From the Presidents Pen,

Hello All Rammers for the Winter of 2015. I thought I was forever young, like "Noddy" or "Peter Pan" until this year commenced. Firstly, My original Royal Military College Class had a reunion. 50 years since walking through the gates in Canberra and getting a Regimental Number. That was a reality check. Then, after writing many times to tell you about health checks and PSA and DRE, the dreaded diagnosis of Cancer of the Prostate was thrust upon me. I have been through the Test and Evaluation mill in the past 6 months and finally had the little bugger out about 10 weeks ago. Part of the ageing process I suppose, but a reminder to you all to have a baseline PSA and annual testing as I was totally without symptoms. Even my sudden rise in PSA/Free PSA was still within 'weight for age', but the relatively non invasive testing told the story. Well it's done now and anybody who is on the hamster wheel and is a little (or a lot) concerned about the process, feel free to give me a call or email. I am very educated about the whole thing.

But it will not slow me down. I have just returned from Dinner Plain, Victoria's Alpine region, where I have been coaching the Navy Skiing and Biathlon team for Interservice competition. What a great bunch of youngsters. I picked up a biathlon rifle for the first time in years, threw it on my back and skied some 2.5km loops and shot at the metal dots, standing unsupported and prone, and found I had not forgotten much. The targets at 50 m range are 45mm diameter discs for prone and 115mm for standing. They were a bit of a blur till I found my glasses but I managed clean shoots until I combined it with the skiing and a shooting pulse around 165 bpm, let alone the cross wind of about 30kph and heavily falling snow. The 5.5 kg weight on your back slows you down a bit on the hilly parts of the skiing loops, but I soon got used to it. Veterans Biathlon (over 65) here I come...perhaps.

This is a monster edition of RR thanks to the Secretary Hilton's Around the Water Cart collection. The electronic version will be full of goodies, but we are unfortunately limited to 20 pages for the score of mail-outs we still have to do. If you get mail-out and finally have an email address, please let us know and we will ensure you get the full version.

Enjoy what remains of the winter and the read.

Personally, I was interested to find out in ATWC that I would not have been called up to be a Nasho

Best Regards to you all

Warren 'Noddy' Feakes

President.

Left, our Association Welfare Officer, Ian Simpson, together with Col Lowe and Bill Pritchard, pay their respects attending Bob’s sendoff at Booragul, near Newcastle in June.

Bob served with the Battery at Holsworthy and Malaysia 1966-69. He was at Tweed Heads 2004 and Sydney 2007 Reunions. Some will be aware that wife Lilly died not long before Reunion Sydney. Bob was subsequently diagnosed with Alzheimers and relocated from East Ryde to the RSL Home at Booragul.

Above, Bob’s daughter Yvonne with Col, Ian and Bill at the Bob’s Wake afterwards at the Toronto Motor Boat Club.

Two other notable postings to the Great Gun Park, one as a valued Honorary Gunner.

The Last Paragunner: by Col Arthur Burke. VX23194 Norman Lindsay Anderson passed away on 14 June 2015 at 97 years of age. Norm was the last of the famous 31 para-gunners from the 2/4th Australian Field Regiment who jumped into Nadzab, New Guinea with two 25-Pounder Short Guns on 5 September 1943. The guns of the 503rd US Parachute Infantry Regiment were too heavy for parachuting so the Australians volunteered to support their securing of the Nadzab area in preparation for the 7th Division's landing and advance to capture Lae.

Gunner Anderson and his mates only did one week's tough physical training culminating in one practice jump. On the day they jumped from 600 feet and the last words Norm heard before stepping out into the void were the jumpmaster's 'Jump, you bastards, jump!'. He landed safely,
Norm dodged plummeting steel boxes of ammunition which has been thrown out after the para-gunners, survived the war and was discharged in the rank of lance bombardier in 1945. Born in Melbourne, Norm left school at 14 years of age during the Great Depression and began work as a thread twister in a yarn mill. After the war, he returned to the mill at Yarra Falls, met his future wife, Meryl at the annual mill picnic and they were wed in 1947. He was transferred to Wangaratta, changed jobs to insurance and was moved to Shepparton where they lived happily till his death. Norm was justly and fiercely proud of his para-gunner heritage and when he visited 4th Field Regiment RAA in Townsville soon after A Field Battery (Parachute) joined the unit, he was presented with a red beret, which he proudly wore on all formal occasions such as ANZAC Day for the rest of his life. In the 2013 ANZAC Day Parade in Melbourne, Norm Anderson was invited to lead the 2nd AIF Contingent in the March and later participate in the Cavalcade of Veterans around the boundary line of the MCG in front of 60 000 spectators.


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Major Les Tranter (RAInf Retired) by Mr Peter Powles. Saturday the 20th of June 2015 saw the passing of an old soldier and friend of many past and present serving members of the RAA. Les Tranter’s military career spanned forty one years as a member of the ARA and GRes, and touched the lives of many who remember him with fondness. His willingness to share his immense experience as a soldier, his cheerful and engaging personality, and service to the community after leaving Army, saw an estimated six hundred mourners fill the Alexander Town Hall in Northern Victoria to bid him farewell.

Many older members of the Artillery community remember the part played by Les in his support to 102 Coral Battery on the first night of the Battle of Coral. As Platoon Commander of the Anti-Armour Platoon of Support Company 1 RAR, Les directed fire from his 90MM M67 Recoilless Rifles, to relieve the pressure on the beleaguered 102 Battery and 1 RARs Motor Platoon opposite, who were in danger of being over-ran by attacking NVA troops. At one point the Platoon Commander of the Mortar Platoon, LT Tony Jenson called for fire to be directed into their position to halt the enemy who had already broken through their defensive line. Les’ decision to engage with splintex when he did helped halt the enemy advance and is acknowledged in the history of the battle, as saving many lives. Les used to laughingly say that when authorization arrived for him to use splintex he only had four rounds left. A full history of the battle on the first night and Les’ contribution can be got by “googling” Les Tranter.

At the funeral, his many Army friends remembered Les. An old friend of Les’ His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) requested a letter be read on his behalf addressed to Les’ wife Tess and family, in which he expressed his sincere sorrow and gratitude to Les, who was his mentor and friend after he was posted to 1RAR in 1969 as a newly graduated officer. He stated “He was a kind and cheerful mentor and friend in those crucial days when young officers are prone to stumble and fall”.

The Honorable Tim Fischer in his eulogy spoke of Les’ qualities as a person and fellow officer in 1 RAR during the Vietnam years. Tim Fischer was Platoon Commander of the Transport Platoon 1 RAR during the Coral period.

Tony Jenson, the Commander of the Mortar Platoon at Coral was one of Les’ pallbearers.
During his long career, Les was deployed on four occasions: Vietnam, 18 March 1968 to 28 February 1969; Malaysia, 11 April 1969 to 31 July 1971; Papua New Guinea, 23 July 1979 to 10 December 1981 (including deployment to Vanuatu with the PIR during the coconut war); and Syria and Lebanon, 22 May 1985 to 15 June 1986 (during the civil war in Lebanon and conflict with Israel).

Les will be remembered by many past and present serving members for his “Coral Lecture” to courses at Land Warfare Centre, Promotional Training Centre, Regional Training Centre (Southern Queensland and 3rd Training Group during the period from 1988 until 2001 when he officially retired on age.

To finish with another quote from Sir Peter Cosgrove’s letter of condolence “We will all miss, but never forget, the twinkle in his eye and a laugh like no other”.

Lest We Forget

107 Battery’s 50th Birthday in May or 1st July or 1st August 1965.

There has been some confusion over the date establishment of the Battery. The following are known facts and should explain the confusion:

1. In the first week of May 1965, Lt Col R. Cubis, Commanding Officer of 1 Field Regiment, unofficially raised 107 Training Battery as part of the Regiment at Holsworthy.
2. Capt Peter Badcoe (the Regimental Intelligence Officer) was appointed BC. The CO also appointed Lt L. Cooper as the BK (he was the Assistant Quartermaster), WO2 P. Dewhurst as BSM and Sgt E. Bessy as BQMS.
3. Lt Cooper had spent the previous two weeks equipping the vacant old 103 Battery lines to hold a total strength of 250. It is understood that the CO’s belief was that all IET training was to be transferred from School of Artillery and undertaken by 107 Training Bty from 1 Jul 65.
4. Capt Badcoe took over all the technical gunnery equipment from A Bty, which was departing to Malaysia.
5. Other appointments were drawn from within the Regt and the first officer posted-in was 2Lt G. Reed who was a Young Officer GPO “under training”. Newly qualified IET gunners arrived from the S of A and others, the unwanted “dregs” from sub-units of the Regiment. Hence the term “Black Sheep” was established within Battery history. One of those there from day one was Jim Wright.
6. Capt Badcoe deployed his battery on a fire and movement exercise to Tianjara in the first week of June.
7. Formal authority to raise 107 Field Battery (not Training Battery) issued by Army Headquarters (AHQ), was effective from 1 Aug 65.
8. Capt Badcoe was officially transferred to RAInf WEF 30 Jul 65 and was promoted T/Maj on 10 Aug. In late July, he was on leave and may have attended his farewell from the Regiment wearing the rank of Major.
9. Lt Cooper was then appointed, by the CO, to Administer Command of 107 Battery until the posting and arrival of Maj Don Quinn in late October 1965.
10. Maj Quinn commanded the battery again, in Malaysia, when he took over from Maj Barnard when he return to Australia and the Battery remained in Malaysia.

Pick your date but HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY to the BLACK SHEEP.
107 Birthday fiftieth celebrations in Townsville, 1 May 2015 ....... by Hilton Lenard.

At the combined 107 fiftieth and Four Regiment’s fifty fifth birthday celebrations over the 1st & 2nd May, the Regimental all Batteries Gun Race Challenge was conducted between the Regiment’s six batteries, 106, 107, 108 & 109 Gun Batteries plus OPS Bty (Operational Support Bty) & CSS Bty (Combat Service Support Bty).

The competition was carried out using two old faithful M2A2 howitzers, from Paddy Durnford’s Regimental Museum guns. In the Race heats on day one, 109 Battery had the highest score, (comprising speed with demerit points for incorrect gun drill and safety) with 107 Battery in a very close second place.

On day two, the Regimental Great Race concluded in a race off between 107 and 109 Batteries. With true form, experience and that ability to perform under extreme pressure that has always been in the ‘jeans’ of the Rammers, 107 Battery secured the ultimate first place as the 2015 champions of the Great Regimental Gun Race.

Your water cart operator did suggest to a few current Rammers present that perhaps they consider dragging their current equipment, the M7777, to the top of Mt Stewart directly up the Lavarack Barracks face. Met with gasps of disbelief and mumbles of ‘occupational health and safety’, the current Rammers declined, totally unbelieving that it was a regular event back in the dim-dark days of the 1970’s.
The tradition of the Bad Ram award continues from the 1990’s. Above Bdr Gray is presenting the BAD RAM award to Gnr Mitch Hamel from Charlie Gun. Mitch’s sin was 100 percent dedication to his duties. Unfortunately, it was observed as one percent to birthday activities and 99 percent to being noticed to gain his promotion. Well done Gnr Hamel, you will go far!

(Ed: The pun is intended Neil)

Reunion Canberra 2015, Anzac week by Hilton Lenard. Early in 2015 several Rammers expressed a desire to be in Canberra for the centenary commemorations of the Gallipoli landings. So on short notice, 35 Rammers and partners gathered in the National Capital in late April. The first evening welcome function and the next evening Reunion dinner where held at the Secretary’s home with special thanks to the real Secretary, Christine. The Anzac eve dinner was an excellent Chinese banquet at the Hellenic Club. Two half-days tours of the Australian War Memorial was a notable feature. The first was with an experienced Vietnam veteran guide, Paul Jones, who concentrated the two-hour tour around the AWM Guns, Gunners and Ammunition displays.
In the afternoons, the group visited the National Arboretum comprising one hundred forests of over 100 trees each, representing trees from all parts of the world. Including is a forest of 102 Lone Pine trees, donated by the Turkish Government. The second afternoon was a guided tour the Museum of Australian Democracy in the Old Parliament house.

Anzac morning was an early start at 0230 hrs to be in a prime position at the AWM. The early start proved essential as 120,000 attended the Dawn Service, coming from all around Australia. The average Dawn service attendance over recent years has been just 10,000. Such was the pull of the event at the national Capital

The Dawn Service was followed by a hearty breakfast in the AWM Great Hall, with the Reunion group occupying large three tables under the wing of the WW2 Lancaster ‘G for George’. The director of the AWM, Dr Brendon Nelson, enthralled all with his presentation of the personal stories from the AWM records of those at Gallipoli 100 years ago.

Then the stirring Anzac Day march with the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove’ taking the salute. The Banner party comprised Joshua & Amy grandson and daughter of John Connellan with grateful assistance
from the 1st Wearne Bay Sea Scouts The scouts had travelled from Sydney with the hope of finding a place in the march. The Black Sheep were very pleased to oblige and relinquished the banner party duties, without a fight.

One notable marcher was Neil Lunnie who insisted on ‘marching’ with his ‘wheelie-walker’. He started the march with the Battery then every several hundred meters had to stop and sit on his wheelie-walker to regain his composure. Assisted by Col Lowe’s son Chris (an ex serviceman) & grandson Tyler, he then joined the next group to pass him. Thankfully the Canberra March is not a long one and Neil made it to the end of the march with the second last contingent. We have grown old and we have become frail, but we have not lost our determination. Well-done, Neil, and an extra special thanks to your two assistants Chris & Tyler.

An excellent farewell dinner in one of the Woden clubs was a fitting conclusion to Reunion Canberra 2015. Monday all departed to their homes and the Secretary to join the Battery for the fiftieth birthday celebrations in Townsville.
News from Lavarack Barracks. The BC, BSM and 107 Battery have been totally committed to training activities, so a few words from Commanding Officer 4th Regiment, LtCol Damian Hill, extracted from the Regimental Newsletter Volume, 8 Apr-Jun 2015.

Hectic is word often used to describe a 4 Regt year, but I cannot think of a better word to describe the last three months. We dispersed far and wide in support of the 100th anniversary of Anzac, including marching as a unit behind our colours (the guns). This followed in quick succession by the Regt 55th birthday celebrations, and I can say without a doubt, it was an amazing couple of days. The competitiveness during the gun race and trebuchet competition was fierce, the pomp and ceremony of the parade and 1812 Overture was grand, and the banter and camaraderie during both the Bty and Regt social events was obvious and endures as it has since the Regt formed. It was great to see so many former members of the Regt and their families, the feedback I received was overwhelmingly positive.
The Regt has been in the field almost continuously since early May and as I write this small note we once again prepare for another month away, this time in the cooler environs of Shoalwater Bay. The strength and resilience of our families continues to amaze me, as we ask more and more of our soldiers. I promise you the job they are doing is important, and your contribution is not forgotten.
The more we train, the better we get and if we are sent overseas, the faster we will win.
I would like to make mention of the Regt shooting team. The efforts of WO2 Steve Wilson to bring together, train and deploy arguably the best team the Regt has ever sent to the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting has paid dividends, and soldiers of the Regt are in the top echelon of combat shots in the Army. Well done to WO2 Wilson and the team. The Regt Ball draws closer please continue to pay for your tickets over the coming months so that you do not have to outlay large sums of money close to Christmas. This year’s event promises to be even better than the last couple, which will need to be seen to be believed.
Many in the Regt will shortly receive posting orders, this will mean the inevitable turmoil attempting to lock down housing, schools, doctors etc. If you need help, ask us and we will provide you everything we can. The Regt is often an untapped wealth of information, and we have the networks in other locations that can ease some of the stress. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading this edition, I cannot believe we have achieved so much in such a short time, and before we know it, Christmas will be upon us.

Ubique. Damian Hill Lieutenant Colonel

Regimental 55th Birthday - Gun Race Champions - 107 Bty
50th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony by Mick Souter

Just a short report to inform you that John Brennan, Trevor Jones and I represented 107 Field Battery Association at the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony marching with the intake of 1966, at the Australian War Memorial on Tuesday 30 June 2015. Only about 300 National Servicemen marched on a very crisp Canberra morning, The GG, Peter Cosgrove and Brendan Nelson both spoke well. We entered into the spirit of things with a very long lunch at Ainslie Football Club. There is a photo of John, Trevor and Mick on: http://www.flickr.com/photos/australianwarmemorial along with many other photos from the AWM. Ed, just scan through the first few pages until you get to the 50 Anniversary photographs. 

Best regards, Mick Souter

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Summons to Buckingham Palace. North Queensland member, Lloyd Greentree, was surprised to receive a summons to visit Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace in July. Lloyd has been a member of the St Dunstan’s Blind Veterans UK for twenty years and they had arranged the invitation. Unfortunately, Lloyd was unable to comply with the summons due to his health conditions. Lloyd was a Bdr with Headquarters Battery at Townsville and in Vietnam. For the six months that 107 Battery Australian Component, prior to the return of the Battery from Malaysia, had four 25 Pounder guns and qualified gun number ones were borrowed from the NCOs of Headquarters Battery and Lloyd was one of those fine NCO Gun number Ones.

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One Rammerscontribution to Anzac Gallipoli 2015, by Eric Winn

In October 2014 we had just got back from PNG. I received a phone call from Ross Bastiaan, who does all our memorials. Ross has installed over 250 plaques all over the world.

He told me nine plaques that he installed at Gallipoli in 1992 had been stolen. He asked if I could put a team together to replace the plaques. I had to develop a way of installing the plaques so they could not be stolen again. I talked to a few of our crew and they said OK. I wrote to the RAAF about flying us to Istanbul.

The RAAF said OK, but how are you getting home? I said, “Don’t worry just get us there as we have 1.5 tons of gear. They rang back later and said they would come and pick us up.
One of the guys had connections and organised from Istanbul a Mercedes bus and two people movers. We spent 10 days at Ecabat, a village at Gallipoli, where we completed the task.

We had to organise all the tools and formwork plus the 9 plaques each weighting 60kg. We flew from Brisbane on 17 March this year to Darwin, over-night at Al Minhad Airbase Dubai, then onto Istanbul. The 12-man construction team comprised three Vietnam Veterans, four Afghan Veterans, one serving member and four civilians. It was the best team I have taken away in 17 years.

We had to complete the project before ANZAC day. We replaced 9 plaques that were stolen.

We handed the project of nine new plaques to CWGC and they were very happy. DVA paid for the plaques $35000 and some of our expenses of $15000. We, the volunteers, paid the shortfall.

Some of the team, about to fly home on completion of the project. They are (L to R) Len Thompson, Eric Winn, Simon Robinson, Peter Evans, Bill Llewelen, Jamie Kennedy, Grant Robinson, Todd Ellis and
The Kokoda Memorial Foundation undertook the work, an organisation Eric started 17 years ago. The Foundation worked on the ‘Track’ building memorials and helping the local villagers. The full details of the Foundation are at www.kokodamemorialfoundation.com.au. Anyone who would like to help are always most welcome.

Gallipoli, 25th April 2015 by Doc Barclay, photos by Glenn Clarke

Anzac day started off the day before with a very early breakfast at 0530 hrs for a trip to Troy then onto Gallipoli. We arrived on the Gallipoli Peninsular by ferry and we had to go through the first of seven checkpoints. We were all issued with the first of three security bands, from there we proceeded to another checkpoint where passports and tickets were checked again and issued with our second security band, then onto the third point where we were given our third security band. We then got off the bus and passed through some heavy armed security, bags were emptied and checked, and passports and wristbands checked again then we were ushered into a large staging area. After an hour or so sitting around a couple of East Timor vets and I organised a game of 2 up.

Betting in Turkey is strictly prohibited except at the races or soccer, but you must be at the ground/course. We devised a system of using sticks rather than money. At one stage there were about 60 playing and about double that watching, Turkish security started paying us too much attention so the game was wound up.

From there after about two hours we started the 3.4 km walk to Anzac Cove, passing through another 2 security checkpoints, no one seemed to worry about the security as it was for our protection anyway. Once we arrived we were seated in stands specially erected for the event. It beat sitting on the...
This along with the sound of the water lapping onto the beach sloshing footsteps gave you a very eerie feeling and it was almost like you could hear the troops landing on the beach. Prince Charles, Prime Ministers Tony Abbott and John Keys and a Turkish delegate made speeches. They were all good but Prince Charles was a step above the rest. Then it was the most poignant part of the service when the Last Post was sounded accompanied by the waves lapping at the shore, I don't think that there was a dry eye in the 10,500 crowd.

It was then time to move to Lone Pine. The climb was a 1.7 km walk along a bitumen road followed by a 2.1 km walk up a relatively steep track with our backpacks on the whole way, now I know what a camel feels like. About every 75mtrs we passed heavily armed Turkey paramilitary police guards which gave you a sense of security but also unease. We finally arrived at Lone Pine to be met by another security checkpoint were bags, passports, tickets and wrist wristbands were checked again. After the checks were finished we made our way to our respective stands. At this point our tour group was spread all over the site, the first time since we started.

The Prime Ministers, Prince Harry, Chief Defence, and the Turkish delegate made speeches. The leader of the opposition, Bill Shorten, gave the reading from the Bible. I believe the best speaker was Tony Abbot closely followed by Prince Harry. The whole experience will be something that I will treasure for life being one of the lucky ones that was able to be giving the opportunity to attend, many thousands missed out. Praise much go to the Turkish government for their outstanding effort with not only the security but for allowing us to go there every year and remembering our fallen countrymen. If you get a chance to go to Gallipoli go to Anzac Cove & Lone Pine a day or two early as you can have a good look around. We were restricted due to the amount of people attending and security measures.

From here we headed to the Western Front in France. This place will make the hardest of men cry just being amongst the grave stones of those brave young men many only 17 years old, plus the thousands that only have headstones with “A Soldier of the Great War” written on them.

STOP PRESS: The price of Alcohol in ADF Messes increases Army Newspaper 16 July 2015
THE prices of alcohol sold at bars operated by Defence’s Estate and Infrastructure Group and designated Navy-managed bars will increase from September 1. The change is being introduced to
reduce alcohol-related harm in the ADF, ensure consistency in alcohol prices across the country and to partially offset the labour costs in Defence bars. DCA Maj-Gen Rick Burr said the changes to pricing were part of broader Defence reforms and were in line with Defence’s alcohol management strategy.

The increase in alcohol pricing is one of a number of changes to mess arrangements, which began in 2012 and represents the VCDF and Service Chiefs’ commitment to alcohol-related reform. The introduction of the ADF Alcohol Management Strategy, along with the current Australian fiscal environment, has shown us that heavily subsidised provision of alcohol on bases is no longer appropriate or cost effective.

As an organisation funded by Australian taxpayers, it is important those funds are used efficiently. The changes to alcohol pricing will support that, offsetting labour costs while assisting in the reduction of alcohol-related harm.” The Review of the Use of Alcohol in the ADF in 2011 found that some ADF personnel drank at high-risk levels on a regular basis. The ADF Alcohol Management Strategy aims to prevent and minimise alcohol-related harm in the ADF. Increasing the price of alcohol in Defence bars is one aspect of this strategy. Alcohol abuse is a serious issue for capability, Maj-Gen Burr said. These changes are not occurring in isolation, nor are they about shifting the problem. They are part of a coherent strategy to reduce risk to our people while maintaining the viability of our messes. Messes and bars remain an essential element in unit cohesion. They are an important aspect of service life. They will also remain a good place to relax and have a drink in an on-base environment. That should continue.” He said the change to alcohol prices would bring bars closer to commercial prices and introduce consistent pricing across the country.

Following the change, mess committees will continue to receive 15 per cent of bar profits from the increased prices. Sixty per cent will be used to offset the cost of running bars. The remaining profits will go to support review recommendations, such as sponsoring responsible service of alcohol training and supporting welfare activities for members.

The Commonwealth Government will offer the families of Australian servicemen killed during the Vietnam War and buried overseas the opportunity to repatriate their remains.

The offer follows extensive consultation with the RSL, the Vietnam Veterans’ Association of Australia, the Vietnam Veterans’ Federation of Australia, as well as veterans’ families.

Australia deployed more than 60,000 servicemen and women to the conflict in Vietnam between 1962 and 1973, with 521 Australians names listed on the Australian War Memorial’s Roll of Honour. Australia’s policy on repatriating the remains of fallen soldiers changed in January 1966.

Since that time, the remains of our fallen have been repatriated. Some of our Vietnam veterans were buried overseas while their fallen mates were brought home. Twenty-five of Australia’s war dead from Vietnam were not brought home. One lies in the Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore and 24 in the Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia.
With the agreement of their families, the Commonwealth Government will bring them home. It is time that all our Vietnam fallen had the same treatment, which is why the Government will offer to repatriate the remains of those buried overseas, with the agreement of their families.

A number of other servicemen and dependents of Defence personnel are also buried at Terendak Military Cemetery, which is located within a Malaysian Armed Forces Base. The Government will also offer the families of these Australians the opportunity to bring their remains home where they can have unrestricted access to their graves.

The decision to take up this offer of repatriation rests, as it should, with the families. Some will choose to bring loved ones home, and others will let them rest where they now lie.

We are grateful to the Government of Malaysia for taking good care of the graves of our soldiers and civilians and for facilitating visits for their loved ones. The Government will meet the costs associated with repatriation and reburial.

As 2015 marks fifty years since the arrival of combat troops and the escalation of Australian involvement in Vietnam, it is right and proper that we honour their service with this gesture. Over the coming years, we will further honour those who served through commemorations marking the 50th anniversary of battles such as Long Tan, Coral-Balmoral and Binh Ba.

Secretary’s Report: We sadly acknowledge the posting to the Great Gun Park of Robert (Bob) Arthurson, see vale in this edition and our website. We have one new member. Welcome to Andy McLennan from Melbourne. Andy served in the Battery at Holsworthy then Malaysia in 1967-68

Committee: Your committee is:

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Vice Presidents: Brian Tapp – Narrabeen NSW - 0410 543 743

Secretary/Treasurer: Hilton Lenard – Kambah ACT - 0418 695 345

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Tasmania: Les Mullan – Launceston – 0408 449 006

SA: Adrian (Wally) Walford – Murray Bridge – 0418 818 776

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ACT: Peter Moat – Weetangera - 0419 594 610

NT: Jim Wright – Palmerston – 0419 090 852
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Editor RAM Ramblings: Warren (Noddy) Feakes – Wanniassa – 0417 209 360
Webmaster: Doc Barclay – Mildura – 0428 251 364
Historian: Hilton Lenard – Kambah ACT – 0418 695 345
Welfare Officer: Ian (Bozo) Simpson – Sydney - 0432 610 794
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BOARD of TRUSTREES: Warren Feakes - Wanniassa – 0417 209 360
Hilton Lenard – Kambah - 0418 695 345
Jim Wright – Palmerston -0419 090 852

Members List: There are 190 financial members. Association membership covers all regions of Australia plus Paul Gaff, USA and Gordon Pound, UK. Twelve members are currently serving in the Defence Force. Membership covers all periods of 107 Battery’s post 1965 history, with approx one third having served at Holsworthy and/or Malaysia (1965-1969) and/or Townsville then Vietnam (1969-1971) and/or Townsville (since 1971). Many served in more than one location. Like an updated membership list contact the Secretary.

Treasurer’s Report: With 155 life subscribers, all life subscriptions are held in the Trustee accounts. Your membership renewal information is included in this edition. Subscriptions for 2015 are now due, at only $15 PA and life subscription at $150. As at 30 June 2014 the Association made a trading profit of $3299.74 for the previous twelve months. Most profits come from the sale of the Association sale items. Current assets are $6,758.62 in working funds and $23,169.26 held by the Trustees, representing all life subscriptions and resulting interest received to date. A copy of the accounts is available on request.

Member In-Confidence
Membership Subscription RENEWAL (as at 1st August 2015) Member In-Confidence


Please advise the Treasurer on 0418 695 345 or hiltonlenard at hotmail dot com if you consider there is an error. If you are having difficulty paying your subscriptions, contact the Secretary and a waiver can be provided.

Membership Subscription Renewal & New Membership

If applying for new membership, please add $15 for new member’s package. If currently serving in the ADF, please contact the Secretary for the special Serving Members life subscription. I enclose cheque/money order for $15 for Annual or $150 life Subscription OR

I paid $15/$150 to: 107 Bty Assn BSB 803205 a/c 20689178 with "my name" Subs.

**OR**(*) Please debit my Master Card/Visa (**) $_______. 00. Card number and expiry date

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Our Nashos Did Us Proud by George Mansfield - Gmansfor©January2015
Perhaps you were working in a bank or shearing sheep
Whacking a ball for six or flirting with a sheila down the street
When marbles rattled and your birthday tumbled in the draw
Gawd, fair dinkum, talk about the bloody short straw
You took the oath, then copped a medical and needles too
Quickly learnt that in the army there was always a long queue
Got to know the ARA mob who became brothers to you
Then you went to war because Canberra Suits told you to

The rugged mountains and paddy fields became your home
Soaking rain and stifling heat as with rifle and pack you did roam
No matter if Regs or Nashos, you all drank from the same cup
Sharing, caring and then grieving when a comrade’s number was up

Choppers, ambushes, mines and bunker systems became your life
The grim reaper was busy as was the surgeon’s knife
Long Tan, Balmoral, Coral, Binh Ba and other places you did fight
Always with purpose and for what you believed to be right

On return, how proud you marched through cheering crowds
Carrying proud colours with Band and beating drums so loud
The sweet unforgettable embraces with loved ones at last
The curtain of war finally fell, leaving on stage a battle weary cast

As is always the way of life with shell, grenade, knife and gun
The price you paid was a bitter and costly one
The fallen are remembered on sacred walls with pride and pain
Others with invisible wounds suffer sleepless nights again and again

Now in the early winter of life you reflect on where you’ve been
Comes the pride and sometimes doubt of that military scene
Let me proudly say of you and your regular army comrades too
All of you were “chips off the old ANZAC block” and just as true blue

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Army run by special-forces officers by: Ian McPhedran, National defence writer
FOR the first time in its 114-year history the Australian Army is being run by an elite group of special-forces officers. The new Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, was a senior officer with the Perth-based Special Air Service Regiment.
His deputy, Major General Rick Burr, is a former commanding officer the SASR and Forces. Major General Burr was the officer in command of the special-forces task group at Bagram air base in northern Afghanistan in 2002 and in western Iraq the following year. He also has the unique honour of being the first foreign officer ever to be appointed as Deputy Commanding General, US Army’s Pacific Command. Both SAS and Commandos conducted most of the fighting against Taliban forces in Afghanistan and special-forces units suffered the highest casualty rates with 21 of the 41 dead coming from Special Operations Command.

Commander Major General Gus Gilmore, who commands more than 85 per cent of the army’s warfighting capacity, is also a former CO of SASR. There has always been tension between the “big army” and its special-forces units including the SASR and the Commando Regiments. SAS soldiers were the first on the ground in Afghanistan in October 2001 following the attacks against the United States. Major-General Gilmore led the initial push alongside the US Marines at a base called FOB Rhino south of Kandahar. He also had a stint as defence spokesman.

All three army leaders graduated from the Royal Military College, Dunroon between 1983 and 1985. After numerous command jobs Lt General Campbell left the army in 2005 and became the deputy National Security Adviser in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet under another ex-SAS officer Duncan Lewis who now runs ASIO. He returned to the fold in 2010 and was appointed commander of Australian forces in the Middle East in January 2011 before becoming head of Border Protection Command and promoted to Lieutenant General and finally chief of army.
Program Director at the US Studies Centre at Sydney University and former army officer James Brown said the three generals would bring a unique perspective to the top of the army. He said they knew each other very well and would make a strong and cohesive team for the next three years. “They have a full-spectrum view of the world and are used to considering unconventional options,” Mr Brown said.

“They will also have respect for good ideas and will be very good change managers.”

Former Army General and NSW Liberal Senate hopeful and possible future Defence Minister Jim Molan welcomed the appointment of three men with extensive combat experience across the spectrum. “The only good armies are those that fight regularly and in Australia it is the special-forces that have most combat experience.”

Australia’s Vietnam War interactive Database & Website
www.vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au
A multi-disciplinary University of New South Wales (UNSW) Canberra research team located within the Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict and Society (ACSACS) has spent 20 years researching and developing an interactive database and website called Australia’s Vietnam War (www.vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au). The website is a distinctive visualisations of the contribution made by 1ATF, including its New Zealand component, to the Vietnam conflict. This website allows serving members, their families and the general public to access information on everyone of the 4500 combat contacts and incidents during the Vietnam war, and to inform the public about the service of the Australian and New Zealand service personnel during the Vietnam War. There is information describing each combat incident during the war that has been drawn from the 1ATF Contact Database 1966-1971 as well as other databases and resources and reflects the official record of the incidents created throughout the war.

There has been media focus on homeless ex-service persons over the last months. Your Water Cart Operator found the following article interesting.

One Day You’re Serving Your Country, The Next You Are Nothing by Mel Baker, former Navy chaplain. Mel Baker’s career in the Navy left her “shattered and broken”, the victim of bullying and sexual assault. But when she received an enforced medical discharge while being treated for posttraumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems, her chances of recovery took a serious blow.

“I was in hospital having treatment for PTSD, anxiety and depression caused in service and was trying to get my life back together,” she said. “They (the Navy) delivered me my discharge papers while I was inside and that made me stay in hospital for another week.”
“I felt it was so unfair. I had a fear of homelessness and I said to them if you take away my job and income at this stage I will have nowhere to live. “I tried to look for rentals around Sydney but all the rental companies saw me as a risk because I had no income and my medical pension had not come through.

“When I moved out of a rental assistance place I had nowhere to go. “I contacted Geoff Evans from RSL Life Care. He was able to get me into the RSL’s Galston Village. “I now have a community around me that understands mental health issues.

“One day you are serving your country, the next you are nothing.”

THEY are Australia’s shame — the modern-day Anzacs who served their country in wars and have been left broken, destitute and often sleeping rough on the streets.

At least 3000 damaged young war veterans are battling mental illness, drug and alcohol dependency, relationship breakdowns and often -suicide. After years of serving their country in the forces, many of them have lost their careers, their marriages, an income, and even a roof over their heads.

More young Australians have now served in modern conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan than the 55,000 baby boomers who went to the Vietnam War, and thousands of them suffer the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which has plunged their lives into a downward spiral. Suicide is believed to account for three times the numbers of deaths as Diggers killed in action in Afghanistan.

RSL Life Care Younger Veterans Adviser Lieutenant Geoff Evans, who did two tours of Afghanistan, told The Daily Telegraph: “In some cases suicide is the ultimate choice while 3000 others live rough on our streets at night. Not all of the affected veterans have been involved in combat, blown up or injured on operations. Among them are chaplains, instructors and drivers. One man told The Daily Telegraph his mental health failed after spending an extended period on funeral duties as bodies returned in coffins.
“I felt guilty that those people were going somewhere that was dangerous and were dying and I was not. I was in a relatively safe spot and I felt incredibly guilty.

“It is one of those things that you tend to keep to yourself. I became withdrawn and I started self-harming. “At my annual medical they noticed I had been harming myself and they put me in hospital on the base. I was medically discharged because of depression and anxiety. Homelessness and mental illness are endemic among younger veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. If medically discharged from service, vets are no longer entitled to a Defence house and their family can be evicted, putting relationships under huge strain.

Melbourne Military History Conference: Conscription and National Service 30 May 2015,
Reflections on Conscription in Australia. It should never be selective National Service ever again: Either all in or none in!
By Tim Fischer AC, Author, Former Deputy PM, ex Ambassador and Federal Nationals Leader.

Fifty years ago National Service selective balloting commenced in Australia to pick out a cohort of young men turning twenty and send them into the Army for two years. One hundred years ago Conscription referenda were considered in Australia, fiercely debated and ultimately defeated at the height of World War One. It is never an easy issue for vibrant democracies to handle, with the compulsion element clashing with the spirit of freedom dimensions of democracy, plus the always difficult to define and administer aspect of “Conscientious Objection” overarching all, in times of war. In a democracy, it for the Executive to propose Conscription or National Service, the Parliament or Congress to consider and pass into law the requirements involved, sometimes involving the people byway of referendum. It is then implemented with lashings of anti-democratic compulsion – all in defence of the nation state same said democracy.

As you would expect, this is as never easy and a close reading of history affirms this in exactitude. It all goes back to the Commonwealth Defence Act of 1903 that did provide for compulsory “Home Defence Service” but not overseas service. Later speakers will deal with this in more detail but let me quote from my book MAESTRO JOHN MONASH: Australia’s greatest Citizen General“:(Remember it was then Prime Minister W M Hughes who drove forward the conscription issue and there is some evidence he became unhinged by the results)

Generals are not meant to buy into political fights but Birdwood (British Indian born AIF GOC, later made an Australian Field Marshal in 1925, ahead of Blamey and Prince Philip) was asked to make a statement in favour of a ‘Yes’ vote and for that to be widely distributed through the AIF. Eventually the soldiers voted in October 1916 and back in Australia, the vote was held on the 28th October but the overall count mounted to a narrow loss for Hughes, 48% to 52%, a margin of 72,476 votes: Yes 1,087,557 and No 1,160,033 and a repeat exercise in December 1917 saw the No vote margin more than double to 166,588 votes. The official results for the 20 December 1917 referendum was: 46% to 54% so in total Yes 1,015,159 and No 1,181,747. In each referendum, it was single digit percentages deciding the NO results, it had been close but ultimately tested twice after detailed debate and the answer was NO. The Australian vibrant democracy of the era had rejected conscription in the darkest days of World War One, to quote W M Hughes, egged on by that meddlesome Irish prelate, Archbishop Daniel Mannix of Melbourne.

Joan Beaumont in her recent comprehensive book on the Great War titled “Broken Nation” highlights the Keith Murdoch observation that the Third Division in training on the Salisbury Plains had voted yes, counterbalancing the margin from the trenches. Maybe the Third Division soldiers
voting were thinking about extra recruits to restore their manpower to full strength before they went to the Western Front. It was not to be but the understrength Division soon had its equipment and its embarkation orders.

Recently through the good book “Politics and Sacrifice” about the war service of NSW State Parliamentarians, I learnt of the extraordinary story of Ambrose Carmichael MC MLA, 1871 to 1953, who grew up on the Lachlan, elected for a Sydney seat (Leichhardt) in 1907 as an ALP member, then he resigned as State Treasurer in 1915 to enter the Army as a private in the 36th Battalion. He personally rallied enlistments for the war, two lots of one thousand and he favoured conscription. In 1919 he resigned from the ALP over their opposition to conscription. In 1920 he failed to win back a seat in the NSW State Parliament.

It should be remembered every AIF member volunteered for World War One, including the 414 AIF Chaplains who I dedicated my Monash book to and the 61,000 who lost their lives - many towns and suburbs were decimated. Despite the efforts of Ambrose Carmichael, it seems the majority of diggers did not want conscription and the nation was of two minds but ultimately voted narrowly against the compulsion involved.

National Service

Fifty years later selective National Service was introduced in 1965 with some early push back. It was as Vietnam was unfolding with this difficult and controversial war leading to massive rallies, demonstrations and moratoriums. The Coalition Government was able to get the necessary approvals through the Parliament; the standout feature was a so-called random ballot to select some but not all males as they turned twenty years of age. At the time I thought the same number of balls or marbles marked with a particular date for the six monthly ballots were placed in the barrel for each day of the relevant six-month period. I no longer think this is the case. It appears that after the Department of Labour and National Service and the Army reviewed the trades and experience and education of each registrant, some dates were then overloaded with marbles to ensure the right talent mix was called up.

On the 4th December 2014, I handed a clipping from the Canberra Times of 3 December 2014 direct to the Attorney General George Brandis in his office at Parliament House, in his capacity as head of the Office of National Archives. He assured me he would ascertain an answer to the simple question: Was the National Service ballot stacked in favour of certain pre-determined dates or not? Well I have heard back from National Archives, see postscript.

Whatever the real story associated with National Service 1965 to 1972, it changed my life and it changed all the lives of those called up, some sadly making the ultimate sacrifice. In my case I had to mature quickly, after Kapooka and OTU I was soon a Platoon Commander and Transport Officer with 1 RAR, dealing with a huge raft of man management problems and the requirements of raw leadership by a raw junior officer, on exercise then in Vietnam on operation but also in base camp.

It has to be said that maybe National Service will be required again, in this very troubled world of the second decade of the Twenty First Century. If so then the only fair way to proceed is surely to ensure all twenty year olds, both male and female, are called up for National Service. After the Navy, Army and RAAF have filled their needs then the remainder should be employed for Peace Corps type duties at home and abroad. This is expensive but it is the only true way to be fair and just. Of course usual and carefully defined “Conscientious Objection” provisions should be retained. The Government of the day and the Parliament of the day will always be reluctant to go
down this path because of the costs involved, also the career disruption to many with its own economic impact and also because in this century the real politik is that it would have to involve male and female - with all the complications attaching. However who can rule out forever that it may in fact be necessary in the distant future. The war against terrorism generally has already extended beyond the combined length of World War One and Two, kicked along by that White House George Bush Junior and Downing Street Tony Blair led decision to invade Iraq in 2003. This indirectly resulted in the advent of the powerful ISIS caliphate holding brutally much territory in both Iraq and Syria today.

To digress, if Lawrence of Arabia and also the phenomenal UK “Agent provocateur” Gertrude Bell had won the day at Versailles, back in 1919, with sensible boundaries and nation state creations for the Middle East sans France, then we would be better placed today. However the forces against ISIS and terrorism will win eventually – I am confident of this. I reiterate though, you cannot rule out the need for National Service at some time in the future and when that times arrives, all things considered, it would be best done on the basis of all in or none in, both male and female.

Australia is a vibrant democracy, warts and all and this Conference today is a reflection of this and a helpful platform to ensure we learn from our history and never ignore our history, to do so as others have stated would be to do so at our peril.

I close by commending to you that important statement that a Reservist or CMF Officer made in the Great Depression when declining to mount a “Coup d’etat”. I quote John Monash of Jerilderie and Melbourne: “The only hope for Australia is the ballot box and good education”.

POSTSCRIPT

It seems the National Service Ballot was not formally stacked but may have been stacked on the margins as - in short - not all were taken that had registered for a particular birth date drawn out in the twice yearly ballot. I reiterate and emphasize not all registrants whose birth dates were drawn were called up in the twice yearly ballots (even allowing for health and other declared non call up or exempt categories), so it appears some person within the system played God big time. Further, note 1 Jan to 30 Jun 1946 births, the month of May saw 13 days drawn out including mine but only 4 for albeit the short month of Feb, still this is almost beyond random possibilities. Now read on and all dates drawn are listed at the bottom for the actual ballots 1965 to 1972.


Balloted out: 567,238
Theological students, ministers of religion and members of religious orders: 553
Physical or mental disabilities: 1,768
Conscientious objection determined by a court: 1,242
Indefinite deferments: 35,548
Married before the date of call-up: 20,502
Members of the Citizen Forces: 7,197
Citizen Forces whose obligations completed: 7,849
No longer liable to be called up: 102,134
Death subsequent to registration: 916
Served or serving in Permanent Forces: 2,194
Rejected as not meeting the medical, psychological and educational standards required by the Army: 99,010
Imprisoned for refusal to obey a call-up notice: 14
*Unavailable for call-up as at 31 December 1972: 21,876*
Granted or being considered for deferment 15,526
Granted or seeking deferment on grounds of exceptional hardship: 470
Under investigation for suspected breaches of National Service Act: 3,890
Granted permission to leave Australia: 610
Migrants not included elsewhere, not yet due for call-up: 1,380
*Called up and enlisted in the Army: 63,740*
*Available for call-up subject to meeting the standards required for Army service and the outcome of applications for exemption or deferment: 10,187*

**Termination Act**

During the 1972 election campaign the Australian Labor Party promised that 'all men imprisoned under the National Service Act will be released, pending prosecutions discontinued and existing convictions expunged'.

Within a few days of winning office in early December the new Minister for Labour and National Service, Lance Barnard, suspended the operation of the scheme by administrative action, cancelling the call-up of approximately 2200 men who had been medically examined and deferring the liability of all men who had enlisted for service. National servicemen already in the Army who did not wish to continue their service were released as quickly as possible. Prosecutions and pending prosecutions were dropped. Young men who had taken up the option of part-time military service in the Citizen Military Forces could be discharged at their own request. National servicemen who opted to complete their term of service were entitled to the same benefits as before. In June 1973 the Whitlam Government passed the National Service Termination Act, giving legislative effect to Barnard's administrative action. The Government also intended to repeal the National Service Act itself as soon as possible, but felt constrained to wait until national servicemen who continued to serve under the Act had completed their service and received all the benefits to which they were entitled under the Act. This state of affairs did not come about before the dismissal of the Whitlam Government on 11 November 1975.

The National Service Act 1951 and its subsequent amendments were repealed by the Defence Legislation Amendment Act of 1992. Following this legislation, the Government retained the power to introduce conscription under the Defence Act, but only in a time of war and only with prior parliamentary approval. The Act also revised provisions concerning conscientious objection, providing for special tribunals to determine claims and making it possible for an individual to be recognised as a conscientious objector to a particular war. In introducing the legislation the Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General, Peter Duncan, said that the Keating Government's aim was 'to preserve the capacity to introduce conscription for the protection of Australia, but to ensure that those claiming exemption would receive a rapid and fair hearing'. The Government clearly wished to remove many of the anomalies in the operation of compulsory military service that had become evident during the Vietnam War. Duncan expressed the hope that repeal of the National Service Act would 'remove this last vestige of an unhappy and divisive episode in our history'.

*Birthdates drawn in National Service ballots 1965-72*

*Birthdates drawn in the first National Service ballot: 10 March 1965*
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 January 1945 to 30 June 1945.

January 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 21, 23, 27, 28
February 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9,12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26
March 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29,30
April 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 29
May 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 19, 22, 23, 26, 30
June 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 25, 26, 29

Birthdates drawn in the second National Service ballot: 10 September 1965

Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 July 1945 to 31 December 1945.

July 3, 6, 7, 8, 16, 22, 25, 26, 31
August 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26
September 2, 4, 5, 6, 14, 17, 21, 25, 26
October 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 23, 25, 29
November 3, 4, 12, 14, 15, 16, 22, 24, 27
December 6, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 July 1945 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.

July to December—as above

January 3, 6, 7, 8, 16, 22, 25, 26, 31
February 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26
March 5, 7, 8, 9, 17, 20, 24, 28, 29
April 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 25, 27
May 1, 6, 7, 15, 17, 18, 19, 25, 27, 30
June 8, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30

Birthdates drawn in the third National Service ballot: 11 March 1966

Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 January 1946 to 30 June 1946.

January 2, 3, 5, 12, 13, 21, 22, 30
February 1, 2, 12, 23
March 1, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29
April 5, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 26, 29
May 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 20, 22, 23, 26, 29, 30
June 1, 6, 9, 14, 17, 25, 30

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 January 1946 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.

January to June—as above

July 2, 3, 5, 12, 13, 21, 22, 30
August 1, 2, 12, 23, 29
September 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26
October 3, 8, 13, 16, 17, 22, 24, 27, 30, 31
November 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, 29
December 4, 7, 12, 15, 23, 28, 31

Birthdates drawn in the fourth National Service ballot: 9 September 1966

Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 July 1946 to 31 December 1946.

July 15, 17, 20, 24
August 2, 14, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27
September 12, 16, 18, 23, 24, 25  
October 1, 16, 21, 22, 23, 29  
November 1, 2, 5, 9, 11, 12, 17, 24, 26, 28, 30  
December 1, 6, 18, 25  

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 July 1946 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.  

July to December—as above  
January 15, 17, 20, 24  
February 2, 14, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27  
March 15, 19, 21, 26, 27, 28  
April 3, 18, 23, 24, 25  
May 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14, 15, 20, 27, 29, 31  
June 2, 3, 8, 20, 27  

**Birthdates drawn in the fifth National Service ballot: 10 March 1967**  
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 January 1947 to 30 June 1947.  

January 1, 4, 6, 7, 12, 16, 17, 20, 24, 25, 30  
February 3, 8, 12, 16, 18, 23  
March 3, 11, 16, 21, 22, 23  
April 4, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 24, 29  
May 1, 13, 14, 22, 25, 29  
June 5, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 29  

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 January 1947 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.  

January to June as above  
July 1, 4, 6, 7, 12, 16, 17, 20, 24, 25, 30  
August 3, 8, 12, 16, 18, 23, 31  
September 8, 13, 18, 19, 20  
October 2, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 22, 27, 29  
November 10, 11, 19, 22, 26  
December 3, 9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 27, 30  

**Birthdates drawn in the sixth National Service ballot: 8 September 1967**  
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 July 1947 to 31 December 1947.  

July 2, 12, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 29  
August 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 19, 26, 27  
September 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 23  
October 13, 14, 16, 21, 25, 26, 31  
November 6, 17, 18  
December 4, 10, 15, 22, 24, 25  

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 July 1947 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.  

July to December—as above  
January 2, 12, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 29  
February 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 19, 26, 27  
March 13, 16, 18, 19, 22, 26  
April 15, 16, 18, 23, 27, 28
May 3, 9, 20, 21
June 6, 12, 17, 24, 26, 27

Birthdates drawn in the seventh National Service ballot: 15 March 1968
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 January 1948 to 30 June 1948.
January 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21
February 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 21
March 2, 7, 8, 9, 15, 22, 25, 26, 29, 31
April 3, 16, 17, 19, 25, 30
May 1, 7, 11, 17, 18, 21, 23, 31
June 10, 17, 24, 28
Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 January 1948 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.
January to June—as above
July 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21
August 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 21, 30
September 4, 5, 6, 12, 19, 22, 23, 26, 28
October 1, 14, 15, 17, 23, 28, 29
November 4, 8, 14, 15, 18, 20, 28
December 8, 15, 22, 26

Birthdates drawn in the eighth National Service ballot: 13 September 1968
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 July 1948 to 31 December 1948.
July 3, 21, 22, 24, 30
August 1, 3, 16, 18, 24, 26
September 5, 9, 12, 14, 22, 23, 24, 26
October 3, 13, 18
November 5, 18, 24, 28, 29
December 7, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26
Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 July 1948 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.
July to December—as above
January 3, 21, 22, 24, 30
February 1, 3, 16, 18, 24, 26
March 7, 11, 14, 16, 24, 25, 26, 28
April 4, 14, 19
May 7, 20, 26, 30, 31
June 8, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 27

Birthdates drawn in the ninth National Service ballot: 14 March 1969
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 January 1949 to 30 June 1949.
January 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 14, 19, 20, 23, 25, 29, 31
February 3, 8, 12, 14, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28
March 1, 7, 11, 12, 20, 22, 26, 28
April 2, 3, 8, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26
May 13, 18, 19, 27
June 7, 9, 10, 23, 28, 30
Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 January 1949 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.

January to June—as above
July 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 14, 19, 20, 23, 25, 29, 31
August 3, 8, 12, 14, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 30
September 5, 9, 10, 18, 20, 24, 26
October 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24, 25
November 11, 16, 17, 25
December 6, 8, 9, 22, 27, 29, 31

Birthdates drawn in the tenth National Service ballot: 22 September 1969
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 July 1949 to 31 December 1949.
July 3, 8, 11, 15, 20, 25
August 9, 13, 25, 29
September 18, 19, 21, 28
October 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 15, 25
November 17, 22, 29
December 2, 5, 7, 15, 17, 25

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 July 1949 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.

January to December—as above
July 3, 8, 11, 15, 20, 25
February 9, 13, 25, 29
March 20, 21, 23, 30
April 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 16, 26
May 19, 24, 31
June 3, 6, 8, 16, 18, 26

Birthdates drawn in the eleventh National Service ballot: 13 March 1970
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 January 1950 to 30 June 1950.
January 3, 4, 6, 11, 22, 26, 28, 30
February 4, 11, 15, 21
March 1, 10, 15, 21
April 7, 13, 15, 21, 28
May 10, 20, 22, 25, 31
June 4, 11, 19, 23

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 January 1950 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.

January to June—as above
July 3, 4, 6, 11, 22, 26, 28, 30
August 4, 11, 15, 21, 30
September 8, 13, 19
October 6, 12, 14, 20, 27
November 8, 18, 20, 23, 29
December 3, 10, 18, 22

Birthdates drawn in the twelfth National Service ballot: 28 September 1970
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 July 1950 to 31 December 1950.
July 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 29, 30
August 1, 17, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 31
September 2, 3, 5, 13, 15, 19, 26
October 2, 3, 4, 10, 15, 30
November 18, 20, 29, 30
December 2, 6, 7, 22, 28, 29

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 July 1950 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.

July to December—as above
January 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 29, 30
February 1, 17, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29
March 2, 4, 5, 7, 15, 17, 21, 28
April 3, 4, 5, 11, 16
May 1, 20, 22, 31
June 1, 3, 7, 8, 23, 29, 30

Birthdates drawn in the thirteenth National Service ballot: 26 March 1971
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 January 1951 to 30 June 1951.
January 2, 7, 8, 11, 15, 26, 28
February 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 24, 28, 29
March 5, 7, 13, 15, 17, 20, 26, 27, 28, 30
April 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30
May 4, 5, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 25, 26, 29
June 2, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23, 28, 29, 30

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 January 1951 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.

January to June—as above
July 2, 7, 8, 11, 15, 26, 28
August 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 24, 28, 29
September 3, 5, 11, 13, 15, 18, 24, 25, 26, 28
October 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29
November 2, 3, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 27
December 1, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 20, 22, 27, 28, 29

Birthdates drawn in the fourteenth National Service ballot: 17 September 1971
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 July 1951 to 31 December 1951.
July 1, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 22, 26, 31
August 1, 6, 7, 10, 21, 24, 27, 30
September 4, 8, 10, 14, 21, 23, 28, 29
October 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 16, 20, 22, 25
November 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 22, 27, 28, 30
December 7, 8, 9, 16, 21, 28, 29, 31

Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 July 1951 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.

July to December—as above
January 1, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 22, 26, 31
February 1, 6, 7, 10, 21, 24, 27
March 1, 6, 10, 12, 16, 23, 25, 30, 31
April 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 17, 21, 23, 26
May 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 24, 29, 30
June 1, 8, 9, 10, 17, 22, 29, 30

Birthdates drawn in the fifteenth National Service ballot: 24 March 1972
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 January 1952 to 30 June 1952.
January 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 23, 30
February 2, 3, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 29
March 9, 12, 13, 17, 26, 27, 30, 31
April 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 22, 24, 29
May 2, 3, 5, 11, 13, 20
June 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 21, 24, 29, 30
Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 January 1952 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.
January to June—as above
July 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 23, 30
August 2, 3, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 29
September 7, 10, 11, 15, 24, 25, 28, 29
October 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 21, 23, 28, 31
November 1, 3, 9, 11, 18
December 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, 15, 20, 23, 28, 29

Birthdates drawn in the sixteenth National Service ballot: 22 September 1972
Men included in the ballot who were born in the period 1 July 1952 to 31 December 1952.
July 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 29, 30
August 1, 4, 11, 17, 19, 21, 28, 29
September 3, 10, 12, 17, 18, 20, 25
October 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19, 29, 30
November 3, 15, 29, 30
December 1, 6, 21, 26, 30
Men included in the ballot who were born prior to 1 July 1952 but were absent from Australia when their age group was required to register.
July to December—as above
January 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 29, 30
February 1, 4, 11, 17, 19, 21, 28, 29
March 5, 12, 14, 19, 20, 22, 27
April 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 20, 30
May 1, 5, 17, 31
June 1, 2, 7, 22, 27
ENDS
107 BATTERY ASSOCIATION ANZAC REUNION
The Entrance - 22nd to 27th April 2016
Reunion information and early-bird Registration Booking Form

Please read all information before completing registration form. Use BLOCK letters and print CLEARLY.

The Reunion venues are The Diggers (RSL) Club and Ibis The Entrance Hotel, attached to The Diggers. Your Reunion booking includes all functions, many meals/snacks, some drinks and transport as indicated below. On Saturday there is the options of Pelican feed OR Cultural & Shopping tour of the Central Coast. An optional extra Deep Seas Fishing trip is also available at an additional cost. Also included are one each RAM Cap, Stubby holder plus the Reunion Highlights DVD per registration. Additional items can be ordered for partners and friends. Where not included, meals and bar service can be purchased at venues. Reunion ‘The Entrance 2016’ follows the Rammers Association tried and proven format.

- **Friday 22 April - Reunion Meet & Greet** 1600 hrs at The Diggers with substantial bar snacks and drinks. Additional drinks can be purchased at The Diggers.
- **Saturday 23 April – Day of sightseeing** Bus trip to Reunion Pelican Feeding, purchase own lunch in the Entrance OR alternative Shopping & Cultural tour of other Central Coast centres. Both groups will visit The Entrance RSL Museum.
- **Saturday 23 April - Deep seas Fishing** 0600 hrs from Terrigal Haven, an optional extra activity including transport, full fishing gear, but take your own drinks. Return 1300 hrs and purchase own lunch at Terrigal. $150 pp.
- **Saturday 23 April - Reunion Dinner** at The Diggers 1900 for 1930 hrs, a sit down meal and drinks. Additional drinks can be purchased at The Diggers. A classically friendly Rammer Reunion night is ensured.
- **Sunday 24 April - tour of historic Newcastle and Artillery Fort Scratchley** departing at 0740 hrs and includes morning tea, lunch, tour of the Fort including underground Artillery facilities and full commentary.
- **Sunday 24 April – Anzac eve Function** at The Diggers 1830 for 1900 hrs for a less formal gathering of all present for Anzac day, with finger food and some drinks included. Additional drinks and food can be purchased.
- **Monday 25 April - ANZAC Day activities** starts for the early risers with 0445 hrs bus trip to the War Memorial at The Entrance for Dawn Service. Then return for a Gun Fire breakfast in The Diggers. Only those attending the Dawn Service can obtain tickets for the Breakfast. At 10:30 return to The Entrance by bus for the March. Then back to The Diggers for fellowship in the Black Sheep Bar section. Meals and drinks are available for purchase from The Diggers.
- **Tuesday 26 April - Bus Tour** Board the Reunion Bus at 0745 hrs to a tour to two Hunter Valley wineries with tastings, then lunch at Harrigan’s Irish Pub included.
- **Tuesday 26 April - Reunion Farwell drinks** with substantial bar-snacks and drinks at The Diggers, commencing at 1800 hrs. Additional food and drinks can be purchased at The Diggers. Another Rammers special and unique farewell.
- **Wednesday 27th April - RTU** Return to Units by own means.
- **Reunion DVD** of highlights by official photographer, Glenn Clarke, will be mailed to you after the Reunion.
Yes I will attend the Reunion:

First (preferred) name: __________________ Surname: ______________________
Postal address: _______________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Post Code ______

I am a financial member of 107 Battery Association – Yes / NO (circle) See notes included on these pages.

For urgent contact and reunion updates, please contact me via:

Phone: (0__) _______ _______ h/w    Mobile: 04 ____ ______ ____ (during the reunion)
Email: ______________________________@________________________________________

My wife/partner/friend(s) (all are most welcome to be part of the Reunion) is/are accompanying me:

Name: ______________________________ relationship: _________ (attach list if more than one)

Are there any special requirements of which the Reunion organisers should be aware? Eg Physical (mobility etc), Transport (access etc), Medical (any special requirements) and Food: (allergies etc) or Other. If so please specify:

Notes
107 Battery Association ([www.107fdbty.com](http://www.107fdbty.com)) is an ATO registered non-profit organisation. The Reunion registration fee includes all administrative costs and the listed functions, meals and refreshments. The Association is not registered for GST. Receipts are issued by email or on request by mail. You must be a member (or family/friend of a member) of the Association to take part in the Reunion.

**Activity Pricing:** To enable the Reunion committee to obtain the best prices from the group bookings and to plan all activities with confidence, the Reunion is offered as a complete package to be taken in full. It is not intended that members can elect to attend selected activities and pay only for those activities. However, if you feel that you have a special case to request less that the full package, contact the booking secretary on 0418 695 345 or email hiltonlenard@hotmail.com. Please note the full **Early Bird discount** is for payment in full received by 30 August 2015.

**Late Registration:** Registrations will be accepted until 28th February 2016. After this, subject to availability, late bookings may be accepted but an administrative charge of $50.00 will apply. Considerable work is involved with bookings and a late registration adds significantly by duplicating this effort.

**Changes and additions to Bookings:** Changes and additions will be accepted until 1st April 2016, by email/writing and accompanied with any payment necessary. After this date all efforts will be made to action changes but cannot be guaranteed.

**Refunds:** A refund may be requested, if for reasons beyond your control you cannot attend the entire Reunion. The Reunion Secretary should be notified by 1st April 2016. If you are unable to attend any individual Reunion activities, please keep the Booking Secretary informed. A refund fee of $50.00 will apply. Cancellation after 1st April is limited to the amount (if any) recovered from hotel and activity venues, less the refund fee.
THE ENTRANCE ANZAC REUNION REGISTRATION

Name: ____________________  Mobile: ____________________

Circle numbers attending for ALL ACTIVITIES and fill in the TOTAL cost for each person (as appropriate).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(Price includes all functions, meals, refreshments and scheduled transport as detailed on attached pages except the optional extra Fishing Trip)

I am a financial Member of 107 Battery Association: 1 at $450.00

$450.00

PLUS:

Wife/Partner and Friend(s) 0/1/2 at $350.00 (each) $ .00

(Price includes participation in all activities, transport, meals and refreshments as listed less the early bird discount below)

PLUS:

Ibis The Entrance hotel booking: Number of rooms required: ___ rooms at $159 per night per room (two persons per Queen room including Continental breakfast). Two ‘King Deluxe’ rooms are available at $219 per night including Continental breakfast.

Booking for _____ persons for _____ nights - (Arrive: _____ April 2016 and Depart _____ April/May 2016)

Your deposit will be credited to your room and you pay the remainder of your bill on checkout. A standard room is for two persons and comprises one queen bed. You can book to arrive earlier and depart after the reunion dates with this booking form. The standard booking for the Reunion is five (5) nights, in Friday 22nd and out Wednesday 27th April 2016.

Room deposit (per room and must be paid with your registration) Room deposit per room $200.00

Activities Booking: (Circle number for each function and see notes) Number Cost

| Assn Cap (One cap is included, additional caps are $15 ea) | 1 or 2 @$15 ea = (only for additional Cap) | $ .00 |
| Assn Stubby Holder (One holder is included, additional holders are $10 ea) | 1 or 2 @$10 ea = (only for additional Cap) | $ .00 |
| Friday Reunion welcome (Diggers including finger food and some drinks) | 1 or 2 included |
| Saturday A. Bus Tour (Feed the Pelicans, sightseeing & RSL Museum) A or B | 1 or 2 included – select one of either tour A or B |
| OR B. Car Cultural & Shopping Tour of the Central Coast & RSL Museum) B | 1 or 2 included – select one of either tour A or B |
| Saturday Deep Sea Fishing trip (Optional extra) | 1 or 2 EXTRA at $150 pp. | $ .00 |
| Saturday Reunion Dinner (Diggers including dinner & some drinks) | 1 or 2 included |
| Sunday Bus tour of historic Newcastle and Artillery Fort Scratchley | 1 or 2 included |
| Monday ANZAC Day activities | 1 or 2 included |
| Tuesday 26 April Bus Tour Hunter wineries and brewery | 1 or 2 included |
| Tuesday Farwell drinks (Diggers including finger food and some drinks) | 1 or 2 included |
| Reunion memories DVD posted, one per attending member | 1 included |

Early bird booking discount ($50 for member plus $100 for partner if payment is received by 30th August 2015) $ - .00

Enclose is cheque/money order payable to 107 Battery Association

OR:

I made electronic transfer to 107 Bty Assn account at DefBank as follows:

BSB 803 205 A/c Number 2068 9178 - Amount $____ 00 on date: / /2015

Ensure that your NAME is in the remarks of the electronic funds transfer to match up with this form.
OR (*) Please debit my MasterCard/Visa Card (*) $______. 00. Card number and expiry date

|          | - | - | - | - | - | Expiry date | / |

Full name on Credit Card: _____________________________

Your credit-card bill will show as 107 Battery Assn.

Signature ..................................................... Date __ / __ / 2015

SUBMISSION: Please dispatch pages 1 & 2 complete & signed to the Registrations Secretary no later than 28th February 2016:
By Email: hiltonlenard@hotmail.com (email submission of this form is considered as a signed copy)
By Post: 107 Battery Association PO Box 199 ERINDALE, ACT 2903

Any QUESTIONS? Phone 0418 695 345 or email hiltonlenard@hotmail.com

Reunion CAP and Stubby Holder: The Reunion RAM Cap and Stubby holder will be issued at the Reunion on the basis of one Polo Shirt, cap and Stubby holder per member attending and is included in the Reunion package. Additional caps, caps or stubby holders can be ordered for family and friends provided they are included on the registration form above. The RAM cap is a fashionable black 6-panel baseball cap with red trim on the peak. It includes the RAM logo and Battery details in 3D embroidery on the front and “Black Sheep Battery” on the rear. If not attending the reunion, but would like a Cap and/or Stubby holder, then contact the Reunion Secretary at hiltonlenard@hotmail.com or m: 0418 695 345. Additional RAM caps $15 and Stubby holders $10 delivered to the first Reunion function or posted after the reunion at a total of $15.00 P&P, if you are not attending the Reunion.

Early Bird Booking Discount: A discount of $50 for members and $100 for partners/friends is available if payment is received no later than 30th August. Please deduct from the total amount owing above. This discount will reduce to $25/50 per member & partner/guest for payments received between 1st September and 30th November.
107 Field Battery Association

Association items for Members- fund raising

Tracing the Battery and its members through the early years after re-raising at Holsworthy through Malaysia, Townsville and to war in Vietnam, this book has 350 gloss pages, over 600 photos many in colour, vary many stories and lots of historical data. This is a must have in any military library or collection. The members price is $60 (RR $75) plus postage and packaging in Australia of $17 for one or two copies.
Cost for p&p for multiply copies on application.

Association Key ring: similar to your membership key tag, $15 (inc p&p)

RAM Pin: Our original discrete Black Sheep Association pin, Two for $15 (inc p&p)

The Black Sheep Cap: The traditional Black Sheep Cap with 3D embroidered front & rear, $30 (inc p&p).
Out of stock new supplies later in year.

107 Tie:
The traditional tie with our Black Sheep emblem in Red, Gold and Black, $27 (inc p&p) Stock is limited do not miss out.

RAM Stubby Holder: A black holder with 107 Black Sheep logo in red, black & silver with 107 Battery RAA on each side, $17 (inc p&p) or Special two for $20 (inc P&P)

ORDER: Please send me the following (incl p&p):
Book: 107 Bty 1965-71 qty___ $77 ea =
Black Sheep Key Ring qty___ $15 ea =
RAM Pin (quantity 2) qty___ $15pr =
Black Sheep Baseball Cap qty___ $30 ea =
Tie conventional qty___ $30 ea =
RAM Stubby Holder qty___ $17 ea =
RAM Stubby Holder special qty 2 for $20 =

Total = $

NAME: ____________________________ (please print)
Address: _____________________________
Location: ____________________________ State___ PC

PAY Three options:
1. by cheque/MO and post to:
   107 Fd Bty Assn, PO Box 199 ERINDALE
   ACT 2903
2. Email order and direct credit to:
   107 Bty a/c
   BSB 803205 a/c 20689178
   With your name in remarks
3. Use credit card form below.

Questions?
Email: hiltonlenard at hotmail dot com Mobile: 0418 695 345
Post this form or scan and email to hiltonlenard at hotmail dot com
Please debit my Visa/MasterCard for $______.00.
Card number
Expiry date / 
Full name on Credit Card: ______________________ Signature ______________________
Date: __/___/2015