



NEWSLETTER 2/2013

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From the Commandant RMC

Brigadier D.M. Gallasch AM, CSC



I was extremely honoured and humbled to be told back in October 2012 of my appointment as the Commandant of the Royal Military College of Australia. Since assuming the position after the 2013 mid-year graduation, I am even more so. As a Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) School graduate I was not previously exposed to the

history and traditions that are the Royal Military College. As each day goes past, I learn a little bit more about the College and continue to be impressed with the achievements of the staff and students, both past and present.

One part of Duntroon Garrison I was familiar with is the Kathleen Best Memorial Gates which are at the entrance to Cavanagh House, the Commandant's residence on Duntroon. What is particularly amusing for me about the gates is that my graduating class, the Class of 1984 was actually part of the official Closing of the Gates Ceremony conducted in 1984 when WRAAC School closed and now, almost 30 years later I again live behind them.

Since commencing as Commandant, I have now watched a mid-year graduation, been part of the Army Reserve First Appointment Course Graduation, attended my first RMC-D Second Class Mixed Formal Dining-in Night and have reviewed my first parade at the Third Class lanyard parade conducted on 25 August 2013. I have also been out to the field with all of the classes as well as the Reserve Officer Cadets, the Specialist Service Officers' Course and for the conduct of the Single Service Training for the ADFA Army Officer Cadets. I can honestly say I have worn camouflage cream more in the short time I have been Commandant than I have since graduating from WRAAC School!

Staff and cadets alike are also undertaking a new Physical Employment Standards—Army (PES-A) conditioning program and assessment trial which sees a lot of us out marching in pack, webbing and body armour. The PES-A is not age or gender specific and the requirements are specific to Corps. The program is certainly focusing all of us on our core combat skills and lifting the level of physical training across all of the staff and certainly helped prepare me for visiting Exercise Shaggy Ridge in Puckapunyal in September.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Duntroon Society who have welcomed me

to the position and provided me with some of the background on certain issues which make my job that little bit easier. I am indebted to the corporate memory of individuals such as John Bullen and Peter Evans who have both provided me the context of recurrent issues and pointed me in the right direction for additional reading to assist me in my journey to discover the history of Duntroon.

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Brigadier Dianne Gallasch was born in Singleton in 1962 and completed a Bachelor of Science in 1983. She graduated from the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps School in 1984 as a Lieutenant into the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps.

As a Lieutenant, she served as a Supply Officer, Quartermaster and Battalion Planning Officer at the 41st Supply Battalion in Adelaide and as Platoon Commander, Foodstuffs/Petrol, Oil and Lubricants (FST/POL) Platoon at the 331st Supply Company in Puckapunyal. After promotion to Captain in 1987, she was posted to Hawkesbury Agricultural College on long-term schooling where she completed a Masters of Applied Science in Food Science. She then filled positions as the Staff Officer Grade 3 FST/POL and as the Senior Inspector Foodstuffs. She was promoted to Major in 1993 and posted to Letterkenny Army Depot in the United States of America as an exchange officer. On return to Australia she was posted as the Officer Commanding Combat Supplies Company at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Logistic Battalion in Townsville.

After attending Australian Command and Staff College in 1997 she became the Deputy Assistant Adjutant Quartermaster General for the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade. In 1999 she was promoted to lieutenant colonel at Australian Defence Headquarters. At the commencement of Operation Warden she became Staff Officer Grade 1 (Operations) at Headquarters Logistic Support Force. From December 1999 through to July 2000 she was the Deputy Commander of the Force Logistics Support Group in East Timor. She was Commanding Officer / Chief Instructor of Personnel Support Division (Army Logistic Training Centre) from January 2001 through to December 2002, followed by a posting to Army Headquarters as the Staff Officer Grade One—Personnel Policy for two years. Promoted to colonel in January 2005, she was posted as the Commanding Officer of the Soldier Career Management Agency. In July 2006, Colonel Gallasch attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, in USA. After her return to Australia she was then sent to Iraq as the logistic plans officer with Multi-National Force Iraq. From her return in July 2008 to January 2010 she was the Chief of Staff, Joint Education, Training and Warfare Command. In January 2010 she was promoted

to Brigadier and was the J1/4 at Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQ JOC) for two years and then deployed as the Director General Transition Redeployment at Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 from January until December 2012.

In June 2013, Brigadier Gallasch was appointed to her current position as the Commandant of the Royal Military College Australia.

In addition to the qualifications previously outlined, Brigadier Gallasch has a Master of Defence Studies, a Master of Business Administration, and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy. She was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in January 2003 for her exceptional service in Timor and at the Army Logistic Training Centre, a Conspicuous Service Cross for her time at HQ JOC, and a Bronze Star for her time in Iraq.

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## Graduation Parade 18 June 2013



*Lieutenant General David Morrison (OCS Dec 1979), Chief of Army (CA), inspecting the graduating class. Beside the CA is SUO Darryl Clark who has since graduated into RAInf.*



*The CA inspecting the graduating class. Beside the CA is Brigadier David Luhrs, CSC (OCS 1985; RMC 1986).*



*CA addressing the Graduation Parade.*

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## Class of 80 Reunion Wellington, 24–27 April 2013

**John Peacock**

There comes a time in the life of most Duntroon classes when the committee responsible for organising reunions takes one of their Kiwi classmates aside and says, “We think it’s time for a New Zealand reunion, and we think you’re just the man to do it. We’ll be in touch.”

I had just over 18 months to consider how best to present a reunion programme that appealed not just to my cost-conscious classmates, but also to their partners. It was not until the fateful email arrived stating that the New Zealand reunion should be organised in the late summer or autumn of 2013 that I knew I finally had to come up with the goods.

ANZAC day falling on a Thursday provided me with inspiration to offer a five-day programme that combined the military flavour of that day with an opportunity to showcase Wellington and maximise the appeal to the very diverse group personalities and characters that make up the “Strength of ‘80” (as the class refers to itself.)

A location and outline plan was agreed among the organising committee members. Classmates could fly directly into Wellington on Wednesday from east coast Australia and avoid the high cost of provincial connecting flights. Wellington, having a compact CBD, is very ‘walkable’ thus avoiding the need for taxis to and from events and meant that getting to any the event locations would be easy. Thursday provided the opportunity to attend a New Zealand dawn parade followed by a wreath laying service at the National Memorial as well as the prospect of an AFL game later in the evening. Friday could be used to explore the cultural delights of the Capital or go on a wine tour to Wairarapa followed by an expedition upon the party streets of Wellington while the ladies had dinner on their own. Saturday was reserved for a leisurely stroll around the harbour to clear the head before the final casual, mixed diner at an intimate restaurant. In all a very workable plan we thought.

Fox Glove (right on the Wellington waterfront) provided the venue for the Welcome Rendezvous. A good choice, I discovered, as the bar and restaurant was going to provide the after match function for the St Kilda Saints AFL team next evening. My wife Sue and I secured two tables upstairs and marked our territory with a miniature class banner and my Duntroon-issue slouch hat. Twelve class mates and wives spent a few very pleasant hours catching-up and then proceeded to dine at one of the numerous nearby restaurants. This was the last we would see of three couples, Steven and Tracey Foggett, Peter and Cathy Hill and Geoff and Lin Schaller until Saturday night. They had decided to take the opportunity to tour Taupo, Rotorua, and Hawke’s Bay by rental car.

ANZAC dawn service was particularly significant for Sue and me as Sue’s cousin, Corporal Leighton Roberts, was drafted back into the New Zealand Army Band to sound the last post with his gold cornet. Although Leighton has played all over the world with the Army Band, he has yet to play at Gallipoli. Can anyone put in a good word for him, please?

Dawn service numbers were bolstered this year by the presence of a large number of Australian AFL fans who helped make the singing of the Australian national anthem a stirring affair, nearly eclipsing our own.

Later in the morning a group of classmates and their wives gathered on the steps of the National War Memorial in light rain to attend the Wreath Laying and National Commemorative Service. This service is attended by the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, and senior members of the armed forces and police and diplomatic corps. His Excellency, the Governor General, Lieutenant-General Sir Jerry Mateparae gave a memorable address and, before the ceremony began, the group was able to chat with Christopher Pugsley, (Class of 1969) author and recently retired military historian at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Chris has real significance for the New Zealanders in our group because he ran our induction into the New Zealand Army in January 1977 before we departed for Duntroon.

After the service we enjoyed coffee and cognac at our apartment before adjourning to a nearby Irish pub for a long lunch, which for some, stretched into the wee small hours. Others adjourned early to brave the chilly Wellington evening and watch the AFL game at Westpac Stadium.

Friday had been designated as the cultural day in the programme. Sue and I joined a group of eight on a guided wine tour to Martinborough in the Wairarapa. We took the train to Featherston (the site of New Zealand's largest WWI military training camp and 1943 massacre of 48 Japanese prisoners of war) and enjoyed the bright sunshine flooding the carriage. The day continued to be fine and warm as we enjoyed tastings at four wineries, including a winery tour and leisurely lunch on the deck at Murdock James Estate.



*The Class of 1980 Saturday Morning Fitness Club at the FUP, the Wellington Civic Centre. Mike Hill (far right) has the big knee bandage—both knees have now been replaced, but not as a result of this event.*



*Saturday lunch at Cafe Picnic in Wellington's Botanical Gardens: Ann and Peter Cook (obscured), Tim Hanna and partner Suzie Marks, Paul Van den Berg, and Jim Young and wife Mandy (partly obscured).*



*The Class of 1980 Wine Connoisseurs arrive at Te Kairanga Winery—first stop of the wine tour: Mike Hill, Neil Taylor, Peter Hargans, Paul Van den Berg and John Peacock.*



*On the deck at Murdock James Estate: Helen and Peter Hargans, Mike Hill, Neil Taylor, Paul Van den Berg and John Peacock.*

Other class members, who had arrived later because of commitments in Australia (including Tim Hanna, the recently appointed State President of the South Australia branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia, and his partner Suzie Marks) visited places such as the National Museum, Te Papa, took a cable car ride to the Observatory for great views over Wellington or visited Wellington's Botanical gardens and had tea at Cafe Picnic next to the Begonia House.

That evening the cultural focus went low-brow for the guys while the ladies had dinner at Floriditas, a well-known, awarding winning restaurant close to our apartment. The guys attempted a leisurely pub crawl along the main party streets of Wellington but failed to reach the objective of a drink at the bar underneath the Embassy Theatre (host to *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* world-wide premieres) at the end of Courtney Place.

Saturday dawned clear and fine, and my wife and I met those fellow travellers who felt the need for a walk to clear the head at the Wellington Civic Square at 10.30 am. We led the group of 16 on a stroll across the City to Sea pedestrian bridge, around the Wellington waterfront and on to Oriental Parade, with its imported white sand beach and spectacular views across the harbour; then around Point Jerningham to Balaena Bay and back across the pass of Maida Vale to Speight's Ale House back on the waterfront again for coffee. This is my favourite Sunday morning stroll and provided lots of photographic opportunities and chances for a good chat in perfect weather.

The reunion's finale took place at a real hidden gem—Vivo Enoteca Cucina. Sue and I, who are well known there (ahem), arrived early to greet all 21 other attendees. The

decision to make the evening casual with partners proved a hit, as did the fixed menu with matching New Zealand wines. Everyone agreed that they had a marvellous evening, and our not-so-old BSM, Andrew Smith, suggested that we sojourn to Singapore in two years for an ANZAC long weekend hosted by our Singaporean classmate, Ah Mee Yam and his delightful wife Wee Lee.

Out of 45 initial responses or apologies, 14 classmates were able to attend along with nine partners—at the high end of the committee’s expectations.

Having now actually organised a reunion, I now have much deeper respect for those classmates, of whatever year, who work so hard to organise their own class reunions. I am now content to attend any future class reunions, almost guilt-free, after having done my own bit of organising.

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NSW Graduation Lunch 11 December 2012

A strong representation of the old and bold of the NSW Branch of the Duntroon Society paraded for their lunch at Sydney Victoria Barracks Mess on 11 December 2012. There was a wide range of Duntroon graduates from the 1940s and early graduates from Portsea, including from the first graduating class.

The Branch Office Holders have not changed since last year although the old stalwarts Duncan Spencer and his wife were elsewhere as he was and still is on Sick Parade. Class orderlies Ian Taylor and Peter Reid ran the show with much prowess. Some of those on parade were carrying ‘swagger sticks’ but everyone was hale and hearty and enjoyed the comradeship which they had experienced at mess functions in days of old.

Once again a large contingent of the Duntroon Class of 1951 were on parade under command of John Sullivan. Wives and widows were well represented to improve the tone of the Reunion.



D.J. (David) Miller (1951), Denise Maizey, and S.J. (Stan) Maizey (1951).



R.L. (Bob) Guest (OCS Dec 1959), K.L. (Ken) Duncan (OCS Dec 1952), Dawn Duncan, Nola Bertram, and J.F. (John) Bertram (1959).



I.R. (Ian) Taylor (1965), R.S. (Richard) McDonagh (OCS Jun 1985), Helen McDonagh, J.F. (John) McDonagh (1946), and Jan Morgan {V.A. Morgan, 1963}.



Valerie Sanders, J.A. (Jeff) Sanders (1958), A.E.J. (Gus) Breen (1951), and R.W. (Rod) Stewart (1958).



Eileen Burnard, R.L. (Ray) Burnard (1951), and S.J. (Stuart) Bryan (1951).



H.S. (Stewart) Grant (Mons OCS UK 1959), A.W. (Tony) Larnach-Jones (1959), H.J. (Harry) Clarsen (1966), and T.R. (Tim) Ford (1966).

The Prodigal Son's Corner

Dan Simpkins (1963)

I have spent approximately one third of my life outside Australia, courtesy mainly of two organisations—the Army and SMEC. The Army sent me to South Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and England, which involved four years of my life, but it has been SMEC that has kept me out of Australia for the past eighteen years, with work in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China and Indonesia. A two-year stint in Samoa with Fletcher Constructions and six months in Malaysia with John Hollands takes me to the one third mark. I will give a brief overview of my involvement in these countries.



I was posted as a Troop Commander in 17 Construction Squadron RAE and arrived in South Vietnam in April 1966. My troop (10 Construction Troop) was involved in work initially in the Australian Logistic Support Group area in Vung Tau, where we constructed Scale A accommodation for all the various units, poured the ward slabs for the hospital, erected Lysaght and Kingstrand prefabricated buildings, operated the water point, built a jail and a stage, and then undertook external work with maintenance on the R & C Centre and civilian hospitals, and built a 'hard' on an inlet near Baria to allow US watercraft to unload tracked vehicles without danger of them disappearing into the marine mud. Then my troop was relocated to Nui Dat, where we continued with Scale A and prefabricated buildings, and assisted with drainage work on the Luscombe Field airstrip. My final experience in SVN was to do with the occupation of the Horseshoe and the clearing of vegetation for the infamous minefield.



In December 1967, I was posted for two years to the District Engineer's Office located at Popondetta in what was then the Territory of Papua New Guinea. This was a small top heavy RAE unit seconded to the Department of Works in what was the Northern District (now Oro Province), where we undertook the complete public works function—roads, buildings, water supply, airfields, ports, even burials. The main reason for our presence was the construction of the Popondetta to Kokoda Road, the alignment of which closely follows the route taken by the Japanese invaders and the Australians in WWII. The road was built by local contractors, and so began my education into practical engineering and contract law under the guidance of men such as Tom Crotty, Neil Collier and Ron Shelley. One major activity was the construction of the bridge over the Kumusi River. Other interesting aspects included an inspection every three months of all airstrips in the district, the construction of an entomological laboratory at the Popondetta Agricultural Institute, acting as the escort for a United Nations team of three checking on the Australian management of the 'colony', and having two ribs broken in what was to be my last game of football. [As the only white man on the field, I was a number one target.]



The Army saw fit to send me to the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham in England for the 1970 Army Staff Course, Division 1. We went by ship—the *Angelino Lauro*—from Sydney via Capetown, and arrived in Southampton on 1 January 1970 to a freezing cold, snowy day, a world away from the heat and humidity



Jean Reid {N.F. Reid, 1951}, R.R. (Dick) Hannigan (1951), J.H. (Jack) Skipper (1951), and Lillian Lander {H.M. Lander, 1951}.



Ian Taylor and J.W. (John) Sullivan (1951).



R.D. (Ron) Hamlyn (1957), C.F. (Cliff) Dodds (1956), Patsy Dodds, and I.B. (Ian) Mackay (1955).



John McDonagh and W.E. (Wally) Stinson (1948).



The Class of 1951 Reunion Group.

of PNG. It was a most interesting twelve months, notable for the different nationalities, uniforms, accents, trips around England to various research and educational establishments and Army bases, and a visit to the BAOR in Germany. We were asked to 'extend ourselves' with an assignment or thesis, and I undertook a study of lasers and eye safety, way outside anything I had ever done before. My assignment, on completion, was promptly stamped "Confidential", and because it was in the days before photo copiers or scanners or computers, I failed to keep a copy for myself. But I took up refereeing rugby again, and managed one of my better games – between the British Army and Bristol University, played on the oval in front of Roberts Hall at the College. The Army had changed its policy on movement during that year, and we had to fly home, so by paying a little extra myself, we came back via Mexico and Tahiti.



I had resigned from the Regular Army in December 1973, and began life as a professional engineer. After a decade and a half had passed with work in Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, I was offered a position in 1991 with Fletcher Constructions, a New Zealand company, to be the Project Manager on a road job in Samoa. This road runs from Falevo to Sale'a'amoia, on the main island of Upolu. This was to be up to that time the most testing period of my life, with construction in a remote part of the Pacific and consequent logistic headaches; a series of natural disasters (the most extreme being Cyclone Val in December 1991); technical problems including high rainfall (7.5 m pa), saturated ground conditions, and only one source of stone for aggregate; local issues involving land ownership, stealing, and the cultural and language barrier; and finally contractual problems involving claims. But we persevered, and completed the road in May 1993. Rugby is almost a religion in Samoa, and being a referee, I was truly lucky. I managed to be in the right place at the right time and officiated at my one and only international—France and Samoa, not long after I arrived. My luck ran out though at the end of my sojourn in Samoa—I had my leg broken whilst refereeing, and had to go to New Zealand for repairs. [Can you imagine the humour induced in the New Zealand patients – an Australian breaking his leg while refereeing? "C'mon, tell us again, ref!"]



My appetite for work outside Australia had been kindled in Samoa, and when in 1974 John Hollands offered me a Project Manager position in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah, Malaysia, I was happy to take it. The project was for the installation of a water supply scheme for the city involving a dam in the foothills of the Crocker Range, a treatment plant and a series of large diameter delivery mains to hilltop reservoirs. My role was to handle the delivery mains and the hilltop reservoirs. My workforce of 200 included Chinese, Indians, and local people—Kadizian, Murut, Dusun, Dayak and Iban. But while the work load was quite onerous, we managed side trips to Sandakan and the infamous POW camp, to Labuan and the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, an excursion by train up the Padas River Gorge, and drives through the Crocker Range and up to Mount Kinabalu.



I commenced with SMEC in January 1996 with work on the Lahore to Islamabad Motorway. My first

position was as the Senior Resident Engineer (SRE) on Section 1 of the 350 km long motorway, based at Sheikhpura near Lahore, with 90 km of road and approximately 30 bridges to supervise, with a staff of approximately 200 local engineers, technicians, surveyors, clerks, drivers, cooks and bottle-washers. The contractor for the full length of road [350 km] was Daewoo Constructions from South Korea, but there were many smaller contracts using local contractors for side roads, landscaping, fencing etc. A reorganisation in 1997 repositioned me as the SRE on Sections 3 and 4, and then in September 1997, I was promoted to become the Chief Resident Engineer. In these latter positions, we resided in Islamabad, where one can say, while pointing in any direction, that "Pakistan is 15 minutes that way". The Motorway was opened to traffic in November 1997, but the work had not been completed, and I stayed on until June 1999. There had been several incidents—my 2IC at Sheikhpura had been badly beaten and I had been threatened with a gun at my head, a sub-contractor in Section 4 had threatened to kill me not once, but twice [empty threats!], and I had been sacked by the Chairman NHA but reinstated by the departmental secretary [because of a shared military background]. I was awarded the Pakistan Motorway Medal for my efforts, one of 25 recipients, presented by Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister.



In September 1999, I was posted as the Team Leader/Project Manager on the upgrading of a section of National Highway No 5 between Jagatpur and Chandikol in Orissa on the East coast of India. We arrived at Bhubaneswar in time to experience the so-called Super Cyclone that ravaged the state in October leaving an unofficial death toll of 150,000, mainly the result of a storm surge that pushed inland for approximately 30 km across the Mahanadi River delta. This project was a much smaller enterprise than that in Pakistan but, as in any engineering project, it had its share of technical and contractual problems. The major structure in the project was the seventeen-span bridge across the Birupa River. But as in any location, there are things to discover—Lake Chillika with its fresh water porpoises and flamingos, the excavation of the ancient Buddhist university at Ratnagiri, the famous Black Temple at Konark on the coast, and the various other temples and monuments scattered around the state. In India, I experienced another run in with corruption. The Contractor, who was also a Member of the National Assembly, and therefore an imposing figure in his own imagination, had me removed because I would not assist him with certain claims that he was making for additional payment.



SMEC demonstrated its confidence in my ability and honesty and posted me to be the Senior Resident Engineer on a section of National Highway No 6 between Kampong Thom and Siem Reap on the northern side of the Tonle Sap in Cambodia. My family was provided with accommodation in Phnom Penh and I commuted to a compound at Kampong Thom. The existing road was in extremely poor condition, and required extensive reconstruction, including the replacement of old French Eiffel expedient bridges, some of which had been extensively damaged by American bombing during the Vietnamese War. Mines were also an active hazard, and any new work locations had to be made safe by mine clearance teams. Mine victims were apparent in nearly all villages—

lost hands, or arms, legs—a sad legacy, and an indictment of the indifference of the West to what had happened in this poor country. In the span of history, one can only wonder at the comparison between the level of the state today, and the grandiose magnificence of Angkor Wat when the Khmer Empire was at its height.

My twelve months in Cambodia was soon over.



I went to Bangladesh expecting to be there for two years on a flood rehabilitation project, but the Asian Development Bank did not extend the loan for the project, and my time was curtailed to only three months. However, in that time, I had to inspect work on road and bridge contracts to the south and west of Dhaka, from the Sunderbans to Jessore and to a crossing point on the Indian border, close to where the Battle of Plassey had been fought. Bangladesh is a poor country, bedevilled by corruption, a massive population problem, and subject to annual flooding.



I had two months based at Jiangzhou in Guangxi Province in the southern part of China, working on the Nanning to Youiguan Expressway, a four lane highway, at the end of 2003. My expertise and experience in the handling of soft ground was ostensibly required, but I think that I learnt more from the Chinese than they would have from me. The road ends at Youiguan on the Vietnamese border, and it was an odd feeling to be looking into what I still referred to as North Vietnam from the Friendship Gate, a massive structure denoting the bonds between the two nations. Perhaps the oddest thing about this part of China is the absence of 'old' structures—nearly everything is new. The road traverses 'karst' country, isolated towers of hard rock, an odd landscape when first seen. The Chinese with whom I came in contact impressed me with their hard work, their dedication to lunch at 12 o'clock, and their ability to drink. I quickly learnt to be circumspect and keep a hand over my glass!



The Non Aligned Nations Conference, or Bandung Conference, originally took place in April 1955, and the Indonesian Government wanted to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of that conference in April 2005. The motorway, or Toll Road as the Indonesians call them, between Jakarta and Bandung had to be completed for the anniversary. SMEC had won the job to act as the Construction Manager for the project, and so I was given the opportunity to act in that position, and commenced in February 2004. It was a mammoth undertaking—nine contractors to construct 42 kilometres of four lane motorway with rigid pavement in mountainous terrain, 45 bridges (four of which are termed as major bridges and were designed and built), 23 million cubic metres of earthworks, all in twelve months! I lived in Bandung, and established an office at Padalarang, but had to often visit the Client Head Office in Jakarta. It was completed on time, a truly tremendous engineering feat.

I did manage to get in a side trip to Borobudur to see the ancient Buddhist temple that had been re-discovered by Sir Stamford Raffles. And as another aside, Weary Dunlop was captured by the Japanese at Bandung in 1942.



My next appointment with SMEC was to be in Quetta, Pakistan. The project was for the design and construction supervision of 842 kilometres of provincial

roads throughout the province of Baluchistan. There were security aspects associated with this posting—the Pakistan Army was fighting not only the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), but also a tribal conflict in Waziristan, and the Taliban whenever that sect became obvious. Life was anything but ordinary in Quetta – power and gas lines were often cut by insurgents, the railway was frequently disrupted, and there were regular outbreaks of machine gun and rifle fire and explosions in the city at night. But the work was extremely interesting. I travelled extensively all over the province—to Zhob and Waziristan in the north, to Kach and Derallahyar in the east, Chaman on the Afghanistan border to the west, Khalat and Washuk in the centre, and Turbat near the Iran border to the south west. During this time, there occurred the devastating earthquake in Kashmir in October 2005, for which I was hauled in to undertake an assessment of damage to provincial roads and bridges by the ADB, and the killing of the Nawab Bugti, the BLA leader, in August 2006, an event that led to an outbreak of violence and rioting in Quetta. Strangely, I enjoyed my two years in Quetta, and left with a feeling that perhaps we had done some good.



If for no other reason than to settle my nerves, SMEC appointed me to a position in Bangalore in 2007 to undertake the winding up of a four-year project in Karnataka. This involved travel to the outlying centres of Belgaum and Davengere, and inspections of work in those areas. The work was not onerous, and I kept asking for more interesting assignments. I did manage one side trip to Goa, but I came away unimpressed. SMEC opened a new office in Delhi, and I was invited to the opening, and saw at first hand the progress that had been made in the capital since my last visit there in 2001.



I was appointed to head up a project based in Jakarta, funded by the World Bank, for the improvement of roads in Eastern Indonesia. This involved travel to Kalimantan, Sulawesi, West Irian, Ambon, Seram, Timor, Flores, Sumbawa, Lombok and Bali, and inspections and meetings with contractors and local officials. I managed to take in the War Graves Cemetery at Ambon, and catch up on the history of the Australian involvement there in 1942. This project lasted for twelve months.

A second project then arose, this time in Aceh Province. SMEC had won the task of providing the design and construction supervision of the rehabilitation of roads, water supply, town drainage and ports following the disastrous tsunami of December 2004. I took up the appointment as the Project Manager in October 2008. Although based in Banda Aceh, we had outposts in Kuala Langsa and Lhoksemawe on the east coast, Meulaboh and Subbulusalam on the west coast, Takengon in the centre, and on the islands of Sabang and Simeulue. All told, I was managing 27 different contracts and reporting to three different clients with roads, ports and water supply. Funding came from the Multi Donor Fund, managed by the World Bank, and we were subject to inspections by 'experts' every three months. This would be one of the busiest periods of my life, and also one of the most rewarding. I left Aceh in April 2011.



SMEC had been appointed as the design engineer for the Chittagong City Outer Ring Road, and I commenced

as the Project Manager in June 2011. This turned out to be a complex design exercise because of the geography (the Karnaphuli River and the coastline), the frequency of damaging cyclones that sweep up the Bay of Bengal, the geotechnical problems of soft ground and the availability of suitable embankment and pavement material, the economic and commercial problems associated with Chittagong as the premier Bangladesh port, coordination with railways and major utilities, and the human problems of land acquisition and resettlement of thousands of people. The design took nine months, but the Client proved remarkably incompetent, and a further nine months was spent in tweaking and adjusting the design to suit. The project had then to be placed on hold, because the Client had not arranged finance for land acquisition!



Back to Pakistan. I am now the Chief Resident Engineer on a project for the rehabilitation of roads and bridges that were destroyed in the flooding in the Indus Valley in 2010. This project will require the management of 31 separate contracts, and also much travel from the Himalayan foothills down the Indus to the Arabian Gulf.

In conclusion, my time overseas has been truly rewarding, both from a technical and engineering aspect, and also for the opportunity to work in different cultures. I have had to deal with natural disasters on a scale that I hope we never see in Australia, with endemic corruption that I cannot ever see being eradicated, with bureaucrats and politicians that are more concerned with their own well-being than that of the country that they are supposed to serve, and with customs and beliefs that seem quite strange when viewed from Australia. Yet as a general rule, it is the common or little people, the drivers, the clerks, the technicians, the cleaners, the cooks, who are the most honest, reliable and loyal, and provide the most help to the expatriates.

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*Dan Simpkins entered RMC in 1960, and graduated into RAE. He completed a Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering granted by the University of Adelaide in 1965, and after service in South Vietnam and Papua New Guinea, attended RMCS in England in 1970. He resigned from the ARA in 1973, but continued with the ARes, finally severing ties with the Army in 1979 as a lieutenant colonel. In the ARes, Dan changed corps to RAAC, and commanded 2/14QMI and OCTU. In civilian life, he ran his own construction company for five years building bridges in SE Qld. Dan worked on major projects in Australia including Jabiru Townsite in the NT, the Merivale and Gateway Bridges in Brisbane, extensions to the Goliath Cement plant in Tasmania, the Noosa Canal Estate and Collinsville to Newlands rail line in Queensland, and the Dockside development and Pinkenba wharf in Brisbane. He commenced working overseas in 1991, and has experience in major civil engineering projects in Samoa, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Cambodia, Bangladesh, China and Indonesia. He was awarded the Pakistan Motorway Medal in 1997 for his work on the Lahore to Islamabad Motorway. He has completed two Masters Degrees by distance education through Deakin University. Dan was an active rugby union referee for 30 years and refereed in Australia, New Zealand, England, Samoa, India and Pakistan.*  
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Mounted Escort to the Governor-General, Brigadier General The Rt Hon The Lord Gowrie VC, GCMG, CB, DSO & Bar

John Sedgley (1938)

In 1937, staff cadets from the RMC provided the mounted escort for the Governor-General in front of Old Government House Canberra for the ceremony of the opening of Parliament. Below are a few recollections of the event which can be inaccurate as I have not been able to verify some of the details nor recall the names of all the staff cadets. My only references have come from *Duntroon* by J.E. Lee, *A Poor Sort of Memory* by G.D. Solomon and *Mounted Service Manual for Mounted Troops of the Australian Commonwealth 1902*.

The members were drawn from the two classes who graduated in 1938. I regret that I do not have a record of the members selected but the majority was drawn from my class. I am the last survivor of the Australians in my class and I am not aware of the situation with the New Zealanders or the members of the other class.

I recall the day as cool and the sun was shining. We paraded at the stables where WO I A.E. Easter gave us the instructions for the day. Then we trotted across to Yarralumla. At the main gate we were formed into sections and waited until His Excellency drove out on his way to Parliament House. We followed in column of sections at a bumping trot. It was quite a challenge to keep the lance vertical, remain strait backed without rising from the saddle and keeping up with the motor car. If I remember correctly, WO Easter rode on the left of the car as the commander of the escort. It was an open vehicle and the Governor-General with his aide rode in the rear seat where they could see how we were handling the ride. Lord Gowrie and his aide had been cavalymen so they understood what we were doing. We heard afterward how much they appreciated us.

When we arrived at Parliament House we drew up in line on the lawn facing toward the main entrance at a distance from the car which had stopped there. This was when the photo was taken. After the salute, the artillery detachment was provided by other members of the Corps and, after the Governor-General with his reception party had entered the building, we formed into half sections to ride back to Duntroon feeling pleased with our special part in the opening of this Parliament.

As far as I can discover, this was only the second time that the Corps provided a mounted escort for a Governor-General. The first was in 1934 when the RMC provided one for the Duke of Gloucester on his arrival in Sydney during his visit to Australia for Victoria's centenary celebrations. This was before I became a staff cadet, but I heard about it from those who had taken part; such as comments about the language of Woolloomooloo residents who were disturbed by the clatter of horses in their streets in the early hours of Sunday mornings when rehearsals were being held.

~~~~~  
*Lieutenant Colonel J.G. (John) Sedgley (1938) is the Elder of the Duntroon Society.*  
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A Memory of Duntroon

Courtesy of P.R. (Peter) Phillips (1955)

The late Henry 'Jo' Gullett was an infantry officer of note, especially remembered at the RMC for his book, *Not As A Duty Only*, which was a required text for aspiring platoon and company commanders. Born in 1914, he lived in Melbourne until 1928 moving to Canberra when his father was a senior cabinet minister (later killed in the wartime Canberra air disaster).

Jo attended Geelong Grammar and studied at the Sorbonne and Oxford. He enlisted in 1939 and served in Greece, Syria, Ceylon, and India, and then on to Papua New Guinea where he was wounded and received a Military Cross. He was also attached to the Royal Scots for the landing at Normandy. In 1945, he won the federal seat of Henty and was Chief Government Whip in the Menzies Government. He went on to run a farm, 'Lambrigg' with his wife, Ruth and also took up a lease of three thousand acres on the west bank of the upper Murrumbidgee, near Currango.

Post-war, Jo served with the local Third Battalion, the Werriwa Regiment, and long periods on the Board of the Australian War Memorial from 1950 to 1975. He is remembered also at Duntroon as a member of the national committee which raised the funds to construct the ANZAC Memorial Chapel at Duntroon. He served as Australia's Ambassador to Greece in the 1960s.

In later life he wrote an autobiography, *Good Company*, Henry 'Jo' Gullett, UQP, 1992. The following extract from that work tells something of the important place that the RMC held in the social life of the fledgling national capital in the post-War years:

For the next few summers, I continued to run the snow lease. One evening I was lighting a fire when Tom Field [owner of Lanyon Station] drove up, in a Rover. We had a rum. Tom said, "There's a feller called Hasluck been trying to ring you from Canberra. It seems he would like to see you on a matter which he says is quite important. He said that you know there is a ball at the Royal Military College tomorrow night, you have been invited, and he will see you there. He sounded a decent sort of man. Said it was quite important, but not bad news. Who's this Hasluck, Jo?"

"Paul Hasluck is Foreign Minister, Tom. As you say, a very decent sort of man. I was in Parliament with him. Very reasonable horseman too". "Well that's all right. If it were anything serious I could drive you to Adaminaby". "Thanks, Tom, but that's not necessary ... I'll ride Star to Naas and get a lift from there."

I left my horse a few miles from Tharwa at a neighbour's place. The neighbour drove me on to the village where Ruth was meeting the children returning from school in Canberra in the school bus. They were all surprised to see me.

"We're going to the Duntroon Ball after all", I said, "Hasluck wants to see me. I don't know what about but I expect he wants me to do some job or other. We'll soon know".

I have always liked formal occasions, especially military ones. Everything was beautifully done at Duntroon—the flowers, the uniformed band, the

flood-lit garden, well dressed women, the men equally colourful in their formal uniforms and shining miniature medals. After supper Hasluck suggested we go to the Commandant's office for a chat.

"Good of you to come at this notice. I'll waste no time. As you know the Department of External, or Foreign Affairs has of recent years been forced to expand very quickly to meet overseas commitments. We are very short of senior officers. Amongst others we urgently need an Ambassador to Greece..."

I'm offering you the job. Of course you know nothing of diplomacy but your job will be supervisory and representational rather than diplomatic or political. To be frank, Jo, your greatest recommendation is that you served in Greece as a soldier in 1941. The Greeks value that..."

It was all a complete surprise. For a minute or so I dropped my eyes. They fell on my medals, white waistcoat, gold buttons and chain. Yesterday evening in my moleskins, boots and spurs I had been lighting fires when Tom came in. I could not help laughing

There were number of old friends at Duntroon that night so we did not get home until after two...

From the Chairman, Duntroon Society Committee

Peter Evans

Winding up of Royal Military College of Australia Association Incorporated has been much slower than anticipated but we now hope that the whole process will be completed by the end of the year. On your behalf I would like to thank Major Steve Hladio for his patient efforts to bring this matter to a close.

Last month the Convenor of the Philippines Branch, Lieutenant Colonel Agustin Zozobrado (OCS December 1974) and his wife Vangie, visited Canberra. John Bullen and I were able to show our visitors the sights of Canberra including an extensive tour of the College.

Membership continues to grow and now stands at near 2146 but we still struggle to attract serving ARA and ARES officers. As always, I would welcome any suggestions on how we might improve our attractiveness to new members.

From the OTU Representative

Neil Leckie (OTU 3/68)



**OTU Association National Reunion
25–29 April 2013**

[This is an edited extract of a report on reunion events provided by Frank Miller, National Chairman of the OTU Association. A full report is available in the latest issue of 'The Scheyvillian', which is available online at <http://www.otu.asn.au/>. Ed.]

Without a doubt the April Sydney reunion was an unqualified success, with over 750 Scheyvillians, family and friends taking part in at least one of the scheduled events.

The formal programme commenced at 10:00 hours in O'Connell Street near Hunter Street in preparation for the ANZAC March. Around 10:45 hours the contingent of 410 headed off, led by Major General Paul Irving (Retd) (OTU 2/72) and parade commander Dick Adams (OTU 3/72), behind the Australian Army Band. This was believed to be the largest contingent of officers (or past officers) ever to take part in an Australian ANZAC Day Parade. The OTU contingent was given two special honours. Firstly, a special salute was given by the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO. Secondly, it was posted at the head of all of the post world war two units. At the end we fell out then proceeded to one of three designated locations for a luncheon, fellowship and remembrance of the fallen.



The OTU contingent at the ANZAC March.

The next event on the calendar was the Saturday night reunion dinner at Doltone House, Pyrmont Point. Some 600 Scheyvillians, partners and friends enjoyed an entertaining and memorable occasion. MC Ray Andrews (OTU 1/70) did a splendid job with his customary wit.

On Sunday morning the Scheyvillians assembled for the Reunion Church Parade at St Matthews Anglican Church, Windsor, which was the site for all OTU Graduation Church Parades. For many years it housed the Unit's Governor-General's Banner that had been presented by the then Governor General in 1967. The Banner remained there until 2002 when it was relocated to the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Led by the New South Wales VIP Motor Cycle Escort, the New South Wales Mounted Police detachment and the New South Wales Police Band the assembled group marched the 500 metres to the Church. This brought back strong memories from all those years ago and there was many a lump in the throat when the band struck up the tune "Along the Road to Gundagai". After the service, guests adjourned to the church hall where a wonderful and welcome morning tea had been prepared by the parishioners of St Matthews.

It was then back to Scheyville itself. By class the Scheyvillians marched onto the old parade ground, just as they had done over four decades past, this time to the music from two local school brass bands. This made the occasion complete as representatives of every OTU class were on the parade ground at the same time—something that had never occurred before.

It was most interesting to look around Scheyville after such a long time. A fine barbecue luncheon was served in the former Officers' Mess quadrangle by the Oakville Scouts and Rural Fire Service. After more catching up,

fellowship, and reminiscing, people returned to their buses and cars and headed home.

There can be no doubt that the reunion well and truly exceeded the expectations of all of those who took part. The organisation, forethought and attention to detail that was so obvious at every stage did not happen by accident. The Association is most grateful to New South Wales Chapter Chairman Greg Todd (OTU 2/71) and his team. Specific mention is made here of Dick Adams (OTU 3/72) and John Bushell (OTU 4/69) who, ably assisted in the accounting area by Geoff Bennett (OTU 2/68) put in the enormous administrative and planning effort needed to make such a huge event come to pass. We are grateful indeed.



Representatives of every OTU class on parade at the reunion.

From the Branches

Australian Capital Territory

Branch Office Holders

Convenor: Brigadier P.J.A. (Peter) Evans (1958)
 Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel J.E. (John) Bullen (1958)
 Treasurer: Lieutenant Colonel M.J. (Mike) Ryan (1980)
 Members: Dr Moreen Dee (WRAAC OCS 1966);
 Brigadier G.T. (George) Salmon (1959); Colonel M.J. (Mike) Ford (1957); Major S.B. (Stuart) Althaus (RMC & OCS 1982)

Annual Lunch, 2013

Our annual Autumn Lunch was held on Tuesday 28 May 2013 in Duntroon House.

Attended by 27, this was a cosy and enjoyable gathering. The Commandant had been particularly keen to attend this lunch, this being his last opportunity to speak to Society members before departing the College on reposting. But luck was against him and he had to be at the Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka, that day so he gave notes to our Convenor Peter Evans to read on his behalf and these notes are copied below.

The Long Distance Pilgrimage Award would normally have gone to Sheryl Lipczynski (née Starkey) and her husband John who drove from Sydney to attend, but today they were runners-up to Simon Hermes (1979) who had come from Afghanistan. Actually Simon hadn't driven all the way from Afghanistan today, but he did time a leave break from his UN duty there in order to attend this lunch.

Associate Professor Syd Hodges, now 95, was looking very fit and alert. In response to a compliment, he remarked "Ah well, you have to keep those marbles rolling!" During lunch, Syd looked around the room and spotted the 86-year old Ross Harding (1948) at the next table... "I remember young Ross Harding shinning up the ropes in the gymnasium and sitting in the rafters where he fastened decorations for the 1948 Sports Ball."

More than half a century ago the Army somehow goofed terribly and appointed an Adjutant at Duntroon who possessed a sense of humour, contrary to the duty statement that strictly prohibits all adjutants from ever finding anything funny. Today's photo of Jim Shelton (1946) shows that he is still as cadets in 1955 fondly remember him.



Tim Bailey and his wife Patricia Laird (daughter of long-serving RMC academic staff member, the late Associate Professor John Laird).



Anne Forrest, Mike Ford (1957), and Tony Hall (1952).



Margie Salmon, Jim Shelton (1946), and Margaret Laird (daughter of the late Associate Professor John Laird).



Karin Laird (daughter-in-law of the late Associate Professor John Laird), Betty Latham, and Don Latham (OCS Dec 1953).



Bruce Stark (OCS 1954), Simon Hermes (1979), and Ross Harding (1948).



Bernie Sullivan (OCS 1956), Jenny Sullivan, and George Salmon (1959).



Pam Yonge, Sheryl Lipczynski (née Starkey), and John Lipczynski.



Yvonne Bullen, Associate Professor Syd Hodges, and Paul Yonge (1943).

From Dave Luhrs at lunch on 28 May 13

I'd like to firstly offer my apologies for not being with you today. I had every intention of joining you for my last Duntroon Society lunch as Commandant, but some diary confusion and pre-commitments have precluded my attendance today and demanded I be in Wagga Wagga at the Army Recruit Training Centre, rather than with you.

With your indulgence, I merely wanted to let you know how grateful I am for your ongoing support of the Society and the College. The Royal Military College is fortunate to be supported by a large group from across the country, of dedicated alumni who have an active interest in the College and its graduates. Those graduates are serving the Nation very, very well and they're enabled in doing so by the strength of your support.

I finish up this two and a half year term as Commandant, well satisfied in both the standing of the Royal Military College as an important national institution and in the next generation of Army's leaders that it is graduating. Over my tenure there has been a number of changes made to the content and conduct of the course (for which I take little to no credit by the way) that have resulted in a better trained and prepared junior officer and a higher rate of success in training, without lowering any graduation standards. The cadets have my absolute respect for the way they conduct themselves in the face of a high tempo and very, very demanding training. My hat's off to them. Be assured that those that aren't suitable to lead Australian soldiers, don't get the opportunity but those who are suitable, are ready, willing and able to do so as a result of their experiences here.

I hope to have finalised the drawn out process of reconciling the finalisation of the RMC Association before I depart with the incoming Commandant, Brigadier Dianne Gallasch, continuing to service as Patron of the Duntroon Society.

Finally, I'd like to make special mention of Peter Evans' and John Bullen's support to me over my tenure. They have been patient, understanding and accommodating of my commitment and mis-steps while maintaining a clear focus on the needs of the Society, Association and College. My most sincere thank you to those two gentlemen in particular but as importantly, to the RMC Association Board Members and all who have assisted me. In many cases I didn't know what I didn't know and to have some 'corporate memory' on hand to advise me has been invaluable.

Thank you once again, best wishes to all, and Peter ... stop talking now and let everyone enjoy lunch!

*Kind regards,
Brigadier Dave Luhrs
Commandant
Royal Military College of Australia*

Annual Lunch & Speech, 2013

To be held in Duntroon House on Tuesday 19 November. Our speaker will be Brigadier Tan Roberts, a member of the very first class to graduate from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, in June 1952. The audience can expect a fascinating insight into life at Portsea more than sixty years ago and also into life as a junior officer in the then very new Australian Regular Army in which the rank of second lieutenant was a novelty.

New South Wales

Branch Office Holders

Treasurer: I.R. (Ian) Taylor (1965),
ita01@ozemail.com.au, (02) 9953 9441, 0407 539 441.
Secretary: P.M. (Peter) Reid (1964),
peterreid2@bigpond.com (02) 9460 0741, 0417 274 090

New Zealand

Branch Office Holders

Patron: Major General R.G. Williams, CB, MBE (1952).
Convenor: Brigadier M.J. Dudman, LVO, OBE (1959).
Secretary/Treasurer: Major P.J. Skogstad (1964).

Auckland Sub-branch Lunch

In July thirty five Auckland members their wives, partners and friends gathered at The Northern Club for the annual lunch hosted by Michael Dudman. The guest speaker was Lieutenant Colonel Chris Powell, ex-CO Auckland and Northland Regiment who spoke about the sustainability of the new Territorial Force structure and the practicalities of training in this new environment which sparked a lively discussion following the address.



Ken Gordon (1956), Rob Williams (1952) and Geoff Bowes (1960).



Mike Dudman (1959), John McGuire (1957) and Maurice Churton.

Wellington Sub-branch Lunch

In July, thirty-two Wellington members their wives, partners and friends gathered at the Royal Wellington Golf Club for the Wellington Sub-branch lunch hosted by David Grant.
Membership

Membership of the New Zealand Branch is 126 including 16 spouses of deceased members.

Queensland

Branch Office Holders

Convenor: G.J. (Graeme) Loughton (1956).

Branch Social Functions

Life goes on more or less as normal here in Southern Queensland. A small group of us continue to meet monthly for lunch at United Service Club on the second Wednesday, the Classes of 55, 56 and 57 being particularly well represented. All members with email addresses are reminded of the dates monthly and others get an annual calendar. In June we invited partners as well which we do semi-annually. Twenty one of us sat down and the occasion was convivial. The next mixed lunch will be in November probably Wednesday 13th.

Apart from the lunches our other regular event is to enter two teams in the Postal Golf Competition, one in Brisbane to include Gold Coast, Toowoomba etc players and one team on the Sunshine Coast. Dates for the next games have yet to be fixed but should be before the end of 2013.

South Australia & Northern Territory

Branch Office Holders

Convenor: N.R. (Neville) Bergin (1956).

Branch Social Functions

The Annual Graduation Luncheon is to be held at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club, Adelaide on Tuesday, 3 December 2013.

Victoria & Tasmania

Branch Office Holders

Victoria continues to operate by committee with occasional meetings and primary contact by email. The committee consists of:

Coordinator: R.A. (Bob) Slater (1963)

Treasurer: A.M. (Alan) McDonald (1951)

Members: P. (Phil) Davies (1961), C. (Conrad) Ermert (1962) (Membership), and D.J. (Doug) George (1967).

C.A. (Craig) Wood (1963) remains proxy for Canberra-based meetings.

Branch Social Functions

Twenty seven members, partners and guests enjoyed the annual Victoria Branch luncheon on Thursday 18 October 2012, held at University of Melbourne's Graduate House.

Western Australia

Branch Office Holders

Convenor: W.R.M. (Bob) Hunter (1985)

Social Convenor: K.F. (Kevin) Poynton (1974)

Social Functions

The WA Branch continues to gather quarterly with an informal network and social drinks gathering attended by approximately 30 participants. The last gathering was held in July and the next will be held on 25 October.

Contact detail for all functions is to WA Convenor through e-mail at bhunter@oam-group.com or 0413 045 355.

Coming Events

ACT Branch

19 November 2013. Annual Lunch and Speech, Duntroon House.

TBA May 2014. Autumn Lunch, Duntroon House.

NSW Branch

10 December 2013. Graduation Lunch at the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess.

New Zealand Branch

29 November 2013. The annual golf tournament combined with the Auckland Postal Golf Tournament will be played at the Helensville Golf Club.

Queensland Branch

Monthly (second Wednesday). Meet at noon for lunch at United Service Club.

TBA September/October. Society postal golf competition 13 November 2013 (TBC). Mixed lunch.

South Australia Branch (incorporating NT)

3 December 2013. Annual Graduation Luncheon, Naval, Military and Air Force Club, Adelaide.

Victoria Branch (incorporating Tasmania)

18 October 2013. 1200 for 1230. Annual lunch at Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton.

Western Australia Branch

For details of social events, please feel free to contact the WA convenor, Bob Hunter on bobhunter@inet.net.au or Ph 0413 045 355.

Retired Officers Luncheon Club

This Club meets on the first Thursday of every month for lunch at the Royal Canberra Golf Club at 12 noon. Retired officers meet in a very pleasant venue for a convivial monthly gathering which originated in 1985. There is a selected menu which ensures that the cost will be approximately \$30 including pre-lunch drinks and wine. Bookings are essential. If you are interested please contact Don McDonough (1961) on 6259 6583.

RMC Ceremonial Parades

9 December 2013. Prizes & Awards Ceremony.

10 December 2103. The Graduation Parade.

8 February 2014. Army Reserve First Appointment Graduation.

1 March 2014. Lanyard Parade.

Further information is available from SO3 Protocol and Visits, Ms Jenny Pieper—(02) 6265 9515.



Shorts

- In December 2012, Mr Ross Howarth, the RMC Archivist retired from that position after 17 years of fine service. Funds are currently not available for a replacement Archivist to be appointed. In the meantime the Archives are being looked after on a part-time basis by a volunteer, Squadron Leader (retd) John Gloe. For access to the RMC Archives, contact Captain Peta Dickie, the SO3 Coord on HQ RMC-D, on (02) 6265 9320 or 0413 505 214.
- Under this heading in *Newsletter 1/2011* the claim was made that the rank of the oldest living graduates of the USMA, West Point and the Royal Military College, Duntroon is usually that of colonel. At present the USMA graduate in that unique position is Colonel Benjamin W. Heckemeyer (1935) who was born in 22 April 1911. His predecessor was Colonel Maury S. Craill (1928), born on 5 August 1904. Our well-known Elder is S.J. (John) Sedgley (1938), admittedly a retired lieutenant colonel, but when the occasion calls for it he is addressed as colonel. He acts, and is, younger than his West Point counterpart but that could be ascribed to the factor of scale. As at 4 August 2013 there were 50,039 living USMA graduates so their alumni is bound to have a number of centenarians waiting in the wings—and it does—14 of them, many at colonel rank.
- Those interested in following the adventures of our Duntroon Society Elder, John Sedgley, can read of his recent visit to the Hobart Wooden Boat Festival at: <http://www.dunsoc.com/sedgley2.pdf>.

Obituary

Since the publication of the last Newsletter we have learned of the deaths of the following:

- 20 Jan 13 Major P.B. Taylor (1965)
- 7 Apr 13 Major W.E. Stinson (1948)
- 6 May 13 Colonel R.R. Harding (NZ) (1948)
- 14 May 13 Colonel M.J. Kingsford (Jun 1988)
- 22 May 13 Major R.W.O. Pugh (1948)¹
- 24 May 13 Lieutenant Colonel B.N. Murtagh (1953)
- 27 May 13 Mrs N.M. Trenerry²
- 8 Jun 13 Lieutenant Colonel E.D.M. Cape (OCS Dec 1953)
- 9 Jun 13 Lieutenant Colonel P. Pearson (Sandhurst 1955)
- 21 Jun 13 Captain L.R. Summers (OCS Dec 1953)
- 24 Jun 13 Brigadier P.D. Yonge (1943)³
- 1 Jul 13 Lieutenant Colonel O.J. O'Brien (1957)
- 12 Jul 13 Brigadier I.J. Meibusch (1954)
- 23 Jul 13 Lieutenant Colonel T.A. Harker (1961)
- 29 Jul 13 Lieutenant J. Reed-Hankey (1944)
- 30 Jul 13 Brigadier L.A. Kermode (Dec 1939)⁴
- 12 Sep 13 Colonel R.M. Dickie (1952)
- 13 Sep 13 Major J.W. Stenberg (Dec 42)
- 14 Sep 13 Major D.B. Coffey (OTU 1/67)⁵
- 26 Sep 13 Brigadier I.R.W. Brumfield (1947)⁶
- 30 Sep 13 Major T.R.S. Woodley (OCS Dec 1960)
- 5 Oct 13 Colonel J.J. Spring (Apr 1944)⁷

1. Roy Pugh was a very early member of the Duntroon Society (Member No 2, after the Society's founder Alby Morrison had grabbed No 1). Roy was a very active member of the Society right up until his death and was NSW Branch Convener for some years. He had previously served on RMC staff as a major

and later as the Registrar of the Faculty of Military Studies. He was the RMC King's Medal winner in 1948. See following Obituary.

2. Naomi Trenerry was a physiotherapist on the RMC Hospital and 5 Camp Hospital staff from 1974 to 1991. She joined the Duntroon Society when it was first formed in 1980 and was an active member until her death 33 years later. While her health lasted, she was also one of the Duntroon Guides.
3. As a major he was the Instructor in Engineering at the RMC from 6 June 1951 to 26 April 1952.
4. At his death he was the oldest living New Zealand graduate and second to Lieutenant Colonel Sedgley by three years.
5. As a major he was an instructor at the RMC from 5 December 1975 to 27 September 1976.
6. Lou Brumfield's widow is Colonel (retd) Dulcie Verinder (WRAAC OCS 1952) who was Assistant Adjutant at the RMC in the mid-1950s.
7. John Spring was a keen member of the Duntroon Society ACT Branch Committee for many years in the 1980s and 1990s until he moved to Qld to be near family. He was a member of the special 12-month RMC class formed from AIF members, graduating in Apr 1944. Members of this ex-AIF class were older than the two-year normal entry classes who mostly came straight from high school. He was also a survivor of the vehicle crash (Sigs truck accident near Hoskinstown on 14 Mar 1944) which killed S/C Reid and Dvr Flanagan, both of whom are on AWM Roll of Honour and whose graves are in Woden Cemetery. John Spring missed his own Grad Parade due to his injuries and graduated a fortnight later.

Roy William Osmac Pugh

Ross Harding

On a clear morning in early 1946 a rickety Army bus came to a halt at the entrance to the Battalion Store. It was the 23rd February and the Store, tucked beneath the Battalion HQ within the Royal Military College had observed this scene many times, as had the RSM of the RMC, Warrant Officer Class I G.J. (Fango) Watson. Further up the incline the observation of the RSM was exceedingly sharper than that of the inscrutable Store as the Victorian and South Australian recruits erupted from the transport that had just brought them on the 1½ hour journey from the Goulburn Railway Station. One in the Victorian draft, R.W.O. Pugh, amidst the apparent turmoil of the arrival, managed a glance at the institution he had so earnestly wished to join. He could not then have imagined the depth, affection and extent of his association with Duntroon that would endure for the remainder of his life.

Three years later he graduated on 14 December 1948, taking with him the coveted King's Medal. As he turned his back on the RMC, like most graduates, his mind was set on pursuing a career in his allotted Corps which, for him, was the Royal Australian Engineers. Although then unmindful of his alma mater, firmly fixed in the back of his mind there existed a nascent spark that would become much brighter in the coming years.

This occurred on 20 February 1961, three days short of 13 years after his first sighting of Duntroon. Now a Major his new posting was to the RMC as the General Staff Officer, Grade II (Co-ordination) which, in effect, made him the Commandant's staff officer. In that role he served Major General C.H. Finlay (1931) for almost all of the time that Finlay was Commandant; a tenure that unfolded as the longest of any Commandant before or since. Finlay was a driver for the highest standards in all that the College did

and stood for. This resonated with Roy who, years later, recalled his admiration and respect for Finlay and what the RMC had meant to him. Roy's commitment to the RMC was such that he shouldered other responsibilities. In his early years on the staff of the College he was the Editor of the RMC Journal. For over 18 years he acted as the academic advisor to the Chairman of the RMC Selection Boards. With his well known bent for matters historical it is perhaps natural that he actively assisted with the gathering of information about Duntroon's past and enhanced his affection for it in the process. His experience and wisdom were drawn upon during his voluntary counselling of students; a generous action for which a number of students have good reason to be grateful. Roy resigned his commission to take up on, 24 January 1967, the appointment of Registrar of the newly established University of New South Wales Faculty of Military Studies formed at the RMC.

The Registrar was particularly important in those early days. Establishment of a university course within a military environment was, to say the least, unusual in Australia and the effort to achieve this drew heavily on Pugh's military and academic knowledge and experience. At the same time he became a member and, in the formative years, the secretary of the three degree committees. During its life of over 18 years Roy was also the Secretary of the Interim Council of the RMC. This was additional to his secretarial duties with the four committees set up to achieve autonomy and was therefore concerned with draft legislation, academic planning, finance, property and employment. In 1986 his long, profoundly effective and invaluable contribution to the RMC was recognised when he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in that year's listing of the Queen's Birthday Honours. Nearly 41 years after stepping from the Army bus that had brought him to Duntroon, Roy carried out his final duties for the RMC at the 1986 Graduation. Some 26 years of that time had been at Duntroon—not a record by any means, but certainly noteworthy and, as the first, last and only Registrar at the RMC, unique.

Earlier, when the Duntroon Society was established in 1980 by the then Commandant, Major General A.L. Morrison (1947), Roy was heavily involved in its genesis and felt quietly honoured to have the second membership number. Perhaps naively, he announced in *Newsletter 2/1981* that The Duntroon Register would be produced and would contain the biographical index of members of the RMC from its foundation in 1911 up to the 75th Anniversary in 1986. This was greeted with much enthusiasm and the response for information from members of the Corps up to number 1,110 most useful. In total number however, this meant researching and writing in excess of 5,500 biographies of the kind that was done for THE First Class and published in *Newsletter 2/2011*. Soon it became obvious that this was a monumental task and quite beyond the people power that Pugh could muster so, even with the prodigious effort that Roy had already given to it, with much regret he had to put it aside.

Roy's retirement to Terrigal in 1987 did not diminish his avid interest in all things Duntroon. From the new Pugh family home he soon became an active participant in the NSW Branch of the Society, then a Committee member in 1991 and from 1997 to January 2008 the elected Convener of the Branch. In that role he attended a number of meetings of the Society's Executive Council held in Duntroon House;

an edifice that attracted his abiding interest, both historically and architecturally. Beginning in 1996, during the extension to, and the major refurbishment of, the original 1833 Campbell home, Roy developed a detailed photographic and written record of the project as it was underway. In parallel he wrote and made drawings about the engineering history of the other additions since its original construction. From this work illustrative drawings now hang on the walls of Duntroon House. During 1998 he wrote a scholarly commentary on a draft report of the Duntroon House archaeology

Following his second retirement in 2003 to Moss Vale he continued as Convener of the NSW Branch, without any diminution of his deep regard for the RMC. It was in this period that he took on another task for the RMC. One of Roy's Classmates, Lieutenant E. (Eric) O. Larson had been killed in action in Korea on 5 November 1950. In Eric's memory his sister Ruth, during 2003, set aside a large endowment to provide a travelling scholarship for a selected member of the graduating class. Roy had a key role in the negotiations with the RMC in developing the administrative arrangements to set up the trust in perpetuity to implement the prize. Until he was unable to climb the steps to the presentation platform, he had the privilege at each December graduation of handing the award to the fortunate and worthy staff cadet.

At the 1985 Graduation Dinner Roy proposed the Toast to the Corps of Staff Cadets. He spoke of the coming, some would say looming, changes to the RMC during the next year—the type and length of its courses and the injection of the customs and traditions that would accompany members of the Corps of Officer Cadets from the closing Officer Cadet School with its somewhat older composition and its females. He enjoined them to remember the 'Corps Spirit' which he firmly stated would continue to exist whatever else may happen. His words, sometimes emotional, were from the soul of one who had himself long felt the ever present grip of that 'Corps Spirit'.

A long life of much achievement and dedicated service, most of it devoted to the RMC and its fabric, came to a poignant end when Roy died suddenly on 22 May 2013. Like so many of those he touched, Duntroon will miss him.



Roy Pugh having just performed his last official duty as Registrar of RMC at the 1986 Graduation with two other members of the Class of 1948.

From The Podmore Foundation

www.podmorefoundation.org



All members of the Duntroon Society are grateful to past generations for the inheritance of our great nation after their sacrifice and hard work. But they have bequeathed unfinished business that the Podmore Board felt needed to be attended to before handing Australia on to coming generations.

On 9 August 2013 there was an historic event at Duntroon House marking the association of the Podmore Foundation with its origins as well as the motto Returning Opportunity. The Governor-General, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC CVO, presented special Year 12 graduation certificates to a group of Indigenous Australian children from rural and remote communities and towns, two of whom were recipients of Podmore Foundation scholarships. Twenty-four members of the next generation of Indigenous leaders and role models received acknowledgement from Australia's Head of State at the Army's premier leadership training establishment.

Yalari (www.yalari.org), Podmore's implementing partner that has over 200 Indigenous students sponsored at 34 independent boarding schools around Australia, asked the Podmore Foundation if Duntroon could host this important ceremony. Dr Bob Breen (1973), President, and Majors Lea Dunn and Michelle Hannaford from the Army's Indigenous Strategy team facilitated the occasion.

On 11 August a record number of Podmore Runners and Packers raised funds for Podmore scholarships through participation in the 14 kilometre Sun Herald City2Surf Run. An enthusiastic contingent of scholarship recipients from Canberra Girls Grammar School joined over 60 Podmore participants. Twenty-nine ADFA Podmore Packers donned their webbing to complete the course this year.



Bob and Nicola Breen pictured with Podmore scholarship recipients Lincoln Whiteley from Geurie NSW, 2013 Year 12 graduate St Ignatius Riverview, and Tegan Whitfield, from Moree NSW, 2013 Year 12 Graduate from Abbotsleigh, Sydney.



Scholarship recipients Mia Hodges (left) from Cairns and Larissa Woosup (right) who are boarding at Canberra Girls Grammar School with two ADFA Podmore Packers during the 2013 City2Surf.



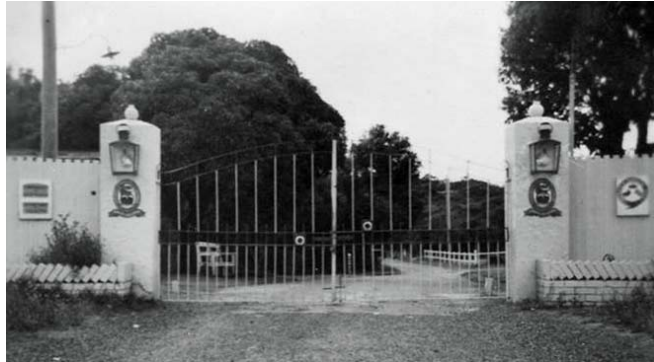
The Governor-General, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC CVO, with graduating Indigenous scholarship recipients in front of the Atrium at Duntroon House on 9 August 2013.

Letters to the Editor

From J.F. McDonagh (1946)

Regarding the item in the Archives in the latest Dunroon Society Newsletter [*Portsea Front Gates*, Newsletter 1/2013, p. 17. Ed.] I am afraid I cannot give you any leads to the location of the OCS gates however I can give you some information about the gates themselves.

I was Commandant of OCS from 1969–1972 and from my recollection the gates were nothing like the photograph dated 1955.



[This the photograph to which John refers—dated c1955, it was provided by courtesy of I.C. (Ian) Teague (OCS Dec 1955) via J.L. (John) Macpherson (OCS Jun 1954) and was published in the last Newsletter. Ed.]

The gates were as pictured on page 55 of Neville Lindsay's book, *Loyalty and Service—The Officer Cadet School Portsea*, published in 1995 [see following photograph. Ed].



[This is the photograph of the OCS gates from Neville Lindsay's book. Ed]

I notice in the article below the photo that Major J.H. Welch instituted the move to recover the two gun barrels either side of the entrance.

When I was at Portsea I met Major Welch at the Nepean Historical Society and have in my possession two copies of the book he published in 1969, extracts of which I have also enclosed. On page 85 he details when the gates I remember were erected and how much they cost. (£3,500 in 1963).

Interestingly I also have a copy of *Gateway to Port Phillip Bay* by Joan Bognuda and Leslie M. Moorhead published in 1980.

I do hope that someone will come forward with details about where they ended up. If found they would certainly complement the WRAAC School Gates in the grounds of the College.

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From R.R. Harding (1948)

Elsewhere in this Newsletter under the heading **Shorts** is a brief account of the existing situation at the RMC Archives and Museum. Its bland tone belies the serious implications of that message.

Whatever the quality of the other Australian Army training establishments, and they are certainly high, the Royal Military College stands above them all. Its long history, the sacrifice of many of its graduates and the century-long contribution of many of the other graduates to the Army, the RAAF and to the nation, have created a spirit and an ethos that cannot be imparted to its staff cadets by any normal training technique. A critical element in fostering that spirit and ethos is the RMC Archives and Museum, which together are tangible evidence of the homily: *The present is nothing more than the past has made us*. So what are the RMC Archives and Museum other than a repository of records and memorabilia?

Since 1967 three Archivists at the RMC, particularly the last one Mr Ross Howarth, who served there from 1995, have laboured to bring the Archives to the high standard that it had reached by December 2012. The quality of their responses to queries from overseas and within Australia and the assistance given to visiting historians and other researchers, have endowed the RMC Archives with a worthy reputation. The personal records of over 11,000 staff cadets are kept there. Whatever the age and status of those records they were, at least until this year, living accounts in that when additional material such as letters, newspaper reports, extracts from the Australian Dictionary of Biography, obituaries and many other sources became available to the Archivist, they were added to the relevant file. Associated records such as the annual RMC reports, RMC Journals, hundreds, if not thousands, of historical photographs, carefully annotated and indexed and many other collections passed to or sought by the Archivist, were secured, made readily accessible and their long-term survival taken care of. During the tenure of the last Archivist, a number of useful indices were compiled. These consisted of the staff cadets and the RMC staff up to 2011, and the officer cadets of the other officer training units in existence up to 1986, as well as the histories of the RMC Hospital and other establishments that have existed within the RMC area. This account is not exhaustive but should indicate the span of activity and knowledge, much of it unique and not available anywhere else, residing within the RMC Archives, but now without an Archivist to care for them.

The RMC Museum, although also within the purview of the Archivist, is set in somewhat different circumstances from that of the Archives, but the looming disaster is similar. Many graduates and families of graduates and the RMC staff have loaned or given their RMC-related treasures from the time of Brigadier-General Bridges. They did so in the belief or, for some items, with a written assurance, that their offerings would be kept secure and cared for. This is no longer the case. I invite those able to do so to peruse the files relating to the Jess Collection to discover what seriously embarrassing problems a future Commandant is very likely to face should the absence of an Archivist not be corrected.

Perhaps it has been overlooked that the RMC invited the other three officer producing institutions to deposit their papers, including over 5,500 personal records, and memorabilia with the facilities established at the College for

their preservation and display. The Officer Training Unit declined, but those of the Officer Cadet School and the WRAAC and its predecessor the AWAS Officer School, now rest at Duntroon with the graduates, former staff and all their families confident in the belief that the items they handed on to the RMC would be safe and cared for. Is the RMC to now deny the assurances that were given to the donors?

So, there it sits on the edge of the Parade Ground—this priceless, irreplaceable resource, occasionally picked over while it moulders away to ruin. Is this the Centenary Gift of the RMC to itself?

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## Profile of Corps of Staff Cadets

Current strength (11 September 2013)

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| CSC                      | 367 |
| First Class              | 140 |
| Second Class             | 107 |
| Third Class              | 89  |
| Neville Howse VC Platoon | 31  |
| Cambodia                 | 2   |
| Iraq                     | 3   |
| Malaysia                 | 1   |
| New Zealand              | 5   |
| Pakistan                 | 5   |
| Papua New Guinea         | 9   |
| Philippines              | 1   |
| Singapore                | 1   |
| Thailand                 | 1   |
| Timor Leste              | 1   |
| Married                  | 69  |
| Females                  | 45  |

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