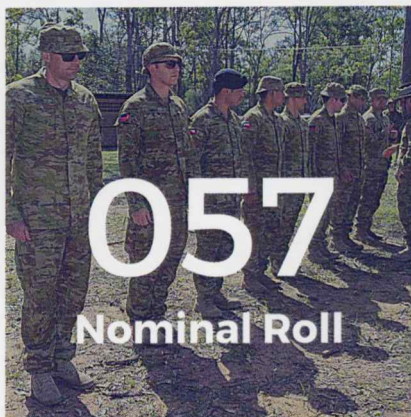
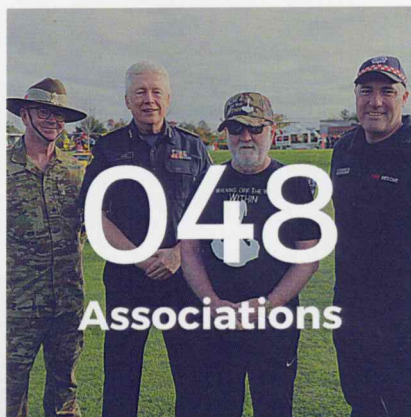
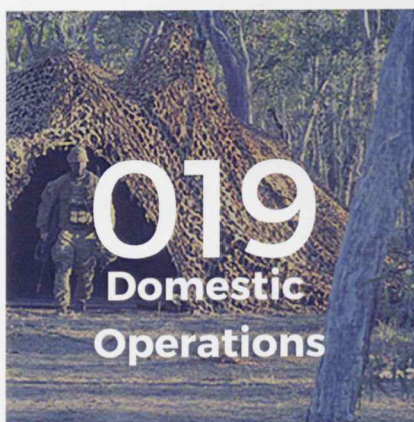


RANGER JOURNAL



8th/7th Battalion
The Royal Victoria Regiment
CELER ET AUDAX / CEDE NULLIS

CONTENTS



EDITORS

MAJ Stan Carnes
LT Catherine Sellers

ON THE COVER

MILSKILLS WINNERS:
Commander 2nd Division,
Major General (MAJGEN) Kathryn
Campbell CSC presented the 1881
Victoria Challenge Shield to
8/7RVR for winning the 4th Brigade
shooting competition for 2020.

COVID-19 SAFETY

All Australian Army training
8/7RVR conducts is in accordance
with strict safety measures in
place, as well as in accordance
with Victoria's State Government
COVID-19 recommendations and
guidelines at the time.

DISCLAIMER: The BATTALION MAGAZINE
published to entertain, inform and inspire
serving members, potential recruits, 8/7RVR,
the wider Defence community,
including
family and friends, the ARMY and ADF. The
views expressed in The BATTALION are not
necessarily those of the ARMY or the
Australian Defence Force.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Barry Gilson

8/7 RVR respects and honours past, present and future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and people who live in our communities across regional Victoria. We not only acknowledge their stories but commit to building a brighter future together.

As part of this commitment, the Battalion has worked with Wautharong Glass in Geelong to build Acknowledgement of Country plaques for each of our major Depots at Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Sunshine. Each plaque has been designed as a traditional warrior shield that pays our respects to the various indigenous communities and is painted red in the symbolism of our joint history together.

Further details on pg 41



RSM - WO1 Al Ashman, Barry Gilson and CO - LTCOL Shaun Richards at Welcome to country smoke ceremony 2021

FOREWORD BY HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
VICTORIA



As Representative Colonel of The Royal Victoria Regiment, it is a privilege to acknowledge the work of the 8th/7th Battalion over the 2020-21 period.

In its 163 years of service to Victoria and the nation, this Battalion has seen many things. It holds a proud place and high standing in the country community – and further afield. I wonder if its service here at home has ever been as challenging, effective and appreciated as it has been in 2020 and 2021.

Across that time, the Battalion's help has been invaluable in Operation Bushfire Assist 19/20, with many members foregoing precious family holiday time to step up when and where they were needed. I was fortunate to meet some of you as you were returning from that Operation. I know you were exhausted, but that heroic effort was followed almost immediately by Operation COVID-19 Assist.

The pandemic response placed enormous demands on the Battalion and saw it undertake roles it might not have imagined, but it rose to every request, as well as supporting Anzac Day and remembrance ceremonies, albeit very different in nature to normal times.

Across these last two years, the contribution of the Australian Army to the collective effort in combatting the dual crises with which we have been hit is something for which the community is grateful.

On behalf of all Victorians, I thank all those of the 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment for their service. I thank their families too. Every sacrifice a Battalion member makes to serve the community is a family's sacrifice as well. As the Representative Colonel of The Royal Victoria Regiment, I have reason to be proud of you all.

The Honourable Linda Dessau AC
Governor of Victoria



Her Excellency, Governor of Victoria, visited Puckapunyal to meet and thank Victoria's Army Reservists deployed as part of Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20.

ADDRESS BY THE BRIGADE COMMANDER

Brigadier Matt Burr



Congratulations on your Battalion's many achievements during 2021. You are exemplars of CA's Army in Motion and ensured the 4th Brigade delivered during another high tempo year.

Your Battalion continues to put its people at the centre of everything, thereby creating high performing teams who have been able to change roles for the problem at hand. This ability to pivot between DACC support (whether COVID 19 or mid-year severe storm event), DFACA contingency tasking within OPLAN MAGPIE, and infantry skills within a combined arms setting has again proven 8th/7th RVR's attributes of being credible combat, people and partnered force – Good Soldiering!

The overall preparedness within your Battalion continued to evolve during 2021 with the implementation of Army Combatives at pace. In addition, your Battalion was able to prepare and mount a TSE rotation within a COVID restricted environment. Your Battalion also reinforced partnerships with partners and regional communities, enhancing the status of 'Country Victoria's Own'!

Thank you for your service during 2021. The above achievements are the result of your strong commitment to service. I thank you for placing the security and interests of our nation and all Australians ahead of your own during a time of great stress as a result of the COVID pandemic.

Please also pass my sincere thanks to your families for their critical role in supporting your service. Your families have sacrificed much during the COVID pandemic in order to support your service; I am humbled and inspired by their selflessness. Again, please pass my deepest appreciation for their continued support that underpins all of your success.

Again, congratulations. All members of 8th/7th RVR should reflect with pride on your Battalion's many achievements during 2021. I look forward to the new year's opportunities and time with our teams. Good Soldiering,

Brigadier Matt Burr

Commander 4th Brigade

Commander Joint Task Group 629.2

ADDRESS BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards



It has been a great honour to command this fine unit during a pivotal time in the 8th/7th Battalion's, and antecedents, 163-year history as "Country Victoria's Own". COVID 19 restrictions have permeated our lives and service and nothing has been easy or without risk. To the credit of our people and teams, we have continued with Good Soldiering and innovations in virtual and online training to be the best we can. The RSM and I have been continually impressed with our quality people and are exceptionally proud of what we have achieved as a team under these challenging circumstances.

I like to thank the previous Battalion Command Team; Commanding Officer COL David Cadogan-Cowper and RSM WO1 Mick Carroll for handing over a Battalion in good order.

It is now time to reflect on our achievements over the last two years. This Journal remains an important culmination of our thoughts, recollections, and memories that will form part of our long and honourable history, and will also serve as a future reminder to us of our journey together. I appreciate the efforts of MAJ Stan Carnes and LT Catherine Sellers, as the Editor, for publishing this edition.

The last two years has seen a shift in focus in the requirements of part-time service and the capability demands on the Battalion. The call-out for OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19/20 highlighted the importance of readiness and being 'fit to fight' anywhere at any time. This was quickly reinforced with the almost immediate transition to OP COVID 19 ASSIST with the deployment of the 8/7 RVR Emergency Support Force.

The Battalion spent 200 days of 2020 deployed on domestic Operations and acquitted itself consistently to the highest of standards, including exemplary command and integration of combined Army and Joint teams down to Section level. Throughout these commitments we have maintained our support to OP RESOLUTE Transit Security Elements, deploying personnel and leading the mounting of Rotation 102 to successfully prepare people from across Army for the challenges of the operation. We are well practised in preparing for operations and can do this very well.

Good Soldiering underpins all that we do and it was important to acknowledge excellence in soldiering and recognising those who best define our culture. The names of the soldiers and JNCO are reflected on the Honour Board and trophies proudly displayed in our Battalion Headquarters. Congratulations to our award recipients.

The fact that people from other organisations want to work with us speaks volumes to our positive culture and professionalism. We will reflect later in this edition on these operations although, needless to say, working together with our people and teams for these deployments remains a personal career highlight for me. Thank you to all those who deployed and the support staff in the background who made it all happen. Well done!

The number one training priority for the Battalion is getting back into warfighting and combat preparedness. To quote Chief of Army, 'our people and teams must be trained and prepared to operate in an increasingly complex environment where every individual, regardless of corps or role, is battle-ready and able to ethically apply a range of lethal and non-lethal force to support their team and achieve the mission'.

We have been focused on meeting the direction through optimising our Good Soldiering culture, valuing individual readiness, enhancing a combat mindset through Combat Behaviour upskilling, and Section-level high performance teaming at every opportunity; allowing us to quickly transition to meet any operational demands placed on us by Army. All of us need to be ready for Accelerated Warfare.

The establishment of the Combat Behaviours 'Centres of Excellence' in each of the companies has facilitated our preparedness and growth in capability to a point where the majority of the Battalion is Combat Behaviours ready. This was only achieved through the leadership of the Company Command Teams and the commitment of the professional support staff who have maintained a consistent schedule of courses over the past year. We would not be ready at our high standard without their dedication.

Exercises, named in respect of our unit's Victoria Cross recipients, have delivered individual weapon qualifications and demonstrated our focus on shooting as the combat behaviour that 8/7 RVR is known and respected for. We have run enhanced shooting courses and Applied Marksmanship qualifications, and I challenge all of you to train in your combat marksmanship whenever you can to qualify for crossed rifles. Combat shooting excellence is our thing, follow the lead of Private Billie Smith!

Exercise ANZAC LANDING and POZIERES not only respect our battle honours, they are our collective warfighting activities that have tested us and ensured our High-performance Teams are prepared for challenges ahead.

Over the last two years, we have embarked on a very ambitious engagement program in our significant Area of Influence across regional Victoria, amounting to approximately 190,000 km². We did this because we have a responsibility to continue to represent the values of the Army and our historic legacy and to acknowledge that we must invest in our own recruiting potential. We have taken every opportunity; 41 separate commitments for ANZAC Day this year (43 planned last year were cancelled due to COVID), and a significant number of engagements with veteran and philanthropic organisations the RSM and I have personally attended. The large volume of requests for 8/7 RVR support demonstrates the high regard in which we are held by our local communities.

I have taken great pride in our leadership in a number of engagement initiatives, especially with our local Aboriginal communities and Elders. Our goal for this engagement was to enhance our culture, build meaningful relationships, and facilitate future recruiting opportunities to enhance our diversity and make us stronger as a team. The Acknowledgement of Country Warrior Shields you now see adorned in pride of place in our Headquarters is a token of our genuine commitment to reconciliation because it is the right thing to do. A highlight in my time was the inaugural 8/7 RVR Welcome to Country smoking ceremony with our Unit Elder, the Wathaurong Man, Mr Barry Gilson. It was a privilege to share that experience with Barry, and our people and families at Ranger Barracks. Koling wada-ngal.

It would be remiss of me not to mention our families as singularly the most influential part of our service. I have spent most of my time at 8/7 RVR separated from my wife Trish and our daughters, Amy and Hayley because of COVID 19 Border Restrictions. I owe my ability to serve to their resilience to manage without me and their ongoing support. We acknowledge that those close to us often wear a burden of our service, and have to navigate the trials and tribulations of family life without their ADF partner. I know first-hand how tough the heavy commitment of ADF service has been for many of our families, and offer very simply; a sincere thank you.

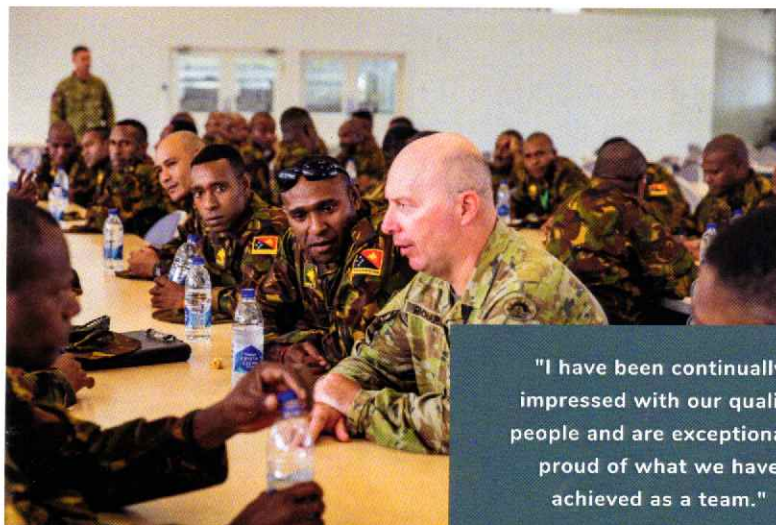
I appreciate and respect each and every one of you and your families for your service over the past two years, and I am confident in the knowledge that 8/7 RVR Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers are ready now to provide the capability that the nation requires. It is a privilege to serve alongside you.

I wish the new Commanding Officer, LTCOL Derek Sonogan, all the best in taking Country Victoria's Own forward as we transition into a Motorised Infantry Battalion.

Good Soldiering,

Shaun Richards, CSM
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
8th/7th Battalion,
The Royal Victoria Regiment

1st November 2021



"I have been continually impressed with our quality people and are exceptionally proud of what we have achieved as a team."

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Warrant Officer Class One Al Ashman

To the Officers, Soldiers and Families of our Battalion, it is my pleasure and honour to be writing my first RSM's foreword for Country Victoria's Own. As I look back and reflect over the year that has been, I am very proud of all of our members' achievements both individually and collectively.

The CO and I have travelled to all of our depots this year to meet you all face to face, and to also take the opportunity to share not only what is important to us a Command Team but also to me as the senior soldier with what I believe will ultimately shape and reinforce us as a collective team moving forward. I think it is pretty obvious that I have a genuine passion for JNCO's and Diggers (I bloody love them!) Our junior NCO's drive the most important cog in our fleet - Our Soldiers. We need to invest in our future by providing the best training, mentoring and support IOT build our future leaders. Our Battalion has a very proud and rich history with the foundations built by our soldiers!



Good Soldiering - This is the cornerstone of "Who and what we are as a Battalion, Our People Come First and We are Ready, Committed and Engaged".

It is the single most important aspect of my tenure as RSM. If we get our culture right, everything else will follow naturally! I would expect as a collective that we encourage and promote Good Soldiering at every opportunity to fully immerse ourselves and understand our values, what is important to us, our culture, and have knowledge of our very proud history. Good Soldiering combined with excellent foundation warfighting skills and combative behaviours skillsets set the conditions to ensure we are operationally focused and have a ready mindset that will fast track us as a collective team to be successful, wherever and whenever we are needed. The culture you are creating is second to none and a direct reflection of the quality people we have in our Battalion!

As individuals, you must be aware of your individual capacity and balance your work life with the needs of the Battalion, so you can effectively integrate work requirements, personal and family desires.

Your families are the constant, sometimes we do not recognise their sacrifices and support enough as we should for supporting you on your journey, we must ensure they are acknowledged, appreciated and thanked for their support. - I personally appreciate your families and thank them for supporting you all.

Future-ready - This year has been a year of building a future-ready cohort. We have been setback from Covid-19 but as always we have found a way forward! With some heavy lifting from BDE we have managed to ensure SUB 1 CPL MOD 1 and 2, SUBJECT 2 SGT MOD 1 and 2 and RAINF ROBC will be conducted locally in Victoria. This was a huge task and ultimately supports our need of building and expanding a future-ready cohort. We must introduce fresh blood, reward strong leadership, high performance, and promote our people that are Ready, Committed and Engaged. The promotion throughput combined with accepted risk has also allowed room for junior soldiers to experience leadership with the promotion of: 26 x Lance Corporals and 11 x Corporal's, we have also had the privilege to promote 3 x Sergeant's and 2 x Warrant Officer Class Two. I have 12 Corporals identified for SGT promotion courses to create the next crop of SNCO's. This combined with the introduction of new equipment will keep us in a great position for years to come. The CO and I congratulate each of our Unit members on a fantastic achievement!!

Recognising Soldier Excellence - One of the privileges of my appointment is to assist the CO in recognising Soldier Excellence the Battalion. Additionally, The CO and I have been constantly engaging with your Chain of Command and have tried to escape the office at every opportunity to actively observe training and personally monitor performance.

It is with great pride, we congratulate our Champion Soldier and JNCO for 2020; PTE Jessica Russell (C Coy) and CPL Vistarini (B Coy); and for 2021, PTE Peng Wang (A Coy) and CPL Will Paffrath (C Coy). All of these leaders displayed the values, qualities, and selfless commitment throughout difficult circumstances during the Covid Pandemic. You have all set the bar on Good Soldiering and have been fantastic role models.

Combat Shooting is a key focus as the combat behaviour that 8/7 RVR is known and respected for. Whilst the CO and I were very pleased with the results of the Applied Marksmanship Practice with a number of our soldiers qualifying and CPL Dinning (A Coy) and CPL Coltman (C Coy) achieving Crossed Rifles Marksman standard; we congratulate PTE Church (A Coy) and CPL Walsh (B Coy) for setting the standard as the Champion Shots for the Battalion.

High performance teaming is how we deliver on our capability and our Sections are our unit of action and our competitive advantage. EX POZIERES has been our platform to test ourselves and Sections have always impressed. Standing out amongst our high-performance teams and winners of the Champion Section for 2020 is CPL Jarreth Merriman & Section (A Coy), and for 2021; CPL Jack Terrill (C Coy). Great job to all, this award is a team effort and I am pleased to say that 8/7 RVR's Sections are in great shape and ready for the challenges of Accelerated Warfare.

I look forward to what's ahead in 2022 and the opportunities that come with it. Our transition to a Motorised Battalion comes into effect in 2023, requiring us to start work towards that capability next year, including the Reconnaissance and Sniping centre of excellence for the Brigade. Our Battalion is in great shape because of you, be proud of your service! With the X-mas Reduced Tempo period on us, take the opportunity to re-charge your batteries, enjoy time with your families, you have all earned it, stay safe and see you next year!

Good Soldiering,



Al Ashman

Warrant Officer Class One

Regimental Sergeant Major

8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment

1st November 2021



RSM - WO1 Al Ashman and CO - LTCOL Shaun Richards
of 8/7RVR at a Remembrance Day ceremony 2021

Many of these articles describe how the unit hit the ground running at the start of the year. 2020 saw 8/7 RVR hit the ground sprinting.

Due to a little problem with bushfires in the east of the state, the whole of the Headquarters including the OPS Cell, and a large number of volunteers throughout the Battalion, were deployed. The OPSO, MAJ Andrew McQuilkin, was recalled off leave from Tasmania to deploy to Gippsland. Incoming OPS SGT David Logan (replaced Sean Fitton) deployed to Central/Northern Victoria and, part-time OPS SGT Luke McGregor was heavily involved with his other employment, emergency services. Second-year OPSWO Brad Turner was left as the only uniformed member within the depot through January to March (Duty Officer 114 days straight).

People returned, some leave was cleared, and then WHAM!!! – COVID-19. This would prove to be the unwanted gift that kept on giving. The Battalion, including the Headquarters and the OPS Cell, again deployed for an all-expenses-paid respite at some 'high-end hotel accommodation in Melbourne, as part of COVID ASSIST. Fortunately this time some uniforms were left-back.

Throw into the mix the refurbishment of Ranger Barracks, through which contractors were busy creating daily havoc around the Headquarters building, adding to the turmoil and often involving a bit of a 'hot-desk' tactic. Big pushes from Brigade to plan ahead for a return to normalcy, when nobody knew what the future would hold, made that planning ahead quite difficult for the OPS Cell, as it was consistently split and individual priorities were elsewhere.

The ability to plan and run activities was often restricted to the new environment thanks to COVID.

Interspersed with this, the growing list of 'must have' qualifications for our soldiers to be ready for anything (ACP, AFA/TCCC, CMC), which quickly became the focus and made the OPS Cell and COY Staff very busy. Kudos to the part-time members who kept on volunteering to instruct.

September-October saw the creation of a new position within the OPS Cell, WO COORD, and WO2 Paul Micallef marched in adding a wealth of experience to the OPS Cell.

November, the tail-end of the year, was when the OPS Cell organised Battalion Military Skills Competition was conducted at Pucka. Though relatively limited in size, thanks to the year that was, the activity was very well received and the honour of being the Champion Section was enthusiastically competed for. A big thanks to all supporting staff for making this the success it was.

The end of the year saw a sad farewell to MAJ Andrew McQuilkin as the OPSO, who finally got his posting to Tasmania. MAJ Tony Watson took up the reins as OPSO in January 2021.

Leave was cleared, with the threat of events in the High Risk Weather Season, and COVID, always in the background in what is becoming the new 'normal'.

2021 also saw the creation of additional positions within the OPS Cell. CAPT Matt Laxton, CAPT Leo Bailey and SSGT Ivan Solomano (been around a long time) came into the team helping where they could.

SGT David Logan, due to his background, took over as the Unit Resource Manager.

The year also started along the lines of the previous year – Force Preservation Awareness Training, interstate travel was limited due to COVID, lockdowns, all affecting training and training support (at times requiring SERCAT 7 members to deploy to support, thanks to SGTs Logan, Meager and Kingi), restricted parading and planned activities.



Some training was achieved with bullets and bombs, and the short qualification courses continued, adding in BCCC and more specialised shooting training and qualifications. Major activities were cancelled for us (EX TALISMAN SABRE and EX BORELLA STRIKE), thanks again COVID, requiring the OPS Cell and hence COY training staff to continue being versatile and go with the flow.

OPSO, MAJ Tony Watson disappeared into the 'Red Zone' of Greater Melbourne for a period of time in support of OP COVID ASSIST.

As the Battalion was the mounting Headquarters for TSE 102, WO COORD WO2 Paul Micallef was instrumental in the conduct of the lead-up and mounting for that activity, ably assisted by all he could drag in. He was also heavily involved in the construction of, capably assisted by SGT David Logan and WO1 Al Ashman (RSM), the cubby house for the MWTSS.

2021 continues towards its' end with training and courses constantly being postponed, rescheduled or cancelled, often using the term 'lastminute.com'. Many an activity has been planned, resources allocated, people committed, only to have it pulled with little warning. Training interstate or support of that training has also provided a fair share of question marks as the COVID event continues.

It has been an interesting and testing couple of years. The Battalion has remained committed and strong, frustrating at times regardless of what has been thrown our way, remarkably with morale still remaining high. When the flag goes up, the soldiers are there and it is something, given the unit history, to be proud of.

Throughout all this, the OPS Cell has strived to facilitate as much as possible, attempted to restrict major impacts from the 'good idea fairies', and with sound guidance keep the Battalion moving. A lot of lessons have been learned often the hard way. This adds to the wealth of accumulated knowledge that will keep growing.

OPS will continue to roll with the punches, try to keep things sane and listen to common sense.

Brad Turner
WO2 - OPSWO



The Training Cell (S7) team has seen some changes in 2021 with SGT Meager taking up the role of Training Warrant Officer (TRGWO) at Alpha Company and SGT Kingi having to fill the role as TRGWO at Bravo Company as well as both members doing their part in filling TSR (Training Support Requests) for JTG 629.2.

SGT Kingi then left us in August taking long service leave before transferring from SERCAT 7 (full time) to SERCAT 5 (Part-time) service.

That said, the team have managed to support, two Live Fire Exercises run in March and June, put 343-3 training online and working with AKC (Army Knowledge Centre) to run a Virtual Battle Simulation Exercise (SIMEX).

We also provided support on both Exercise BURTON VC and Exercise ANZAC LANDING for 343-3.

After being directed, by the CO last year 2020, to look at running a platoon size virtual battle simulation exercise at Puckapunyal this created an interesting challenge for the S7 team.

Planning to start in May 2020 and due to COVID 19 had to be placed on hold however, in 2021 we found a window between lockdowns in May on EX Burton VC to run the SIMEX.

Further details and pictures are featured later in the journal.

Next year we will face new challenges but with new staff coming into the training cell we will be able to meet these challenges and achieve our training objectives.

Good soldiering and keep training.

WO1 Peter Hardcastle
S7 BHQ

OP RESOLUTE - (Transit Security Element) TSE 102

In 2021, 8th/7th The Royal Victorian Regiment was appointed as the Mounting Unit for OP RESOLUTE – Transit Support Element - Rotation 102, which saw 8/7 RVR facilitate the administration and organisation of 41 members who were assigned to the Operation. These members spanned from units across 8/7 RVR, 5/6 RVR, 4/19 PWLH, 9 REGT RAA, 4 CSSB, 4/3 RNSWR and 25/49 RQR.

OP RESOLUTE brought together a number of key agencies which ranged from Maritime Command, HQ 2DIV, HQ 4BDE and subunits outlined above, these nominated personnel were from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland.

The Focus in this article is on "The S1 Admin Cell" a group of 8 clerical team members, a number of assisting staff and the over 1100 pieces of admin that were required to facilitate the deployment of the TSE 102 rotation. The management of personnel and mounting documentation required a proactive collaboration effort that spanned from March through July 2021.

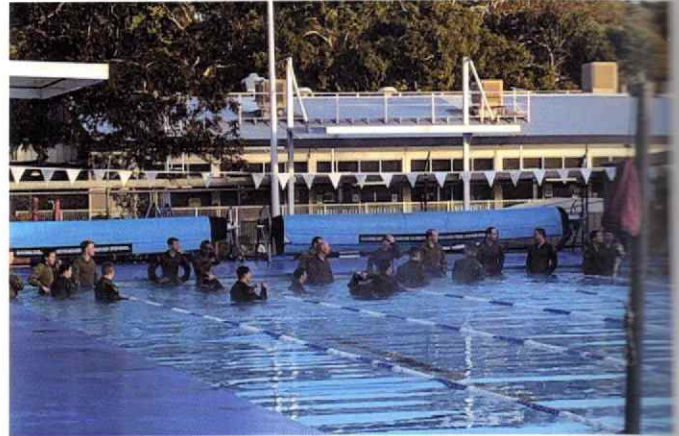
Phase 1 of mounting subsequently occurred on the 12th to 18th of July at Simpson Barracks, Macleod, Victoria.

During this week the 41 personnel completed operational training requirements such as RAN swim testing, 9mm pistol course and numerous presentations from external agencies such as the Defence Community Organisation to prepare members for their deployment. Some clerical team members seized the opportunity to participate in the 9mm pistol range practice alongside the TSE members which provided a break from the main effort.

WO2 Michael Avery, Chief Clerk, 8/7 RVR and his highly effective clerical support team comprising of CPL Meghan Witherow, PTE Peng Wang, PTE Vivian Lam, PTE Christopher Malady, PTE Mischelle Star and Assistance from SGT Stephanie Moncur and CPL Brett Ireland, created a highly effective and collaborative effort throughout the preceding months, and mounting week. The team was a collection of clerical personnel from across all 8/7 RVR locations and with different levels of experience who came together to achieve the commanders intent and ready the main body for the next phase of the operational mounting process. The end of the week was a culmination of the previous 4 months of work which resulted in the deployment of the group to Darwin to begin Phase 2 with Maritime Border Control, under some frantic Melbourne lockdown conditions.

The experience gained by the newer clerical team members in the S1 team from the mounting week was stated as "beneficial, enjoyable and memorable for all, working well together and creating a positive and productive week". The S1 staff that participated with the mounting administration expressed a positive outcome overall and developed good connections with the mounting members. The experience of preparing a group to an operational deployment whilst under controlled pressure will enable us to be able to better support the mounting process for further operations, both inside Australia and abroad.

- PTE Mischelle Star and CPL Meghan Witherow



Our people matter. Without them all the equipment, training and resourcing in the world means nothing. Our mission cannot be achieved.

We have all heard the CO stress 'People Come First' and it is this mantra that underpins 8/7 RVRs warfighting ethos. Welfare and spiritual support: responding to the needs of soldiers, families and the CoC is not an adjunct but a key part of maximising the operational effectiveness of all service personnel.

We have enjoyed working together to deliver the Battalion welfare services under the vigilant command of LTCOL Richards.

Chaplain Grill's role is to actively support the command team in their leadership roles with a specific focus on the pastoral care and support of unit members and their families. This includes a specifically religious component such as services in the field, baptisms, weddings, funerals and specific ceremonial support. These components can sometimes be overlooked in peacetime but can prove crucial in war and in dealing with the impacts of it. Chaplain Grills has had limited time available because of his busy civilian role but has very much enjoyed getting to know and serve our soldiers where he can.

The Unit Welfare Officer, alongside Chaplain Grills, in turn, supports Command and members in peacetime and operational environments, ensuring members are well-positioned to provide effective service. This includes working with individuals and their families, to protect, nurture and support members to achieve work-life balance and health and wellbeing. During the year I have been warmly welcomed into serving members' homes and feel very honoured to have their trust. I am, however, in awe of our member's service and equally in awe of their amazing families who are the very 'backbone' of whom we are as serving members, and what we can achieve.

This holistic support is imperative to the battalion's fighting capability. Each of us as serving members is a 'capability brick' in the CO's 'Unit wall of strength and architecture'. Our health and wellbeing (physical, mental and spiritual), therefore, must and does come first.

The welfare cell has been empowered under LTCOL Richards 'all-inclusive' leadership, and the support from Company OC's MAJ Bowers, MAJ Gilbert and MAJ Dragojlivic, to deliver welfare services. This has included the many telephone discussions, occasional home visits, Welfare Boards, opportunistic counselling, the occasional health advice (Critical Care Registered Nurse background) facilitating referrals and the many 'good chats' via the welfare 'open door policy'.

Our thanks and best wishes to LTCOL Richards, who during his Command has empowered us to serve and provided holistic guidance and support during the Units 2020-21 welfare journey. As a leader of amazing men and women in uniform, we have witnessed LTCOL Richards extraordinary and compassionate leadership afforded 'above and beyond' during his Command and for that 8/7 RVR is better positioned to continue 'getting into the fight' knowing its people and their families do come first.

MAJ Kaylene Baird - Unit Welfare Officer **MAJ Andrew Grills** -Chaplain



Padre MAJ Grills, Commanding Officer LTCOL Richards and Welfare Officer MAJ Baird on a training weekend.

ALPHA COMPANY

ADAPTIVE

2019 – 2021 has been a period of significant change for Alpha Company with many challenges thrown our way. We have proven ourselves adaptive, meeting challenges with professionalism and commitment resulting in a number of achievements both individual and collective.

2020's significant change for Alpha Company, began with the changeover of Officers and soldiers in numerous key positions. Major Rick Bower arrived as the new OC for his first posting with 8/7 RVR. Captain Matt Laxton was posted in as the new Company 2IC, having moved from Charlie Company on promotion. WO2 Barry Payne was posted in as the new Company Sergeant Major, also moving across from Charlie Company.

There were also changes in the Platoon Headquarters with newly commissioned Lieutenant Daniel Barnett posting as Platoon Commander for 1 Platoon at Geelong. LT Henry Vong moved from 1 Platoon to Platoon Commander of 2 Platoon based at Laverton. Sergeant Piotr Krupa moved into the Platoon Sergeant position for 2 Platoon. Alpha was also fortunate to have Sergeant Ben Meager posted into the role of Training Sergeant based at Laverton, providing much-needed support for the hard-working Training Warrant Officer, WO2 Luke Vittorio who thankfully remained from 2019 and has provided some continuity within the Company.

LT Nick Kitchen, Sergeant Tim Knight and six soldiers deployed on OP SOVEREIGN BORDERS in January and did not return until late June. Performing to a high standard they brought credit to Alpha although were severely missed.

January 2020 brought additional challenges. In the midst of a significant change in key positions and within the traditional stand-down period for Reservists. Bush fires tore through Victoria amongst other areas within Australia. A Platoon strength from Alpha volunteered and was promptly deployed. The remainder followed shortly afterwards when the Australian Government activated history's first 'Call Out' for the Army Reserve.

Alpha Officers and soldiers saw service across the state, supporting civilian agencies such as the Country Fire Authority and Victoria Police. Soldiers assisted in the evacuation of civilians from the fire front, establishing and supporting evacuation centres and providing comfort to the Australian people through their professional and empathetic approach. Most soldiers deployed for over a month and returned home in late February or early March.

After a short stand-down period, we were raring to go with another training year when in mid-March the threat posed by COVID-19 led to another historic moment for Australia and the 2nd Division. A state of emergency was declared in Victoria, followed months later by a state of disaster. The 4 Brigade Emergency Support Force (ESF), led by 8/7 RVR, was activated and Alpha soldiers saw service at the Police Assistance Line in Ballarat, as well as regularly being on short notice to assist in other areas for a multitude of tasks.

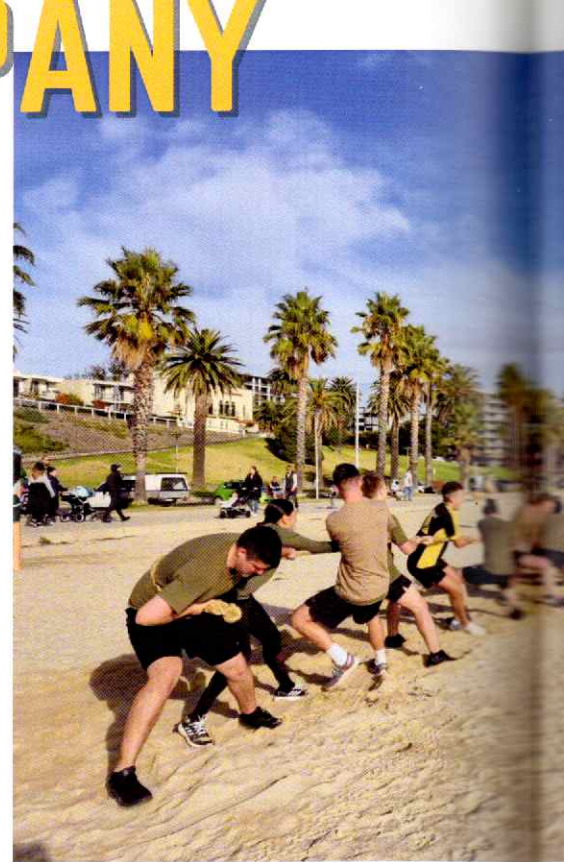
The virus hit home in March when one of our soldiers, returning from a holiday in the USA, developed symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19. Fortunately, he remained in good health throughout and had been isolating at home since his return to the country.

Company 2IC departed at short notice in April, seizing an opportunity to serve on Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia. Whilst a great opportunity, this left a gaping hole in Company headquarters which has been filled by all chipping in and taking on additional responsibilities.

Alpha took the lead in planning and conducting an activity in the COVID environment, adhering to new risk mitigation measures. We ran a combat marksmanship training weekend at Puckapunyal with training focused on Officers and NCO's across the Brigade to qualify and train them to take skills back to their unit and instruct others. The activity ran smoothly with strong training outputs.

Parading in person ceased for the majority of soldiers to mitigate the threat posed by the virus. As we began a transition to remote parading for our soldiers, Australia appeared to turn the corner and it appeared victory over the virus was within reach.

Then in June, it became apparent Victoria was experiencing a second wave of the virus, with larger infection rates, bringing additional challenges and fear to the community. The ESF was again activated with many members of Alpha volunteering to support the nation and its people.



Having time to prepare and based on government and ADF directions, Alpha continued to parade in person with limitations on some training.

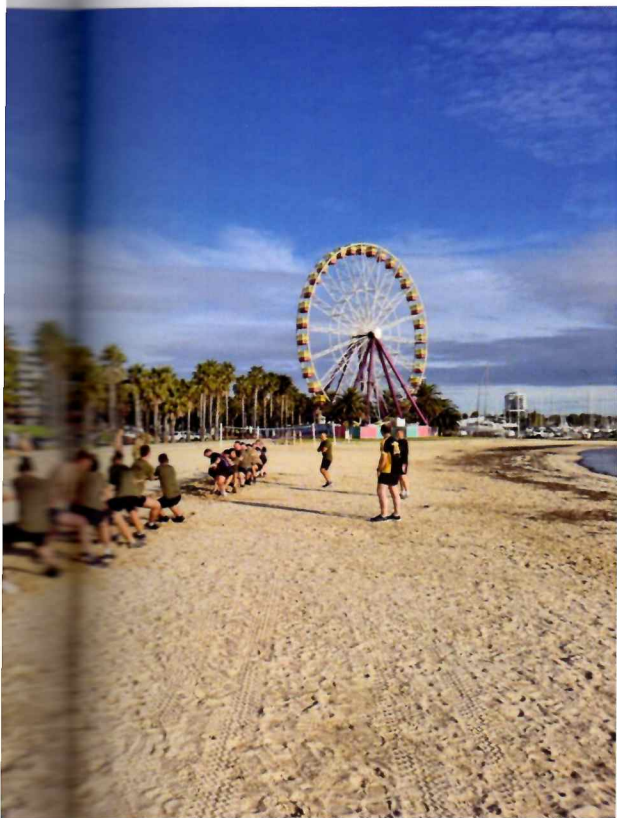
We also compartmentalised our people to limit the risk of COVID-19 spread if one of our soldiers was unknowingly infected. This led to parading being split between Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and limits on movement between depots due to the different community infection rates in Laverton, Geelong and Warrnambool.

During this tumultuous period, Alpha was sorry to lose Lieutenant's Nick Kitchen and Henry Vong. LT Kitchen was posted to Melbourne University Regiment and LT Vong to Charlie Company.

This loss was offset by the arrival of newly commissioned Lieutenant Tom Ferretto who hit the ground running as Platoon Commander of 2 Platoon.

In 2020 we also welcomed a new Company Quartermaster in Corporal Gavin Turk. We have also promoted Justin Ludeman to Corporal and Julien Reid to Lance Corporal.

2021 saw a number of posting changes, with Captain Mark Djurovic posting in as the Company Second in Command. Mark returns to Alpha Company having been a previous Platoon Commander, and bring professionalism, knowledge of our soldiers and a strong commitment to service..



Our full-time Sergeant, Ben Meager, stepped up as the acting Training Warrant Officer and has maintained an incredibly high work ethic, juggling multiple tasks and responsibilities, performing to a high standard. He has performed strongly and will be greatly missed when he posts to Darwin at the end of the year.

LT Nick Kitchen returned to us to take up the position as Platoon Command of the newly raised Manoeuvre Support 9MS) Platoon, with Sergeant Timothy Knight making up the command team. MS Platoon was raised at Laverton and got to work training in a Direct Fire Support role, focusing on the Mag58 general-purpose machine gun, as well as improving their Indirect Fire Support skills through All Arms Call for Fire and training with soldiers from 2/10 Light Battery.

ANZAC Day 2021 was an important occasion, as is the way for the ADF. Whilst COVID restrictions meant we were unable to march through Geelong, Alpha Company took the opportunity to conduct a Company activity in Geelong for the weekend. We ran an employer evening, followed by a family day. These events are an important part of Army, as our people are our greatest strength. Showing our loved ones and employers some of what we do gives us a sense of pride and allows us to say thank you for giving us the time to serve.

Alpha also had a Catafalque party for the AFL game in Geelong on ANZAC Day, as well as a social function on ANZAC Day eve, also known as Kapyong Day to our 3RAR brothers and sisters. CPL Gavin Turk, our Company Quarter Master, having previously been posted to 3RAR, gave a presentation to the soldiers on its significance.

Alpha Company continued to send officers and soldiers to support OP COVID ASSIST, with the Officer Commander, Major Rick Bower taking command of Task Unit 3 in May, supporting the Department of Health Household Engagement Program.

This took the form of 173 Officers and soldiers from across the Defence Force, working at a high tempo to assist the Department of Health in ensuring compliance with home quarantine as well as communicating and supporting those isolating at home.

Alpha Company as part of 8/7 RVR lead this push and became operational within 24 hours, a remarkable achievement from any organisation. With ADF support the Department of Health increased their home visits 20 fold overnight, with ADF soldiers, logistics and planning demonstrated to a high standard.

In June we had our next round of promotions with LCPL's Brent Mottram and Garth Studham both being promoted to Corporal. PTE's Scott Balshaw, Tyson Hore, Ben Schmidt, Byron Gallagher and Charles Carrucan were also promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal.

Alpha Company then deployed soldiers on Transit Security Element 102, supporting OPERATION SOVEREIGN BORDERS with the Royal Australian Navy. CPL Rob Orwin from Warrnambool lead the Alpha Company soldiers, with newly-promoted LCPL Tyson Hore from Geelong as his 2IC. Reports thus far are that the Alpha Company soldiers are performing strongly, setting the standard as capable, professional soldiers.

As the most recent lockdown remains ongoing within Melbourne and some areas of regional Victoria, we have reduced our activities to essential tasks and moved to remote training where able. Our soldiers are feeling the same fatigue and pressures as our fellow Victorians, and we take pride in being professional soldiers, in addition to loving husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters.

We strive to be exemplars of the Australian spirit as we navigate our way through COVID as a community and as a nation.

We continue to support OP COVID ASSIST, to train and prepare for the approaching high-risk weather season.

Rick Bower
Major
Officer Commanding
Alpha Company



BRAVO COMPANY

Before the transition from a very busy 2019 to a positively hectic 2020, Bravo Company attended to some farewells of senior members departing the Company. After 2 years at the helm (and a previous year at the Sunshine depot managing the transfer of command from 5/6 RVR to 8/7 RVR) its outgoing OC, MAJ Sonogan, posted out to study the operational art of modern warfare at the Australian Command and Staff College.

The Company also bid farewell to WO2 Luke Dancey, who posted back to his beloved Adelaide to be the CSM of D Company, 7 RAR, after serving two years as the SERCAT 7 TRG WO. During the final parade for 2019, these members were presented with tokens of appreciation from the Company, and they made their own gifts to the Moon VC Club as a parting gesture of goodwill and enduring memory. In their place, MAJ Nik Dragojlovic was promoted from his role as 2IC and appointed to command the Company with effect from January 2020, and WO2 Doug Burley arrived from 7 RAR to assume the full-time training and mentoring role as the Company's TRGW. A second member of cadre staff in the form of SGT Tai Kingi also arrived to take up the role of TRG SGT and, rounding out the changes to the HQ, CAPT Nick Arundell was promoted and appointed as the Company 2IC, having been a Platoon Commander based at the Sunshine depot for the previous two years.

As the Company lurched into overdrive early in January 2020 in support of Operation Bushfire Assist 2019-20, the above changes hadn't quite taken full effect. Mother Nature being the cunning adversary on this occasion, sought to take advantage of the inherent vulnerability that occurs during any handover/takeover or transition of responsibility. However, Bravo Company was well versed in the Art of War - know thy enemy (the High-Risk Weather Season) and know thy self (a reduced tempo period over the Christmas break), and was therefore well prepared.

As its members started streaming through the Sunshine depot gates on Friday 3 January 2020, all soldiers, NCOs and officers of Bravo Company came together on virtually no notice to make their contribution to what would become a deployment of reserve military personnel on Australian soil in support of a natural disaster of an unprecedented scale. With very few exceptions, the entire Company deployed across Victoria in various roles to provide support to local, state and Commonwealth government agencies in response to the bushfire crisis. Many were also contracted on SERVOP C arrangements as a consequence of the Governor-General's call-out of the Army Reserve. All in all, the members of Bravo Company responded to the call to help their fellow citizens in an urgent time of need, and they performed their tasks admirably and with distinction.

With barely an opportunity to draw breath after the smoke haze subsided, the next task was support to the ADF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic – Operation COVID-19 Assist. A section and CHQ drawn from B Coy was mobilized at the Sunshine Depot as part of the Emergency Support Force (ESF), commencing training and preparation for force-assignment and deployment under the command of Joint Task Force 629. These efforts were underpinned by dedicated soldiers once again volunteering to support a community in need, organized and led by a number of the Company's junior NCOs including CPL Patrick Walsh (leading the ADF support to OP Sentinel – the Victoria Police quarantine compliance monitoring program) and CPL Orazio Campanale (leading the ADF support to Victoria Police Assistance Line). During this time CPL Brendan Perrottet stepped up to fulfil the role of PL SGT, assisting in the coordination and management of deployed force elements across Victoria from Melbourne CBD to Ballarat.

With these domestic deployments occurring almost back to back (and OP COVID-19 Assist continuing at the time of writing with no obvious end in sight), the often forgotten function of logistics support was able to continue thanks to the tireless commitment and dedication of SGT Trevor Beales as the Company's Quartermaster.

This work, often behind the scenes and without much fanfare, was critical to enable soldiers to complete their tasks with the appropriate stores and necessary equipment such as PPE. The Q Store functioned around the clock thanks to support from PTE Jung Somkiat, LCPL Graham Williams and PTE Nicholas Bourke.

And for those readers that consider logistics to be the overlooked critical requirement of a rifle company, spare a thought for the clerks...! The Company's administrative processes and functions have continued through this period of incredibly high tempo thanks to the hard work of PTE Cameron Ellwood and PTE John Lee. They have facilitated and ensured that all relevant documentation makes its way through the mysterious vortex up to Battalion HQ, enabling members to be effectively administered during very challenging times.

Although they were the focus, domestic operations weren't the only deployments that Bravo Company members were supporting in 2020. PTE Christian Durso deployed to Iraq in late 2019 with elements of 5 RAR, undertaking security tasks in support of coalition forces. He (and his contingent) returned to Australia slightly earlier than expected due to the global pandemic, but he got straight back into the fight – after a couple of weeks in quarantine, he immediately joined the ORBAT for OP COVID-19 Assist...!

Meanwhile, PTE Tani Chang deployed as part of the Transit Security Element (TSE) on Operation Resolute. She enjoyed her deployment so much that she opted to stay for a second rotation! And in July 2020, CPL Orazio Campanale, PTE Ryan Marinelli, PTE Nicholas Watson and PTE Elliot Skidmore also deployed on Operation Resolute as part of TSE 98. All going to plan they should be back just before Christmas.

In all of these deployments, Bravo Company members have demonstrated their abilities and readiness to contribute to ADF capability.

All of the action needs to be well commanded, led and managed. Taking the reins for the first half of 2020 were LT Simon Fiocco-Wood and LT William Wheatley. Both deployed on Operation Bushfire Assist 2019-20, and LT Fiocco Wood also following up with OP C19A. In the middle of the year, the graduation of fresh young officers bolstered our strength. LT Elish Hunt and LT Robin Ng arrived as new Platoon Commanders and having been issued their unit shoulder patch and some quick introductions, found themselves almost immediately drawn into OP C19A.

In terms of facilities, those members of Bravo Company parading at Monegeetta continue to maintain their somewhat spartan and remote existence. Arguably this contributes to the unique esprit de corps that emanates from this group, but multiple efforts to improve their 'living standards' are still frustratingly slow. Back in Sunshine, some improvements that have occurred include new heating and air conditioning, carpets and fresh paint, and a new parade ground. The next developments will hopefully be some secure storage cages for individual equipment for members in both Sunshine and Monegeetta.

Training is an ongoing requirement that must always continue, 'irregardless' (as they say) of any global pandemic or other operational commitments.

And so training has continued at Bravo Company throughout 2020, albeit in a modified and adaptive manner. Lessons have been delivered remotely via webinars and through online functionality.

All members of the Company have demonstrated their ability to be fundamentally agile during the challenges of remote and dislocated training. It has been a critical characteristic that has enabled personnel to maintain connectedness, competence and the ongoing development of military knowledge and skills.

The year has seen many challenges for the members of Bravo Company, individually and collectively. By recognizing these challenges as opportunities, the Company has capitalized on the investments previously made in training to develop relevant knowledge, skills and abilities. All personnel have displayed an extremely high level of professionalism in undertaking their duties and tasks. With these factors in mind, the men and women of Bravo Company will continue to serve with honour and distinction throughout these increasingly uncertain and turbulent times.

Nikola Dragjolic
Major
Officer Commanding
Bravo Company





CHARLIE COMPANY

Charlie Company yet again proved its willingness to go the extra mile during an unusual period in the Company's proud history of service to the nation.

2019 saw the command of the Warrnambool depot and 15 soldiers from Charlie to Alpha Company. While sad to see the soldiers transition to Alpha Company, we were delighted to welcome Mildura and Swan Hill back from there special conditions status to regular parading.

There were a number of comings and goings from the Company in two changes of Officer Commanding (CAPT Rob Powell to CAPT Matt Jones to MAJ Scott Gilbert), WO2 Simon McKechnie on promotion to CAPT was replaced as Training WO by WO2 Peter (Jack) Daniels. 2019 also saw the arrival of a new CSM, Sergeant Glenn Ludeman taking over from the much loved, Charlie Company legend WO2 Bob Creelman who unfortunately passed away in December 2020.

In January 2020, the call out of the Army Reserve saw 45 members of Charlie Company deploy and provide support to bushfire affected communities from the Relief Centre located at Latchfield Barracks, Bonegilla. Tasks performed by the Company included receiving over 300 evacuees and linking them up with support agencies, distributing donated goods, and supporting and caring for the vulnerable. Members of the Company also supported civilian agencies in notifying residents of the Myrtleford of the need to evacuate (based at caravan park) notifying them of the need to evacuation. Lieutenant Henry Vong (8/7 RVR) was awarded a Bronze Commendation for his service at the Latchford Barracks Relief Centre.

While in Myrtleford the Company took the opportunity to engage with the local RSL and hold a graveside service for Sergeant Albert Lowerson VC who was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry during the Battle of Mont St Quentin in 1918.

Not long after demobilising from Operation Bushfire Assist, the Company was again called upon to support the Civil Authority on Operation COVID ASSIST. Tasks included supporting the Victoria Police on the Ring of Steel, staffing the Police Assistance Line, conducting community engagement patrols, driving ambulances and supporting the State Control Centre monitoring COVID outbreaks.

In addition to support to domestic operations in Victoria, Charlie Company also deployed soldiers on Transition Support Element (Operation RESOLUTE) rotations 97 and 98.

2021 has been equally busy catching up on much necessary governance, administrative and training priorities that the tempo of 2020 did not allow. This included recognition of the efforts of our people. PTE Jessica Russell fought off stiff competition and was rightly awarded the top honour of Soldier of the Year for her efforts on operations and in support of unit tasks. Congratulations, Jess; richly deserved!

In June 2021, 8 soldiers were promoted to LCPL (Cobden, Godson, Gray, Jaudzemis, Jobling, Maxwell, MacGillivray and Toomey), and a further 4 to CPL (Cameron, Chapman, Paffrath and Terrill). The Company was further buoyed by the much-deserved promotion of SGT Ludeman to Warrant Officer Class Two in October 2021.

Charlie Company focussed heavily on its combat behaviour courses including running six Army First Aid / Tactical Care of the Combat Casualty and Combat Shooting courses while also taking the time to recognise service through a range of promotions.

The Company also found a way to work around the restrictions caused by COVID and like the rest of society found a way to embrace online learning through the ADELE platform. Many thanks to WO2 Ludeman and SGT Short for the work done to establish this sustainable future capability.

The depot at Mildura also demonstrated its value with a Vaccination Clinic being established by the Sunraysia Health Service. At the time of writing, 11,354 vaccines doses had been supplied to members of the public.

2021 was capped off by winning the Champion Section trophy at the Battalion Mil Skills competition. Led by CPL Jack Terrill, the team of PTEs Gary Byers, Mitchell Fellows, Sam Turner, Tom McCooey and Layden Cranston-Fremlin were comfortable winners in the end, bookended by their outstanding performance in the Falling Plate shoot where they were the only team to drop all targets and even had rounds to spare!

It has been a busy few years for the Company. The men and women of Charlie were proud to do their bit in the service of the nation and look forward to continuing the proud legacy into 2022.

Scott Gilbert
Major
Officer Commanding
Charlie Company

OPERATION BUSHFIRE ASSIST

In January 2020, the majority of 8/7 RVR members deployed on Operation Bushfire Assist 2019-20 (OP BA), being the ADF's contribution to support state fire and emergency services during the catastrophic fire season occurring across Australia. At its peak, more than 6,500 ADF members provided support as part of emergency relief, response and recovery operations. This included around 3,000 Reserve forces and it marked the largest mobilisation of the ADF for domestic disaster relief in Australia's history. Members of 8/7 RVR were very proud and honoured to be able to assist the community during this difficult period.

The majority of 8/7 RVR members deployed to the northeast of Victoria from 3 January 2020, after undertaking hasty briefings and preparation of personnel and equipment at Simpson Barracks (and generally after only receiving the call a few hours earlier...!). They initially deployed to the towns of Wangaratta, Wodonga and Bandiana before extending out to severe fire-affected areas such as Corryong, and then down to Bright, Myrtleford and Dinner Plain.

The Company-sized force element deployed to this region was commanded by MAJ Nik Dragojlovic and WO2 Adam Revett. The soldiers established liaisons at community relief centres and facilitated ADF coordination, movement and assistance to families who had been forced to evacuate their homes in the face of raging fires.

A platoon commanded by LT Henry Vong and SGT Glenn Ludeman was tasked to establish, operate and manage an evacuation centre based at Latchford Barracks. At its peak, this facility accommodated over 400 civilian evacuees in addition to an array of domestic animals that had fled from the deadly fires.

Members also provided critical support to agencies at relief centres, packing and unpacking donated food and clothing supplies for victims, and otherwise coordinating operations and movements required by local, state and federal government agencies.

In the vicinity of Corryong, significant areas of agricultural land were affected, including the destruction of thousands of kilometres of fencing. This resulted in a dangerous situation where animals such as cattle, horses and sheep were capable of wandering across roads and other hazardous areas. Members supported efforts to reconstruct damaged fencing and improve the safety of the local community and its livestock.

In other areas, members assisted teams from state government agencies to complete defensive works at Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and historic huts within the Alpine country. Such work involved the painstaking clearance of vegetation (including with chainsaws, which required many to squeeze in a formal Army chainsaw qualification course whilst deployed!), and wrapping structures in aluminium foil to protect against heat and flames. These tasks work physically arduous, and often temporarily interrupted due to looming fire threats. However, ultimately the work undertaken by members resulted in the successful protection of all these significant sites.

In Bright, members supported the major regional operations centre for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The centre operated a large number of rotary-wing aircraft including spotter and fire-bombing aircraft, as well as vehicle-based operations and command and control functions.

Members of 8/7 RVR provide 24/7 manning to this centre which freed DELWP members to undertake other critical tasks. The support provided in this context was an excellent example of the effective inter-agency integration that members achieved in order to deliver tangible results for the operation.

Overall, the contribution of 8/7 RVR members to OP BA was significant in its scale and its effect on the ground. They delivered a swift response, with professionalism, initiative and commitment to supporting regional Victorian communities in their time of desperate need.

- Major Nikola Dragojlovic







8/7RVR working with the Rotary Club of Corryong to remove 31km of bushfire affected fencing in Corryong, Victoria.



OPERATION COVID-19 ASSIST



In the sweltering heat of the summer of 2019/2020, members of 8/7 RVR were expecting a request for assistance. Requests for Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) is something that we are used to, indeed it's something we do often. There are six categories of DACC requests, ranging from DAAC 1 (localised, short-term emergency responses) to DACC 6 (assistance to law enforcement- no use of force).

DACC is the metaphorical translation of 'Army in the Community', and it's an area that Reservists excel at. Reservists live, work and serve in their communities, and at 8/7 RVR with 10 depots spread across Victoria, we truly are 'Country Victoria's Own'. As the fires raged on across Victoria (and many other locations throughout Australia), Reservists entered the Reduced Tempo Period with caution. Many of our longer serving members recalled their experiences providing assistance in the 2009 Bushfire crisis; they knew the warning signs.

By its conclusion, 179 8/7 RVR soldiers served in multiple locations across the state. They had assisted evacuations prior to the fire arriving and cleared access routes and vegetation after it had swept through. Soldiers assisted the Country Fire Authority, the Department of Primary Industries and local communities. Soldiers who were qualified as Arborists in their civilian careers ran chainsaw handling courses thereby building force capability.

Soon thereafter, 8/7 RVR reconstituted an Emergency Support Force in response to Wave 1 (March-May) and Wave 2 (June – September) of Operation COVID-19 ASSIST. In both Waves, 8/7 RVR soldiers were first into the fray, providing capability and support to the Police Assistance Line, the Quarantine Compliance Help-Desk, Police Check Points, Community Engagement Patrols and Victorian Ambulance Service Support.

This operation is ongoing and 8/7 RVR is continuing to provide support to the Joint Task Group and will be doing so for the foreseeable future.

During Wave 1, the Headquarters of 8/7 RVR operated out of Ranger Barracks in Ballarat, while OC Bravo Company, MAJ Nikola Dragojlovic, commanded soldiers supporting the Police Assistance Line (a hotline that received calls and community tipoffs about COVID breaches) and the police Operation SENTINAL call centre (which conducted calls to confirm home quarantine compliance).

Wave 2 however, saw the expansion on tasks, particularly as a result of the State Governments imposed restrictions on movement between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Within 24 hours of the State Government announcement, soldiers of 8/7 RVR had packed their bags and deployed forward to provide State authorities much-needed assistance.

Led by CO 8/7 RVR, LTCOL Shaun Richards, JTU 629.2.1 established a Forward Operating Base at Hotel Citadines on Bourke Street, Melbourne CBD. During the first iteration, the JTU had soldiers from 8/7 RVR, 5/6 RVR and sailors from Cerberus. Jovially referred to as 'The Good Ship - Citadines',

Wave 2 Operation COVID-19 ASSIST offered many soldiers and sailors their first deployment, their first opportunity to work with members of another service, and an opportunity to proudly serve their community when it needed it most.

While the team worked hard across an array of tasks and servicing Police Check Points 24 hours a day, life at Citadines established routines and processes, designed to serve the community on an ongoing basis. This routine however was punctured by 'Christmas in July' and early 'Spring Racing Carnival' theme days, supported by the staff at Citadines.

Despite living in sterile, distanced and at times isolated conditions, members of JTU 629.2.1 were still able to meet new people, learn new skills and serve in an unexpected but very worthy Operation.

he events of 2020 epitomise who we are as a Battalion. In all that we do, we strive to be dedicated, professional and adaptable.



Our soldiers have time and time again demonstrated their commitment to the Army and their Country, displaying a readiness and responsiveness to ever-changing and evolving challenges.

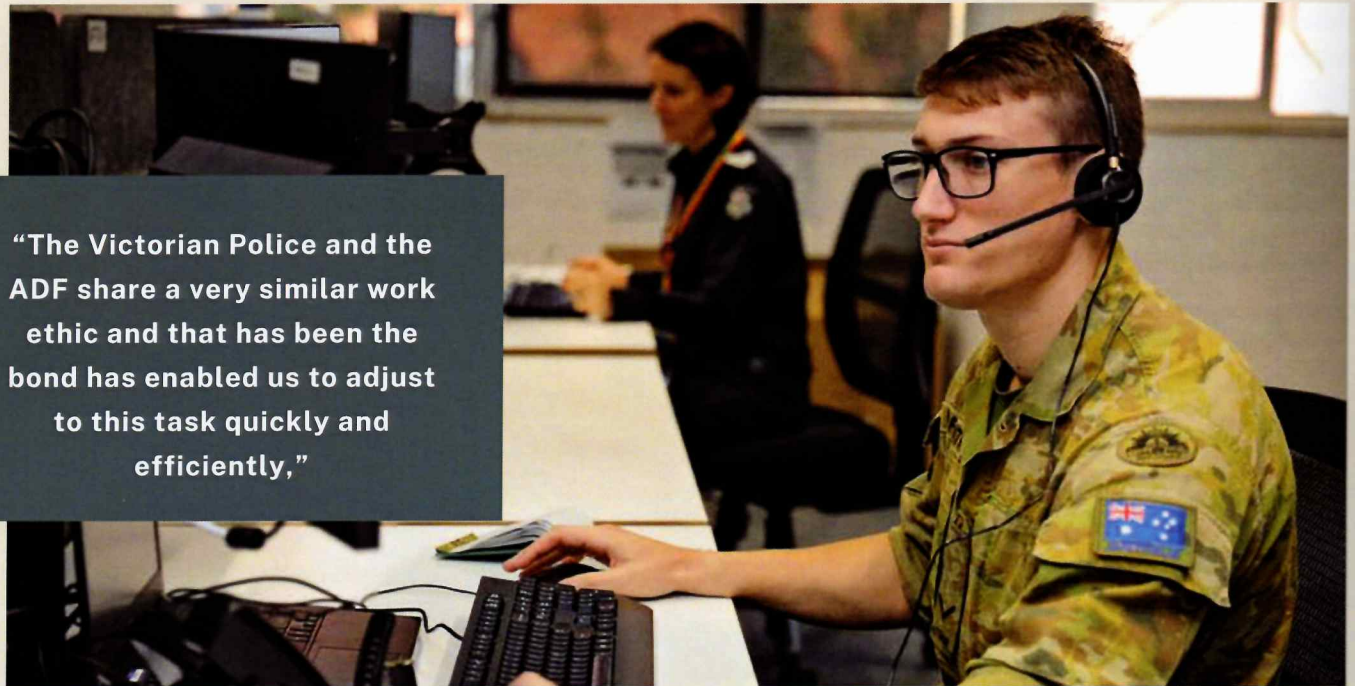
Our soldiers will continue to support the communities in which we live, work and serve. In times of need, Reservists have demonstrated their commitment, and they will continue to do so. For many, that is why they wear the uniform.

This article has sought to touch upon the events of an unprecedented and turbulent year. It also aims to highlight that Reservists on operations and working within and serving the community is an integral part of what we do, and have done for many years. As we forge our way into this new decade, there has never been a better time to be a Reservist

- Captain Elizabeth Normand

"IN ALL THAT WE DO, WE STRIVE TO BE DEDICATED, PROFESSIONAL AND ADAPTABLE."

8/7 RVR ANSWERS THE CALL



“The Victorian Police and the ADF share a very similar work ethic and that has been the bond has enabled us to adjust to this task quickly and efficiently,”

An increase in community phone calls made to the Police Assistance Line in Victoria has led to personnel from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) providing a helping hand.

The Police Assistance Line is a dedicated public phone number for the community to report or get advice on non-urgent crimes and events 24 hours a day.

With the entire state under level three isolation laws to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, and to prevent the state’s health system from becoming overwhelmed, telephone and online reporting to the Ballarat-based call centre dramatically increased.

The ADF was approached by Victoria Police to see if it could provide call centre assistance. Under the Defence Assistance to Civil Community provisions, a group of infantry soldiers from 8/7 Royal Victorian Regiment based in Ballarat and Sunshine responded to the request.

The Officer in Charge of the Police Assistance Line call centre, Inspector Steve Towers, said approaching the ADF for help was an easy decision to make.

“We needed to get some personnel who were reliable, self-disciplined, could learn quickly and able to communicate effectively with respect to dealing with the public,” Inspector Towers said.

“The ADF met that criteria and we knew that working relationship was already in place, following on from the recent bushfires experienced across the state.”

The ADF have become a fully integrated part of our team and have assisted in over 48,000 COVID-19 related calls.”

Coronavirus-related calls can include the report of mass gatherings, businesses breaching their operating restrictions or people suspected of breaching social-isolation protocols.

In a normal operating environment, the call centre receives an average of 2000 calls a month. Since the enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions, the calls have escalated to more than 1000 a day.

Lance Corporal William Paffrath, from 8/7 Royal Victorian Regiment, said he had found the work to be challenging and rewarding.

“The Victorian Police and the ADF share a very similar work ethic and that has been the bond that has enabled us to adjust to this task quickly and efficiently,” Lance Corporal Paffrath said.

“To know that we are contributing to the health and safety of the community is in itself a rewarding experience.”

- Lieutenant Dave Devlin

NEW CAREER MAY BE BORN FROM DEPLOYMENT

The last thing Army reservist and civilian prison officer Private William Reid expected to witness while deployed on Operation COVID-19 Assist was the birth of a child.

But that's exactly what happened to the infantry soldier while he was on an operational placement with Ambulance Victoria as part of his 60-day training to qualify for a Certificate II in Medical Services First Responders.

"It definitely took a few seconds to process everything that was going on," he said following the experience.

Also while on the operational placement, he drove the ambulance, set up monitors, prepared equipment, provided emergency patient transport and was involved in the aged-care response to COVID-19.

"It has been an eye-opening experience seeing the challenges local emergency services go through every day," he said.

Private Reid was stationed at vehicle checkpoints in Melbourne when he volunteered to take up the opportunity to train with Ambulance Victoria as part of his deployment.

He completed two weeks of online training before the operational placement.

"A usual shift consists of two paramedics and one ADF member as a contingency," he said.

"After seeing me [an ADF member], patients are different – those who might usually be disgruntled or aggressive are more calm around us."

Private Reid said the experience with Ambulance Victoria had given life to the potential for a new civilian career.

He is considering studying para-medicine next year.

"This experience has had a massive influence on me, and it's something I won't be taking for granted," Private Reid said.

"Ambulance Victoria staff do an incredible job helping others, and I'm so thankful I could do my part."

He said he appreciated the opportunities the ADF provided.



"It's fantastic that the ADF has a focus on personal and professional growth," he said.

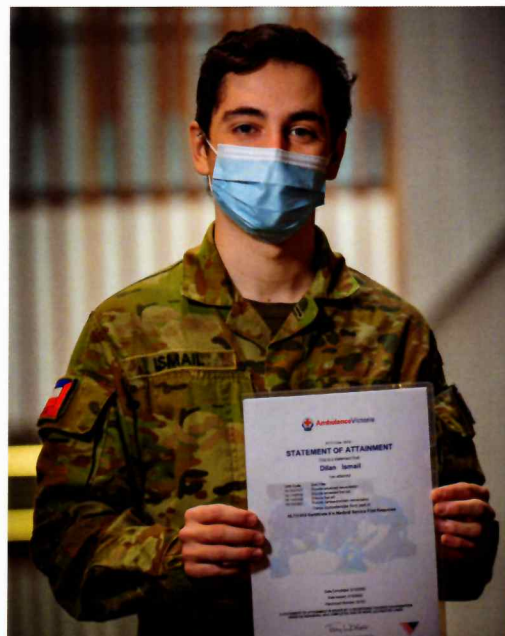
Private Reid, of the 8/7 Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, has been deployed on Operation COVID-19 Assist since July as part of Task Unit One in Joint Task Group 629.2.

Private Reid grew up in Invermay in Tasmania but now lives in Geelong. He enlisted in the Army Reserve five years ago.

He was one of 20 people who were presented with their Certificate II in Medical Services First Responders on October 5.

The Certificate II in Medical Services First Responders is equivalent to civilian qualifications such as the Certificate II Advanced First Aid.

-Flight Lieutenant Clarice Hurren





TRANSIT SECURITY ELEMENT

Every three months, a new rotation of fifty soldiers arrive in Darwin to form part of the Transit Security Element (TSE) for Operation Resolute, which is Defence's contribution to the Whole-of-Government effort for border protection. The TSE embark upon Royal Australian Navy (RAN) patrol boats in teams of 4-6 to provide security of detained illegal fishermen and potential illegal immigrants who are intercepted by the patrol boat.



TPR Lo, TPR Rickard, LCPL Terrill, SPR Tra

While the TSE rotation can be made up of soldiers from all three services, the majority of members are from the Army Reserve with half a dozen RAN sailors. TSE rotation 96 recently completed its force assignment period, which saw many changes to the standard tempo due to the effects of COVID-19.



Members of TSE 96 learn to use breathing apparatus for Survival at Sea training.

To be part of a TSE team, a soldier or sailor generally only needs to have completed basic training, as all the skills they need are taught during pre-deployment training. The training for TSE starts in Southern Victoria on the Mornington Peninsula at HMAS Cerberus, where the group come together to practice RAN Defensive Tactics and 9mm pistol shooting. This training is completed by the HMAS Cerberus Boatswains Faculty, which is one of the most highly regarded training facilities in the country, particularly for 9mm Mk III SLP training.



TSE 96 and TSE HQ pose for a group photo prior to force assignment.

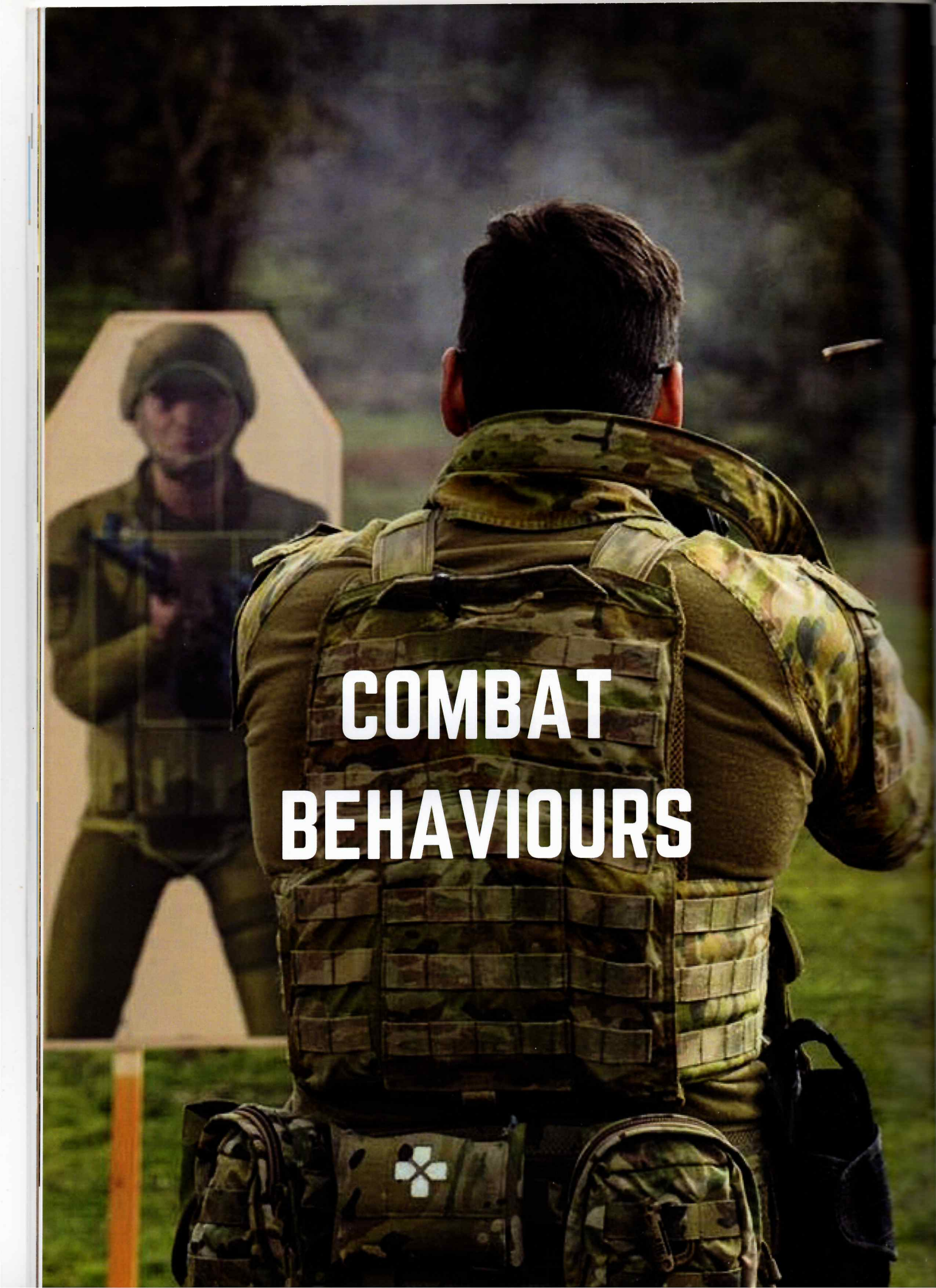
After four weeks at HMAS Cerberus, the rotation will travel to Darwin to complete the boarding operations common course and have their final assessments prior to force assignment to Operation Resolute.

Often, a rotation on TSE is seen as a good opportunity to explore Darwin and the surrounding areas when not assigned to a patrol boat and to spend all the seagoing allowance earned at the nearby restaurants/bars on Mitchell Street. This year, however, the rotation clearly showed their professionalism by stepping up to the challenge posed by COVID-19. As with the rest of the country, the TSE teams were isolating as much as possible to avoid spreading the virus. In addition to this, there was a significant increase in the demand for the TSE to support the additional workload of RAN vessels.

Even with the restrictions in place, the members of TSE still commented that it was one of the most enjoyable deployments they have served on. This was largely because they felt that they knew they were making a vital contribution towards Australia's effort to defend its borders during a global crisis and to the friendships built with the other members on the rotation. While TSE 96 were rotating on and off Armidale class patrol boats, TSE 97 were conducting their pre-deployment training. This was substantially different to past rotations, due to the additional challenges that COVID-19 travel restrictions imposed. As a testament to how adaptable the Defence Force can be in a time of crisis, all of the pre-deployment training was moved at very short notice from HMAS Cerberus to Darwin to limit the number of forced quarantine days for the members of the rotation.

This year, the Transit Security Element has seen success after success by being able to rapidly deploy to support the additional workload, and make major adjustments in training at such short notice.

- Lieutenant Nicholas Kitchen



**COMBAT
BEHAVIOURS**

ARMY COMBATIVE PROGRAM



Despite great advances in technology and weaponry, hand to hand fighting remains an enduring aspect of combat. Hand to hand combat in the Australian Army has undergone a continuous improvement process both in peacetime and on the battlefield since its foundation in 1901.

Army Combative Program (ACP) is the Australian Army's most recent iteration of hand-to-hand combat, which fosters the development of a good combat mindset, good combat behaviours, and instilling controlled aggression and violence against our adversaries by our soldiers and officers.

ACP teaches a variety of effective hand-to-hand combat techniques including:

- Unarmed striking
- Striking with a weapon
- Weapon retention
- Pain compliance techniques
- Ground dominance and defence
- Edged weapon offence and defence
- Team member emergency assist

ACP has been designed to be able to be incorporated with our physical training sessions, allowing our soldiers and officers to embed these combat behaviours on a frequent basis.

For Unit, ACP is especially important as it is one of many courses required for our soldiers and officers to be ready to adequately respond to Domestic Security Incidents in support of Federal and State law enforcement agencies.

ACP will continue in future to be an important part of the Australian Army's integrated approach to combat, along with Combat Marksmanship and Close Combat Shooting. Hand-to-hand combat has always been relevant, and always continue to be relevant to the Infantry soldier!

SGT Ben Meager





COMBAT MARKSMANSHIP CONTINUUM

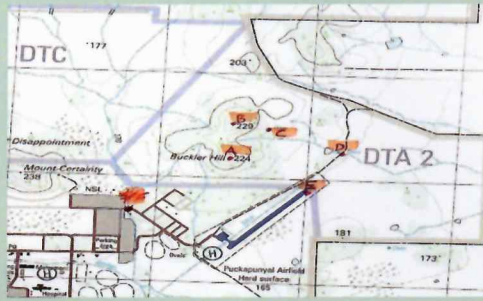
In 2021, 8/7 RVR conducted Combat Marksmanship Continuum (CMC) courses focusing on EF88 individual weapon handling skills. The CMC course was recently introduced to improve the combat readiness of soldiers using our latest individual weapon system, the EF88 rifle. In recent years, Army introduced advanced weapon handling drills as part of the training continuum at entry-level soldier training establishments such as 1 Recruit Training Battalion (Kapooka) and the Royal Military College (Duntroon). Existing members of 8/7 RVR who had not previously received such training were required to complete the CMC Course in order to bring their skills up to the level necessary to become effective in a modern combat environment.

Each course was conducted over 2 days with instructors provided by NCOs from across the 4th Brigade. As part of the course, members of the Battalion learned important skills such as how to conduct effective reload and stoppage drills, quick transitions to alternate firing positions and the effective use of cover whilst focusing on the threat and maintaining maximum situational awareness.

The CMC courses were well received by all members and represent a significant advancement in the overall level of individual weapon handling skills. As a totally practical and 'hands-on' activity conducted in an adult learning environment, all members were actively engaged and challenged – their improved confidence in conducting weapon drills was a demonstrable measure of the success of the courses.

Warrant Officer 2 Doug Burley





EXERCISE BURTON, VC (SIMEX)

In early May, after members completed the filmization on the Virtual Battle Simulation Exercise (VBS3) system, LT Ferretto gave final platoon orders to the Platoon. The SIMEX was run in two of the SIM Centres with two sections in one room and Platoon Headquarters, PMV Drivers and the 3rd section in the other. The first scenario was a Platoon Patrol to clear the area around a Water Treatment Plant.

This exercise highlighted the command and control by section commanders and platoon commanders to the troops over the radio and ROE for a domestic-based terror threat. Members were in full body armour with SPR while running through the scenario.

The second scenario was the protection of the treatment plant and manning the vehicle checkpoint at the gate. This involved both Blue and Red role players being used, provided by AKC, acting as snipers, Base staff and planting IED in the facility.

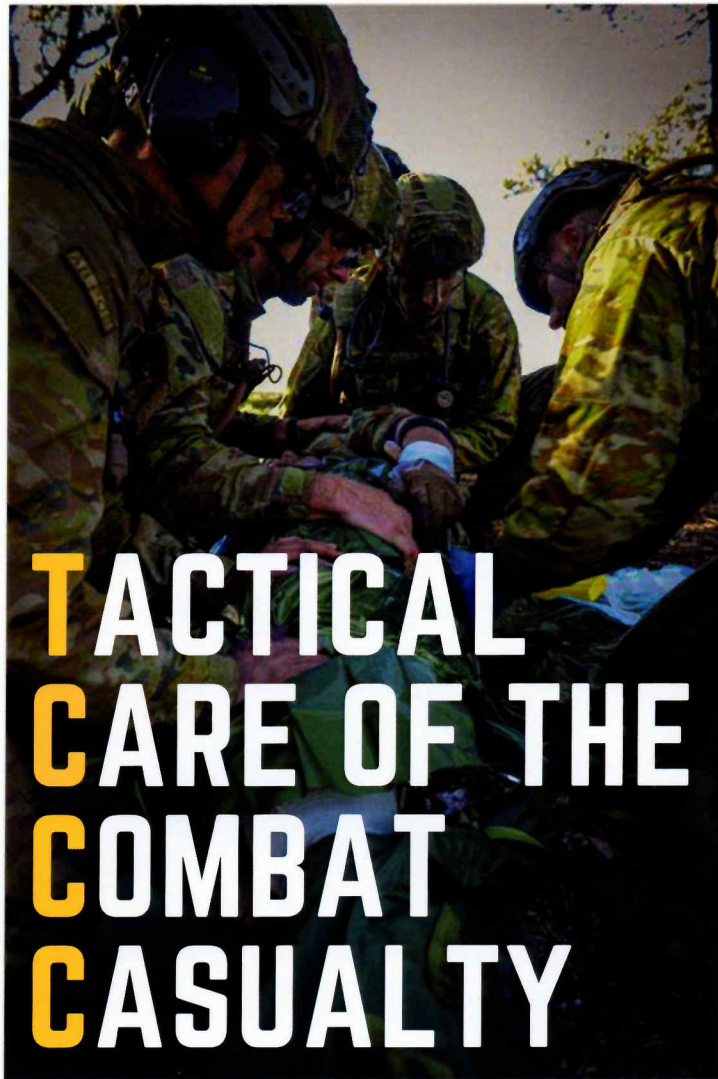
When the PLT SGT (SGT Krupa) was shot members of the section also had to use their TCCC training, See Photo

The S7 team then run a NAV EX for the members to complete 343-3 competences on Saturday afternoon/night from the national service lines in DTA 2.

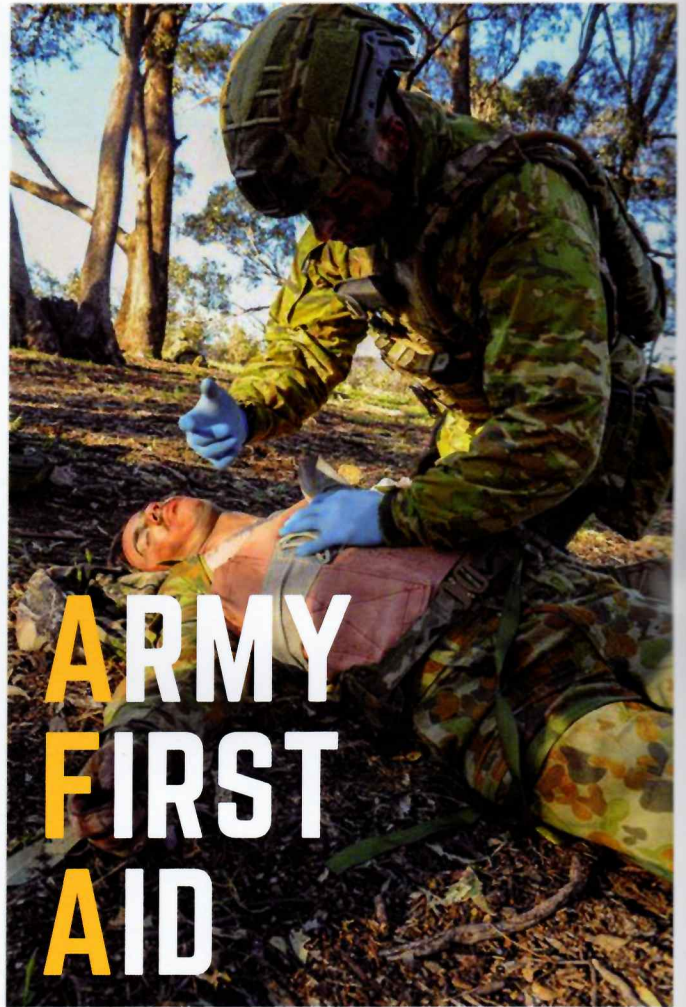
Day 2 saw the platoon broken up into 3 groups to run training on the VBS3 system using different weapon systems and vehicles. In Classroom 1 the soldiers were on a range that had different weapon systems with both enemy soldiers and vehicles moving down and across the range.

Classroom 2 was a Blue vs Red simulation with Blue force trying to take a Red force base.

Classroom 3 was the PMV Simulation run by CAPT Carr.



TACTICAL CARE OF THE COMBAT CASUALTY



ARMY FIRST AID

At Passchendaele Barracks, Bendigo on the weekend of 13th – 14th March, C Coy conducted the first Army First Aid / Tactical Care of the Combat Casualty (AFA/TCCC) course of the 2021 training year.

The course is designed to equip Australian soldiers and officers with the training and confidence to manage a wide range of first aid situations that may be found on exercise or operations and is an integral part of individual and unit readiness.

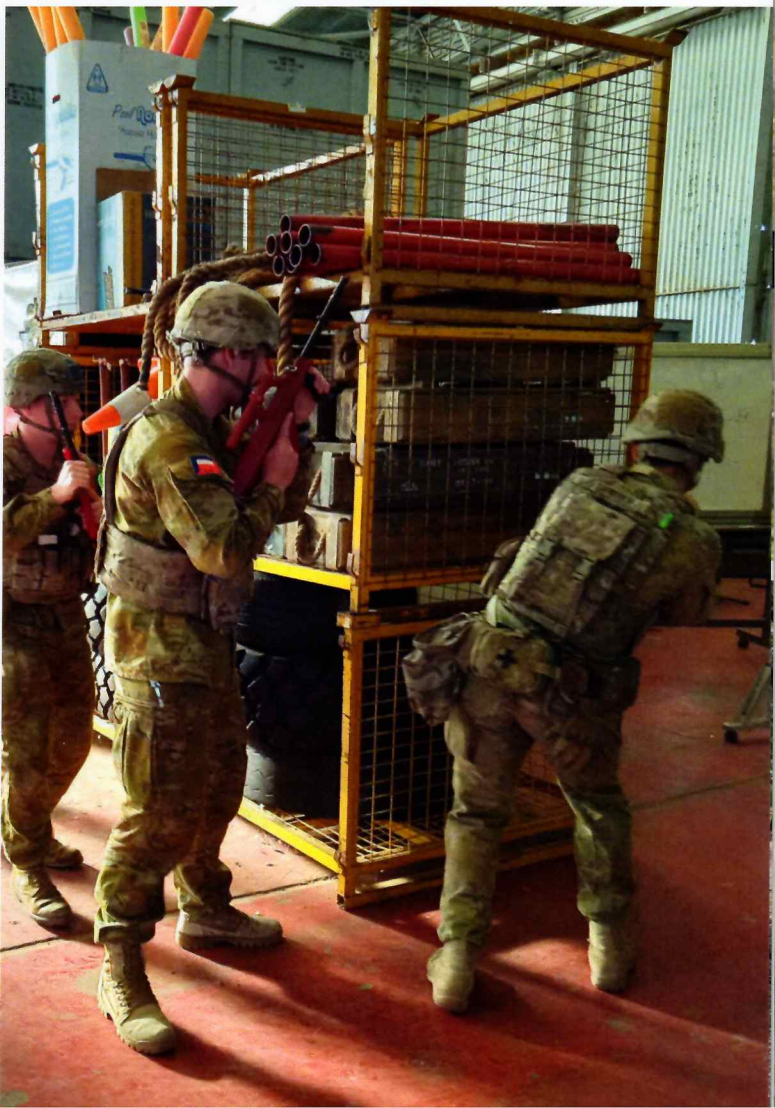
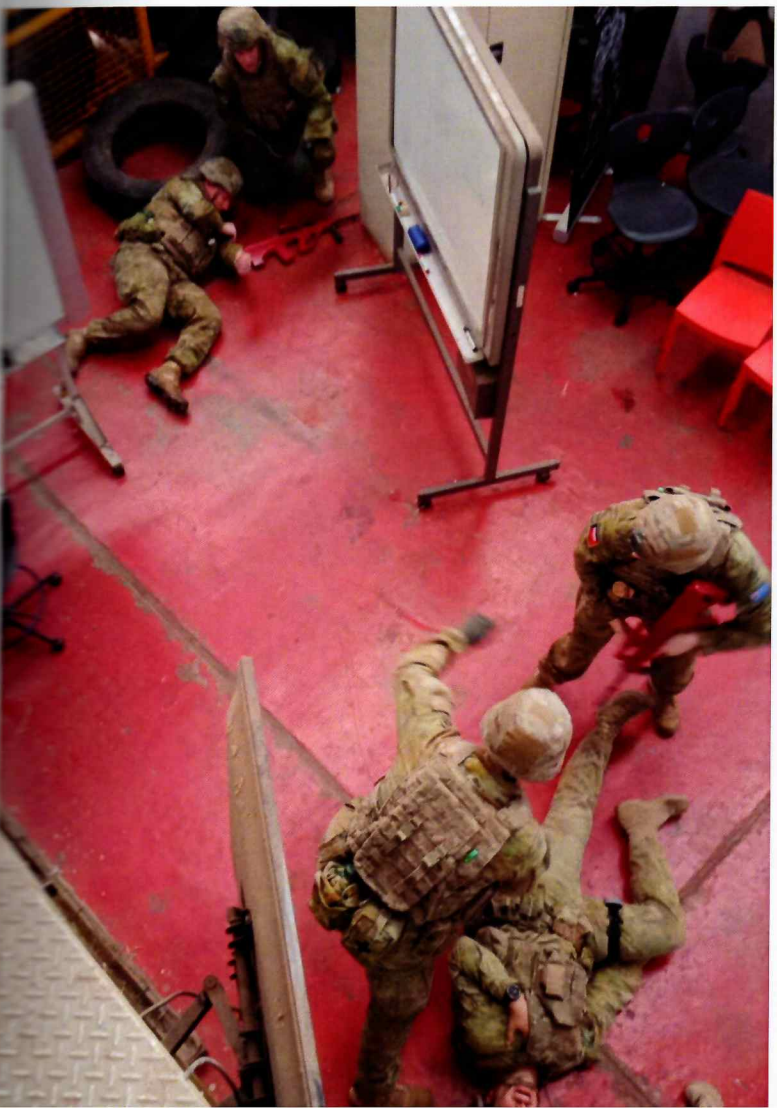
The AFA portion of the course covered topics including; Bites and Stings, Fractures, Severe Haemorrhage and Environmental Hazards such as hypothermia and heat stress. Following demonstrations by the instructors, members had the opportunity to practice diagnosing and treating these conditions including providing detailed notes for handover to professional medical staff. In line with the intent of providing realistic training opportunities, course members were fortunate to receive a pre-arranged visit from local paramedics who provided real-world handover experience in a controlled environment.

The final day focused on completing assessments of the TCCC component of the course. This training focuses on the current best practice of medical treatment, from the point of injury to the handover and evacuation of injured personnel. This pre-hospital phase of care is essential to reduce the number of combat casualties.

Course participants were formed into teams of 4-5 including a role player who played the part of casualty in the scenario. Situations were developed which saw the students clear a building with battle noise simulation to mimic the confusion of actual combat.

Students were then assessed on their ability to work together as a team to diagnose, treat, document and hand over the casualty to Army medical teams, all whilst maintaining situational awareness of the tactical situation. Thanks to the energy and focus of students and staff, all students passed the course and reported an increased degree of ability and confidence to utilise the learned skills if the need arose.

-Lieutenant Jason Webster



EXERCISE COOKE, VC

LIVE FIRE EXERCISE -

In June the S7 cell supported C COY in conducting the Live fire practices on both the Class Range and MTR. These practices were aimed at giving soldiers the skills to gain their cross rifles on the applied marksman practices. This was also the first time some of the members were exposed to being on Class Range and the Butts.

The BN was successful with 2 members passing the AMP. CPL Dinning with a score of 246 and CPL Coltman with a score of 242. We also had 8 other members pass the shoot with a score above 180 from the 26 firers.



EXERCISE ANZAC LANDING



In August the BN focus was on 343-3 training with PLT Ambush being the main task over Saturday and A bullring run on Sunday. S7 cell was tasked to set up and run a Bayonet Assault course. This was achieved with training aids provided by WO1 Hardcastle and we managed to run 10 members through the course in the short 2-hour window we had.

After members were assessed on their skill and basic technique they were allowed to enter and run the course.

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

The 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment conducted its annual Military Skills Competition at Puckapunyal on the last weekend of November 2020.

Sections took part in a bull ring of activities that included a section attack, a wire obstacle construction task, stores carry, an observation lane construction around a fleeing enemy, a mine incident drill and a casualty evacuation task.

The conclusion of the competition was a navigation exercise, leading into a shoot at the Weapon Training Simulation System for the Battalion Champion Shot. Sections were scored by directing staff from the battalion, and the winning section and champion shot were presented with individual trophies from Diggerworks.



First, I would like to thank all those who attended our Annual Combat Behaviours Military Skills Section competition, EX POZIERES, on the weekend. The RSM and I were very pleased with our representation from each Company and, for the first time, a Battalion HQ Section of our clerical and Q staff led by CPL Witherow. We had capacity and resources, including ammunition, for many more Sections; so let's make next year bigger and better.

The exercise practised Combat Behaviours, Navigation, and Ethical Decision Making, and included a live-fire RP3A, Applied Marksmanship (Crossed Rifles), and Section Falling Plate practices. It was also the first time we used our Mobile Weapon Training Simulation System for Battalion Training. Shout out to SSGT Solomano for making that happen.

After a close competition, the Champion Shot for 2021 was awarded to CPL Walsh (B Coy). CPL Walsh's combat shooting skills are exemplary and worthy of the recognition. Well done Walshy. The shooting was at a very high standard and I know the RSM was very impressed and wanted a secondary shout out to PTE Byers (C Coy) who he wanted to be recognised as the Falling Plate best on ground Dally-M Browlow, etc. We don't have a trophy for that, but well done Gary. It was great to see our Champion Shot for 2020, PTE Church (A Coy), there again this year to defend his trophy. I had you on short odds Churchy, you owe me!

The Section competition was even closer with a number of Stands drawn between Sections. There can only be one winner, and the RSM and I congratulate the 8/7 RVR Champion Section for 2021 from C Coy:

- a. CPL Jack Terrill
- b. PTE Gary Byers (2IC)
- c. PTE Mitchell Fellows
- d. PTE Sam Turner
- e. PTE Tom McCooey
- f. PTE Jayden Cranston-Fremelin

The placings:

- a. 2nd Place - B Coy, CPL Walsh
- b. 3rd Place - A Coy, LCPL Gallagher
- c. 4th Place - A Coy, LCPL Carrucan
- d. 5th Place - HQ/CSS, CPL Witherow

Thank you to all of the Sections. The resounding feedback was that all had a great time, had a chance to train with our latest technologies, and improved combat skills and learned a whole lot over the weekend. Again, very proud of your commitment to be better. That is what Good Soldiering is about.

Of course our training can't happen without the planners and support staff. The RSM and I personally thank the lead planner CAPT Matt Laxton and the BHQ Ops team for doing the background work to bring the Exercise to life. We were ably supported (as always) by our Clerical Staff, Q Staff, Transport, and Signals Staff, who are the engine room for exercise and whose efforts make it all happen. It was definitely a team effort, and with the Welfare Officer and Padre in tow we were well supported. We can probably thank the Padre for the divine intervention that gave us the pleasant weather.

The Company staff led each of the Stands and gave us some great training. Good to see the majority of the PL Commanders and Sergeants assisting, with our backbone of SERCAT 7 staff always there to ensure all is safe and runs well. LT Kitchen proved he has advanced BBQ skills, LT Barnett please take note...

This year's EX POZIERES was a great experience. Congratulations to our Champion Section led by CPL Terrill from C Coy, our Champion Shot, CPL Walsh from B Coy. You have set the standard for the Battalion and I look forward to next year which will be bigger and better again.

Good Soldiering

CO - LTCOL Richards

EXERCISE POZIERES





WOMEN FITTED TO FIGHT

Women's roles in combat are taking another step forward with the development and trialling of combat equipment and uniforms designed for women.

Following Army's introduction of women to combat roles in 2016, it soon became apparent that, while there had been significant improvements in soldier combat equipment and uniforms, the unisex design was impacting the performance of many soldiers, including those women who were performing frontline roles. More recently, Defence's Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group enlisted Diggerworks to engage with female soldiers in order to develop female-specific combat equipment and uniform options for Army.

With the formation of a dedicated project team in Diggerworks and extensive consultation with female soldiers in brigades throughout 2019, options were developed and recently endorsed by the Chief of Army. These include ready-now options, which will be introduced in the next 12 months, such as female-specific Danner boots, and future-ready options, such as body armour. Thousands of soldiers will be involved in trials and evaluations across Australia over the next 12 months.

Director Diggerworks Colonel Gerry Berson said the project was a response to feedback from servicewomen. "The team at Diggerworks is working quickly to support Army's efforts to respond to this feedback, with a view to enhancing the soldier combat system for all soldiers, regardless of gender," Colonel Berson said

"We have listened to the women who use the items and we want to help Army get the right products to those women on the ground who need it, as quickly as we can – we can learn as we go.

"We have also collaborated with some of our international partners, as they have encountered similar issues with unisex field equipment and combat uniforms. "

Our industry partners are also keen to support and can produce leading-edge options."

In early March, the Diggerworks team collaborated with Army Reserve members from the 4th Brigade in Victoria to showcase some of the female-specific options being introduced and those being developed. The new Diggerworks Innovation Centre was designed for this purpose – to enable soldiers to collaborate with Diggerworks staff, many of whom have engineering and technical backgrounds.

"Adjutant at the 8th/7th Battalion, the Royal Victoria Regiment, Captain Liz Normand said the team at Diggerworks was creating solutions that would fundamentally change and enhance the capability of women in combat roles.

"They understand that women are not just smaller versions of men," Captain Normand said.

"Their consultation process leaves me confident that the products they develop will be tailored to prevent injury and increase effectiveness.

"This is an exciting project that encourages female participation in combat roles."

All of the proposed combat ensemble options will be designed specifically for women, and in some cases will lead to the introduction of enhanced options for male soldiers as well.

Options being developed range from new load carriage equipment including packs, webbing harnesses and belts, combat uniforms, boots and protective equipment such as body armour, helmets and retention systems, protective undergarments and sleeping bags.

- Captain Clealand

RANGERS IN THE COMMUNITY





A shield has been installed at Ranger Barracks near Ballarat, Victoria, to honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island men and women who have served in the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victorian Regiment.

Barry Gilson is a Wathaurong man with family ties to the Army and the Air Force who was shown the newly installed shield after he conducted a smoking ceremony at the barracks on July 6 during NAIDOC Week. Commander 8/7RVR Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards and Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class 1 Allan Ashman accompanied Mr Gilson at the shield's unveiling.

The Wathaurong Shield recognises the continuing connection to traditional lands and waters and pays respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island men and women who have served in 8/7RVR and contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war. The shield was created through an Aboriginal community control organisation, Wathaurong Glass & Arts, which is a not-for-profit business based in regional Victoria that only employs Aboriginal staff. Meanwhile, members of the 8/7RVR and other personnel of the 4th Brigade took part in the smoking ceremony. Mr Gilson shared stories of his ancestors and of the land on which Ranger Barracks is situated.

This year's NAIDOC Week theme was 'Heal Country!' which urges people to implement stronger measures to recognise, protect, and maintain all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

Lieutenant Colonel Richards said it was not only important to engage with local Indigenous people, but also to support the communities. "It was an honour to participate in the smoking ceremony in celebration of NAIDOC Week. During the ceremony, we listened to the stories that Barry Gilson shared of his ancestors and their experiences, including that of his grandfather who fought during World War II," Lieutenant Colonel Richards said. "It is a reminder that for more than a century, Indigenous personnel have provided, and continue to provide, a vital contribution to Defence capability."

Formation Indigenous Liaison Officer at the 4th Brigade, Captain Robert Powell, said connecting with the local Indigenous communities was a priority all year round.

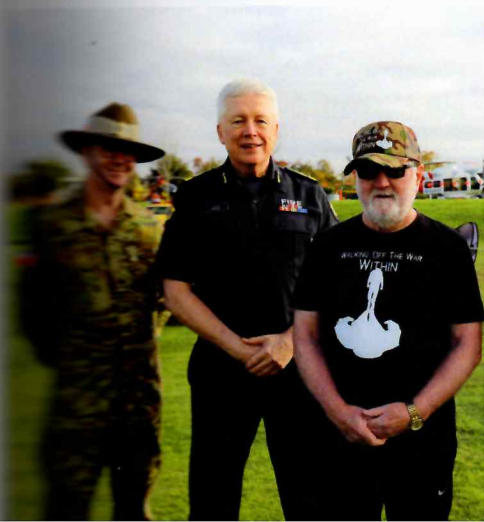
NAIDOC Week gives us a chance to engage with the First Nations people of our area, allow us to show our commitment towards reconciliation, and the theme "Heal Country" resonates greatly," Captain Powell said.

"The smoking ceremony is an ancient custom that uses the burning and/or smouldering of native plants to cleanse the space in which the ceremony takes place. This activity allowed members of the battalion to share culture, embrace reconciliation and enhance cultural understanding."

Reconciliation is a fundamental aspect of Defence's cultural reform agenda, specifically building capability through inclusion. NAIDOC Week is acknowledged in Defence as part of its commitment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and in line with the Defence Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022.



WALK OFF THE WAR WITHIN



FAMILY DAY



Lance Corporal Byron Gallagher enjoys time with his son on the jumping castle during 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment's Family Day at Ranger Barracks, Ballarat.



Private Nguyen of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, Alpha Company with his family at the Battalion's Family Day at Ranger Barracks, Ballarat on 4 December, 2021.

Family and friends gather at Ranger Barracks, Ballarat, in support of members of the Battalion being promoted to their respective new position.



FAMILY DAY AT RANGER BARRACKS



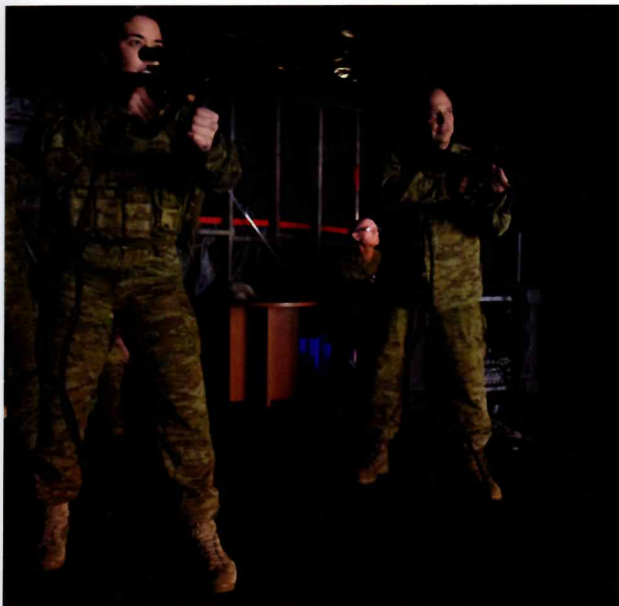
Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class 1 Allan Ashman presents Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards, CSM with a framed flag of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment as a farewell gift from the unit at Ranger Barracks in Ballarat



Newly promoted Captain Nicholas Kitchen and his mum at the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment Family Day at Ranger Barracks, Ballarat.

COMMANDER OF THE 2ND DIVISION VISIT

Commander of the 2nd Division, Major General David Thomae AM, visited the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment headquarters Ranger Barracks in Ballarat, Victoria, to be briefed on the activities of the Battalion and take part in a townhall with soldiers and inspect the mobile WTSS (Weapons Training Simulation System) in operation at the barracks



Corporal Meghan Witherow and Major General David Thomae AM Commander of the 2nd Division, take part in a shoot using the mobile Weapons Training Simulation System in operation at the Headquarters of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment Ranger Barracks Ballarat, Victoria.



Commander of the 2nd Division, Major General David Thomae AM conducts a townhall meeting with soldiers and staff at the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment Headquarters Ranger Barracks in Ballarat, Victoria.

ANZAC DAY

8/7 RVR has supported the **Ballarat RSL ANZAC and Remembrance Day Services** since the unveiling of the Cenotaph in 1949, by providing the catafalque party and also, upon invitation, the guest speaker.



ANZAC Day 2021 was successful despite COVID restrictions limiting numbers. Up to three hundred participated in the march with the Ballarat City Band and St Patrick College providing music. LTCOL Shaun Richards was the guest speaker.

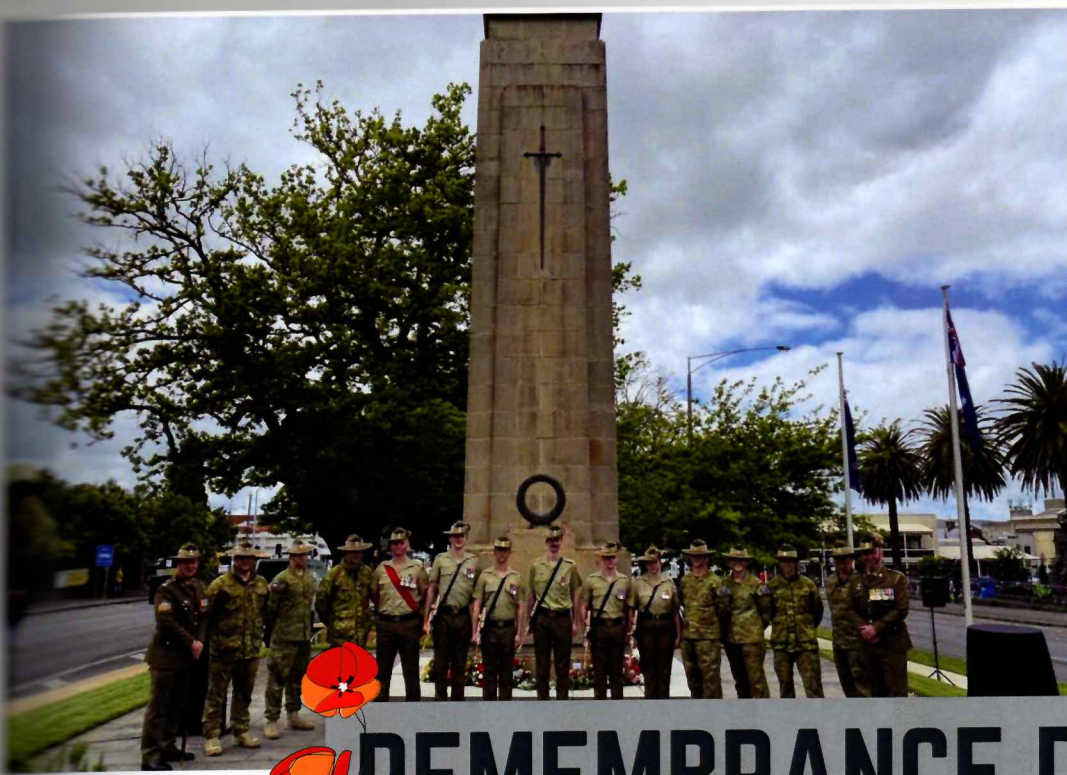
The RSL is honoured to have 8th/7th LTCOL Shaun Richards as our guest speaker at the 2021 Remembrance Day Service on 11 November, with 8th/7th Battalion once again providing the catafalque party.

Alan Douglass
President
BALLARAT RSL

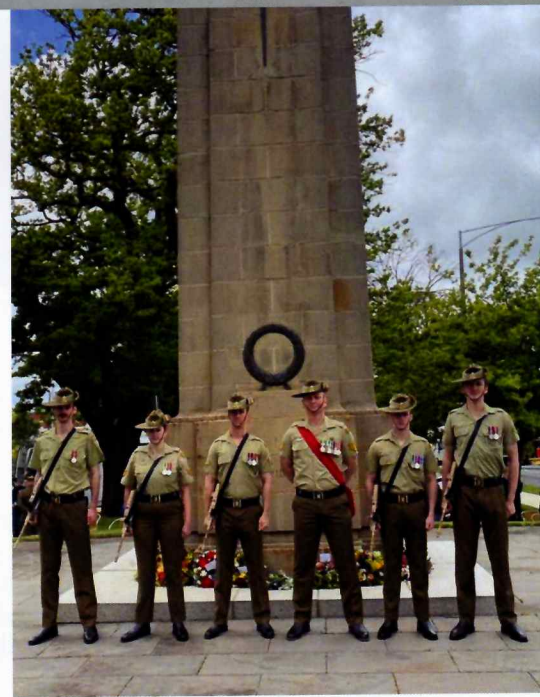


8/7 RVR was **honoured** to be invited to support **41 ANZAC Day Ceremonies** in Vic.





REMEMBRANCE DAY



777 MARATHON

7 MARATHONS 7 STATES 7 DAYS

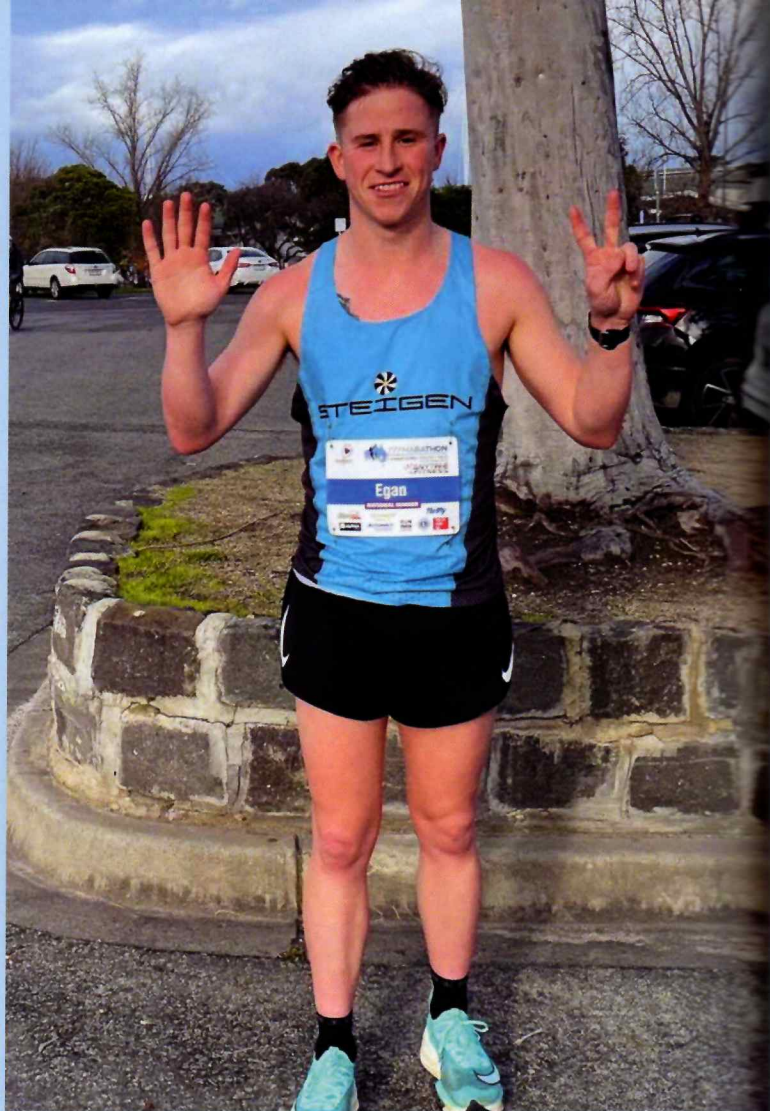
Private (PTE) Richard Egan is an Army Reservist from the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, and is based out of the Geelong Training depot.

From 28 June to 4 July, PTE Egan took on the Bravehearts 777 Marathon, which encompasses 7 marathons (295kms total) over 7 days straight, in 7 different locations.

The \$10,000 fundraising goal was eventually raised for the Bravehearts foundation (\$10,566 was the final amount).

“My times for the 7 marathons over the 7 days were 3:10, 3:14, 3:06, 3:14, 3:25, 3:37 and I finished my last one in 2:57,” PTE Egan said. “Sunday was also my 22nd marathon on the way to 100; I am now looking forward to at least two weeks of rest before I think about running seriously again.”

Bravehearts is a leading child protection agency in Australia, working holistically to prevent child sexual assault and exploitation. Congratulations to PTE Egan on completing the 777 and on raising money for a worthy cause, what an amazing effort!



Legacy Week is held annually over the period 29 August to 04 September 2021 to raise funds to help Legacy continue to assist approximately 43,000 widows, widowers and families Australia-wide.

Due to COVID, we were unable to hit the streets and rattle tins to raise money, so we participated in The Battle of the Bases challenge for the whole of September.

Congratulations BRAVO Company for raising the most amount of money for 8/7RVR. Followed by BHQ, then Charlie Company and Alpha Company.

It was an amazing effort and so many people donated to such a good cause.

8/7 RVR Raised \$2885.00 for Legacy



8/7 RVR

2 RVR ASSOCIATION

I was asked to write an article for the "Ranger" magazine, so where do I start?

We are a gathering of ex-members of 2RVR and the 8/7th Battalion. The association was formed on 4 July 1997 out of the need to keep in touch with each other because at the time there was a fierce rivalry between the Company's and Platoons and with a strong bond amongst the Battalion members, not to say that it isn't true today.

We were a very large organization due in part to the National Service, but with all organization's numbers have reduced over the years as the Honour Roll will attest to.

There is a bright side to this as the battalion will be active for many years to come, so hopefully new, past and serving members will see the vision that the inaugural members saw and take up the challenge to continue on.

To assist our challenge, we are offering FREE membership for the first year to all serving and recently retired members.

It is our aim to support our Battalion and maintain a strong bond. To help us achieve this we have been involved in the care parcel programs, funded an assistance dog, our members support the various RSL's in fund raising and attended social functions at the battalion. We recently worked with the RVR Association in providing support to the members in the bush fire crisis.

Our Association provides awards to the "top soldier" and the "best Junior leader" for the year, normally presented at our annual dinner. So, what do we do?

We "normally" hold the Annual Dinners in Warrnambool and Ballarat each year.

We Fundraise through the Ballarat South Rotary Club.

We march behind our banners on Anzac Day in Ballarat and Warrnambool and all serving and past members of the Battalion are most welcome to join in if they are available.

We have been attending the reserve forces day at the shrine each year where we provide a free bus and any serving member is welcome to join in.

We hold bus trips around the state to all destinations, often museums or places of historical significance.

The bus trip to the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Graytown was very popular, but the icing on the cake was the invitations to our Association and the RVR Association to Puckapunyal to first watch the diggers go through a range practice followed by a day on the range!

I will finish by saying how privileged we are to have served in one of the oldest continuing service Infantry Battalions in Australia.

Mr Tom Chambers

RVR ASSOCIATION

Supporting current and past members of all Victorian Infantry Units.

The Royal Victoria Regiment Association came into being in 1994. It was formed to provide an association for all members and former members of the Regiment and its antecedents, regardless of the unit in which they served. It allows all past and serving members to maintain a link, provide mutual support, and gather socially with the broader Regimental family.

Thousands of National Service and volunteer soldiers have proudly served in the Regiment's metropolitan and country battalions since the formation of the RVR on 1 July 1960. These soldiers have served in a number of different units over the 60 years since the formation of the RVR, including in 1 RVR (Pentropic), 2 RVR (Pentropic), 1 RVR, 2 RVR, 3 RVR (for a very brief time), 5 RVR, 6 RVR, 22 RVR "The Bushmen's Rifles", 1 Independent Rifle Company (IRC); and the current units – 5/6 RVR, and 8/7 RVR.

Older soldiers served in a number of antecedent regiments including the six CMF regiments which merged to become the Royal Victoria Regiment. These regiments were the Victorian Scottish Regiment, the Royal Melbourne Regiment, the Melbourne Rifles, the North-Western Victorian Regiment, the Northern Victorian Regiment, and the Hume Regiment.

The Association encourages and welcomes all past and present soldiers to be a part of the Association. Social and organized activities occur throughout the year, especially the Melbourne Anzac Day Commemorative March to the Shrine of Remembrance, and the annual Infantry Victoria Dinner held every year.

The Association also provides support for serving members and was instrumental, together with the 8/7 RVR and 2 RVR Associations, in organising and rolling out a family assistance program in support of serving members in the 2019-20 Operation Bushfire Assist.

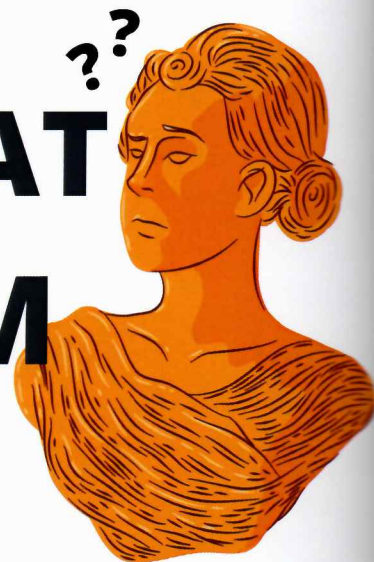
The Association maintains a webpage at <https://www.rvr.asn.au> and a Facebook page under the name "RVR Association".

Other fine associations, such as the 2 RVR, 8/7 RVR, and 22 RVR associations, are associations for specific units rather than associations that provide a home for the entire Regiment.

The association also supports the unit Pipes and Drums. This has resulted in them participating in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and completing a European tour playing at various memorial sites (e.g. Menin Gate).

The Association has a good range of RVR merchandise available (polo shirt, tie, etc.) – see the website for details. There is a discount on membership fees for current serving members – see the website for details.

THE MUSEUM THAT ISN'T A MUSEUM



Although there is a sign on the hut that reads MUSEUM, the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum is not a museum but the 'Unit Historical Collection' for 8/7 RVR. The Charter for the 'museum' is to hold and maintain the military (ie Army only) history and memorabilia of 8/7 RVR from Ballarat, or any of the towns that has a historical connection with 8/7 RVR. This Charter also includes non-8/7 RVR military history from Ballarat. The 'museum' commenced in 1989 when the then QM of 8/7 RVR Captain Bill 'Yank' Akell found some photographs and memorabilia in the Q Store and asked the then CO, 8/7 RVR, Lt Col Douglas Ball what he would like to have done with these items. The CO said to make a museum in the barracks, and 'You are now the Curator!' The barracks then were in what is now Dan Murphy's. Along the eastern side of the barracks were a number of offices (CO, Adjt, RSM etc) and the Sergeants' Mess. The offices were reorganised and two were made available as the 'museum'.

The years of 2020 and 2021 have been challenging for the museum. The visitor numbers usually are around 400 a year, boosted by visits from schools. With the museum 'locked down' for most of the last two years visit numbers were well below a hundred a year.

The museum is 'run' by a number of volunteers. There are about 20 members, with about eight 'regulars'! Sadly, one of the more active members, a former medic with the then 2 RVR, John Coull, died earlier this year. John was a regular on Thursday afternoons, usually having the museum open when the rest of us arrived.

VC Corner Re-build: The museum now has quite a collection of medals from various eras. So many medals have been made collected over the years that there was a need to bring out of storage the second 'medal cabinet'. The two cabinets were manufactured some years ago by the prisoners at the Marngoneet Correctional Centre. The use of the second cabinet meant a 're-build' of the 'VC Corner'.

In the history of the battalion, there have been 10 VCs awarded.

Four were awarded to the 7th Battalion at Lone Pine on Gallipoli, three were awarded to the 8th Battalion on the Western Front (1916-18), one was awarded to a 21st Battalion (Warrnambool) soldier and another was awarded to a 23rd Battalion (Geelong) soldier, both of these at the battle of Mont St Quentin in September 1918. The 10th VC was awarded to a Militiaman, Frank Partridge, with the 8th Battalion (Militia) late in WW2.

Acquisitions & Donations: The Ranger Museum was fortunate to have had an 1860s Ballarat Volunteer Ranger's officers badge donated to it. This badge is probably one of very few that have survived the over 150 years since it was manufactured. It will be fitted to a belt and put on display in the Ballarat Volunteer Ranger era display.

Alan Douglass, President of the Ballarat Sub-branch of the RSL has had in his possession for many years the 1908 Roll Book for the 7th Australian Infantry Regiment. He has donated the Roll Book to the museum. The Roll Book contains the name of every soldier in the regiment that year, including which company they belonged to.

The Vietnam Veterans gave the museum a set of National Servicemen's medals and his grandfather's WW1 Memorial Plaque often referred to as a 'Dead Man's Penny'. These have been mounted together with a set of replicas for the grandfather and are now in the second Medal Cabinet.



The Charles Bailey Medals: When the museum opened in 1989 it had few pieces of memorabilia. Among them were the two medals awarded to Charles Bailey of the 8th Battalion AIF on loan from the Creswick Historical Society. Now that the museum has multiple sets of WW1 8th Battalion medals, it was felt that the Bailey medals should be returned to society. As it turned out the Creswick RSL had the medal of Charles Bailey's brother George on display.

George's medals had been dug up in Creswick in the yard of a house once owned by another of the Bailey brothers. They were given by the society to the nearest known relative who immediately donated them to the Creswick RSL. Charles Bailey's medals have now been framed in the style of George Bailey's medals. The museum is working with the Creswick RSL on a suitable date for the Charles Bailey medals to be presented to the Creswick RSL. Right: Charlie's medals ready for display.



The Ranger Barracks Bolton Room: In conjunction with the RSM and OPS WO the museum has been setting up a Bolton Room display in the second classroom. The next project will be to set up a display in the first classroom, which will be known as The Elliott Room. Harold 'Pompey' Elliott was the first Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion AIF, which included Castlemaine and Bendigo.

The Bolton Room Display holds a number of pieces of WW1 memorabilia. There are also numerous photographs and information panels on the history of Lt Col Bolton and the Ballarat units he served in, as well as his time as the first Commanding Officer of Ballarat's 8th Battalion, AIF. There is also some information on the 8th Battalion from the Post-Bolton years on display.

- Neil Leckie, Former Bn 2IC

Opening Hours:

The 'museum' is manned by Volunteers when open, so consequently the Opening Hours are limited to Thursday afternoon from 1300 to 1600 hours.

There is a Working Bee on the fourth Sunday morning from 0900 to 1200 hours.

However, the 'museum' can be opened 'By Appointment by telephoning the Manager, Neil Leckie, on 0400 573 802 or Treasurer Bill 'Yank' Akell on 5338 2309.

COVID rules apply with a QR Code 'Check In' and Social Distancing allowing a maximum of 15 visitors in any group.



HISTORY OF 8/7 RVR



The first city in the catchment area for the current 8/7 RVR to have an Army presence was Geelong in 1854. In 1858 Ballarat led Bendigo by just a few with the raising of a Volunteer Unit. In 1863 the first major changes occurred when the North-Western Battalion including Ballarat, was formed, the Mount Alexander or Northern Battalion including Castlemaine and Bendigo, was formed, and the Western District Battalion including Geelong, Warrnambool, Portland and Belfast (now Port Fairy) was formed.

The cities had a number of name changes over the years before the Volunteers were replaced with a paid Militia in 1884. The Drill Hall was built in Ballarat in 1885/86. It was only named Ranger Barracks in 1958 after the Ballarat Volunteer Rangers who served there from 1863 to 1883.

The Wimmera/Mallee area in the North-west of the state was served by the Victorian Rifle Volunteer raised in 1888 and made up from members of rifle clubs. The following year the unit was renamed as the Victorian Rangers. There was a small connection with Mildura in this unit.

All the cities' units had more name changes up until the Australian Army was formed post-federation on 1 March 1903. Ballarat was the 7th Australian Infantry Regiment (AIR) and Castlemaine/Bendigo was the 8th AIR.

The next major change came in 1911 when Compulsory Military Training (CMT) or boys 12 – 17 was introduced. Bendigo had the 67th Infantry while Ballarat East to Queenscliff (including Geelong) came under the 70th Infantry. Ballarat West to Warrnambool came under the 71st Infantry, while Mildura had the 73rd Infantry. As the CMT grew new units were established. Geelong split from the 70th Infantry to form the 69th Infantry while Warrnambool split from the 71st Infantry to form the 72nd Infantry.

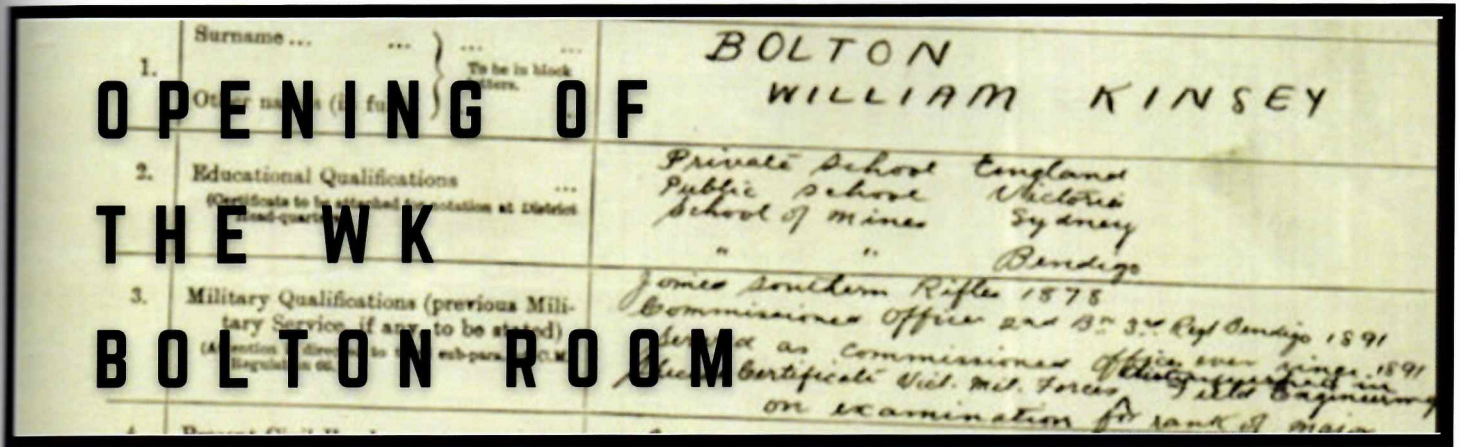
Post-WW1 units were renamed to have a connection with the battalions they raised. Castlemaine had the 7th Battalion, Ballarat had the 8th Battalion, Warrnambool had the 21st Battalion, Geelong had the 23rd Battalion and Bendigo had the 38th Battalion. In 1929 Bendigo and Castlemaine amalgamated into the 38th/7th Battalion, while Geelong and Warrnambool amalgamated as the 23rd/21st Battalion. Then in 1936 the 7th Battalion was split from the 38th Battalion and moved to Mildura.

The 7th and 8th Battalions went on to 'fight' in WW2 as did Shepparton's 58th/59th Battalion. The 23rd/21st and 38th Battalion trained in Australia, but eventually were disbanded to reinforce other units.

After WW2 the Citizen Military Force was reformed and the 8th and 7th Battalions combined into the 8th/7th Battalion, The North Western Victorian Regiment, with its headquarters at Ballarat (hence 8th/7th and not 7th/8th). In 1960 the 8th/7th Battalion, 38th Battalion (Bendigo), 59th Battalion (Shepparton) and Geelong formed 2 RVR. Geelong and Bendigo both changed Corps, but under the renamed 8/7 RVR, they returned. 8/7 RVR is the longest standing unit name for Ballarat's 'Army'!



Brigadier Matt Burr (left) listens as Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards, CSM (right), Commanding Officer of 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment explains the history of the units' colours to Commander of the 2nd Division, Major General David Thomae AM at the Regiments Headquarters, Ranger Barracks in Ballarat, Victoria.



Brigadier General William Kinsey Bolton CBE, VD was a resident of Ballarat, an Australian soldier, and politician.

The 8th Battalion

Upon the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914, the Australian Government immediately offered the British Government an infantry division for service overseas. One of the Brigades in the Division was the 2nd Infantry Brigade which consisted of the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions. The 7th Battalion enlisted recruits from Mildura, Western and Northern Victoria whilst recruits for the 8th Battalion were from Ballarat.

The 8th Battalion was a Bolton family affair. The first Commanding Officer of the 8th Battalion was Lieutenant Colonel WK Bolton. Boltons oldest son, Jack, was in the Battalion's Headquarters, while his youngest son, Hunter, was a Private with the battalion but soon found himself promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

Gallipoli

Bolton commanded the Battalion during the landing and initial battles of the Gallipoli campaign. Bolton's Ridge and Boltons Bay at Anzac Cove was named after him. The Battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the Bde almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine.



The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December. Bolton was invalided home due to ill health in December 1915. In 1916 he commanded the Ballarat Training Depot and defended the ports of Victoria.

Legacy

Colonel Bolton recognised the need to support returned servicemen and women, and was the founder of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League, and became the first national president of that organisation on 03 June 1916. He also led the first ANZAC Day march in 1916. His service was recognised on the Ballarat Avenue of Honour and his tree, No.1, was planted on 14 June 1917.

This year the Battalion has renamed Lecture Room Two to the WK Bolton Room at Ranger Barracks. The room has further details on WK Bolton and commemorates the Battalions history at Gallipoli with several artefacts and wall paintings.

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of the 8/7 RVR 2 RVR Association and the RVR Association in helping with the costs of the sign and the biography.

Major Stan Carnes CSC Bn 2IC / Neil Leckie, Former Bn 2IC

HONOURS AND AWARDS

2020 - 2021

| RANK | NAME | ACHIEVEMENT AWARDED |
|------|-------------------------------|--|
| MAJ | Nik Dragojlovic | Defence Long service Medal |
| LT | Barnett, Daniel Robert | Australian Defence Medal |
| LT | Sukhera, Ammar | Australian Defence Medal |
| LT | Vong, Henry | Australian Defence Force Commendation - Bronze |
| WO2 | Burley, Doug | Army Commendation - Bronze |
| WO2 | Ludeman, Glen | Army Commendation - Bronze |
| WO2 | Ludeman, Glen | 3rd Clasp to Defence Long service Medal |
| WO2 | Turner, Bradley John | Certificate of Appreciation -OP Bushfire Assist |
| SGT | Eppingstall, Stephen James | Army Soldiers Medallion Commendation |
| SGT | Logan, David John | Army Commendation - Bronze |
| CPL | Campanale, Orazio Victor | COMD JTF 629.2 Award for Excellence |
| CPL | Champion, Christopher Stephen | COMD JTF 646 Award for Excellence |
| CPL | Coltman, George Campbell | Army Soldiers Medallion Exemplary Service |
| CPL | Dinning, Drew Allan | Army Soldiers Medallion Exemplary Service |
| CPL | Hudjourovic, Amar | Army Soldiers Medallion Exemplary Service |
| CPL | Ireland, Brett | Australian Defence Medal |
| CPL | Ludeman, Justin Keith | Australia Day Medallion |
| CPL | Merriman, Jareth Taylor | Champion Section - JNCO 2020 |
| CPL | Mundy, Brendan John | Australia Day Medallion |
| CPL | Paffrath, William John | 8/7 RVR JNCO of the Year 2021 |
| CPL | Petering, Warrick Joel | Australian Defence Force Commendation - Silver |
| CPL | Petering, Warrick Joel | Australian Defence Force Commendation - Silver |
| CPL | Sims, | Defence Long service Medal |
| CPL | Terrill, Jack Alexander | Champion Section - JNCO 2021 |
| CPL | Vistarini, Dale Reece | Pompey Elliot Award |
| CPL | Vistarini, Dale Reece | Australian Defence Medal |
| CPL | Vistarini, Dale Reece | 8/7 RVR JNCO of the Year 2020 |
| CPL | Walsh, Patrick Thomas | Australian Defence Force Commendation - Bronze |
| CPL | Walsh, Patrick Thomas | Champion Shot 2021 |
| CPL | Walsh, Patrick Thomas | Australia Day Medallion |
| LCPL | Paffrath, William John | COMD JTF 629.2 Award for Excellence |
| LCPL | Walther, Jonathan William | Army Soldiers Medallion Exemplary Service |
| PTE | Church, Jesse Nathaniel | Champion Shot 2020 |
| PTE | Ellwood, Cameron Palmer | Australia Day Medallion |
| PTE | Ellwood, Cameron Palmer | COMD JTF 629.2 Award for Excellence |
| PTE | Matthews, Steven Roger | QLD Police Service Commonwealth Games Citation |
| PTE | Matthews, Steven Roger | Queensland Police service Commonwealth games Citation |
| PTE | Nugent, Christopher Bryan | Army Soldiers Medallion Exemplary Service |
| PTE | O'Flynn, Robert Lee | Australian Defence Medal |
| PTE | Russell, Jessica May | 8/7 RVR Soldier of the Year 2020 |
| PTE | Russell, Jessica May | Army Soldiers Medallion Exemplary Service |
| PTE | Smith, Benjamin David | Australian Defence Medal |
| PTE | Somkiat, Jun Patrick | Army Soldiers Medallion Exemplary Service |
| PTE | Toomey, Corey Aaron | Australian Operational Service Medal - Border Protection |
| PTE | Wang, Peng | 8/7 RVR Soldier of the Year 2021 |



PROMOTIONS 2020

8536463 MAJ Matthew Jones
 8435349 SGT Wayne Beales
 8530931 CPL Scott Chapman
 8560182 CPL Damian Hughes
 8524158 CPL Andrew Logan
 8548698 CPL Daniel Taylor
 8557022 LCPL Scott Balshaw
 8613333 LCPL Samuel Convey
 8607700 LCPL Byron Gallagher
 8611802 LCPL Tyson Hore
 8500350 LCPL Julien Reid
 8569824 LCPL Benjamin Schmidt



PROMOTIONS 2021



Sergeant Stewart Lennie poses with his family after being promoted



Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class 1 Allan Ashman congratulates Lance Corporals Bradley Aulich, Jack Booth, and Juan Zuleta Arias of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, on being promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal during the Battalion's Family Day at Ranger Barracks, Ballarat



CAPT Kitchen with Commanding Officer 8/7RVR Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards, receiving his promotion

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



VALE

ALAN MATHIESON
BARRINGTON INGRAM AM RFD ED
BOB CREELMAN
DANNY BAILEY
DAVID NOVAK
ELLIS COX
GEORGE DOUGLASS
JAMES (JIM) MACK
JOHN BALL
JOHN BARNES
JOHN COULL
PETER RIGONI
PETER SMITH
PHIL CAMERON
STAN GODFREY

Respect and Honour



Pictured - RSM Peter Smith, CO Lt Col Douglas Ball, Adjutant Capt Paul Prickett, QM Capt Bill Akell Maj David Lewien.



Pictured - 1981 07 Handover Pde
Outgoing CO Lynes Incoming Jim Mack



NOMINAL ROLL 2020-2021

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| LTCOL | Richards,Shaun David | CPL | Allen,James Peter | LCPL | Terrill,Jack Alexander | PTE TRN | Monica,Monica |
| MAJ | Armstrong,Shane Adam | CPL | Beales,Wayne Michael | LCPL | Walther,Jonathan William | PTE | Na,Law Thwee du |
| MAJ | Baird,Kaylene Elizabeth | CPL | Brown,Shaun Christopher | LCPL | Webb,John Frederick | PTE | Northend,George Laurence |
| MAJ | Bower,Richard Michael | CPL | Bryant,Benjamin John | LCPL | Williams,Graham Andrew | PTE | Nugent,Christopher Bryan |
| MAJ | Carnes,Peter Sean Francis | CPL | Campanale,Orazio Victor | LCPL | Woolley,Justin Robert | PTE | Ooms,Asahi |
| MAJ | Dragojlovic,Nikola | CPL | Champion,Christopher Stephen | PTE | Abramovitch,Jack Mitchinson | PTE | Orellana,Hamilton Jose Manuel |
| MAJ | Gilbert,Scott Christopher | CPL | Collins,Thomas Jason | PTE | Abulwaffa,Hisham | PTE | Phillips,Mischa Allan |
| MAJ | McQuilkin,Andrew John | CPL | Coltman,George Campbell | PTE | Adamo,Gino | PTE | Picken,Christopher Glen |
| MAJ | Watson,Anthony Francis | CPL | Coy,Nathan Michael | PTE | Ailey,Matthew Dean | PTE | Pollock,Mark John |
| CAPT | Arundell,Nicholas Gerard | CPL | Deutscher,Michael Emil | PTE | Aulich,Bradley James | PTE | Purcell-Chaffey,Jaccob Gary |
| CAPT | Bailey,Leopold Oscar | CPL | Dinning,Drew Allan | PTE | Barnes,Jacob Mitchell | PTE | Reddy,Vishwa Nadan |
| CAPT | Davis,David Craig | CPL | Edwards,Vaughn Charles | PTE | Bassett,Jayce Charles | PTE | Richardson,Riley Beau |
| CAPT | Djurovic,Mark | CPL | Gatt,Laurence | PTE | Bhatia,Arun | PTE | Robinson,David James |
| CAPT | Frimston,Steven Gordon | CPL | Gleeson,Daniel John | PTE TRN | Bird,Ashleigh Kate | PTE | Russell,Jessica May |
| CAPT | Jones,Matthew Lachlan Markley | CPL | Gregory,Matthew Phillip | PTE | Blay,James Lee | PTE | Ryan,Jeremy Andrew |
| CAPT | Knowles Diamond,Christine | CPL | Heath,Hayden James | PTE | Booth,Jack David | PTE | Saric,Stefan |
| CAPT | Larmer,Arthur Avit | CPL | Hiller,Sarah Faye | PTE | Borzini,Albert Keison | PTE | Sawhney,Sahil |
| CAPT | Laxton,Matthew James | CPL | Hodges,Nicole Elizabeth | PTE | Breadsell,Blake James | PTE | Schnur,Patrick Nicholas |
| CAPT | Mifsud,Ryan Daniel | CPL | Horgan,Daniel Nicholas | PTE | Brewer,Oliver John | PTE TRN | Shanley,Jessica Lauren |
| CAPT | Normand,Elizabeth Rachel | CPL | Houlden,Jaedyn Westley | PTE | Brown,Timothy Shane | PTE | Singh,Kuldeep |
| CAPT | Powell,Robert William | CPL | Hughes,Damian Kay | PTE | Byers,Gary William | PTE | Skruzny,Ambrose Anthony |
| CAPT | Quinn,Luke Walter | CPL | Ireland,Brett | PTE | Campo,CJ | PTE TRN | Smart,John Barry |
| CAPT | Zambrano Perez,Alejandro | CPL | Kelly,Adam Todd | PTE | Chandler,Jonathan Raymond | PTE | Smith,Elliott James |
| LT | Barnett,Daniel Robert | CPL | Lennie,Stewart Colin | PTE | Church,Jesse Nathaniel | PTE | Smith,Job |
| LT | Ferretto,Thomas Joseph | CPL | Logan,Andrew Jonathan | PTE | Cranston-Fremlin,Jaydn Sheldon | PTE | Smythe,Benjamin Kyle |
| LT | Fiocco Wood,Simon Charles | CPL | Longcor,Justin David | PTE | Cross Dabrera,Hugh Liam | PTE | Spain,Matthew Jarred |
| LT | Hunt,Eilish Frances | CPL | Ludeman,Justin Keith | PTE | Crowhurst,James Andrew | PTE | Star,Mischelle Maddolyn |
| LT | Kitchen,Nicholas John | CPL | McCurdy,Kyle Adam | PTE | Damarell,Patrick William | PTE | Stephens,Luke Henry |
| LT | Lee,Kieren Gregory | CPL | Merriman,Jareth Taylor | PTE | De Lima,Christian Francis | PTE TRN | Suppiah,Sriananthan |
| LT | Ng,Chun Hei | CPL | Miller,Matthew James | PTE | Drew,Ethan James | PTE | Taylor,Luke William |
| LT | Sellers,Catherine Vicki | CPL | Morcombe,Nicholas Stephen | PTE | Dunstan,Timothy Richard | PTE | Todd,Daniel Nicholas |
| LT | Sukhera,Ammar | CPL | Mundy,Brendan John | PTE | Durante,Eric Robert | PTE | Toi,Jarom Allan |
| LT | Vong,Henry | CPL | Orwin,Robert Louis Stephen | PTE | Egan,Richard Joseph | PTE | Treetor,Paul |
| LT | Webster,Jason Leigh | CPL | Otten,Nicholas Gerard | PTE | Ellis-Gray,Kaya Rama | PTE | Turner,Sam Wynn |
| LT | Wheatley,William Noel | CPL | Perrotet,Brendan Mark | PTE | Elvey,Timothy Darren | PTE | Veal,Nathan Anthony |
| WO1 | Ashman,Allan Richard | CPL | Petering,Warrick Joel | PTE | Fabbri,Nicholas Alexander | PTE TRN | Verma,Gaurav |
| WO1 | Hardcastle,Peter John | CPL | Rawson,Simon Andrew | PTE | Gould,Dean William | PTE | Vincent,Alan George Frank |
| WO1 | Paris,Adam Anthony | CPL | Rylance,Melanie Ann | PTE | Gould,Harrison Bryce | PTE | Von Burg,Ky |
| WO2 | Avery,Michael Andrew | CPL | Sims,Andrew Peter | PTE | Harrison,Angus Buzz | PTE | Wang,Peng |
| WO2 | Bain,Mark William Kieth | CPL | Slight,Darryl Ian | PTE | Head,Benjamin William | PTE | Wangira,Paul Hamisi |
| WO2 | Burley,Douglas Christopher | CPL | Taylor,Daniel Paul | PTE | Henry,Angus Robert | PTE | White,Harry Richard |
| WO2 | Daniels,Peter John | CPL | Thomas,Samuel Dylan | PTE | Henry,Michael Matenga | PTE TRN | Whitford,Samuel William |
| WO2 | Holl,Jacob William | CPL | Tilmouth,Matthew Christopher Peter | PTE | Hepburn,Nickolas Timothy | PTE | Whitty,Benjamin Steven Moss |
| WO2 | McKechnie,Simon Padraic | CPL | Towers,Daniel Robie | PTE | Hine,Cameron Mitchell | PTE | Wilson,Bradley John |
| WO2 | Micallef,Paul Manuel | CPL | Turk,Gavin Timothy | PTE | Holmes,Peter John | PTE | Yang,Chen |
| WO2 | Payne,Barry Robert John | CPL | Vidot,Antonius Lee | PTE | Hore,Aaron Richie | PTE | Zahra,Louis |
| WO2 | Revelt,Adam Christopher | CPL | Vistarini,Dale Reece | PTE | Horvath,Jacob Francis | | |
| WO2 | Turner,Bradley John | CPL | Walsh,Patrick Thomas | PTE | Hussie,Sharmane Casandra | | |
| WO2 | Vittorio,Luke Sebastian | CPL | Wetherow,Meghan Jane | PTE | Iuliani,Luca Dean | | |
| SSGT | Solomano,Ivan James | CPL | Wood,Nathan Paul | PTE | Kannikanti,Vamsi Krishna | | |
| SSGT | Wakeling,Michael Thomas | CPL | Wright,Braden Nicholas | PTE | Keyte,James David | | |
| SGT | Beales,Trevor Charles | CPL | Yorston,Marie Kathleen | PTE | Killoran,Joshua Edward | | |
| SGT | Day,Luke William | LCPL | Aulich,Patrick Carl Henry | PTE | Kilpatrick,Edward John | | |
| SGT | Eppingstall,Stephen James | LCPL | Bellefemine,Navarre Cesare | PTE | Kittlety,Riley George | | |
| SGT | Finlay,Nigel John | LCPL | Cameron,Alistair James | PTE | Kosmac,Lewis Alexander | | |
| SGT | Kingi,Tainui | LCPL | Carlisle,Matthew | PTE | Kretschmar,Billy Jacob | | |
| SGT | Kliko,Amir | LCPL | Chapman,Scott David | PTE | Lam,Vivian | | |
| SGT | Knight,Timothy Val | LCPL | Edmunds,Jacob Andrew | PTE | Lambert,Timothy Mark | | |
| SGT | Krupa,Piotr | LCPL | Fernandez,Stephen Paul | PTE | Lee,John | | |
| SGT | Logan,David John | LCPL | Geddes,Robert John William | PTE | Leger,Michael Anthony | | |
| SGT | Ludeman,Glenn Andrew | LCPL | Heaney,Callan Jeremiah | PTE | Liddicoat,Jarrold Wayne | | |
| SGT | McGregor,Luke Stephen | LCPL | Hujdurovic,Ammar | PTE | Lupic,Josip Phillip | | |
| SGT | Meager,Benjamin Ross | LCPL | Ichim,Samuel | PTE | MacKenzie,Ryan Trevor | | |
| SGT | Moncur,Stephanie Lauren | LCPL | Jackson,Nathan Phillip | PTE | Marcon,Troy Anthony | | |
| SGT | Short,Geoffrey Stuart | LCPL | Karipoglou,Minas Matthew | PTE TRN | Martinuzzo,Tristan James | | |
| | | LCPL | Lourey,Christopher Sean | PTE | McCooey,Thomas James | | |
| | | LCPL | McNamara,Robert Martin | PTE | McDowell,Lachlan Sean | | |
| | | LCPL | Mottram,Brent | PTE | McKenzie,Michael Charles | | |
| | | LCPL | Paffrath,William John | PTE | McVernon,Sean | | |
| | | LCPL | Reid,Julien Les Douglas | PTE | Mead,Brent | | |
| | | LCPL | Russell,Tristan Stewart | PTE | Mellis,Nicole Leigh | | |
| | | LCPL | Studham,Garth Raymond | PTE | Michael,Cody Ross | | |
| | | | | PTE | Milner,Jamie Lee | | |



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