

THE DUNTRON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 1/2011

APRIL 2011





*Graduating Class  
December 2010*

## **The Duntroon Society Newsletter**

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# Report on Centenary Activities

*[In the Centenary year of the RMC, a number of activities have already occurred and a number are planned. Here, thanks to Brigadier Peter Evans, we report on the two main opening events. The photographs in this section are courtesy of Defence Publishing Audio Visual, Duntroon (Grace Costa, photographer). Ed]*

The opening events of the RMC Centenary Year were the unveiling of the Bastiaan Plaque and the presentation of the portrait of Staff Cadet 1, Brigadier W.J. Urquhart. The plaque was the gift of the Duntroon Society and the portrait was presented by Mrs Carol Urquhart-Fisher.

## Duntroon Society's Centenary Gift to the College, 31 January 2011

On 31 January 2011, First and Second Class of the RMC and members of RMC staff, together with about eighty Society members and their wives assembled in the keyway to the Parade Ground to witness the unveiling of the Bastiaan Plaque, the Duntroon Society's Centenary Gift to the College.

The programme was simple and consisted of a welcome by the Master of Ceremonies; addresses by the sculptor, Dr Ross Bastiaan and Major General Michael Jeffery; followed by the unveiling by Mrs Margaret Morrison, assisted by Major General Jeffery and Colonel Colin Richardson. The event concluded with the Commandant thanking the Society.

The Master of Ceremonies was Brigadier P.J.A. (Peter) Evans (1958), Chairman of the Duntroon Society Committee and ACT Convenor, who opened proceedings by acknowledging the presence of the Commandant, Brigadier D.M. (David) Luhrs (1986); the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Lieutenant General D.J. (David) Hurley (1975); Mrs Margaret Morrison, widow of the founder of the Society, Major General A.L. (Alan) Morrison (1947); past Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffery (1958); the sculptor, Dr Ross Bastiaan; Chairman of the Centenary Plaque Committee, Major R.W.O. (Roy) Pugh (1948); NZ representatives Air Commodore Port (NZ Defence Attache), Colonel C.P. (Colin) Richardson (1981) and Lieutenant Colonel Darren Beck; past Commandants, Brigadier C.G. (Chris) Appleton (1978) and Brigadier M.D. (Mark) Bornholt (OCS Dec 1978); Robert Campbell, descendant of the original owners of Duntroon; past Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General L.G. (Laurie) O'Donnell (1954); other distinguished guests; members of the Duntroon Society and current members of the Corps of Staff Cadets.

Apologies had been received from many notable graduates, including General Sir P.H. (Phillip) Bennett (1948) and General P.C. (Peter) Gratton (1952), who were unable to attend but sent their best wishes.

Branches and individual members of the Society financed the Duntroon Society gift. In particular, the NZ Branch made a most generous contribution and an individual contribution of \$500 was made by Murray Foster to commemorate his late father who was acting RSM at the RMC in the early 1970s. The generosity of the sculptor, Dr Ross Bastiaan, was acknowledged. He waived his fees for this work, leaving the Society to fund only the casting itself.

Development of the wording shown on the plaque to encapsulate the last 100 years of the College was no mean feat. The task was performed by Major Roy Pugh and his

committee: Lieutenant Colonel J.E. (John) Bullen (1958), Major P.H. (Paul) Kitney (1953), Brigadier A.R. (Tan) Roberts (OCS Jun 1952) and Mrs J.M. (June) Healy (WRAAC OCS 1960) with guidance from Brigadier Chris Appleton. The assistance given to complete the project by the two previous Commandants, Brigadier Mark Bornholt and Brigadier M.J. (Mick) Moon (OCS Jun 1981) is also noteworthy.

## *Abridged Notes of the Address given by Doctor Ross Bastiaan AM RFD*

It is an honour for me to be with you all today to witness the unveiling of this plaque to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Duntroon.

It has been a great pleasure for me to be involved in the project as the sculptor and creator of the plaque as I am a serving officer in the Royal Australian Army Dental Corps Reserve and enlisted in 1974. Duntroon was always a place held by me in the greatest regard as it stood for all the finest elements of our military past and was the home to so many professional soldiers who have served our nation over the past ten decades.

Many of you know my commitment to the recording of our nation's history in war. I have done over 220 similar plaques around the world in the past 22 years and these proudly sit on every major battlefield where the reputation of this College was established. These Australian battlefield plaques have helped many over the years orientate themselves in distant lands but few have given me more satisfaction to share in an unveiling, than this one on the parade ground of Duntroon.



*The presentation ceremony for the Bastiaan Plaque. The guests are shaded by Harry Hutton's Tree.*



*Address by the sculptor, Doctor Ross Bastiaan.*



*Address by Major General Michael Jeffery.*



*Brigadier Peter Evans, Major General Michael Jeffery, Mrs Margaret Morrison, Doctor Ross Bastiaan, and Colonel Colin Richardson.*

I thank the Duntroon Society for giving me the opportunity to make this plaque. The birth of the plaque commissioned in 2004 was not easy. You can imagine that so many senior people involved with Duntroon wanting input and a say. I was fortunate that the Duntroon Society had among its ranks people who saw the broad picture required of this place and helped me write the words that appear today and convey the essence of what Duntroon has meant to many. The wording was debated, at length, between many senior officers but I requested that I worked with just a handful and avoided conflict as I know that the word limit I set, of about 250 words, was restrictive. I made the text this number of words as I know that the public will only read this number when looking at a plaque, no matter the interest. That forced brevity which means that, in some people's minds, aspects of Duntroon's history (from their perspective) may be missing. I know that Duntroon people are likely to read more than the public but this plaque's text conveys to all that which is key to this establishment.

The central main sculpted image of the parade ground, with the first class of 1911 parading, seemed to me the best image of all to convey the sense of history that we all know Duntroon holds. I informed the committee of my decision and sculpted it in 2008 from a famous picture taken that day, minus two water tanks in the foreground.

I hear today around me men talking of the Class of 54 and other graduating years and I think to myself that I was only three when they paraded here, all those years ago! Duntroon is a great family of members who have shared a common bond and may this plaque serve to remind future generations of what went before them.

### *Address by Major General Michael Jeffery AC AO(Mil) CVO MC (Retd)*

It is an honour to be with you this morning at this most appropriate and timely unveiling of the Duntroon Society Centenary Plaque to the Royal Military College Duntroon.

And, I can think of no better way to initiate the Centenary celebrations of this College and the noble profession of arms in which it has trained many thousands of our service leaders, than to acknowledge the manifest courage of the Australian soldier, as displayed in recent times through the gallant actions of Corporal Mark Donaldson, VC and Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith, VC, MG.

It was my pleasure as Honorary Colonel to have inducted both of these men into the Special Air Service Regiment some years ago, to have presented Corporal Roberts-Smith with his Medal of Gallantry in 2006 and to have been present at Swanbourne recently to see our Governor General present Ben with his VC at a most moving ceremony in the presence of 500 guests. It is, of course, in the business of commanding soldiers potentially of the ilk of Donaldson and Roberts-Smith that what this place, and the training of its graduates, is all about.

In speaking to First and Second Classes on behalf of both our NZ and Australian graduates I would strongly suggest that you are privileged young men and women, because your function post-graduation will be to lead our soldiers on operational service in diverse locations around the globe, and to lead them in such a way as to excite, often for a lifetime, their ongoing respect, hopefully their admiration and in some cases, their love. There is, members of the Corps, no higher calling; nor higher reward.

You will have the further privilege of being able to say over time to your friends, spouses, children and grandchildren, that you were taught the fundamentals of your profession in the finest officer training college in the world, in its 100th year of outstanding output, and as a result you are now an intrinsic part of Duntroon's ethos, character and motivation.

Few, if any other institutions in my experience, has that special 'something' that Duntroon imparts to its graduates, a 'something' perhaps felt, rather than seen. In the years to come, you would do well to think upon this and to play your part in ensuring that the reputation of the Royal Military College—our College—continues to prosper, both in national and global opinion. You can help by taking an active part in the Duntroon Society, founded in 1980 by the then Commandant, Major General Alan Morrison. You will become members of the Society on graduation.

Ethos, pride and a sense of intimate belonging does not happen simply through the passage of time. It happens for a variety of very good, proven reasons, including function. Broadly speaking, Duntroon's charter has been to produce battle leaders, trained initially to command 30 soldiers in peace and war and to have developed in that process, a graduate's future capacity to lead companies, battalions, brigades, divisions, other commands and supporting services, the Army and indeed, the Australian Defence Force, at a superior level. RMC has done this consistently well for a century.

But more than this, the College's graduates have performed huge public service in other than military roles. They have been outstanding diplomats, parliamentary representatives, including Ministers of the Crown, governors and a governor general, judges of various courts, ambassadors and United Nations representatives, presidents

of national and state RSLs, Rhodes scholars and outstanding writers of military history and leaders of written strategic thought. They have commanded emergency service operations and groups at the national level as General Slater is doing right now in Queensland.

Think of some of your forebears who trod this same parade ground and lived in the same barracks. General Officers of the ilk of Clowes, Robertson, Woodward, Scherger, Daly, Hassett, Dunstan, Bennett, Gration, Grey, Cosgrove and our Kiwi brothers in arms, Thornton, Mace and Poananga. Commandant graduates of outstanding talent, including Wells, Wilton, Morrison, and Blake.

Like you and me, all would have entered this place as cadets, with some initial sense of trepidation, liberally sprinkled with large doses of excitement and anticipation. Many would have undergone rigorous initiation—now no longer allowed—but for some of us at least, a catalyst in bonding a class together at Duntroon and then through the later years of demanding military service, marriage, children and eventually, retirement.

There is the ambience of Duntroon—looking from the Cadets' Mess across the parade ground to the magnificent spring blossoms and beautiful gardens of Duntroon House; no more lovely scene anywhere. There are the memories of this place; of marching feet, the crack of the general salute, the thump of the drums of the Corps' magnificent band and the disciplined rattle of musketry in the *feu de joie* of an 1812 Overture orchestral and ceremonial display.

I remember particular reviewing officers because of their powerful physical presence—their aura—Field Marshal Slim, the Queen and Queen Mother, and General Sir Francis Hassett to name but some.

I think of the civil staffs who made such huge contributions to this place, Professors Sutherland, Dempsey, Bryan and Hodges; of the military instructors and RSMs; NCOs of the calibre of Fango Watson, Goldspink, Chinn; and officers such as Grey, Lloyd, Clark, Thomson; almost all of whom were battle-experienced men with a deep understanding of how to convert young cadets into leaders of men and now also women.

It is in part the memories of sport played together on Duntroon fields; the annual cross country over Mount Ainslie, the earlier boxing championships, where blood was freely spilt, but courage proven in enthusiastic amateur encounter.

Sunday night at the Duntroon picture theatre, long since demolished, camp training, the Majura range, Captain's Flat, 40 days to go, graduation parade and the ball; of service together with one's classmates and the mutual trust engendered through the Duntroon experience; of the camaraderie of mess life; of battles and campaigns shared; on the staffs of headquarters—doing one's best to further the professionalism, combat capability and logistic support of our Army.

Duntroon engendered all of these things deep in all our psyches. We, who have gone before you, owe it much. You, I know, will feel the same, as your future careers unfold.

May Dr Bastiaan's centenary plaque epitomise for the next 100 years all that is noble about this place and the graduates it so faithfully nurtures, and well done to the Duntroon Society for commissioning it.

I now invite Mrs Morrison and Colonel Richardson, NZ Army to join me in unveiling the plaque.

## Presentation of the Urquhart Portrait, 31 January 2011

Immediately following the unveiling of the Duntroon Society's Centenary gift, First and Second Classes marched on to the Parade Ground and formed a hollow square facing the Cadets' Mess. After receiving the Commanding Officer and Commandant on parade, Mrs Urquhart-Fisher was afforded the unusual honour for a civilian of being saluted by the Corps of Staff Cadets. She then addressed the assembly before unveiling the portrait of her grandfather, Brigadier Urquhart (Staff Cadet 1). At the conclusion of the unveiling, the portrait was moved to the Harrison Room in the CSC Mess where morning tea was served. Society members and wives were similarly entertained in Duntroon House.

### Address by Mrs Carol Urquhart-Fisher

Brigadier, Corps of Staff Cadets, distinguished guests. What a thrilling sight to see! and, a thrilling site to be in! A hundred years ago you were founded! I can actually tell you, verbatim, at least two ideas that were drummed into those first 40 cadets of that First Class of 1911—because my Grandad, your Staff Cadet No 1, drummed them into me!

First, advice that saved Grandad's life on Gallipoli, particularly on the night of the famous Turkish attack of May 19th, was from his Duntroon Artillery Instructor, Lieutenant Gale, R.A., who advised: "*When in real trouble, range gunfire at lowest level, and set the fuse to nought! Search and sweep as appropriate. Exploding shrapnel in front of the muzzle is like a shot gun against the enemy.*" This 'tip' was not in any book.

Another idea well and truly instilled into that first class, along with the principles of war, such as 'concentration of forces' was the refrain: "*Half-hearted measures have never yet achieved success in war, and lack of determination is the most fruitful source of defeat*".

I'm quite certain that when I was a little girl and Grandad was telling me stories about the Royal Military College, Duntroon (he called it Duntroon), he never imagined I would be standing here on your, and his, hallowed parade ground ... seeing and doing this ... on your Centenary. How he would love to be here! And what a great privilege it is for me to be here!

Duntroon has always been part of my heritage, and all of you, and all those before you, cadets and staff are not only a key part, but also a central part, of the heritage of Australia.

Congratulations on your Centenary.



Mrs Carol Urquhart-Fisher presents the portrait of her grandfather, Brigadier Urquhart (Staff Cadet 1).

# Coming Centenary Activities

[Here we summarise the major coming Centenary activities. There are, of course, many other activities—such as class reunions—timed to coincide with Centenary events. Further details of all major coming Centenary activities can be obtained from: Major Stephen Hladio, OAM, SO2 Centenary Project Officer, Protocol and Visits, Royal Military College of Australia, DUNTROON ACT 2600, T: 02 6265 9539. Ed]

## Saturday, 11 June 2011: Trooping of the Queen’s Colour followed by the exercise of the Freedom of Entry of Canberra

The trooping will take place on the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin at the lower end of Anzac Parade. Freedom of Entry will be exercised on Anzac Parade.

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## Saturday, 25 June 2011: ‘Leadership on Fire Concert’

An ‘open-to-the-public’ presentation by the Royal Military College Band. The stage will be on the parade ground with the backdrop being ‘Ack’ and ‘Beer’ Block and the CSC Mess. Seating will be on the parade ground. The program is yet to be finalised but the timing of the activity is (TBC) approximately 1650–1840 h.

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## Sunday, 26 June 2011: Duntroon Open Day

Further details of this activity are to be confirmed, but it is designed to be open to reunion groups and families, allowing access (TBC) to buildings and areas not previously permitted.

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## Monday, 27 June 2011: Centenary Parade and Presentation of New Colours

The Centenary Parade will be a combined graduation parade and presentation of new colours, making this the key event for the year. The parade will occur on the Monday as it will be 100 years to the day since the official opening of the College.

As members are aware, the parade to be held on the Centenary of the College is a graduation parade, and, as such, priority for seating will be for the graduands’ families. Assurances have been given that adequate seating will be available for Society members, probably in decade rather than Class groups. Entrée Cards will be provided and may be essential for access to the College and the seating area.

Reunion groups may apply direct to the Commandant for block seating, but individuals seeking Entrée Cards should apply through the Duntroon Society (contact details below) to relieve administrative burden on the College.

Brigadier Peter J A Evans, (Retd)  
Chairman, Duntroon Society Committee  
1 Ogilvie Place GARRAN ACT 2605  
AUSTRALIA  
Phone +61 2 62811479  
E-mail: peter.evans@netspeed.com.au

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# Centenary Projects

## RMC Centenary Coffee Table Book

Society members who are either graduates of RMC or were previous members of RMC staff are invited to submit photographs and/or quotable material of fifty words or less for consideration for inclusion into the *RMC Centenary Book*. Photographs of any nature/aspect of their time at Duntroon (along with explanatory details of who, what, where, when, etc) will be welcomed, as will quotable material on Duntroon experiences/insights/memories.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Captain Emma Grigson  
(RMC Centenary Book Project)  
Officer Commanding Alamein Company  
Royal Military College-Duntroon  
DUNTROON ACT 2600  
E-mail: emma.grigson@defence.gov.au

Submissions will be considered for inclusion by the editor/publisher as soon as they are received and RMC will accept submissions up to the end of May.

Material submitted will be returned via Australia Post to the originator if return address details are provided.

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## Contribution by RMC as a National Institution

It has been suggested that an attempt should be made to bring to the attention of the general public the contribution made to the nation by alumni of RMC, Duntroon.

As a first step, it has been suggested that material be collected for publication in the *Defence Magazine*, *Army Newspaper* and the like which would then attract interest from the civilian media. To capitalise on the Centenary, we should aim to start publishing in April/May 2011.

A possible start point would be Appendix 6 to Darren Moore’s book *Duntroon 1911–2001*, which has been posted on the Society web-site ([www.dunsoc.com](http://www.dunsoc.com)). Work will be necessary to add achievements during 2001 to 2011 and it may also be useful to expand the categories used by Moore.

For this project to be viable, contributions will be needed from Society members and a number of volunteers will be needed to collate the work and generally manage the project. In the first instance, comments on the project, and expressions of interest should be forwarded to Brigadier Peter Evans (Retd) at [peter.evans@netspeed.com.au](mailto:peter.evans@netspeed.com.au).

**URGENT**

On 10 February a bulk e-mail was sent to all Society members with an e-mail address to give advance warning of the above two Centenary projects.

74 of 1290 of the e-mails bounced because of invalid addresses. This is a small percentage but we would very much like to reduce the error rate so that you all may receive timely notices of events etc.

Would any member who did not receive the notice referred to above, please e-mail Peter Evans ([peter.evans@netspeed.com.au](mailto:peter.evans@netspeed.com.au)) with the Subject “Database”, and with your initials and surname in the body of the text.

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TELEPHONE M 9



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

MILITARY BOARD

(ADJUTANT-GENERAL)

Quote in Reply

A256/1/417(DPA1A)



ARMY HEADQUARTERS  
ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING  
CANBERRA, ACT

16 February 1961.

RMC

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE - 50th ANNIVERSARY -  
COMMEMORATION POSTAGE STAMP

Reference AHQ A256/1/417 DPA1 of 5 May 60.

2. Subtended is the Postmaster-General's reply to the Minister for the Army in relation to the proposal for the issue of a commemorative postage stamp -

"My dear Minister,

I have given careful consideration to your personal representations for the issue of a special postage stamp during 1961 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

My Department receives very many requests for the issue of special stamps each year and with the realization that every new stamp provides a precedent for further requests, I have found it necessary to establish a policy that commemorative stamps may be issued only on occasions of outstanding national importance or of special historical significance, and then to a very limited extent in any year.

While I am very conscious of the importance of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, there are several additional factors which I have had to take into account, one being that the issue of a stamp associated with the Army would inevitably commit my Department to the production of further stamps relating to the other Armed Services. I have had also to consider that almost any design selected for a stamp of the nature proposed would be associated in the minds of many people with war, or the threat of war. Although the Army, with the other Armed Services, is an Australian institution charged with the primary purpose of defending Australia, it is scarcely appropriate in times of peace, and with cognizance of the delicate political situations in many of the Asian countries north of Australia, to issue a stamp which might be regarded in some quarters, within and outside Australia, as provocative.

*Comdr*  
*DMA*  
*Licence holder*  
*DPAAG*  
*10/2/61*

For the reasons outlined, and having regard to the present policy of my Department to become progressively more selective in the issue of commemorative stamps, I regret that I am unable to meet your request for a special stamp to be associated with the Royal Military College, Duntroon". (Sgd) C.W.DAVIDSON.

3. In view of the above no further action will be taken.

*[Signature]*  
Colonel,  
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.

# Address to the 1957–60 RMC Class on the Occasion of Their 50th Anniversary

**John Bullen**

*[On Monday 6 December 2010, the evening before the December 2010 Graduation Parade, the 1957–60 RMC Class invited John Bullen to provide an address at their reunion dinner at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. The following is the text of that address. Ed]*

Members of the 1957–1960 Duntroon class and friends. I am deeply conscious of the great honour you have done me, in inviting an outsider to share this precious occasion with you all. Thank you.

As this class celebrates the fiftieth anniversary for those who were lucky enough to graduate, the College is entering its Centenary year. I will speak to you about the College, this class, and the Centenary.

I assume you were all paying diligent attention to your instructors at Duntroon this afternoon and thus you do not need a refresher course on the Campbell era at Duntroon before tonight's exam at 10 o'clock.

In 1910 the Army took over Duntroon from the Campbells and established the Royal Military College which opened in June 1911.

The daily routine was very close to what it was fifty years later. Reveille at 6.15, breakfast at 7.15 and on parade to start the day at 8.00, with bugle or whistle calls five minutes and one minute ahead of each parade. Classes assembled on the parade ground before marching to each class throughout the day. Sound familiar?

Classes ended earlier on Tuesdays and Thursdays in time for late afternoon sport training before dinner at 6.30 pm. Hot water was only supplied to the barracks on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons. Only cold water was available on the other four afternoons and every morning. Doubling up in the precious hot water bath after sport was standard practice, to make the absolute most of the increasingly muddy but still tepid water. The obvious lack of hygiene was a suspected cause of the periodic outbreaks of boils.

Evening studies were from 7:30 to 9:30 pm, followed by lights out at 10:15, exactly the same as in 1957.

Let's now look at three interesting cadets of that period.

Reginald Miles graduated first in the very first class to graduate in 1914, thereby setting an often to be followed standard as a fine New Zealander leading the way, or as a conshe Kiwi bastard, depending on which side of the Tasman you belong. He later died in World War Two in Spain while escaping as a prisoner of war. By now he was a brigadier, with Distinguished Service Order and bar, Military Cross, the Greek Military Cross and had been Mentioned in Despatches in both wars.

Noel Biden was a fine soldier before he came to Duntroon. So good in fact, that he was selected in the Australian contingent to attend the coronation of King George the Fifth. This caused him to enter Duntroon four months late. His welcoming classmates promptly laid on a heavy initiation for him, described by an eye-witness as "a terrible ordeal". Nice chaps, weren't they. This led to even rougher treatment for the new class in 1912 and further led in 1913 to bad publicity in the press and an investigation

being ordered by the Minister for Defence. This was the College's first 'bastardisation' scandal, with many more to follow.

Had the College given Staff Cadet Biden an average mark for the four months he missed, as was done for me in 1956 and for Phil Skelton and Tony Smithies in 1958, Biden, an excellent cadet, would have graduated first by a wide margin. Instead, he graduated fifth. Off he went to Gallipoli where he was promoted captain in July and died in December, only a week after the evacuation. Literally, Biden was dead unlucky.

Staff Cadet 106 Lawrence Wackett, ancestor of 1806 Joe Viksne, joined the Flying Corps, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Force Cross, transferred to the RAAF and ultimately became Sir Lawrence Wackett, head of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation. He is of particular interest to us.

A technical whiz, Wackett secretly set up an electrical warning signal system to a fellow cadet in another building and also an after-hours lighting system for his own room. This was quite a challenge because all power to the cadet lines was cut off at lights out. So Wackett cut the necks from bottles and built his own storage batteries. Setting them up in the ceiling he kept his battery bank charged during the day by the illegal connection he made to the electricity mains. Staff Cadet Wackett was not the last to tap into electrical mains power at Duntroon. Is the 1957–60 class electrician present tonight?

The first class graduated early, only a week after the outbreak of World War One, and they all went away to war in the First Convoy. The very first Duntroon class reunion was celebrated by almost the entire class, including New Zealanders, at a dinner in a hotel in Albany just before the convoy set sail on 28 October 1914. Of the 28 graduates who attended that dinner, 11 were killed, most of them at Gallipoli.

From 1911 to 1957 the College curriculum did not change in structure, though of course individual military and academic subjects changed with the times. German was taught from the outset and Japanese was introduced in 1917. Interestingly, Japanese was discontinued in favour of economics as late as 1938.

Courses were shortened during both World Wars, mostly for two years, though the shortest course of all was six months in 1939. Not until after World War Two did selected graduates go on to university as a regular practice.

1957 saw one significant innovation. Following the bastardisation scandal of 1956, it was decided to protect the new Fourth Class from brutality by isolating them in a training camp at Point Hut where they would find their feet before being exposed to the senior classes at Duntroon. For the 1957–60 Class this led to a truly unique experience, with this camp being run by Major John Paley of the Fourth Queen's Own Hussars and Warrant Officer George Chinn. These two held strong and opposed views on the military upbringing of Australia's young officers.

"But sir, you can't do that!"

"Thank you Mr Chinn, but we will do it!"

That camp operates today, though no longer at Point Hut. It is now in the Majura Firing Range and is named Camp Blake after the Commandant who was a cadet at Point Hut in 1957 when he got stuck in a wire fence and was courteously helped through it by the polished toecap of our Fourth Queen's Own Hussar who knew how to treat Colonials.



Life at Duntroon for the 1957–60 class has been comprehensively and accurately described by Alan Thompson in his marvellous book ‘Never Let the Bastards Get you Down’. I know you’ve all read it, but Alan’s description of the food in the Cadets’ Mess is so vivid and so wonderfully accurate that bits of it bear repeating, especially at a meal time.

The food was delivered to the table in containers. It was the duty of Fourth Class to serve it as directed by the senior class. In simple terms this meant that the most desirable food was distributed unevenly in favour of the senior classes, and the undesirable in favour of Fourth Class.

Particularly undesirable dishes were sometimes distributed wholly to Fourth Class who were made to eat the lot. It is difficult to forget opening a stainless steel container to find eight sets of grey, boiled brains staring back at you like something from an autopsy room—and knowing that you will be eating a large proportion of them.

Having got off to a flying start at Point Hut, this class quickly established itself as a cohesive group possessed of considerable initiative. Having learnt plenty in 1957, the 1958 Third Class began to spread its wings in earnest.

The sinking of HMAS Alamein at its moorings in May 1958 was just the start. Although mainly a Third Class enterprise, only Gallipoli Company was involved.

The Cork Block Cavern was considerably more complex. A spare room was excavated under Ross Thomas’s room in Cork Block by members of Third Class, especially those in the Pentathlon Club. Security was maintained extremely well. It needed to be, the main threat being the ever prowling Company Commander, Major John Salmon.

The Cavern involved cutting a trapdoor in the floor, huge excavation beneath, disposal of several tonnes of dirt, removal of a supporting column for the building floor, concreting the floor, and connection of electrical power for heating and light. Sir Lawrence Wackett would have been proud of his successors.

Admittedly the air in the unventilated Cavern was of poor quality, but the Cavern was made more comfortable by Her Majesty who provided bedside rugs for the concrete floor and by the RAAF Sergeants’ Mess at Fairbairn who, without their knowledge, generously donated curtains for the walls, plus sundry other items to make the Cavern more homey.

A remarkable achievement in terms of both initiative and secrecy, the Cork Block Cavern still exists today. Its future is secure, for it now enjoys official heritage status within the College. And Cork Block itself is part of an officially recognised Australian heritage precinct.

In September 1958 came the kidnapping of First Class, a true masterpiece in initiative, planning, co-ordination, maintenance of the aim, concentration of force, teamwork, surprise, security, flexibility and execution. It was a brilliant application of the Principles of War by a class which had yet to be taught them.

I had been studying very late that evening. Just after going to bed I heard David Moloney’s alarm clock go off. Something was up, though I hadn’t a clue what. So I got up, prudently locked my door from inside and went to sleep, secure in the knowledge that all room keys were in a locked cupboard and the key to that cupboard was held by a fellow First Class cadet.

Later I was rudely awakened by several Fourth Class cadets bursting into my room, having silently unlocked the door.

I was swiftly overpowered, tied up and dragged outside where Alamein Company First Class were unceremoniously loaded onto a large truck with an open tray back. A tarpaulin was thrown over us to conceal the nature of the load.

Peter Evans piteously moaned that the bonds on his wrists had cut off his circulation and that he’d never be able to play the drums again. I ask you—would one drummer less in this world really have mattered? Especially with Stew Cochrane in the class. Anyway, in misguided compassion our Third Class captors slackened Peter Evans’s bonds, climbed on top of the tarpaulin and the truck set off through the night.

Under the tarpaulin, Peter Evans untied David Gilroy who then untied Peter. Together they quietly untied everyone. Then we all stood up together. By now the truck was beyond Scott’s Crossing, where Barton is today. The driver was overpowered and the truck halted. There was a violent but one-sided struggle for supremacy and Alamein Company First Class had the numbers.

Leaving our captors to find their own way back to Duntroon, we drove the truck into the bush behind the College as far as we could and hurled the key far away into the night. Honour satisfied, we returned to bed for a good night’s sleep.

In the morning we were astonished, dismayed and highly impressed to find that our captors had returned to the College, found the truck in the bush, hot-wired the ignition (I tell you, this was a very talented crowd, especially the Kiwis), shrugged off Alamein Company as a minor hiccup, and continued on through the night with the master plan, abducting one company at a time, and dumping them far from Duntroon, this time with total success.

Even Alamein Company did not survive completely unscathed. The senior cadet in Alamein Company, Mike Jeffery, escaped the initial snatch by being absent without leave. Returning much later, he had the misfortune to be spotted by Third Class. An immediate ambush and a successful kidnap ensured that Mike did not get the good night’s sleep that I did.

There were some amazing features to this raid. The planning was thorough. And when things did not go exactly to plan, the situation was resourcefully recovered.

But most impressive of all was the security of the operation.

I found it hard to imagine how half the entire Corps of Staff Cadets could have been organised for such a big operation without the most experienced class in the College getting the faintest suspicion of anything unusual. This was achieved by carefully briefing all subordinates on a last minute, ‘need to know’ basis, in the finest tradition of the invasion of Normandy only 14 years earlier.

At the time I openly expressed the view that it would be wonderful if all our military training exercises at Duntroon could only be planned and executed by RMC staff as well as this. Surely these talented men would make fine officers. And so it has proved. My first experience of this came in Vietnam where it was my privilege to be tutored in Task Force operational procedures by Trevor Wilkinson.

All this was only a warm-up for the public assassination in the heart of Civic, but that took place more than a year after I’d graduated and I only heard about it afterwards. Though John Becker did confess to me later that lying on that pavement in Civic, blood everywhere, was the worst moment of his entire life. Waiting for Frank Lehman’s getaway car to show up, it had suddenly dawned on John

that he didn't really know who was the real victim of this practical joke and for all he knew, it could be him!

The 1957-60 class saw the introduction of raised academic standards at Duntroon in 1958, leading ultimately to all RMC cadets graduating with university degrees after 1968. To achieve this, military studies and training were cut back in favour of increased academic study. All of you were more highly trained in artillery, for example, than graduates into Artillery after 1967. Same with armour and the other arms.

In 1986, the Defence Force Academy was opened and took over the academic training for all three services. Since 1985 Duntroon has now done military training only. You might say that these days Duntroon does the old Portsea course, extended to 1½ years.

Relatively little changed during the College's first fifty years, but the changes since 1960 are tremendous.

Not only has the curriculum changed, but there has been a huge social change. Female cadets have done extremely well, winning Queen's Medals and the Sword of Honour. Married cadets have married quarters, though they must also maintain a room at the College. Same applies to cadets in de facto relationships. Homosexuality is not an issue. Nor is age, the oldest cadet currently at the College being in his 40s. And bastardisation is gone. It just doesn't work nor can it survive in the changed and more mature community of today. In its place is mutual support ranging across all three classes that is great to see.

They still have reveille at 6:15, breakfast at 7:00 and start work at 8:00, but they don't go on parade all the time the way we used to. No reveille parade, no meal parades, no 0800 hours parades, no parades before marching to a class. But CO's Parade still exists once a week. There is also an administrative parade every Monday at 7:00 am, mainly to check that all is in order at the start of each week.

BC day still exists, with equipment in rooms laid out for inspection once a week when the Commanding Officer closely inspects one company of his choice.

Defaulters still parade, but no longer in full equipment subject to inspection.

Cadets spend 30 weeks in the field, mostly in the Majura Firing Range. That is 20% of their entire course. And they're in the field all year round, in all seasons.

In today's crowded training curriculum there is little time for drill. The first rehearsal for tomorrow's graduation parade was only last Wednesday, but I'm sure you will be impressed by the standard that you will see. It compares well with what we achieved in the 1950s spending perhaps ten times as many hours pounding the square.

We are now entering the College's Centenary year. On 31 January come the first two events. A portrait of Staff Cadet number 1 will be presented to the College by his family and the Centenary Plaque presented to the College by the Duntroon Society will be officially unveiled. The plaque is already in position and you probably saw it this afternoon.

In June comes the actual anniversary of the opening of the College. On Saturday 25, the Centenary celebrations start in earnest with a concert and historic pageant on the parade ground. Sunday will be an Open Day.

Monday 27 will see the Centenary Graduation Parade on the exact anniversary of the opening of the College in 1911. New colours will be presented on this parade. The Queen has been invited, having presented all previous sets of colours to the College except for the very first set presented by her father in 1927.

The final event of the Centenary year will come at the December graduation when the 1958-61 class gift to the College will be unveiled. This is a bronze statue to be installed between Beer Block, Cork Block and Panic Palace. It is a staff cadet in full defaulters uniform of the late 1950s.

Fifty three and 54 years ago, it was my privilege to get to know the 1957-60 class well. Many times I admired the initiative and teamwork you displayed. Yvonne and I are honoured to be here tonight as guests of our many good friends.

I would now like to propose a toast to the continued good health and happiness of the 1957-60 class. Would you please stand. To the class!

~~~~~  
*Lieutenant Colonel John Bullen had been a soldier in National Service, the Citizen Military Forces and the Australian Regular Army before he came to Duntroon, graduating in 1958. On retirement from the Army after nearly 30 years, he served on Australian War Memorial staff for 12 years. He is now the Chairman of the RMC Heritage Committee. He holds citizenship of both New Zealand and Australia and is the author of Captain Bullen's War, his personal diary in the Vietnam War.*  
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## The Prodigal Son's Corner

**John Hart**

*[In Newsletter 2/1983 Lieutenant Colonel P.(Peter) J. Cook (1944) suggested the series titled The Corner for the Prodigal Son's Brother. As he then put it, the subjects would be lateral thinkers who, as young men or old men, physically left the Duntroon Family only to be mentally retained by it, like a moth to a light. Since then the title has changed to The Prodigal Son's Corner, but the theme remains the same. In a recent letter to inform the Editor of her father's death, Mrs Virginia Owen neatly captured the spirit of Peter Cook's proposal. In that vein her letter about Captain, later Doctor, John Hart is reproduced below. Ed.]*

My father entered the RMC on 14 March 1938 and the following three years, until he graduated on 18 June 1941, were some of the happiest of his life. His great love was rugby, and he was one of a 'famous triumvirate', to quote an 11 July 1944 article in *The Canberra Times*, who, with [classmates] Gordon Hardcastle and Basil Hardiman, comprised [the] three 'Hs' who were a formidable front row in one of the RMC's best teams. I think one of the proudest moments in his life was when he was selected, as a first year cadet, for the final RMC team in the match against Northern Suburbs in the first grade Rugby Union premiership final on 6 August 1938, which the RMC won. I was delighted to find an online copy of the Duntroon Society *Newsletter 2/1994* which had a wonderful photo of the 1938 rugby team, with my father proudly standing in the back row.

He followed the College's activities with great interest throughout his life, always reading his copy of the Newsletter. He and my mother often visited Army friends in Canberra and attended reunions at the College. In the online copy of *Newsletter 2/1993* there is a photo of my father and several of his friends after they had received their certificates of Life Membership. It would have been a memorable day for them. Every trip to Canberra entailed a visit to the top of the hill [Mt Pleasant] behind the College (along General Bridges' Drive), where he would then survey the Brindabella Ranges and the surrounding countryside

where he and his fellow cadets had ridden on their horses. What wonderful times he had.

While at the College my father made many strong friendships which lasted until his death. As his daughter, my memories of get-togethers with his Army friends were always a source of great fun and recollection. He was greatly looking forward to the College's Centenary year in 2011, which I notice from his last Duntroon Society Newsletter, will be held over the weekend of his birthday, 26 June. I am sure he will be with you in spirit.

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## The Prodigal Son's Corner

**John Roche**

*[Once again the story of a prodigal son is being published after the subject's death. What follows is an edited version of an obituary prepared by his oldest daughter, Deborah Hamilton. Ed]*

Born in Adelaide on 9 September 1924, John Justin Roche ended his time at Rostrevor College as its school captain before entering the RMC on 27 February 1943. Following his graduation on 12 December 1944 he saw service in New Guinea before moving to Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force.

He returned to Australia in 1948 and resigned his commission with the intention of studying medicine, but his father's ill-health saw him joining the family businesses. By the early 1950s he became their managing director and was involved in property development, property investments and agricultural businesses in South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales. Much of the next 40 years was spent travelling between these three states actively managing these enterprises while remaining their Chairman until 2008. These businesses are now the Adelaide Development Company of South Australia and, in Western Australia, the Estate Development Company making this group one of Australia's longest-standing private property organisations. The group has created housing and provided land for many thousands of families throughout Australia and developed more than 30,000 residential allotments.

John was a founding member and national president of the Urban Development Institute of Australia, now the main lobby group for the residential development industry. He was able to bring his training, wide experience and knowledge to both the property industry and, in 1964, to the Adelaide City Council. John served the City of Adelaide as a councillor, alderman and, from 1975 to 1977, Lord Mayor during which time he was the driving force behind the first City of Adelaide plan when it was enshrined in legislation in 1976. He was instrumental in establishing the Rundle Mall Committee and worked with the former state premier, Don Dunstan, to enliven the city centre, together with affordable car parking whilst providing council with a non-rate based income stream.

At heart, a man of simple pleasures, he loved everything associated with country life. One of his passions was the restoration and establishment of Southcote Farmhouse at Port Elliot and the establishment of Southcote Shorthorn Stud. This led him to become State, National and then World President of the Shorthorn Society. The working year for him was scheduled around his country calendar, and this schedule was unassailable. At Easter it would be Sydney for the Royal Show; in June it was Dubbo for the bull sales; in September it was the Adelaide Royal Show and then on to

Perth in October to visit the family properties and the Perth Show. November was the Naracoorte bull sales. In his time as federal President of the Shorthorn Society of Australia, he attended every 'on-property sale'—the first president ever to do so. He missed the Royal Adelaide Show only once in 50 years and that came about by his absence in the UK, where one of his daughters had been involved in an accident.

The north of Western Australia held a gravitational pull; and his annual visits to Williambury Station outside Carnarvon were among his happiest days. John was immensely proud of what he achieved with the family property on the Frankland River in that State, named 'Westfield' which he developed into one of the best mixed farms in the country. It was on this farm that John, despite being a life-long teetotaler, planted what was, 40 years ago, the first vineyard in the Great Southern area of WA, thereby establishing the viticulture industry there.

He had a very successful career as a committee member, company director and chairman of numerous public companies outside the family businesses. At various times he chaired the South Australian Land Commission, A.W. Baulderstone and the East End Market Company. In addition, his wide ranging community service is reflected in such roles as patron of the Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club, as a member of the executive of the Horse Drawn Vehicle Association, as a voluntary director of the Adelaide Zoo, as mentor to students at Aquinas College and as a lecturer at the SA School of Mines and Industries. In 1981 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to town planning and local government.

Having left the Duntroon family some four decades earlier, John Roche, while in the centre of the swirl of a densely crowded life, as a true Prodigal Son, joined the Duntroon Society in its early days.

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## From the Commandant

**Brigadier D.M. Luhrs, CSC**

Let me firstly express what a privilege it is for me to have been appointed as the Commandant of the Royal Military College of Australia (RMC-A). Army is adapting and the structure of the RMC-A is evolving also. You will be aware of the establishment of Forces Command from articles presented in previous Newsletters. That significant change to the command and control structures within Army is consolidating and in line with that, we have seen the RMC-A bring the Land Warfare Centre, Canungra under command to join the Army Recruit Training Centre, Kapooka and the Royal Military College, Duntroon in delivering the training that comprises the Army Officer and Soldier All Corps Training Continuums. Specifically in the case of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, the year has commenced well with the Army graduates from the Australian Defence College joining II Class and III Class closing on the final weeks of their initial training at Camp Blake, Majura. We have also seen the graduation of an Army Reserve First Appointment Course with twenty-four lieutenants taking up their first officer appointment within the Army Reserve. There has been a high turnover of staff and those families that are new to the Duntroon Garrison, and the College in particular, are quickly settling into the busy life of the College.

I've been thoroughly impressed by the support provided to the College by the Duntroon Society and the Royal

Military College of Australia Association. We are now at an appropriate point in the Association's establishment that I would like to review the operation with the aim of refining the constitution where it is appropriate to do so, and streamlining where possible, the administrative overhead of the organisation. There will be more on this over the coming months.

The Centenary year is underway and commenced with the Centenary Plaque presentation by the Duntroon Society and the presentation of a portrait of Staff Cadet Number One, W.J. Urquhart by the late Brigadier Urquhart's granddaughter, Carol Urquhart-Fisher. The Centenary Plaque is a wonderful and perpetual reminder of the College's history, particularly given its placement beside the breezeway where cadets have marched a well worn path on and off the parade ground. It was a privilege to meet so many members of the Society at that event and I look forward to seeing those that can be in attendance, at the other Centenary events throughout the year. I'd like to thank all those who contribute to the Society and Association. I know there are many who work behind the scenes to support the College and we deeply appreciate that support.

Finally, I am extremely fortunate to be surrounded by some of the highest calibre officers and soldiers I have served with. I look forward to the continued relationship with Duntroon's extended family, in particular those like you that have continually supported the College and most importantly, the cadet body. I offer my best wishes to you for 2011.

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## **Brigadier David Michael Luhrs**



David Luhrs was born on 20th May 1964 in Brisbane and educated in Maroochydore. He entered the Army Apprentices School in 1980 graduating in 1983 as a Carpenter and Joiner and serving in 21 Construction Squadron before being selected for Officer Training. He entered the Officer Cadet School in 1985, graduating from the Royal Military College in 1986 and returning to the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers. He served in a variety of regimental and instructional appointments in the ranks lieutenant to major that included the highlights of Plant Troop Officer with 17 Construction Squadron, UNTAG (Namibia); Company Commander and Battalion Second-in-Command at the Army College of Technical and Further Education [*formerly the Army Apprentices School*]; and Officer Commanding 7 Field Squadron, 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment. He attended Australian Army Command and Staff College and was subsequently appointed as the exchange instructor United States Army Engineer School.

At the rank of lieutenant colonel, he served in International Policy Division as the Director, Attaché and Overseas Management and in 2003 took command of the School of Military Engineering, Combat Arms Training Centre. In 2005 he served on the Directing Staff at the Australian Command and Staff College and following promotion to the rank of Colonel, was appointed as the Deputy Corps Engineer, Multi-National Corps – Iraq until

June 2006. He returned from the Middle East as the Director, Personnel Capability – Army in Personnel Branch, Army Headquarters and subsequently attended the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies in 2009.

He was promoted to the rank of Brigadier in January 2010 and immediately deployed as Deputy to the Chief of Staff – Operations on Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force (HQ ISAF) in Kabul, Afghanistan. On return from Afghanistan in December 2010 he took up his current appointment as the Commandant, Royal Military College of Australia.

Brigadier Luhrs is a graduate of Southern Cross University where he was awarded a Bachelor of Management and Professional Studies, the Australian Army Command and Staff College where he was awarded a Master of Defence Studies and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies where he completed a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) through Deakin University.

Brigadier Luhrs has twice been awarded the United States Army Meritorious Service Medal; for his service as an Instructor at the United States Army Engineer School in 2000 and as the Deputy Chief of Staff – Operations on HQ ISAF in 2010. In 2006 he was awarded the Bronze Order of the De Fleury Medal in recognition of his service to the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In 2007 he was awarded the United States Army Bronze Star Medal in recognition of his service as the Deputy Corps Engineer, Multi-National Corps Iraq and in 2008 he was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for his work as the Director Personnel Capability – Army.

David and his wife Jodie have a daughter (Ashleigh – 22) and two sons (Daniel – 20 and Nicholas – 7). He is an active runner and treasures time spent with his family.

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## **From the Chairman, Duntroon Society Committee**

**Peter Evans**

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of December 2010. As has now become practice, graduation photographs are featured on the cover of the Newsletter.

The RMC-A Association Inc. Board met on 27 October and 1 December under the chairmanship of the Commandant, Brigadier Mick Moon. As a result of these meetings, a review will be undertaken of the RMC-A Association Inc. Constitution to remove some anomalies. At the conclusion of the December meeting I, on behalf of the Board, thanked Brigadier Moon for his contribution to development of the Association.

Membership of the Duntroon Society continues to grow and now stands at over 1,474 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.

The Society's Centenary Plaque was unveiled on 31 January and is reported on elsewhere in this Newsletter. Additional photographs of the event can be found at <http://www.dropbox.com/gallery/6546189/1/Centenary%20Plaque?h=839b64>.

Again I would like to stress that comments and suggestions for content for the Newsletter and the web site are always welcome and should be directed to the Editor (Dr Mike Ryan), or to me.

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# 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 (1981)  
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 & Speech, 2010

Last year's Lunch & Speech was held on Tuesday 9 November 2010. The speaker was Professor Robert O'Neill AO, Emeritus Chichele Professor of War History at Oxford University, a 1958 RMC graduate, the Australian Army's first Rhodes Scholar and Australia's Official Historian for the Korean War.

The dining room was filled to its full capacity of 102, our biggest audience ever. Several of the audience went back a long way in Bob O'Neill's life from the 1940s to the 1960s, including, in chronological sequence and in rank at the time, a primary school neighbour [John Bullen (1958)], a fellow Scout [Peter Gratton (1952)], the RQMS at Duntroon who still remembers 1644 Staff Cadet O'Neill's number [Warrant Officer Wally Wark], the RMC Adjutant in 1955 [Captain J.J. (Jim) Shelton (1946)], Under Officer O'Neill's company commander in 1958 [Major D.S. (David) Thomson (1943)] and Mrs Shirley Warr [widow of Captain O'Neill's 5 RAR Commanding Officer in Vietnam 1967-68, Lieutenant Colonel J.A. (John) Warr (1947)].

Professor O'Neill had been invited to speak on his extraordinarily interesting life and did his fascinated audience proud. It was all too easy to get an entirely false impression of many of his remarkable achievements being due to being in the right place at the right time, thanks to the speaker modestly giving no hint of the talent and sheer hard work that we all knew to have been essential.

He did, however, draw attention to the modesty of other men of achievement, notably several instructors at Duntroon in the 1950s, especially (using their later ranks) General Sir Francis Hassett (Maryang San, 1951), Brigadier the Honourable David Thomson (Operation Blaze, 1952) and Brigadier Jim Shelton (Maryang San, 1951).

There being no Society ties in stock, Professor O'Neill was duly presented with a second hand one. The gift-wrapped tie of his old weapon training instructor at Duntroon, and also the Society's founder, the late Major General A.L. (Alan, 'Alby') Morrison (1947) was presented amidst enthusiastic acclaim. This gave much joy to both Professor O'Neill and to Mrs Margaret Morrison who was also present.

### Autumn Lunch, 2011

This year's Autumn Lunch is planned to be held in Duntroon House on 5 May 2011.

### Annual Lunch & Speech, 2011

Later this year our annual Lunch and Speech is proposed for November. Our speaker in the College's Centenary year will be Lieutenant Colonel Steve Hart (1958), author of *Duntroon: Its Heritage and Sacred Legacy* published in

2009 by the Department of Defence. This book is issued to all cadets on arrival at Duntroon.

## New South Wales

### Branch Office Holders

Convenor: D.A. (Duncan) Spencer (1962),  
daspen@tpg.com.au, (02) 9969 0772, 0414 573 574.  
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

### Branch Social Functions

Following the Mudgee Biennial Reunion and the June Graduation lunch, reported in the September Newsletter, things were somewhat quieter in the Duntroon Society NSW, with only the December Graduation lunch as our remaining function. [See report on page 14. Ed]

## New Zealand

### Branch Office Holders

Patron: Major General R.G. Williams CB, MBE, OSTJ (1952).  
Convenor: Colonel T.A. Aldridge CBE (1961).  
Secretary/Treasurer: Major P.J. Skogstad (1964).



Auckland Sub-branch Christmas Lunch 2010. Tom Aldridge, M.J. (Mike) Dudman (1959), R.M. (Rob) Dickie (1952), and Dale Dickie.



Wellington Sub-branch Summer Lunch 2011. M.F. (Maurice) Dodson (1965), E.J. (Evan) Torrance (1958), G.W. (Graham) Talbot (1962) and T. (Tony) Loorparg (1963).

### *Branch Social Functions*

*Auckland Sub-branch Christmas Lunch 2010.* Twenty five Auckland members and their partners gathered at the Auckland Golf Club for the traditional Christmas lunch on Sunday 5 December 2010. The function was hosted by Colonel Tom Aldridge.

*Wellington Sub-branch Summer Lunch 2011.* The summer lunch for the Wellington sub-branch was held at the Royal Wellington Golf Club, Heretaunga on Sunday, 20 February 2011. Colonel David Grant (OCS Dec 61) hosted the event which was attended by 37 members, partners and friends.

### *Membership*

Membership of the New Zealand Branch is 131 including 15 spouses of deceased members.

## **Queensland**

### *Branch Office Holders*

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

The South Queensland chapter meets monthly (in small numbers) for lunch at the United Service Club on the second Wednesday, with partners joining us twice a year. On 9 February, Major General M.D. (Mick) Slater (OCS Dec 1978), having just handed over as Commander 1st Division and having just assumed duty as Head of the Queensland Recovery Task Force, briefed us on both roles.

The annual influx of new graduates was advised of our program for the year by email, including the offer to be kept informed of specific events as they occur.

## **South Australia & Northern Territory**

### *Branch Office Holders*

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

### *Branch Social Functions*

Eighteen branch members enjoyed the Annual Graduation Luncheon at the Naval Military and Air Force Club on 7th December 2010. Lieutenant Colonel I.R. (Jack) Gregg (1976) provided an excellent luncheon address covering his recent activities in Afghanistan as SO1 Operational Analysis, DSTO, and observations on the Army of today.

## **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), and R.H.A. (Richard) Coates (OCS Dec 1975) (OCS representative).

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

### *Branch Social Functions*

*Victoria Branch Annual Luncheon.* Forty one members and partners attended the annual Victoria Branch luncheon held at the RACV Club on Thursday, 21 October 2010. The change from our normal venue was due to the closure of Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess for renovations. The guest

speaker was Major General M.P.J. (Mike) O'Brien (1968) who, in his capacity as Co-chairman, Fromelles Joint Identification Board, delivered a thorough and fascinating presentation on the Battle of Fromelles and the recent discoveries, reclamations and activities in which he became associated. Members and guests attending included:

Mike (1968) and Margaret O'Brien

Bob (1963) and Ruth Slater

Pat Trost (1948)

Don (1956) and Charlie Fenwick

Alan (1951) and Maria McDonald

Geoff (1958) and Leonie Christopherson

Jim (1950) and Jan Hughes

Tony Hall (1952)

Lois Murchie

Susan Dove

Bill (1942) and Vona Beiers

Colin Bannister (1955)

Tony Fairbrother (1958)

Laurence McCredie (1948)

Phil Davies (1961)

James (1946) and Mary McCoy

Stu Bryan (1951)

Doug Bryan (1950)

Colin Bannister (1955)

John Lawson

Ann Stevenson

Ian (1956) and Jane Teague

Frank Hill and Sandy Strong-Hill

Allan (1956) and Ann Nolan

Rex (OCS Jun 1953) and Neoma Rowe

Peter (1956) and Gwenda Swaab

Ron (1963) and Janette Bade

*Burke & Wills Re-enactment Presentation.* On 25 March 2011 Victoria Branch members will be treated to a presentation on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Re-enactment of the Burke and Wills Expedition 20 August 1860 to arrival at the deserted rendezvous 21 April 1861. This scientific expedition was commissioned by the newly founded Royal Society of Victoria (RSV). The re-enactment is being supported by RSV, and the RSV Senior Vice President and Chair of the Burke & Wills Commemoration Committee, Dr Peter Thorne, will be delivering the presentation to Duntroon Society members and guests over lunch in the RSV Supper Room in which the recovered remains of Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills lay in state for two weeks in January 1863 leading up to Australia's first state funeral on 21 January 1863. Any member or guest interested in attending should contact Victoria Branch Co-convenor Bob Slater (on 0418 317 057 or via [ruthandbobslater@bigpond.com](mailto:ruthandbobslater@bigpond.com)) for registration details.

## **Western Australia**

### *Branch Office Holders*

Convenor: W.R.M. (Bob) Hunter (1965)

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

Note these positions are both endorsed by members but held informally as no specific constitution is in place.

### *Social Functions*

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

# Coming Events

## ACT Branch

5 May 2011. Autumn Lunch.

TBA November 2011. Annual Lunch & Speech. Speaker: Lieutenant Colonel Steve Hart (1958), author of *Duntroon: Its Heritage and Sacred Legacy*.

## NSW Branch

27 June 2011. Centenary and Graduation Lunch at the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess.

13 December 2011. Graduation Lunch at the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess.

## New Zealand Branch

TBA November 2011. The Auckland teams in the Postal Golf Competition are to play at 1230 hrs at Helensville Golf Club. Organiser: Brigadier M.J. (Mike) Dudman (1959).

TBA December 2011. Wellington teams in the Postal Golf Competition. Organiser: Lieutenant Colonel T.A. (Trent) Harker (1961).

17/18/19 April 2011. Rotorua Golf Weekend.

## Queensland Branch

TBA May. Annual golf match.

TBA. ADF Dinner at United Service Club.

## South Australia Branch (incorporating NT)

6 December 2011. Annual Graduation Luncheon, Naval Military and Air Force (NMAF) Club, Adelaide.

## Victoria Branch (incorporating Tasmania)

25 March 2011. Burke and Wills Re-enactment Presentation (if interested, please contact Bob Slater on 0418 317 057 or ruthandbobslater@bigpond.com for registration details).

20 October 2011. 1200 for 1230. Lunch at the RACV Club.

## Western Australia Branch

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

## RMC Ceremonial Parades

27 June 2011. Centenary Parade and Presentation of new Colours.

13 December 2011. The Graduation Parade.

Further information is available from SO2 Protocol and Visits, Major S.M. (Stephen) Hladio—(02) 6265 9539.

# From The Podmore Foundation

## Bob Breen (1973)

*Podmore Scholarship Presentation Lunch: 27 February 2011*



Four specially selected and talented indigenous girls from rural and remote communities received their Podmore scholarship certificates for 2011 from Professor Mick Dodson, 2009 Australian of the Year, at a lunch hosted by Major General R.A. (Roger) Powell AM (Ret) (1971) at the Royal Canberra Gold Club on 27 February 2011. Guests of honour

were Lieutenant General D.J. (David) Hurley AC, DSC (1975) and his wife, Linda.

The Podmore Foundation donates \$5,000 per annum to each recipient to assist with school fees at Canberra Girls Grammar School, as well as supporting them with mentors and sponsor families. Funds for Podmore scholarships are raised through donations from benefactors, RMC Classes and the ADFA Graduates Association, as well as fundraising activities, such as sponsored participation of ADFA and RMC cadets and supporters in the annual City2Surf Run in Sydney. More information on donating and becoming involved is available at the Podmore Foundation web site: [www.podmorefoundation.org.au](http://www.podmorefoundation.org.au).



*R.J. (Bob) Breen (1973), David Hurley, and G. (Glenn) Crosland (1977).*



*Professor Mick Dodson with (l-r) Mia Hodges, Year 7, from Cairns, Larissa Woosup, Year 8, from Mackay, Rona McDonald, Year 10, from Alice Springs, and Lyric Hearn, Year 7, from Cairns.*



*Roger Powell, Rachele Allan, and Rhonda Powell.*

# NSW Branch Graduation Lunch 7 December 2010

As usual, the December lunch was held in the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess, and again as usual, the Mess turned on a very enjoyable day. We were fortunate to have Peter Evans give an informative talk on the RMC Association, and where it was going. Unfortunately, due to illness, there were several last minute "drop-outs" and as the age of the members is advancing, this may be a common occurrence in the future. This did not, however, put a dampener on the lunch. Included with the report, are photos of the attendees, kindly provided by J.M. (John) Hutcheson (1947) who has done a great job providing records of these functions over the years.



*Peter Evans, Ian Taylor, and W.G. (Bob) Guest (OCS Dec 59)*



*K.J. (Keith) O'Neill (1947), June Sharp, and Colleen Reid.*



*J.W. (John) Sullivan (1951), George Ball, R.R. (Dick) Hannigan (1951), and D.J. (David) Miller (1951).*



*Peter Evans, N.H. (Nicholas) Marshall (1956), I.R. (Ian) Taylor (1965), and G.E. (George) Ball (OCS Jun 52).*



*D.J. (David) Miller (1951), Nicholas Marshall, and B.N. (Bruce) Robertson (1952).*



*O.J. (Owen) O'Brien (1957), Nola Bertram, Sandy Guest, and S.H. (Stuart) Bartle (1953).*



*Pamela Bruce, Jan Spencer, and Helen Stinson.*



## Shorts

- In *Newsletter 2/2009*, an item under this heading noted that the oldest-ever graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point had celebrated the 105th anniversary of his birthday on 5 August 2009. We have since learned that he died four months later on 19 December 2009. The oldest living graduate of that institution is now Colonel T.J. Wells, who is the last survivor of the Class of 1928. Those of us who left the Army with the rank of colonel will recognise the continuing grip on this role by that rank from both the RMC and the USMA.

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## Profile of Students at the RMC

Current strength (28 February 2011)

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| CSC                                   | 416 |
| First Class                           | 104 |
| Second Class                          | 205 |
| Third Class                           | 107 |
| Brunei                                | 1   |
| Iraq                                  | 3   |
| New Zealand                           | 3   |
| Pakistan                              | 4   |
| Papua New Guinea                      | 5   |
| Philippines                           | 1   |
| RAAF                                  | 1   |
| Singapore                             | 1   |
| Timor Leste                           | 3   |
| United Arab Emirates                  | 1   |
| Vietnam                               | 2   |
| ADFA Graduates                        | 112 |
| Females                               | 40  |
| Cadets with previous military service | 61  |

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## Obituary

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

- 20 Jun 10 Captain J.K. Hart (1941)<sup>1</sup>
- 26 Sep 10 Colonel J.A. McArthur (NZ)
- 5 Oct 10 Major J.A. Chapman (1948)
- 23 Oct 10 Brigadier K.P. Outridge (1947)
- 31 Oct 10 Colonel David Flux (Sandhurst 1958)
- 21 Nov 10 Colonel K.S. McKenzie (1944)
- 3 Jan 11 Brigadier T.W. Young (1939)<sup>2</sup>
- 4 Feb 11 Lieutenant Colonel A.T.A. Mataira (1950)
- 10 Mar 11 Brigadier P.J. Greville (1944)

1. See *The Prodigal Son's Corner* on p 8.
2. Was the Instructor in Tactics from 20 Nov 1944 to 9 Jan 1949. Before entering the RMC he had been a jackeroo and was a fine horseman who generously used his talents to teach riding to small group of staff cadets after the last of the Army horses were sold in 1946. At his death he was, by 3 months and 13 days, the second-oldest surviving graduate of the RMC.

## Letters to the Editor

**From W.G.S. (Gwynn) Boyd (1967)**

Shorts in *Newsletter 2/2010* included a piece with a reference to Air Commodore Paddy Heffernan. His sister and her husband were great friends of my parents and I can recall meeting Paddy several times before I set off for the Clink in 1964.

When I was let out for my first leave in August of that year, my very first call was on Paddy's mother, who was by then living at Hunters Hill with her daughter. Nana Heffernan (as we all knew her) had a crystal clear memory and regaled me with stories of travelling to Canberra in those early days and even staying as guests of the Commandant, because a) it was unusual for parents of staff cadets to make the trip to Canberra and b) there was virtually no hotel accommodation available. It was marvellous to hear those 40 years' gone tales.

Paddy obviously had his mother's crystal clear memory and our Newsletters have been the poorer for his passing.

**From D.C. (Don) Fenwick (1956)**

Re Caps, Blue, Ceremonial. I am constrained to observe of Gwynn Boyd's letter in *Newsletter 2/2010* that, whilst the points made are valid, the timing could be reviewed. The photograph shows how my cap looked on that day on that guard. By 1956 it had been significantly 'adjusted' and it was not alone.

In the 1950s we could not extend ourselves to Herbert Johnson caps being already beggared beyond belief.

**From C.F. (Cliff) Dodds (1956) (CSC 1532)**

I write in regard to your call in *Newsletter 2/2010* page 10 under the heading 'Shorts' wherein you would like to learn of any father and son combinations receiving honours or awards of the Order of Australia in the General Division.

I have been fortunate to have as my regimental son Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC (CSC 1632). His appointment as a Companion of the Order of Australia is of the General Division of the Order.

During Michael Jeffery's term of Governor General I was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division.

The strength of our father and son relationship can be gauged by a 'tongue-in-cheek' remark in a letter from Michael thanking me for my congratulations on his appointment as Governor General Michael remarked:

*"There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that any modicum of success I may have had in life has been due entirely to the wisdom imparted to me over many years by my regimental father."*

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## Corrections

**Newsletter 2/2010**

p.5. Right column, last paragraph, first letter. Replace the initial letter I with the word It.

p. 11. **Obituary**—Major General J.S. Whitelaw should read Major General J. Whitelaw.

p.11. Left column, **Obituary**, note 2. Replace 9 with 10.

# 2010 Postal Golf Competition

The results of the 2010 Annual Duntroon Society Postal Golf Competition are given below. The Aussies were once again able to break the stranglehold held on the Team Event by our Kiwi friends for most of the past few years, this time by a significant margin. It was pleasing to see the Queensland Team perform so well, with equal first in the Teams Event, tying with the ACT (RCGC Reds). It is the first time for many years that Queensland has featured so prominently. Unfortunately a computer meltdown resulted in the total loss of the NSW Team results, but the State convenor assures me that they would not have featured, and in fact it is perhaps better that they did disappear into the ether for this year! They plan to be on top in 2011.

A particular highlight of the 2010 results is a report of the scoring of a Hole in One by Peter Arnison from Queensland on the sixteenth hole during his participation in their competition at McLeod Country Club. This is a first for the Postal Golf Competition, certainly a very rare event, and Peter is to be heartily congratulated.

With the abolition of Duntroon Society membership fees, we had hoped that we would have seen more participants in the Postal Golf Competition, but sadly this was not to be in 2010. If all those who are involved in this competition could attract just one new golfing member each, then our Competition participation would very quickly double! Details of how to register to join are given on the Society's website (www.dunsoc.com).

A total of five teams participated, four from Australia, and just one from New Zealand (not counting NSW).

## Team event results:

|                              |                                 |            |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Equal 1st                    | G.R. Arnold (1962)              | 41         |
| QLD                          | P.M. Arnison (1962)             | 40         |
| (McLeod Country Club)        | S.R.. Hinton (1962)             | 36         |
| 21 May 2010                  | A.J. Fittock (1961)             | 35         |
|                              | B. Carson                       | 34         |
|                              | J.W. Kingston (1964)            | <u>33</u>  |
|                              |                                 | <b>219</b> |
|                              | A.R. Black (1962)               | 32         |
|                              | M.J. Patch (1978)               | 29         |
| Equal 1st:                   | I.R. Smith (1957)               | 39         |
| ACT (Royal Club Reds)        | D.K. Baker (1954)               | 38         |
| Canberra Golf Club           | P.R Phillips (1955)             | 38         |
| 22 Nov 2010                  | V.J. Adams (1966)               | 37         |
|                              | L.G. O'Donnell (1954)           | 34         |
|                              | W.J. Henderson (1957)           | <u>33</u>  |
|                              |                                 | <b>219</b> |
|                              | B.J. Stark (OCS June 1954)      | 33         |
|                              | N.L. Horn (1961)                | 29         |
| 3rd: ACT (Federal Golf Club) | D.M. McDonough (1961)           | 38         |
| 11 Dec 2010                  | F.C. Lehman (1960)              | 38         |
|                              | K. McLoughlin (RMC Staff 89-91) | 37         |
|                              | M.J. Eley                       | 35         |
|                              | P.D. Knight (1965)              | 32         |
|                              | V.J. Gibbons (1971)             | <u>32</u>  |
|                              |                                 | <b>212</b> |
|                              | W. Hall                         | 31         |
|                              | G.C. Hay (1972)                 | 31         |
| 4th ACT (Royal)              | P.J.A. Evans (1968)             | 40         |
|                              | B.G. Stevens (1969)             | 35         |

|                                         |                              |            |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Canberra Golf Club Blacks)              | C.M. Morse (1965)            | 34         |
| 22 Nov 2010                             | J.B. Wilson (1967)           | 34         |
|                                         | R.A. Sunderland (1953)       | 33         |
|                                         | I.G. Porteous (1954)         | <u>33</u>  |
|                                         |                              | <b>209</b> |
|                                         | W.H. Hall (OTU 2/68)         | 31         |
|                                         | K.J. Heldon (1961)           | 29         |
| 5th: NZ (Northern Helensvale Golf Club) | J.W. Redward (1964)          | 39         |
| 26 Nov 2010                             | C.M. Dixon (1954)            | 39         |
|                                         | R.G. Williams (1952)         | 34         |
|                                         | J.M. Harman (RMA)            | 32         |
|                                         | P.L. Skogstad (1964)         | 32         |
|                                         | M.J. Dudman (1959)           | <u>30</u>  |
|                                         |                              | <b>206</b> |
|                                         | R.J. Kellett                 | 28         |
|                                         | D.B. Slocombe (OCS Dec 1960) | 27         |

## Best Individual scores:

|           |              |     |    |
|-----------|--------------|-----|----|
| 1st       | G.R. Arnold  | QLD | 41 |
| Equal 2nd | P.M. Arnison | QLD | 40 |
|           | P.J.A. Evans | ACT | 40 |
| Equal 4th | I.R. Smith   | ACT | 39 |
|           | J.W. Redward | NZ  | 39 |

## Best Four Ball Scores:

|              |                 |     |    |
|--------------|-----------------|-----|----|
| First        | P.J.A. Evans    | ACT | 47 |
|              | R.A. Sunderland |     |    |
| Equal Second | N.J. McGuire    | QLD | 46 |
|              | R. Carson       |     |    |
|              | R.G. Williams   | NZ  | 46 |
|              | J.W. Redward    |     |    |
|              | P.R. Phillips   | ACT | 46 |
|              | I.R. Smith      |     |    |

## Match Committee Contact Information

|          |                                                                                               |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman | F.C. (Frank) Lehman<br>(02) 6282 5401 (H) (02) 6281 2348 (F)<br>email: lehman@netspeed.com.au |
| ACT      | G.T. (George) Salmon<br>(02) 6288 5414 (H)<br>email: gtsalmon@grapevine.net.au                |
| NSW      | G. (Graeme) Grimsdale<br>(02) 9969 3453 (H)<br>email: ggrimsda@bigpond.net.au                 |
| NZ       | M.J. (Michael) Dudman<br>+64 9 337 5892 (H)<br>email: mdudman@xtra.co.nz                      |
| Qld      | G.J. (Graeme) Loughton<br>(07) 3378 7376 (H)<br>email: loughton@bigpond.net.au                |
| SA       | P.J. (Peter) Bridge<br>0438 110 446 (M)<br>email: p.j.bridge@bigpond.com                      |
| Vic      | D.F. (David) Catterall<br>0412 226 531 (M)<br>email: dfcatterall@optusnet.com.au              |

Once again, my thanks to all who were able to participate in the 2010 Competition, and a particular recognition is due to those who made the effort to organize each game. Although it is pleasing to see a number of new participants appearing for the first time each year, it seems that the number of teams competing is reducing.

Frank Lehman  
Match Committee Chairman