back to their local communities. The initiative went to the heart of His Majesty's values and work, and the mission to which he has devoted much of his life.

The Big Help Out, as it was called, garnered collaboration across communities of different faiths and cultures, encouraging action on issues of inequality, inclusivity, youth and the preservation of our natural environment. For our parts, we used that day to volunteer for The Children's Book Project in West London, sorting and packing children's books. Many were bound for primary school students with otherwise limited access to literature. Some were heading to prisons, so that those serving sentences could read to or gift books to their children. That part of the program was as much about helping prisoners with children to maintain their connection, as it was to enhance literacy and a love of books.

I was proud that the staff of our UK Agent General's office chose to volunteer with me, and that back here, my husband led the Government House staff, volunteering at Foodbank Victoria, packing boxes destined as food relief for so many homes. (I am even prouder that our GH team apparently packed a record number of boxes).

Late last year, I was fortunate to meet with His Majesty for a wide-ranging discussion. That meeting had been arranged before Queen Elizabeth's passing. The fact that His Majesty kept the commitment, although it followed immediately upon the family's private period of mourning, says a great deal about his interest in our State. That interest in, and knowledge about Victoria, was immediately apparent when we met. It was not just steeped in the history of having spent time here as a student. His Majesty was clearly across, and wanting to remain across, the issues relevant to us. What was equally apparent was that many of the issues to which His Majesty has shown his long-term commitment, align directly with the issues that are integral to our State and the 'peace and prosperity' of our people. The King's dedicated interest in the environment, sustainable living and urban design are well-known.

Our State shares that interest, particularly in light of, and with the need to meet, our rapid growth.
At His Majesty's request, we recently hosted Dominic Richards OAM at Government House. Dominic is a Trustee of the Prince's Trust Australia and Co-Founder and Chair of Our Place, an organisation committed to creating sustainable communities that celebrate local identity. Despite busy days around the Coronation, Dominic was gracious enough to spend a day guiding us around and explaining Poundberry, an urban extension to the Dorset county town of Dorchester, which showcases principles of urban planning, sustainability and development. Poundberry was initiated by His Majesty and nurtured under his watchful eye across 30 years.

With our State's aspiration to keep enhancing sustainable living, there was much for us to learn. And although it was not hard to appreciate its attractive and thoughtful design, we learned that Poundberry is about so much more than the aesthetics. It is also a worked example of His Majesty's commitment to ensuring that the built form creates greater opportunities to help lift families from intergenerational socio-economic disadvantage. That aspiration very much reflects the broader focus of the Prince's Trust.

Another issue to which His Majesty has shown decades' long dedication is the role of, and what might be achieved through, the Commonwealth. On this recent visit, I met with Baroness Scotland of Asthal PC KC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, to consider specific engagement between Victoria and Commonwealth nations. In particular, we discussed the mutually beneficial economic as well as cultural ties, and how to maximise the opportunities that will be presented when the Commonwealth Games are held in Victoria in 2026.

I note too, Her Majesty Queen Camilla's support of the Monarch, but also her own work in areas as important as the prevention of family violence. My own professional background as a judge in the Family Court of Australia, gives me a ready understanding as to how such difficult but important work resonates just as readily here.

And so, amidst the tradition and pageantry of the Coronation, I was struck by the relevance of the contemporary issues that have been, and remain, dear to Their Majesties. And as I stand here, coming towards the end of my time in this role, I can reflect how grateful we are to be joined here this evening by so many Victorians who, like Their Majesties, live their lives dedicated to service and improving our community in diverse ways. In combination, you are the tip of the iceberg of service, cleverness, kindness and contribution that abounds in our State. Tony and I want to take this opportunity, at this historic moment, to say 'Thank you.'

Afterwards the Governor mingled with the attendees and was happy to be photographed with all who asked. Attendees were then able to view the staterooms and 54 seat dining room.

Above left: Assistant Secretary Jason County and President/Secretary Dick Wilkie was Governor Dessau. Above right: Neil Leckie with the Governor and Brigadier Robert Marsh, who Neil served under as Executive Officer 8/7 RVR in 2005-06.

While waiting to meet the Governor, Brigadier Marsh said: 'The only times I have met the Governor before has been at funerals!' – and the Governor's greeting was: 'Well at least we are not meeting at a funeral!' Says something about the Governor's memory!

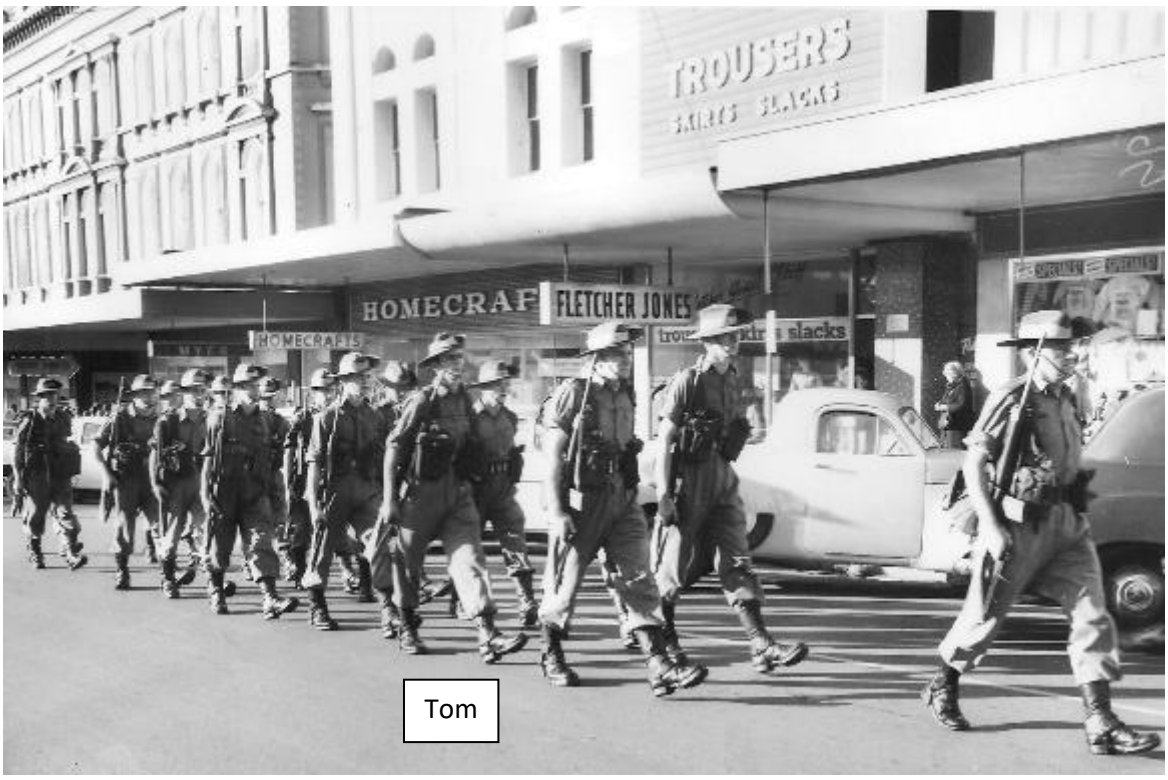
A selection of RVR-A and other association's members in the Grand Ballroom at Government House.

Left: Government House 54-seat Dining Room and right: the Governor's ADC Col Dan Strack, ex 8/7 RVR

FAREWELL

Tom Chambers spent a year as an Army Cadet while at school. This was followed by three years with the Air Cadets. On 5 September 1962, at age 18, Tom enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces, although the paperwork was not finalised until early 1963, so his official date might be different.

In his early days in the CMF with 2 RVR, Tom remembered many of the Long Distance Marches the battalion undertook. For the competitions, the 'marchers' would come together on many weekends prior to the event and undertake unpaid 'practice' marches. Tom was a member of the famous Marching Team that went to Clunes, via Creswick, in 1967. After about 5 years in the CMF, Tom was promoted to Corporal.



About 1978 or 1979 Tom had a fall at a truck loading bay and among other injuries fractured his pelvis. He spent 10 weeks in the famous 3 Camp Hospital at Puckapunyal recovering. The Army would not allow him to be sent home to a Ballarat hospital.

In the early 1980s Tom undertook some of his rehabilitation at the '917' gymnasium that would eventually be owned by the Commanding Officer of 2 RVR, Jim Mack.

At the end of each parade night at B Company, all the keys and paperwork was locked in the Q Store safe before the Q Store was locked and Tom and his Q Staff would leave. Tom remembered many a night in the Sergeant's Mess after parade. Tom wasn't a 'drinker' so he usually went home 'reasonably' early. One morning, at about 2am, Brian Tobin, who was a 'drinker', banged very loudly of Tom's home's front door, waking Tom and Lorraine. When they opened the door 'Tobes' asked Tom: 'Have you locked the safe?' to which Tom replied: 'Of course I have!" Tobes then responded with 'Well, I don't have a crystal ball!'

On reaching the then Retirement Age of 55, Tom retired from the Army Reserve in 1999 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. On 16 March 2023 Tom and Lorraine left their home in Wendouree and headed off to live in Helena Valley in the Eastern Suburbs of Perth, just 15 minutes from their son's home.

We thank Tom for his dedicated Army service and for all his efforts as Secretary, Treasurer and Editor of the 8/7 Bn – 2 RVR Association over many years, and for the huge support that Lorraine gave Tom and the association. Their joint efforts have both been much appreciated!

VALE

Mark Broemmer (Neil Leckie).
After Mark died unexpectedly, I was asked to present the family eulogy.

'It is a privilege to have been asked to give the family eulogy for my good friend Mark. In 1981 I transferred from Melbourne to the School of Mines Ballarat taking up teaching position in the electrical area. Early that year I also transferred my Army Reserve service from Puckapunyal to 2nd Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment (known as 2 RVR) in Ballarat as the Second-in-Command of B Company under Captain Douglas Ball, who is here today. One of the soldiers in B Company was a seventeen-year-old Mark Broemmer.

Mark Kirsten William Broemmer was born at St John of God Hospital in Ballarat on 14 March 1963 to Ralph and Margaret Broemmer. He was baptised that year at Our Ladies Help of Christians in Wendouree. Margaret died in 1980, however Ralph is here with us today. Ralph was the son of Herman and Senta Broemmer. Herman was a Master Butcher who in 1966 moved from Ballarat to Sydney for work. Completing Ralph and Margaret's family, Mark's brother Paul was born that year.

Mark went to Primary School at Our Lady Help of Christians and then Secondary School at Saint Patrick's College where his love of the Army started with Saint Pat's Army Cadets. Brian Broadribb, who is an apology for today, the teacher in charge of the Cadets said: 'I knew Mark from his school days at St Pat's when he was one of my Senior Cadet Under Officers in the Cadet Unit. Unflustered, steady and a good influence on the junior cadets.'

When growing up, the Broemmer brothers were very close to their cousins, the Taylors, some of whom are her today. They spent a lot of time together and were considered a close-knit family.

From 1966 until 1976, when Herman died, the family undertook many trips to Sydney to visit Herman and Senta where Mark no doubt gained an interest in food and butchering.

In 1979 a sixteen-year-old Mark undertook an overseas holiday with Ralph and Ralph's mother-in-law. The group visited Germany, Greece and Italy, where they visited Ralph's sister, also named Monika, and her three daughters, who are here with us today.

The Army and the RSL will give details of Mark's Army service, but Mark joined the Army Reserve at 17 and a half years in 1980. Completing Year 12, Mark left school but did not find a full-time job, however, this left him with plenty of time to undertake Army Reserve work.

In early 1982, Mark went to a dance at the Provincial Hotel in Lydiard Street here in Ballarat. He saw this girl, named Monica, and asked her to dance. Mark and Monica would become engaged in December 1983 and married on 21 July 1984.

The couple would have three sons: Michael, born in December 1985, Luke born September 1987 and Anthony born in September 1989.

Mark did find work, firstly at the Paddle Shoe Factory in Sebastopol, the Mars factory in Wendouree and Selkirk Bricks in Ballarat North before moving into the food area. He was the Fish Manager at Safeway in Eastwood Street. This was followed by some years where he had Noah's Fish Shop in Little Bridge Street. More recently Mark found a position as a Prisoner Officer in Melbourne's western suburbs.

Outside family and work, Mark had many interests. He continued in the Army Reserve and served over 42 years. At the time of his death, he was the President of the Sebastopol RSL Sub-branch, having previously

been the Secretary. In 1986 Mark instigated the formation of the Ballarat Arms & Militaria Collectors Society for people interested in firearms. He was a member of the Royal Victoria Regiment Association and the local 'old & bold' association, the 8/7th Battalion - 2 RVR Association. Mark was also an active member of the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum and took over as the Curator from Sgt Jeff Whitten in the 1990s.

In 2001 when the Army moved out of the old Ranger Barracks, Mark organised the rental of a room in the council owned Sebastopol RSL Hall at $1 per week. With Monica's help Mark then moved and set up the museum's collection there.

In 2005 when the current museum hut became available at the new Ranger Barracks, Mark managed the Curator's aspects of the move from Sebastopol.

In recent years his shift work at the prison meant that he hasn't had much to do with the day to day operations of the museum, but he continued to work for the museum in the background.

As the Ballarat Army Reserve battalion's Caterer, Mark ensured that everyone was well fed. You never went hungry! He was a master of the preparation of the formal dinner. Over the years Mark has catered for Past Battalion Officers Dinners, usually with an attendance of about 20. The Army has not always been able to provide additional catering staff at these events and Mark, often with Monica's help, would do the catering without Army support. He was an amazing Caterer.

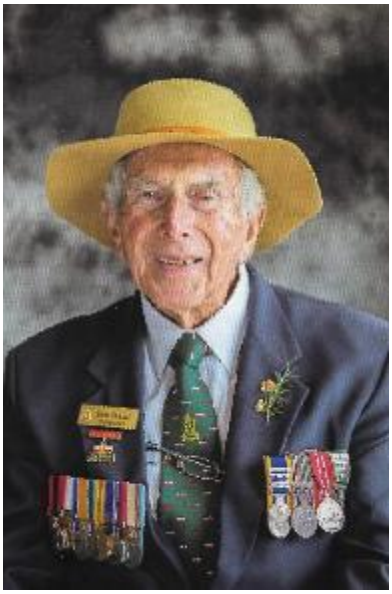
In my experience working with Mark over many years in a number of fields, he was a quiet achiever. There was a job to be done and he got on and did it. Mark will be missed, not only by his family, but by the Army, the Museum and the other organisations he belonged to. RIP, Mark.

Mark Broemmer joined the Army Reserve on 22 September 1980 and was posted to 2 RVR, Ballarat. He was still serving when the unit became 8/7 RVR in 1987. On 15 January 2018, Mark, along with all the 8/7 RVR Administration Company members, was transferred to the 4th Combat Services Battalion at Watsonia. However, he and his Ballarat based Cooks continued to support 8/7 RVR. On 18 January 2021 Mark was next transferred to Headquarters 4th Brigade, where again he continued to support 8/7 RVR.

Over his 42 years of Army Reserve Service Mark served as an Infantry Private, a Cook, a Caterer and as an Assistant Instructor. He also spent over 30 years as an active member of the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum.

Mark was awarded the Reserve Force Medal with five clasps, the Australian Defence Medal and received a Commander 2nd Division Commendation. Mark's operational deployment occurred from 16 to 26 February 2009 with Operation VICFIRE ASSIST.

Mark died at Ballarat Health Services on 24 March 2023, just 10 days after his 60th Birthday. His funeral was held at Pat Cashin's Funeral Centre on 5 April 2023. The funeral centre was packed with family, current Reservists and past innumerable Reservists, including about six past Commanding Officers under whom Mark had served, along with a big contingent from the Prison Service where Mark was employed at the time of his death. The service was conducted by Army Chaplain Mohit Sampson and the Eulogists were Neil Leckie and Trevor Beales. Other participants were Corporal Michael Currie, Private Matthew Watson, the RSM WO1 Matthew Vermey, Bagpiper Tim Steere, Bugler Chris Ducardis with Kevin Scott presenting The Ode. Refreshments were held at Midlands Golf Club, Home of the Ballarat RSL.



Brian Harold Driscoll was born on 7 December 1929 at Elsternwick in Melbourne. He went to the Elsternwick State School then onto Caulfield Grammar for five years.

Brian's first job was collecting laundry and delivering it to the cleaners. He also had jobs at Standard Cars, Driscoll & Drury, Gibbs Bright and Ferguson Tractors. Brian was a "rev head" owning a Harley Davidson motorbike long before he owned a truck. He crashed and wrote off the bike. He also owned a sportscar.

Brian joined the Citizens Military Forces (CMF), later known as the Army Reserve, on 10 August 1948, just a few weeks after the CMF had been reformed post-WW2. He was initially posted to 105 Infantry Workshops. He recruited his future brother-in-law, John Lee, in 1951. By late 1951 Brian had transferred to RAEME (Electrical and Mechanical Engineers)

Brian met Dawn Lee at an Army dance. He had partnered another girl but noticed Dawn straight away. At the end of the evening, after he took his girl home, Brian returned to the dance to see if he could catch up with Dawn. He always remembered what she was wearing and the ribbon in her hair. Brian said he knew on that night she was the girl he would marry.

Brian moved from Melbourne to Camperdown to work as a dairy herd tester. Brian and Dawn were married 2 and ½ years later in Terang on 27 November 1954. Following their marriage, they moved to Ballarat where Brian worked as a semitrailer driver. After a short time, they were on the move again, this time to Colac where Brian worked on a farm. He sought a change in jobs again and worked at the Colac Dairying Coy at Cororooke. He made enough money to buy his own truck, which saw the beginning of his business: carting peas, briquettes, gravel and super over the course of many years.

Brian, Dawn and their children Amanda, Jo, Megan, Peter and Lyndell moved from Cororooke to Roycrofts Road, Boorcan, which is just east of Terang. They lived there for a few years, eventually buying the block on Princes Highway where they built the house of their dreams, living there happily with their children.

Brian's CMF career blossomed. He served with 106 Infantry Workshops (1953) and in general transport with 33 Company RAASC (1955) before transferring to the Artillery with 38 Light Anti-aircraft Regiment in 1956. This was followed by 8 Medium Regiment (1957) and 10 Medium Regiment on the commencement of the Pentropic System on 1 July 1960. With the failure of the Pentropic system, the Warrnambool depot transferred to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment (2 RVR) on 9 February 1965 as Support Company. By the late 1970s Brian held the rank of Warrant officer Class 2 and was Company Sergeant Major for Support Company. He was then further promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 and posted as the Regimental Sergeant Major (ARes) of 2 RVR. This promotion saw Brian being the first ever Army Reservist to be appointed to this rank; a role he took up with immense pride and conviction. His aim in that posting was 'to look after the soldiers!' On reaching retirement age, after 36 years of service, Brian retired from the Army Reserve on 7 December 1984.

The Driscoll truck, driving school, bus hire and drive business operated from Boorcan until Brian's retirement. There were many amusing driving lesson stories told. Quite a few times Brian said he was very glad he had a second set of pedals on his side of the car giving him control. There were occasions he came home and said, jokingly, he needed to change his underwear.

During his service Brian was awarded the Reserve Force Medal with four clasps, the National Medal with one clasp, the Australian Defence Medal and the Efficiency Medal with two clasps.

Brian was an active member with the 8/7 Bn – 2 RVR Association for over 20 years, eventually joining the committee. For many years he and Barbara Birthisel would travel from Warrnambool and Terang to attend

meetings and functions in Ballarat. Brian was well known by association members, attending both the Warrnambool and Ballarat annual dinners, always with his 'Movember' donation tin in hand. In 2020 ''The Standard' newspaper reported that Brian had raised over $10,000 for the 'Movember' cause of men's mental health and suicide prevention, prostate and testicular cancer.

Dawn died on 24 January 2012 and Brian lived on at Boorcan up until three days before he died. He passed away peacefully at Camperdown Hospital with his girls and granddaughters beside him, bidding him goodbye. He leaves behind 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A Requiem Mass was held for Brian at St Thomas' Catholic Church, Terang, on 28 February 2023. The Burial Service followed at the Terang Cemetery. His funeral was attended by in excess of 30 association members.

Former Commanding Officer of 8/7 RVR, David Cadogan-Cowper, posted on the Funeral Directors website: On behalf of myself and the RSMs from my tenure at the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, I would sincerely like to express our condolences to Brian's family. Brian provided us with many great memories during our time, but the over-riding feeling was his wish to look after the junior members of the battalion. Always there with a kind smile and a joke, it was a pleasure to chat with Brian and we sought him out at every get together just to share some laughs. He will be missed. His service now done. RIP.

Left: Brian's RSM Battle Dress in the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum

Right: Brian, second from the right at ANZAC Day, Ballarat, 2013.

Kenneth George Lee was born on 31 April 1942, a brother to Donald, John and Graham (all deceased) Thelma, Shirley and Peter. Ken married Harriet Ann, known as Nancy. They had many children. Nancy died in 2006. Ken was known in civilian circles as 'Gandhi', due to his swarthy complexion, but was known as KG to his Army mates. KG worked as a drover, riding a donkey, later working for the Ballarat Council. At one time KG owened his own truck in which he delivered grain and furniture.

KG was a man who couldn't say no. Once, after a bit of a dispute with Nancy, she made him a sandwich with a cardboard filling, which he took with him. When he returned home Nancy asked: 'How was your lunch?' to which KG replied: 'Beautiful, thank you!' which took the sting out of their dispute.

KG joined the then Citizen Military Forces in late 1970 and served for five years before discharging. He re-enlisted in the now Army Reserve and was still serving as late as the 2 RVR Eildon Camp in 1985. Dick Wilkie, President of the 8/7 Bn – 2 RVR Association, spoke about KG and his Army times. 'He was a unique character in the Army's ranks. A typical Fair Dinkum Digger'. KG would do the jobs that no-one else would do, eg keep the toilets clean and light the 'choofas'. The 'choofas' were a petrol fuelled water heater that needed to be 'fired up' well before the soldiers got up in the morning. About 5.30am. KG delighted in starting the 'choofas' as they went off with a loud bang when started, waking all in earshot of the 'choofas'.

Once when on a driving task KG's truck ran over an embankment. The truck needed chains attached to it to pull it back onto the road. Sgt Kevin Fiscalini tried to hurry him up, but KG simply told him 'Where to go, and what to do!' and got on with his work, recovering the truck.

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Ted Lynes, had asked KG to do something for him. KG hadn't done it. KG said he 'will do it when he can' and said to the CO: 'If you want to do it quicker, do it yourself!' All people were equal in KG's eyes!

KG joined the 8/7 Bn - 2 RVR Association about one year after it was formed and often drove the bus taking the association members on outings. He kept them entertained, and also the people at the places where they went.

KG Lee died on 24 March 2023. His funeral, attended by a large contingent from the association, was held on 3 April 2023 at Pat Cashin Funeral Centre. Ballarat. KG was a Truck Driver and also a Driver with the Army Reserve. He was a Slim Dusty fan and Slim's songs *Lights on the Hill (are a blindin' me)* and Looking Forward, Looking Back were played during the service. RIP KG.

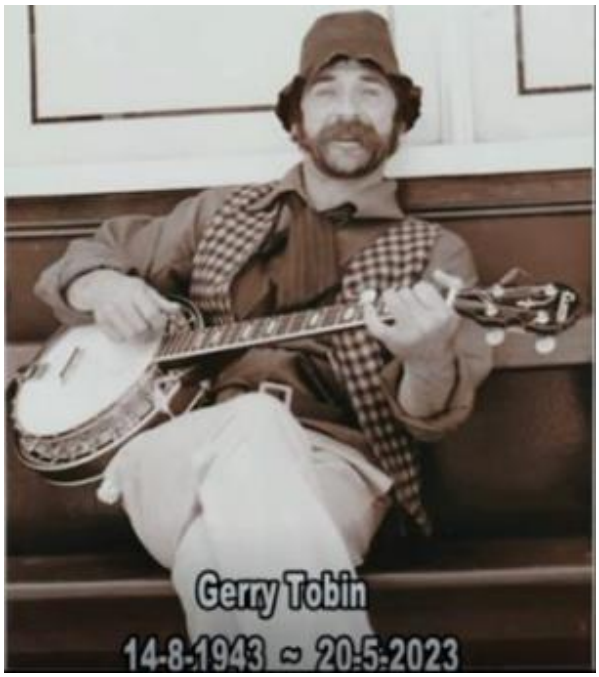
Left: KG, trying to be serious, with Kevin Moschetti at an association dinner in Ranger Barracks.

Gerard Eugene Tobin was born on 14 August 1943 to Annie and Noel Tobin. He became a teacher. Gerry was serving in the Citizen Military Forces with 2 RVR, Ballarat, in the mid-1960s. He was a member of Tom Laffey's platoon with John Sonneveld, who credits 'Tobes' with coming up with 'The Old Black Dog' logo that the platoon wore on their 'giggle' hats said that Gerry was good for morale in the company, he was all 'fun and games'. In 1968 Gerry decided that becoming a Pilot with the Army looked an attractive life. He applied for Pilot Training and was accepted, but first he needed to pass the officer training course run for National Servicemen at the Officer Training Unit at Scheyville, an outlying western Sydney suburb. John and Gerry went to Scheyville together. The course was nominally twenty-two weeks long. Gerry went well in the 'Junior' Term of the course, but by the end of the 'Senior' Term was struggling. He was given the option to 'Repeat' the 'Senior' Term, which he accepted. However, it was not to be, he left the course before completing his 'Repeat' term. John, however, passed the Scheyville course, and his flying training and for decades flew helicopters for various organisations.

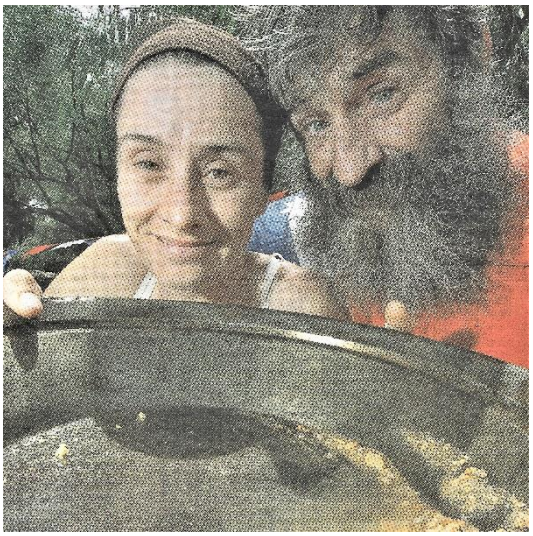
Returning to Ballarat, Gerry rejoined 2 RVR in early 1969 as a Temporary Corporal. No doubt due to his teaching location he discharged some six months later. From 1979 to 1981 Gerry was the School Principal at St Augustine's School in Maryborough, Victoria. The St. Augustine's Parish remembered Gerry as a 'once met, never forgotten' type of person.

Leaving teaching, Gerry went to work at Sovereign Hill, Ballarat's world-renowned tourist attraction. He was a jack-of-all trades there for some thirty years: a musician, performer, larrikin etc , the face of Sovereign Hill. Gerry was also seen in television advertisements, a familiar one being for Ballarat's Cheapest Cars where Gerry drove people around in an ex-Army early Hi Ace bus with the catch-cry of 'Stop the Bus!' In 2004 Gerry competed in the World Goldpanning Titles and as President of the Victorian Goldpanning Association helped to bring the championships to Sovereign Hill for the first of numerous times.

Gerry married Rozzie and they were together for 48 years before Rozzie passed away several years ago. Their children were Paul and Deborah, who had also worked at Sovereign Hill. Gerry died peacefully at Ballarat Base Hospital, aged 79 years, on 20 May 2023. He leaves behind his children and five grandchildren. Family and friends joined together at the Ballarat Funeral Centre on 29 May to farewell him.



Deborah spoke on the family's behalf and entertained the attendees with some of her father's antics.



Right: Deborah and Gerry at the 2007 World Goldpanning Championships at Sovereign Hill

FEATURES:

My Father's WW2 Army Service (with Ian Nunn)

Stanley 'Gordon' Nunn was born in the family home on Nunns Road, Snake Valley, on 16 April 1915, to Esther and James William Nunn. He attended the Snake Valley School until the age of 14 years when he went to work for his father, a contractor for road works, wood cutting and harvesting for local farmers. During these times they would often camp at Cemetery Hill, Carngham (on Carngham Road near the Haddon turn-off) or in Sebastopol. On 20 August 1935 Gordon married Margaret 'May' Whitla at her family home at Preston Hill, just north of Snake Valley. The couple would have three sons: Max (died in Infancy), Ian and Ross (died in 2004).

Gordon, listed as a 'Labourer', enlisted in the Australia Imperial Force as VX70306 on 29 December 1941. His first train ride on 31 December 1941, took him from Ballarat to Melbourne and there, in Royal Park, he was issued with his clothing. Next stop was the AIF Details Depot at Caulfield in Melbourne, where the new soldiers slept on straw-filled palliasses in the racecourse grandstand. Gordon immediately went on 'Leave Without Pay. He returned to Caulfield on 12 January 1942 and on 20 January was 'Taken on Strength' at the 6th Training Battalion at Darley, north of Bacchus Marsh. On 22 May Gordon was transferred to the 34th Training Battalion at Watsonia. Then on 26 June he was transferred to the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion, an 'Engineer' battalion that also had the capability to fight as infantry. Gordon's next move was to Wagga in NSW on 23 June 1942 where he was 'Taken on Strength' of the 2/2nd Pioneers. Gordon's brother, Albert John Nunn, had enlisted on 19 January 1942 and was also posted to the 2/2nd Pioneers.

On 6 October 1942 the first Companies of the 2/2nd Pioneers entrained in Wagga for Melbourne and then onto Western Australia where they set up camp at a location known as Strawberry, which was somewhere south-east of Geraldton. Gordon spoke of his trip across the Nullabor Desert, 'a slow trip when some of the men got off the train and ran alongside it!' In January 1943 Gordon returned to Victoria and on 26 March entrained for Townsville and then on to Mt Garnet. On 25 July he travelled by train from Ravenshoe and embarked on HMV *Duntroon* in Townsville departing the following day and disembarking at Port Moresby in New Guinea on 28 July. From Port Moresby Gordon and his mates went to Tsilli Tsilli, Kaiapit, Dumpu, Markham Valley, Ramu Valley and later Lae. From 17 December 1943 until 19 January 1944 Gordon spent time in various medical facilities being treated for Scrub Typhus. He was 'Taken on Strength' of the NG Details Depot at Port Moresby on 25 January and from there embarked for Townsville on the Troopship *Kanimbla*, disembarking two days later.

On 1 May 1944 Gordon was hospitalised at the 2/6th Australian General Hospital at Rocky Creek in the Queensland Atherton Tablelands suffering with Malaria. Twelve days later he was transferred to the 2nd Australian Corps Reception Camp and a further 12 days later returned to the Pioneers.

On the advice of a former schoolmate, Lieutenant Fred Fitrdge, on 30 December Gordon transferred to the 2/16th Australian Field Company, Engineers. He had 'Leave' back in Australia from 8 February to 27 March. Gordon embarked on the Sea Barb in Cairns on 12 April disembarking at Morotai 9 days later. From Morotai he next transferred to Borneo on 29 May returning to the Australian Base Sub Area Details Depot on 30 September. On 15 October Gordon embarked at Labaun disembarking at Morotai four days later. On 3 November he embarked at Morotai on the Landing Ship LST 303 'for the mainland' disembarking 7 days later. Gordon was discharged from the Dispersal Depot in Melbourne on 5 December 1945, with the rank of Sapper and a Trade Group of Miner Grade 2.

After the war Gordon returned home to Snake Valley, taking many months to recover from his malaria. Medicines to fight the disease were hard to come by. Once well enough, Gordon found work on local farms then was able to get a permanent position with the Forest Commission where he worked for twenty years in the Linton, Scarsdale areas. May died on 28 October 2000 and was buried at the Carngham General Cemetery. Gordon died on 27 March 2009 and was buried with May, alongside their sons Max and Ross.

Part-Time Soldier Training – Army Reserve 'Recruit Training' Reduced to Three Weeks
A Google search for Part-time Soldier Training in the Army Reserve shows:
All part-time soldiers in the Army must first complete a 35 day part-time soldier course, also known as the Part Time Recruit Course (PTRC), at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion Kapooka, near Wagga Wagga. In previous years the Reservist had to complete a 13-week Recruit Course. But as most readers would remember a Recruit Course was two-weeks or in some cases a part-time course over many months held by a unit. Assistant Secretary Jason County found that the Recruit Course for Reservists is being reduced to three weeks.

From CONTACT, 16 May 2023 *Corporal Jacob Joseph.*
The Australian Army's 2nd Division (Army Reserve) is making training more accommodating in an effort to streamline Recruit Training. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Carter, Headquarters 2nd Division, said training needed to be flexible to reduce the recruit and ab-initio training attrition rate, which historically resulted in as many as 40 per cent of people not completing their training. He said the role of the 2nd Division had evolved considerably in recent years and the Defence Strategic Review (DSR) reinforced its "clarity of purpose". Army senior leadership recently approved changes to the Army Service Category (SERCAT) 5 Initial Foundation Training Continuum to address the attrition rate, including reducing the five-week 1st Recruit Training Battalion recruit course to three weeks for all SERCAT 5 general entry soldiers.

Lieutenant Colonel Carter said training must provide the "agility and scalability" to support the workforce and enable 2nd Division preparedness for domestic and homeland security operations. "We've created shorter training blocks, put flexibility into the system for people to off-ramp at certain points, and take ownership of their individual training through use of the electronic Competency Management Tool, which is current being trialled," Lieutenant Colonel Carter said. Once soldiers complete Recruit Training, they could be immediately deployed on domestic support operations like COVID-19 Assist, and to support flood and fire events. Combat Corps then complete a two-week land-combat module which gives them the skills they need to deploy on homeland security operations. In the future, trade initial employment training should be modulated, exportable and completed under on-the-job conditions as much as practicable, supported by the electronic Competency Management Tool, which will give ownership of training progression to the individual soldier. "They can then say to their Section Commander, 'when are we next going to throw grenades or do section attacks? Because I want to come along and learn those skills and satisfy that proficiency'," Lieutenant Colonel Carter said.

"The standard SERCAT 5 soldier doesn't have the time to do five weeks and then another three weeks, and then another three weeks residential training – their employers won't release them for such a long time, on top of the family pressures that many people are also trying to balance. "We have a collection of amazing people contributing to our workforce and we're making it easier for them to serve because we're getting smarter about how we enable their training."

One such person is Private Paula Pires, the daughter of a Brazilian paratrooper, who you could say prepared for Kapooka her whole life. "Growing up, I hated the military," Private Pires said. "Every weekend, Dad would flip our rooms upside down and make us reorganise everything. "Then I went to Kapooka and it made me feel like I was home — I loved it."

While Kapooka makes some question their choices, the Infantry Reservist went the other way and asked to go full-time. Instead, she was offered a position in the Reserve Accelerated Training Scheme (RATS), a program that can take a Reservist from Recruit Training to Private Proficient in six months, and provide a lived experience that complements their training. It's a process that usually takes years.

Next month, Private Pires and 21 others will be the first to finish at the 4th/3rd Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment. While it may be easier than ever for people juggling civilian life and service, soldiers like Private Pires are going all in.
But when you grow up in a military family with a chin-up bar in your room, it was likely a foregone conclusion. "I thought it would be a great idea to do RATS for six months to see whether I like full-time Army life," Private Pires said. "I was recently accepted for another CFTS (continuous full-time service) contract for six months. "Once that ends, I'm going to transfer to ARA (Australian Regular Army)."

Whatever Happened To: Major 'Ted' Guinea, Mildura Depot
Edward (Ted) Guinea was born into a banana farming family in northern NSW and attended school in Murwillumbah, NSW, before completing a Bachelor's degree through Southern Cross University while working full time at radio 2MG at Mudgee, in Central NSW, starting in 2003. Having always had an interest in the ADF, he applied to join the Army Reserve and commenced training as Staff Cadet with Sydney University Regiment in late 2005. Being outside the usual metropolitan haunts of most Officer Cadets, on Tuesdays he paraded remotely with 1st/19th Royal New South Wales Regiment at Dubbo or Bathurst (a 90 minute drive either way), and travelled to Sydney or Canberra for SUR training weekends. While his remoteness from fellow Staff Cadets presented challenges at times, he greatly valued the unique insight and training opportunities afforded by his early exposure to the regional infantry battalion.

In February 2008, he graduated as Lieutenant and was posted to the Infantry Corps, as Platoon commander 2 PL, C Coy 8th/7th Royal Victoria Regiment, based at Mildura, where he had recently moved for his civilian work. In early 2012, he was privileged to deploy to East Timor for 8 months (OP ASTUTE) as commander for the 8/7 RVR platoon contribution to ANZAC Coy. He recalls this experience as a great honour and one of the most rewarding of his life, noting the soldiers of 8/7 RVR did their unit and country proud by doing their job to an excellent standard and without fuss. He particularly enjoyed the friendly country vs city rivalry between his regional platoon and their city-based cousins from the 5/6 RVR platoons on the deployment.

Post deployment, he returned to C Coy 8/7 RVR Mildura, where he was promoted to Captain and was C Coy's 2IC—and subsequently Acting OC—until the end of 2017, when he moved to Canberra for his civilian employment. He still remembers fondly the staff and personnel of C Coy—particularly those in Mildura—who remained dedicated to service, despite the challenges of physical and technological dislocation.

With relocation to Canberra came training positions – first as SO3 Training Development in Army Cadet HQ and then—on promotion to Major in 2021—SO2 Training Evaluation at 5 BDE HQ. In 2022, MAJ Guinea was honoured to be appointed OC A Coy 1/19 RNSWR, at Wagga Wagga. He is pleased to be back with 1/19 RNSWR after many years and has enjoyed a return to Battalion life, especially in the surrounds of the Riverina, where he is proud to continue his affiliation with SERCAT 5 service in regional Australia.

Right: On 26 November 2022, Major Ted Guinea (2nd from right) receives the Perryman Trophy, for Outstanding Leadership and Performance of Duty in 2018, on behalf of one of his soldiers, Private Renee Stockdale, Q Store, A Company, 1st/19th Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment.

Hawkei

THE improvisation of self-propelled (driveable) weapon systems and other combat vehicles is not the exclusive domain of dystopian fantasies like the Mad Max franchise or any other cinematic production. They appear in real life too.

When Russia sent its invasion force in, by road, on February 24, 2022, Ukranian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was offered evacuation out of the country.

He instead said (in Ukranian), "the fight is here, I need ammunition, not a ride," and he remained in the capital to lead his nation from the inside.

There were multiple reasons for him to expect such support, not least of which was the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances signed on December 5, 1994 by the US, UK and Russia, providing financial assistance and a list of security assurances in exchange for Ukraine, along with Kazakhstan and Belarus, handing their Soviet-spec nuclear weapons over to Russia.

Meanwhile as a NATO partner (not member) Australia provides support (whether it's hardware, training personnel, or in some cases fighting forces) to various conflicts that NATO or its members support.

What we get out of it (along with our other more direct strategic partnerships with other nations who have big military forces such as the UK and US) is knowing we're not completely on our own if we ever need to defend Australia and our epic shoreline (as well as ensuring the constant delivery of fuel for combustion engines since we import about 90 per cent of the refined product we use and still have barely three weeks' worth stored).

This also acts as a deterrent in a way, to the point where most Aussies feel so safe and secure and unthreatened internationally that they can't comprehend why we take this strategy of 'hurt or bully me and my bigger brothers will come after you', a strategy which requires consistently ensuring those 'bigger brothers' still care about us enough to actually step in if and when needed.

While waiting for the West to send ammo - and Ukraine is still pleading for more because they desperately, and constantly, need more in order to continue resisting Russia's deep reserves and mobilisation actions - the Ukranians have been rather creative.

Possibly the first example was some groups of civilians preparing Molotov cocktails to help resist anything unarmoured or flammable.

As for motorised equipment, various all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) have been fitted with light weapons to resist incoming tanks.

One hobbyist from western Ukraine who made fast and fun off-road buggies offered a few to the Ukranian Army to use them as scout, attack and evacuation vehicles. Their response was to ask him make as many as he could so now Volodymyr Sadyk, founder of Void Buggies, does this full-time, along with a small team, manufacturing them, and repairing damaged ones, as fast as they can.

Apart from speed, the other advantage of ATVs and buggies is they have less trouble with muddy terrain than heavy armoured vehicles (whether they're tanks, transport or other combat designs).

A later example of improvisation has become small anti-drone and anti-troop missile systems like the VAMPIRE 70mm getting mounted on the back of civilian-style off-road utes (or pickups as the Americans like to call them). The US is supplying these with this specific mounting method in mind.

In September 2022 Ukrainian ambassador to Australia Vasyl Myroshnychenko was specifically asking Australia for a further 30 Bushmaster vehicles, and also for 30 of the new Hawkei vehicles (a long-range patrol vehicle, sort-of Australia's answer to the Humvee).

When you're willing and desperate enough to use any vehicles you can get your hands on, whether they were meant for combat or not, Australia's reasoning for not sending the Hawkei yet, because it was still having some brake issues, would have seemed a bit cold.

However, I can also see why Australia, and Thales (manufacturer of the Bushmaster and Hawkei) wouldn't want to have their international reputations hurt by reports of failing or unreliable vehicles doing more harm than good on the battlefield.

Hawkei light protected vehicle, as unveiled way back in 2009. Picture by Gary Schafer.

Hawkei LPV (Light Protected Vehicle).

Many will have heard that Ukraine has requested Hawkei LPVs for their battle against the Russian Invaders.

Unfortunately, the Hawkei still has teething problems and the manufacturers said that they could not provide the back-up service needed over there.

This article is from The Ballarat Courier of 25 February 2023, written by Sam Hollier headed; *Desparation re-contexualises notion of combat readiness*
and explains some of the features of Hawkei.

THE BALLARAT RANGER MILITARY MUSEUM

For years the Volunteers who run the 8/7 RVR 'Unit Historical Collection', known locally as the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum, have been trying to get approval for either an extension of the current hut, or a second hut, to expand its capacity to display the unit's ever-expanding collection. However, the government departments controlling buildings would not allow either expansion to go ahead. They departments advised that the 'hut' was now 'Heritage' listed and could not be modified, and that a separate building become another 'asset' with its own complications. The hut was re-roofed and painted in 2022. A local option, approved by the Commanding Officer, was to bring containers onsite to give additional display area.

A visit from the Army History Unit some twelve months ago suggested that the display was 'too big' and should be made smaller with just a 'potted history' of the battalion on display. Consequently, two 40-foot containers have now been purchased and placed onsite within the museum compound at Ranger Barracks. Within these two containers, that will be joined to form a 'U' shape, the suggested 'potted history' will be set up. The existing hut will be rearranged to provide a seating area, a library and a selection of uniforms and equipment used by soldiers of various eras displayed. Funding for the expansion is from the grant from the 'Deceased Estate' of the Lillingston Family Trust received some years ago to help with such an expansion.

The container arrival follows last year's $170,000 being spent on repainting and re-roofing of the museum hut by Estate and Infrastructure group, the government department who manage all Defence properties.

Death of Ray Rosenow

For many years Ray Rosenow was a member of the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum. He was known by some of the museum members as 'pockets'. He would arrive late, with his hands in his pockets, and ask 'Is the brew on?' Despite not being a 'hands on' type of person, Ray was a useful member of the museum, often helping where he could to raise funds by selling the 'Rotary' raffle tickets and keeping visitors to the museum entertained. Ray Keith Rosenow was born in Ballarat on 5 November 1937 to Avis and Ken (both deceased), a brother to Fred (deceased) and Teddy. He married Marj (deceased) and they had three daughters.

Ray served in the Regular Army, the first Private to serve in the newly raised 7 RAR, then based at Puckapunyal. He served in Vietnam as a Corporal with 7 RAR from 8 April until 5 June 1967. After retirement from the Army Ray returned to Ballarat, becoming good mates with fellow Vietnam Veteran Bill Akell. The last few years of Ray's life were spent in the Canadian Pines Supported Accommodation. He died on 10 December 2022, leaving behind his daughters Narelle, Karen and Joanne, sons-in-law Gordon, Tony and Peter and grandchildren Chase, Maddi, Davin, Josh and Issy. Ray's funeral was held on 19 December at the Doveton Park Funeral Centre.

Newsletter of
8th/7th Battalion – 2 RVR Association
C/- PO Box 543
Ballarat West, Vic, 3350

The North-Western Ranger

8th/7th BATTALION – 2RVR ASSOCIATION Inc.

VICTORIA'S OWN COUNTRY BATTALION

(Including the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum Newsletter)