

# THE FIGHTING FOURTH



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FOURTH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION,  
QUEENSLAND

November 2006

## AUSTRALIAN COMMANDOS RECEIVE DECORATIONS FOR GALLANTRY

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The Governor-General His Excellency MAJ GEN Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC, joined with Prime Minister of Australia the Hon John Howard, MP, the Hon Dr. Brendan Nelson, MP and the Chief of the Defence Force ACM Angus Houston AO, AFC, to welcome home Eastern Australia-based members of the Afghanistan Special Forces Task Group (SFTG) in a ceremony at Tobruk Lines, Holsworthy Barracks on 26 November 2006.

The soldiers, predominantly from the Sydney-based Fourth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) (4RAR(Cdo)), formed part of the 200-personnel strong SFTG operating in Southern Afghanistan since late last year.

During the ceremony the Governor-General and Prime Minister praised the professionalism and courage of the SFTG who were involved in some of the most ferocious fighting since the Vietnam War during their 12-month deployment to Afghanistan.

The dangers faced by the SFTG were highlighted by the presentation of Australia's first Star of Gallantry and a Medal for Gallantry to 4RAR(Cdo) members by the Governor-General.

Commando Sergeant "A" and Commando Corporal "B" were decorated for gallantry in recognition of their outstanding actions, leadership and bravery in Afghanistan.

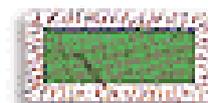
During the awards presentation the Governor-General praised the actions of the two soldiers and described them as being "in the highest traditions of the Special Operations Command-Australia, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force."

The Governor-General also announced the awarding of a Unit Citation for Gallantry to combat elements of the SFTG, whilst the Task Group as a whole has been awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation. These awards will be formally presented at a later date. This means that 4RAR (Cdo) has been awarded two unit citations for the one campaign.

### THE UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY AND THE MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

*Both the Unit Citation for Gallantry and The Meritorious Unit Citation were formally established on 15 January 1991.*

*The Unit Citation for Gallantry is awarded to a unit for extraordinary gallantry in action.*



*The Meritorious Unit Citation is awarded to a unit for sustained outstanding service in warlike operations.*



*Those citations with the Federation Star are worn by members of the unit at the time of the award. Those without the Federation Star are worn by members of the unit who are posted into the unit at a later time.*

## From the President

Dear Members ,

I am saddened to report that due to severe medical problems, Bob 'Yogi' Pearson has been forced to stand down as President/Treasurer of the Association. Bob was our President from 2000 to 2006 and his wife Jan was of course Mrs President. Jan however preferred to be the quiet achiever, always there.

Bob was a president who like his predecessors, had one aim in life and that was to make a difference in the way that the 4RAR Association, Queensland presented itself and achieved for its members. Wearing his treasurers hat he was always concerned about accounting for the Association's assets, spending money only if it benefited the members or the Association as a whole. I was always appreciative of his concern and loyalty to the Association. Although Bob has stood down as President/Treasurer his legacy can be displayed in the achievements attained by the Association in the past few years.

The 4RAR Assoc, Qld is in fact a misnomer. Because this association as well as being responsible for Qld members is also responsible for members in Victoria, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and overseas. Bob hasn't left us completely as he is still on the new committee and his advice will be eagerly sought by those who now attempt to fill his shoes. The Association has done some great things over the past six years under Bob's guidance and it is with some trepidation that the new committee works to maintain and improve that level of accomplishment. Bob, on behalf of all the members of the 4RAR Associations Australia wide, thank you. You did make a difference. Well done!

We have had the great fortune

to have elected to the committee, unanimously Don Zerner as Vice President, Don McGregor as the new Secretary, Noel Fairley as the new Treasurer, Bob "Spin" Woodbury as our Hospital Visiting Officer and Bob "Yogi" Pearson, Derek Firth and Noel Kelly remaining as committee members. I was fortunate to be voted in as President and will continue as Editor. This is a good team who only have the interests of the Association and the Battalion at heart and I welcome them to the committee and thank you all for your confidence.

The Presidents and Committee members of years gone by have steadily worked for the benefit of members and in assisting the Battalion. In recognition of the efforts of those who unselfishly gave of their time, efforts, knowledge and application, 6 members were made Life Members of the Association at the recent Nui Le Dinner held on 23 September. Those elevated to Life Member with the privilege of the post nominal (LM) were:

Noel Huish OAM, (LM): President 1987-1996; Allan "Blue" McLean (LM): President 1996-2000; Bob "Yogi" Pearson (LM): President 2000-06; Max "Yogi" Upton (LM) posthumous: Secretary 1987-2002; and Alan Price (LM): President 1985-87 and Secretary 2002-2006;

It also must be taken into consideration that they continue, to contribute and without them, the Association could not continue to improve.

The winners of the last raffle were Bob Dunn who took out first prize of the statuette donated by Psycho Hughes just prior to his death and second prize as well. (Bob could have bought the prizes with the num-

ber of tickets that he bought.). Alan Deeth took out third prize. Please support our next raffle which is featured in Emu Bob on page 4.

It was pleasing to see an excellent attendance at the Nui Le Dinner on 23 September. It was a full night with addresses elections, and presentation of Life Memberships, but that didn't seem to upset many members who stayed until Lights Out and some even until Stand Down the following day.

Our next major function is the commemorative service and birthday celebration at the RAR National Memorial Walk, Enoggera on Saturday 03 February 2007. See page 11.

The 4RAR Association will be presenting the Dawn Service address at the RARNMW, Enoggera in 2007 and will be leading the RAR in the Brisbane ANZAC Day march. We would really appreciate it if all available members could attend on that day. Ladies and children have been requested to march behind the men next year.

Please, when you change your street and email address, let us know. A lot of information is not passed on because we can't find you!

I am particularly pleased that the 4RAR Honour Contingent and Project Commando have been accepted by our members.

On the day prior to going to print we heard of the gallantry awards to the Battalion. As a result Curley's Diary will reappear in the next issue. May we, on behalf of all our members including those in Tas, Vic, the NT and overseas, congratulate the Battalion We wish you all a very merry Christmas and of course a happy, and prosperous New Year. Duty First, Alan



**ROLL OF HONOUR**  
**AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN, AND IN THE MORNING,**  
**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**



Once again we honour all those who have gone before us. In this brief moment of our time may we consider the stress and strain these men must have passed through before laying down their crosses of life. Enable us, their friends to be worthy of the trust they have imparted unto us on their passing; for theirs was an honourable and noble life. May God grant unto their families His peace.

Bob Woods	27 June 2006
Mick Heffernan	27 July 2006
Rae Woodhouse (Wife of Colin 'Woody')	31 Jul 2006
James (Jock) Burgess	03 Aug 2006
Helen Morrison (Wife of Michael 'Midge')	27 Aug 2006
Ugo De Longis	06 Sep 2006
Vic Byquar	10 Sep 2006
Darryl (Vic) Morrow	14 Sep 2006
Peter Rigby	22 Sep 2006
Digby Hammond	08 Oct 2006
George Petersen	15 Oct 2006

We only hope that there are none recently which we should have reported  
 We sincerely apologise if we have been remiss.

To all that have passed in the service of 4RAR, 2/4RAR and 4RAR (Cdo)  
 Well done, thou good and noble warriors, we will never forget!

**LEST WE FORGET.**



The 2RAR and 4RAR Assocs RARNMW Work Party



The Brisbane ANZAC Day Parade

**EMU BOB**  
**The Raffle**

The next raffle will be drawn on Saturday 03 February at the Annual Commemorative Service and Birthday celebration. First Prize is a print on linen of "AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE-VIETNAM" painted by Brian Wood, 4RAR. The print is number 4 in the series and will be a prized possession. We are also giving \$100 for framing. Second prize \$100 Third Prize \$50

A lucky door prize of the ANZAC digger bust, port decanter (filled) will be awarded as the lucky door prize on that day as well. This decanter was donated by Phsyco Hughes and we thank Lorraine Hughes.

Regardless of numerous requests, Bob Dunn will be allowed to purchase tickets.

Tickets are still 6 for \$10 so please support the raffle as it is the proceeds from the raffle that allow us not to charge fees and allows us to publish and distribute The Fighting Fourth.

As from this issue copies of the newsletter will be sent to 4RAR (Cdo) serving overseas as well as the messes etc at the Battalion. Copies will also be sent to the Helensvale State Primary School. (That's why we had to edit your article slightly  
C u r l e y . . . . .  
Sorry!)



**THE AWARD OF THE STAR OF GALLANTRY**  
**The Officially Edited Citation of the Award of the Star of Courage to**  
**Sergeant "A" of 4RAR (Cdo)**  
**Presented on Sunday 26 October 2006**

**THE STAR OF GALLANTRY**

**SERGEANT "A"**

**For conspicuous gallantry in action and leadership as a Commando Section Commander in the Special Forces Task Group, whilst deployed on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan, 2006.**

During the conduct of an operation in Southern Afghanistan in 2006, a combined Coalition Force conducted a Direct Action mission against a target in the Oruzgan Province. Upon insertion, the assault force, provided by another Coalition partner, was soon surrounded and suffered two soldiers wounded and one soldier killed in action.

A Commando Reaction Force was deployed and tasked to assist the extraction of the assault force by securing the helicopter landing zone and covering their withdrawal. As Sergeant "A's" section was the lead element of the Commando Reaction Force, he received the most intense weight of fire from the Anti-Coalition Militia.

Upon arrival at the landing zone the Commando Reaction Force immediately came under a heavy weight of rocket and small arms fire from multiple flanks. Due to the requirement to secure the extraction site, the Commando Reaction Force held the position for over an hour. Sergeant "A" was responsible for securing the northern flank, repelling a number of assaults whilst being engaged from ranges as close as 50 metres.

Once the extraction was complete, the Commando Reaction Force began its return to base. The Anti-Coalition Militia had anticipated the Commando Reaction Force's extraction route and had prepared a series of ambushes to prevent their safe return. As the lead vehicle commander, Sergeant "A" led his section with distinction and courage. Critically, he was the first to be engaged at each of the ambush locations. In each instance, Sergeant "A" led his section to assault and clear opposition from the route in a rapid and aggressive manner, despite the frequent heavy and effective fire. On one occasion, with absolute disregard for his own safety, Sergeant "A" personally conducted an assault on a machinegun position not more



than 30 metres to his front. This action resulted in the neutralising of the threat from the Anti-Coalition Militia allowing the Commando Reaction Force to continue their manoeuvre.

On at least two other occasions, whilst being engaged from positions as close as five metres and receiving multiple bullet

strikes on his vehicles, Sergeant "A" was forced to fight his way through ambushes by driving directly through the killing ground, which he did without hesitation. These positions were neutralised through the use of small arms fire and fragmentation grenades. Through his outstanding leadership and composure under fire, he successfully manoeuvred his section and led the Commando Reaction Force through several ambush locations, returning them to base without injury.

During the operation, Sergeant "A" led his section with distinction, displaying multiple acts of conspicuous gallantry whilst in combat with the Anti-Coalition Militia over a protracted period of time. His actions directly contributed to the success of the mission and ultimately the safe return of the Commando Reaction Force. His conspicuous gallantry in action was of the highest order and is in keeping with the finest traditions of Special Operations Command-Australia, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

The Star of Gallantry with the post nominal SG, was introduced on 15 January 1991 and prior to the award to Sergeant "A" had not been awarded previously. It is awarded for acts of great heroism or gallantry in action. It is second only to the Victoria Cross. This award is another first in the proud history of 4RAR.

**THE AWARD OF THE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY**  
The Officially Edited Citation of the Award of the Medal for Courage to  
Corporal "B" of 4RAR(Cdo  
Presented on Sunday 26 October 2006

**THE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY**  
**CORPORAL "B"**

**For gallantry and leadership in action as a Commando Team Commander, of the Special Forces Task Group whilst deployed on Operation SLIPPER, in Afghanistan in 2006.**

During the conduct of an operation, Corporal "B's" commando platoon was tasked to carry out the clearance of an Anti-Coalition Militia sanctuary in the Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan. The platoon was partnered in support of a Coalition infantry company. At approximately 1pm the infantry company came under heavy rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire on multiple flanks resulting in six wounded and one soldier killed in action, effectively halting their advance. Through thick vegetation, facing large numbers of dispersed Anti-Coalition Militia and under heavy fire, the commando platoon commenced manoeuvring to provide assistance to the element which was pinned down. During this move, the commando platoon received a volley of four rockets which impacted in the centre of the platoon's position resulting in six Australian soldiers wounded in action. Unknown to the Commander at the time, Corporal "B" had also been wounded in the foot by fragmentation from the rocket propelled grenade barrage.

In order to regain the initiative, Corporal "B's" team was tasked by the Commando Platoon Commander to assault forward and clear a group of compounds from which they were receiving Anti-Coalition Militia fire. Under these daunting conditions Corporal "B" commenced this task without hesitation, completing a rapid and aggressive clearance of numerous threat compounds. Once achieved, Coalition elements were free to continue with the battle providing the necessary time to effect the back loading of the wounded by helicopter to the Forward Operating Base.



Throughout the afternoon, numerous and relentless probing attacks by a determined opponent followed. Corporal "B" displayed extraordinary leadership and courage, inspiring his team and the remainder of the commando platoon to repel the continued attacks. He then successfully led a team to infiltrate the

Anti-Coalition Militia held territory killing several Anti-Coalition Militia. Only after the engagement had been completed and the threat to the platoon subsided did Corporal "B" inform his Commander of the fragmentation wound that he had sustained during the original contact earlier that day. Corporal "B" was then evacuated to the Casualty Collection Point where he was provided with medical treatment and later extracted.

Corporal "B's" actions as a Commando Team Commander were testament to his leadership, fortitude and sense of duty to his team and the platoon. His determination to continue to lead his team during the battle in extremely hazardous circumstances despite being wounded ensured that the commando platoon regained the initiative and contributed significantly to a decisive victory. His gallantry and leadership in the face of the enemy has been of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions of Special Operations Command-Australia, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

**The Medal for Gallantry with the post nominal MG, was introduced on 15 January 1991. It is awarded for acts of gallantry in action and ranks third after the Victoria Cross. This award is another first in the proud history of 4RAR.**

**EMU BOB**  
**Mary In The Morning**  
By Cheryl Roost

This is a unique book. It tells of the life of Private Christopher William Roost, a 4RAR warrior. The book, written by his sister in law begins and ends with the Diggers of C Company 4RAR on 23 December 1968, but it is what lies in the intervening pages and the style of presentation that makes this book so remarkable! Chris and his young wife Mary, had plans for the future but those plans came to an end on 23 December 1968 when Chris, serving with C Company 4RAR, was killed on the battlefield in South Vietnam.

The book accurately describes the life of a soldier, the realisation that although he has a new wife waiting for him at home, he now has a new family, 4RAR, with whom he must share his love and devotion. Mary cannot understand this but reluctantly accepts it. The author intertwines the actions of C Coy in South Vietnam with the life of an individual warrior on the battlefield and that of his loving wife waiting at home. A moving story!

Cheryl will be launching her book at the C Company reunion in Adelaide on 26 April 2007 but you may place your order now by ringing 0419 706 929. I have!



## THE 4RAR HONOUR CONTINGENT

**Introduction to the 4RAR Association, Qld Honour Contingent project. Other state associations and members of 4RAR (Cdo) and their families are invited to participate. Thirty families so far have joined**

### **Introduction.**

The 4RAR Association, Qld Honour Contingent is dedicated to keeping alive the names, memories, deeds and histories of those of the battalion who have fallen in battle or who have since died of any cause. This is done by a family member, descendent, representative or volunteer wearing a 4RAR Honour Plaque in memory and honour of, a 4RAR deceased veteran.

The Project encourages families, especially children, to develop an interest in their own family history, the history of the Battalion and the history of our nation. The project enables descendents and friends of our fallen and departed to participate in community, school and Battalion remembrance and commemorative services as a personal representative of a 4RAR war or service veteran who has sadly passed away. Activities include, but are not restricted to, ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, 4RAR Association activities and other commemorative services.

**How much does it cost?** The total cost for each plaque is \$8.00 including postage.

**What if we do not have a relative or friend who served in 4RAR, but would still like our family to honour a veteran and participate?** Easy....You may select a member by name, by campaign, or period of service or, have a veteran allocated for you by the committee. You will still be required to purchase an Honour Plaque. You may not know of the veteran but it is the representation itself that is important. A resume of the veteran's service and a description of his displayed medal ribbons will accompany each plaque.

**Can all members of my family including my children, wear an Honour Plaque for the same veteran?** Yes, it is common for several people to wear an Honour Plaque for the same veteran, but you must order multiple copies and pay the calculated costs.

**Can one person represent more than one veteran?** No, only one Honour Plaque may be worn at any one time.

**My children and I have friends who would like to honour a 4RAR veteran; may they do this and march on ANZAC Day?** Yes,

**May we, representing a 4RAR veteran, march with the 4RAR Association contingent on ANZAC Day?** Yes, participating 4RAR associations in capital cities will organise this but prior approval may need to be granted by local representatives or ANZAC Day organising committees such as RSL or local councils in other areas.

**What happens to the Honour Plaques when they are not in use?** They are kept by you.

**Must I attend meetings or pay annual fees?** No, but you do become an Associate Member, if not already a member and you will be invited to attend 4RAR Association conducted activities and where appropriate, child members may attend.

**May I purchase additional Honour Plagues to complement a family tree, photo album or to use as a keepsake?** Yes, it is common for families to do this.

**If I wish to participate in the 4RAR Honour Project, what do I do next?** Simply contact Maureen Price at :

**4RAR Assoc, Qld Honour Contingent  
11 Dellforest Drive  
Calamvale Qld 4116  
Tel: (07) 3273 7973  
Email: apriced4@bigpond.net.au**



## PROJECT COMMANDO

**Project Commando** is a joint activity between the Helensvale State Primary School and the 4RAR Assoc, Qld. The project asks students of Helensvale State Primary School, a school within the suburb of Helensvale just North of the Gold Coast, to participate in writing letters to the soldiers of 4RAR (Cdo) serving overseas, in all theatres.

The concept came about over a quiet cup of coffee one morning when Maureen Price commented that it be a good idea if we could ask school children to write to our Diggers overseas. Maureen then took the idea to our grandchildren. This was done at a family BBQ where friends and their school age children were also invited, so Maureen put the concept to all in attendance.

One of those friends just happened to be a school teacher from the Helensvale State Primary School. She stated that if her school was not asked to be involved in the project that she would set fire to the fence after nailing me to it.

Maureen then took the concept to our committee who all agreed that we should proceed. Identifying that we already had a school who wished to be considered for the project, we then approached Helensvale State Primary School and offered the project. The Principal, Mr Bob Pascoe readily agreed and nominated a liaison officer from the school, Mrs Mary Anne White, to work with us in conducting the project. This caused me a little bit of a dilemma as I had not at this stage sought confirmation and agreement for the project from the Commanding Officer of 4RAR (Cdo)..... and he was overseas!

However, I contacted the CO and he took time out from more pressing attentions overseas ... fighting a war ... to reply and agree to the project and to the involvement of his soldiers.

The project is very basic in design and all that is asked of the students is that they write to a soldier of the Battalion overseas.

The letters are then sent by the school to Army Post Offices and directed to whichever theatre of operations the student requests. It is then up to the soldier to reply. The content and style of the letter is entirely up to the students; they may elect to send a simple Christmas card, write about their school activities, sporting activities, describe their families and pets or even send a little gift.



When I addressed the school students in mid October, they asked if they could send food to our soldiers. (It was apparent that bully beef and biscuits is still considered the basic diet of soldiers.) I suggested that they send a small item such as a handkerchief because a handkerchief could be placed inside an envelope, a handkerchief was an item that a soldier can use in a variety of ways and that a handkerchief could wipe away the tears of appreciation and gratitude that the soldier would shed on receiving a letter and a gift from an unknown Aussie child. One child suggested that a soldier might give the handkerchief in turn, to a child in a war torn country who was not as lucky as they were. I needed a handkerchief to wipe my eyes at that moment. Aren't our kids great?

Letters of consent to participate were sent to the parents of the students and more than two hundred letters have already been sent to our warriors overseas. This project has the potential to spread like a bush fire. Thank you to Maureen for your initiative and to our committee, the Helensvale State Primary School and 4RAR (Cdo) for supporting an idea.

### EMU BOB Merchandise

Association Shirts \$30  
Association Caps \$20  
Battalion tie \$27.50

Name Plates \$12.50 each



The name plates have a coloured badge with white writing superimposed on a red background. They have a magnetic backing which will make the plate easier to attach to clothing and save irritating holes which damage ladies clothing.

Car Stickers \$5.50 each



The car stickers are 12 cm by 10 cm with a coloured badge, black writing and superimposed on a red background..

The name plates and car stickers do not display a state association title and therefore may be worn and displayed by all members.

Contact:  
Maureen Price  
(07) 3273 7973 or  
apriced4@bigpond.net.au



**EMU BOB**  
**The Army Combat**  
**Badge**

The changing face of the battlefield has been recognised with the release of the new ARMY Combat Badge (ACB).



Any member of any Corps who was posted to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group or similar unit/sub unit and has given either continuous or an aggregate of 90 days satisfactory service on warlike operations for a single deployment or operation is eligible for the award of the ACB.

What this means for 4RAR is that if a non-infantryman was POSTED to the battalion on deployed operations for 90 days or more, he can receive the ACB. The Head of Corps (formerly Director of Infantry) has authorised associations to forward those names for consideration of the award. Those who were ATTACHED must apply through their own corps. Those who are entitled to the ICB may not wear the ACB. To apply, please forward your details to:

The Secretary;  
Ross McGregor,  
4RAR Assoc, Qld  
(07) 3882 2678 or  
4rarassocqld@gmail.com

## THE INAUGRAL NUI LE DINNER

I did not write the following but I wish that I had because it epitomises what our Battalion has forever been and what every member of 4RAR, present and past has been attempting to say about our Battalion.

*'An Infantry battalion at battle strength is made up of about six hundred men, but six hundred men do not make a battalion. The six hundred men have to learn the soldiers' trades and disciplines. Even then they are not a battalion. An effective battalion in being ready to fight implies a state of mind – I am not sure if it is not a state of grace. It implies a giving and a taking, a sharing of almost everything; possessions, comfort, affection, trust, confidence and interest. It implies a certain restriction, and at the same time a certain enriching and widening of the human spirit. It implies doing a hundred things together: marching to the band, marching all night long; being hungry, thirsty, exhausted, filthy; being near but never quite mutinous. It involves not the weakening but the deferment of other bonds and interests; the acceptance that life and home are now with the battalion. In the end it is possible to say, "the battalion thinks" or, "the battalion feels" and this is not an exaggeration.'*

(Gullet, Henry, *Not as Duty Only: An Infantryman's War*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1976.)

The inaugural Nui Le Dinner conducted at the 6RAR Long Tan Sergeants' Mess at Enoggera was a total success and in turn characteristic of the quotation by Henry Gullet. Over eighty members attended representing all service and campaigns of 4RAR. Guests included the OC D Coy 4RAR (Cdo) and his lovely wife, The President of the RAR Association, Qld Branch, Lt Col Ted Chitham MC and the now Mrs Karyn Chitham. Ted and Karyn were married on 11 November and we all wish you both a very happy life together. Our Association later presented Karyn and Ted with a family crested matching pair of tea spoons. Also in attendance as guests were Mrs Mary Anne White, the



Helensvale State Primary School Liaison Officer for Project Commando and Mr White, Mrs Trish Hansen, the wonderful lady who sends ANZAC biscuits and Christmas cakes to our 4RAR (Cdo) warriors overseas and SGT Frank N. Stein. Addresses were presented by Noel Huish OAM on the origin of SSGT Frank N. Stein, by OC D Coy 4RAR (Cdo) on the Battalion's efforts in East Timor and by Gary McKay MC on the battle of Nui Le. Presentations of a 4RAR (Cdo) plaque were made to Mrs Trish Hansen and to the Helensvale State Primary School. Bob Pearson was also presented with a statuette as thanks for his service as President and Jan received some beautiful red roses in appreciation of her service.



## ROUTINE ORDERS PART 3

Your place to contact a mate, comment, publicise your wares or just to say hello.

Alec Illin

Please thank the committee for a wonderful and informative newsletter. I consistently look forward to receiving the Fighting Fourth as it keeps me updated on all valuable information on the best battalion. I express my sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones. I also hope that Jock Richardson and John McGhee are feeling better because we will all be looking forward to Jock buying us a beer. Many thanks to you all and keep up the good and happy work.

**Anne Green (Sister of Sammy Grahame KIA SVN 31 Jan 69)**

It was great to talk to you after 31 years since Sammy was KIA. Thank you very much for the newsletters. We had a lovely day in Batemans Bay on Vietnam Veterans Day. I led the march and the MC read a few details about Samuel. It was a hard day for me but I felt so proud. I am going to try and make the 2008 reunion. Many thanks for everything.

**Robert Sims**

Thank you for the newsletter. I did not know that 4RAR existed. It's good to know that they do and are Commando—well done! I was a forward scout in 11 Platoon and fought in the battle of Nui Le. It was bigger than Ben Hur yet it never gets a mention. It's beyond me! (*It does now Bob; Ed*) Look forward to the next Fighting Fourth.

**Des Blazely**

Anne and I are propped on the Murchison River for two months playing golf and bowls. Heading for 9RAR reunion at Perth mid Nov 96 and will be back home around Easter 07. Special g'day to Don Zerner whom I haven't seen since relieving him as Chief Clerk 8/9RAR in 86. Kindest regards to all.

**John McGhee**

John is still not coping too well. He is in Greenslopes at the moment but may be moved to a new nursing home shortly. Bob Pearson, Bob Still, Rusty Reeves, Steve Young, Scobie Beasley and Peter Webber have been in contact with him and he is in good spirits.

**Brian Avery**

Brian had a hip replacement operation in the first week in November and he is recovering quite well.

**Paddy Muir**

Remember Paddy Muir, our first pay sergeant? His daughter Kathy is still desirous of finding out all she can about her father who passed away in 1990. Kathy would be grateful for any photos, information, or anecdotes about her father, good and bad. Please contact: Kathy Murray on (07) 3807 2787 or murrayk@iprimus.com.au



**Gary Todd**

Thanks for the Newsletter, a great read. Am going to WA in a few weeks to meet up with Toad Fletcher.

**Mrs Lisa Mountney**

My children attend Helensvale Primary School and I must congratulate you on your project involving the children with your soldiers serving overseas. My children are grandchildren of a 4RAR soldier and I cannot think of a nicer way to show our appreciation for our soldiers. Keep up the good work, you are a credit to our soldiers and you make me proud to be an Australian.

EMU BOB

Helensvale State  
Primary School.  
Project Commando

Brian Avery has donated a copy of each of his books, 'Our Secret War' and 'In The Anzac Spirit' to the Helensvale State Primary School in appreciation for their Operation Commando activities. The Association has also donated a copy of Tony Easterby's book "Green Mules, Green Giants" and a copy of the unit book, 'Mission in Vietnam'. Has anybody got a spare copy of the other 4RAR books. "The Fighting Fourth" and 'Red Phoenix' that can be donated as well?

Donations

We have received some donations from members and we do appreciate your kindness and generosity. Thank you so very much..

Articles for Publication

We have not received any articles for publication as a result of our last plea so stand by to answer your phone and be asked very nicely to contribute. The little black dog is tearing his hair out attempting to find articles of interest.

We are particularly wanting stories relating to 4RAR post Vietnam. Please forward your articles to the editor and he will do his best to present your stories in a professional manner.



## THE MELBOURNE REUNION 2008



The 2008 Melbourne reunion is gaining momentum with the Victorian Reunion Committee working hard to ensure that this reunion will be the best of all. Over 600 hundred members and wives have registered so far. A non refundable registration fee of \$30 is required. To request a registration form please contact :

**The Secretary,  
Joe Tite  
(03) 9435 5726 or  
fayeandjoe.tite@bigpond.com**



### **The agenda for the reunion is:**

Monday 28 January 2008  
Tuesday 29 January 2008  
Wednesday 30 January 2008  
Thursday 31 January 2008  
Friday 01 February 2008

Registration  
Tours  
Photographs and BBQ at the Shrine of Remembrance  
Tours  
Battalion Birthday Parade, church service and  
Battalion Dinner at the  
Carlton Crest Hotel. (Formal dress, miniatures)

The team has access to some well priced hotels, motels and caravan parks.

Contact Joe as soon as possible or go to:

[www.zunta.com](http://www.zunta.com) then, Useful Links then, 4RAR Reunion 2008 (Melb)

## MEDAL MOUNTING

Have you received your AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL or PINJAT JASA MALAYSIA ? If so, you will need to have them mounted. Who better to mount them for you properly and in the correct order than Alan Deeth? Alan is a qualified tailor and was our unit tailor during our first tour of South Vietnam. You must remember Alan, he was the first Army tailor 'ordered' to cut the cuffs off JG shirts so that the folded sleeves could be ironed flat (an offence both civil and military). He was lucky that the RSM didn't find out!!! He was also the one who made our medal ribbons in South Vietnam so that we could wear them as soon as we got home.

Please contact Alan:

**Mr Alan Deeth  
38 Delaney Circuit  
CARINDALE QLD 4125  
(07) 3849 1125  
uncleal@tpg.com.au**



## THE ANNUAL 4RAR ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

The Annual 4RAR Association Commemorative service and Birthday celebration will again will be conducted at the RAR National Memorial Walk at Enoggera on Saturday 03 February 2007. Please note that the Commemorative Service at the RARNMW will commence at 1600 hrs and not 1400 hrs as in the past. Experience has shown that it is far too hot to be comfortable at the earlier time. After the service we will adjourn to the 6RAR Long Tan Sergeants' Mess for our birthday celebration and BBQ. Medals are requested.

Please bring your family and children and also bring a flower or flowers to place at a plaque and tree dedicated to those warriors of 4RAR who gave their lives whilst serving overseas and those other 4RAR warriors who died overseas whilst serving in other battalions of the Regiment.. This year was a great success as the pictures below will attest to. 4RAR Honour Contingent members are requested to wear their Honour Plaques.



**THE 4RAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AND  
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
1600 hrs Saturday 03 February 2007**

**I WILL/WILL NOT BE COMING TO THE ANNUAL 4RAR MEMORIAL SERVICE  
TO BE CONDUCTED AT THE RAR NATIONAL MEMORIAL WALK AT GALLIPOLI BARRACKS,  
ENOGGERA AND TO THE LONG TAN SERGEANTS MESS AFTERWARDS.**

Guest Speaker is Mrs Cheryl Roost, author of *Mary in the Morning* (See Emu Bob page 5)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I will be bringing \_\_\_\_\_ guests.

Please enclose Cheque /Money Order etc for full payment of \$12 per person no later than 20 January 2006 made payable to:

4RAR Association Qld,  
PO Box 802, Aspley Qld 4034

Number of tickets at \$12.00 per head (incl yourself) \_\_\_\_\_

Raffle tickets at 6 for \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

THE FOURTH BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT  
ASSOCIATION, QUEENSLAND

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Secretary  
4RAR Assoc, Qld  
PO Box 802  
Aspley Qld 4034  
Email: 4rarassocqld@gmail.com



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Committee	Derek Firth	(07) 3341 5404
	Noel Kelly	(07) 3275 2589
	Bob Pearson	(07) 3312 4884
	Bob Woodbury	(07) 3344 3229
	Allan Wood (Tas)	(03) 6395 6288

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If undeliverable return to

4RAR Assoc, Qld  
PO BOX 802  
ASPLEY QLD 4034

The Fighting Fourth  
20 November 2006

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