

30th Anniversary Reunion – ADF Operations in Somalia Information Pack



INFORMATION PACK

SOMALIA 30th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

1. Welcome

We look forward to welcoming you to the nation's capital for the 30th anniversary of ADF operations in Somalia. This information pack contains everything you need for participation in reunion events.

Note: This information pack is correct at time of issue. Amendments or updates will be distributed when or if required.

2. Reunion Program

Reunion activities planned from 22 – 25 April 2023 are:

- **Saturday 22 April – Welcome Drinks:**

- ✓ HQ AFS, 1RAR Group (less B Sqn). RMC Sgts' Mess, 2pm – 4pm, Combes Rd, Duntroon [Dress: Neat casual, no thongs or sandals. Everyone is reminded that the Sgts' Mess is the home of RMC's live in WO's and SGTs]
- ✓ B Squadron. Mercure Canberra (formerly Olims), 4pm – 6pm.
- ✓ RAN Veterans. Assembly, Braddon, from 5pm.
- ✓ UNOSOM. Ainslie Football Club, from 5pm.

Qantas Aircrew and family are welcome at these functions. All functions are Pay As You Go (PAYG).

- **Sunday 23 April – Reception at Government House, 2pm – 5pm.** Supported by 1RAR Band. [Dress: Jacket/trousers, neat casual]

- ✓ Government House will send you an email to confirm your registration and provide further information about the afternoon tea. To assist with catering and other arrangements, please advise Government House if you are no longer able to attend the afternoon tea.
- ✓ Formalities will commence at 2 pm sharp, conclude at 2:45 pm, and will be followed by light refreshments on the Lakeside Lawn. Gates will open at 12:30 pm – you are requested to arrive by 1:30 pm.
- ✓ Although formalities will take place under a marque, we suggest you bring a warm jacket. Ladies may wish to avoid shoes with sharp or high heels given refreshments will be served on the Lakeside Lawn.
- ✓ Dignitaries invited include the Deputy Prime Minister (Minister for Defence), Minister for Veterans Affairs, CDF, VCDF, Chiefs of Navy/Army/Air Force, NZ and Somali diplomats, members of Parliament, and representatives of various ex-service organisations.

- ✓ Given the large number of guests, we recommend travelling to and from Government House by taxi or rideshare. Pending weather on the day, parking may be available on Dunrossil Drive – further information will be sent in due course.
 - ✓ There will be a number of speeches and a No 37 Squadron RAAF flypast during the reception – which will be managed by the Master of Ceremonies.
 - ✓ The afternoon will conclude at 5pm, when all guests will depart the grounds of Government House.
 - ✓ Veterans requiring mobility or medical support are to advise the planning committee at the reunion email address. St John's Ambulance will be in attendance to provide care and support if required.
- **Monday 24 April – Subunit functions & Last Post Ceremony:**
 - ✓ **Subunit Functions.** See attached list, PAYG).
 - ✓ **Last Post Ceremony, AWM.** We have been invited to lay a wreath as part of the Last Post Ceremony which commences from 4.45pm. A representative group that comprises HQ AFS, 1RAR Bn Group, UNOSOM, RAN and families of deceased veterans will be selected. It is requested that veterans and family support this event. POC/coord is Mark Fairleigh [Dress: jacket/suit or equivalent, medals].
 - **Tuesday 25 April – ANZAC Day:**
 - ✓ **Dawn Service** – Veterans are encouraged to make own arrangements to attend dawn services at the Australian War Memorial (AWM), Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) or Royal Military College (RMC). [Dress: Dress: jacket/suit or equivalent, medals] Ride share or taxi is recommended due to lack of available parking.
 - **AWM Dawn Service** – [Dawn Service | Australian War Memorial \(awm.gov.au\)](https://www.awm.gov.au)
 - **RMC Dawn Service** – Arrive at RMC by 5.15am for 5.30am commencement at Corps of Staff Cadet's Flag Station (see map). 1RAR Group have been invited to lay a wreath at General Bridges' Grave from 6.45am. It is requested that 1RAR Bn Group veterans attend to lay the wreath will be selected and that veterans and families attend to support this service. Follow signage for parking; ride share or taxi is recommended.
 - **ADFA Dawn Service** – Arrive at ADFA for coffee and rum from 4.30am in vicinity of the Tree of Knowledge (see map), followed by service from 5.15am on the ADFA parade ground. Egg and bacon rolls available for sale afterwards. Follow signage for parking; ride share or taxi is recommended.
 - ✓ **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans Association Commemorative Ceremony**, own arrangements, conducted on conclusion of the AWM Dawn Service. [Dress: Dress: jacket/suit or equivalent, medals]

- ✓ **Veterans March** – 9am for 9.30am step off [Dress: jacket, neat casual, medals] – See map for the Form Up Point (FUP).
 - Order of March: HQ AFS/1RAR Group, HMA Ships Tobruk and Jervis Bay, UNOSOM.¹ March Marshals are:
 - HQ AFS/1RAR Bn Group – Ken Snell (Head Marshall)
 - RAN – John Perryman
 - UNOSOM – John O’Grady
 - Veterans only, no family members or children – this is consistent with national RSL policy. Seating is limited and available only for mobility impaired and veterans.
 - Drop Off points are available along Anzac Parade until closed off, or on side streets. Mercure Canberra is a five minute walk to the FUP.
- ✓ **Post March Drinks.** From end of our participation in the veterans march, Poppy’s Café will host drinks – PAYG bar with standard drinks only. Food, coffee/tea available from inside the café PAYG. Contingents and individuals are free to make alternative arrangements.

3. Australian War Memorial (Post-1945 displays) Guided Tours

- Guided tours are nil cost and are organised for anyone interested. Tours are available to all veterans and family and limited to groups of 15-30 pers per session. POC is Gary Wilson (UNOSOM), contactable by email at wilson.gk@bigpond.com **Bookings are essential and must be submitted NLT 6 April 2023.**
- Available tours are:
 - ✓ Friday 21 April: 1pm – 5pm (1 session)
 - ✓ Saturday 22 April: 10am – 12pm, 10.30am – 12.30pm, 11am – 1pm (3 sessions)
 - ✓ Sunday 23 April: 10am – 12pm, 10.30am – 12.30pm, 11am – 1pm (3 sessions)
 - ✓ Monday 24 April: 10am – 12pm, 10.30am – 12.30pm, 11am – 1pm (3 sessions)

4. Admin Points

- **Medical or Support Needs.** Veterans with special needs are encouraged to contact the organising committee should support be required at either the official reception or on ANZAC Day. There is no onsite parking at the AWM on ANZAC Day unless pre-arranged for veterans with mobility issues.
- **Weather.** Canberra in late April can be chilly. Daily temperatures can range from 7 – 22 degrees Celsius. Generally, we experience eight rainy days on average in April. Visitors should prepare themselves for the anticipated weather during the reunion.
- **Public Transport.** MyWay is the smartcard ticketing system used to pay for travel on Transport Canberra bus and light rail services. Customers are required to use a MyWay card or a pre-paid ticket, and do not accept cash on Transport Canberra services. [Tickets & MyWay - Transport Canberra \(act.gov.au\)](#)

¹ Due to construction at the AWM, the route is amended. Indicative route only shown – will be updated before ANZAC Day.

- **ANZAC Day Parking.** No parking will be available within the vicinity of the AWM on ANZAC Day, unless pre-arranged due to mobility impairment. Anyone wishing to enquire about availability of parking are to contact the reunion email on somalia.adf.30@gmail.com. No guarantee of parking availability can be given.

5. Reunion Merchandise

Limited merchandise is available through Military Shop (Somalia figurine, reunion tie, unit baseball caps etc). Military Shop will be attending the reception with a point of sale for merchandise [POC: Vince Creagh].

6. Points of Interest in Canberra

While in Canberra, reunion participants are encouraged to take advantage of the many points of interest the ACT has to offer.

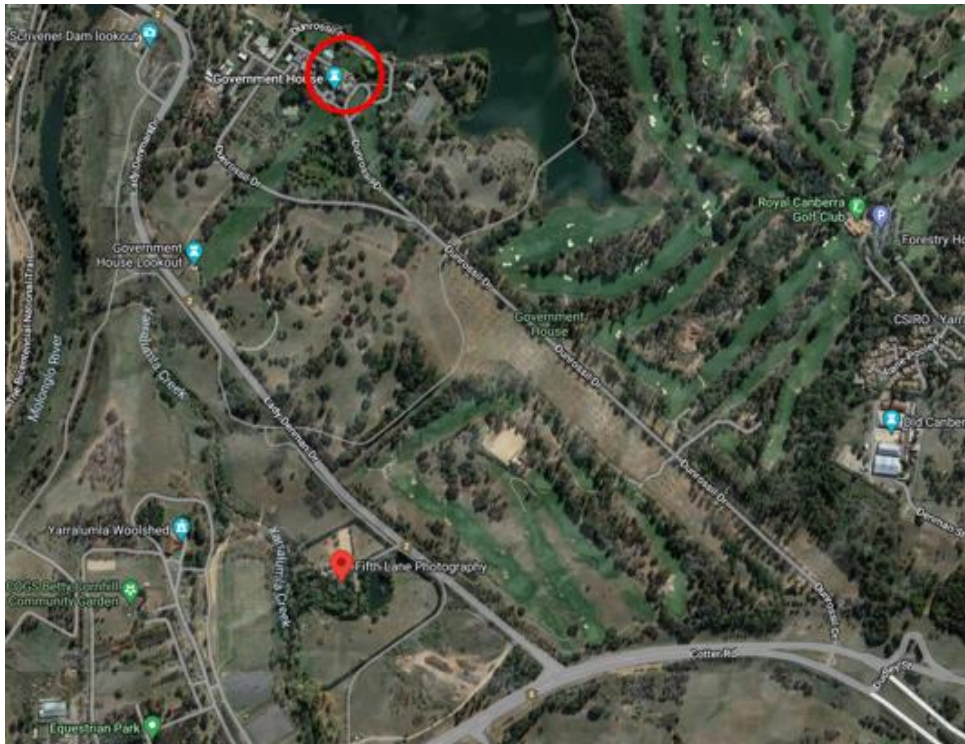
- **Australian War Memorial**, book online to visit. [Plan your visit | Australian War Memorial \(awm.gov.au\)](http://awm.gov.au)
- **Museum of Australian Democracy.** [Planning your visit - Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House \(moadoph.gov.au\)](http://moadoph.gov.au)
- **National Gallery of Australia.** [National Gallery of Australia \(nga.gov.au\)](http://nga.gov.au)
- **National Museum of Australia.** [Home | National Museum of Australia \(nma.gov.au\)](http://nma.gov.au)
- **Parliament House.** [Guided tours of Parliament House – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](http://aph.gov.au)
- **Royal Australian Mint.** [Royal Australian Mint | We make Australia's coins! \(ramint.gov.au\)](http://ramint.gov.au)
- **National Library of Australia.** [National Library of Australia \(nla.gov.au\)](http://nla.gov.au)
- **National Film and Sound Archive.** [Home | National Film and Sound Archive of Australia \(nfsa.gov.au\)](http://nfsa.gov.au)
- **Cockington Green Gardens.** [Cockington Green Gardens](http://cockingtongreengardens.com.au)
- **National Dinosaur Museum.** [The National Dinosaur Museum | Visit the Dinosaurs - Canberra, Australia](http://nationaldinosaurmuseum.com.au)
- **Australian National Botanic Gardens.** [Australian National Botanic Gardens \(parksaustralia.gov.au\)](http://parksaustralia.gov.au)
- **Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex.** [Main Page - Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex \(nasa.gov\)](http://cdscc.nasa.gov)

Maps

RMC Sergeants' Mess, Combes Road Duntroon



Government House, Dunrossil Drive Yarralumla



RMC Duntroon Dawn Service



ADFA Dawn Service



Australian War Memorial, (Indicative) ANZAC Day March Route



(Note: this map is indicative only. Final version to be issued by ACT RSL)

Post March Function, Poppy's Café



Subunit Functions (24 April)

HQ AFS/1RAR Bn Group

0A/BHQ/Admin Coy

- Lunch, Poppy's Café @ AWM, 11.30am – 1.30pm (POC Ken Snell).

A Company

- A Company: Civic Hotel, Braddon from 2pm.
- 2 Platoon: TBA, 12pm – 4pm (POC Bob Worswick).
- 3 Platoon: Civic Hotel, Braddon 11am (POC Kent Murrells).

B Company

- Lunch, Kingston Hotel, 12pm – 4pm (POC Paul Anderson).

C Company

- Civic Hotel, Braddon from 3pm (POC Anthony Swinsburg).

D Company

- Lunch, Bentspoke Brewing, Braddon, from 11am (POC Paul Zernick)

Support Company

- Mortar Platoon: Capital Brewing, Fyshwick (POC Pete Connolly).
- Recon/Snipers Platoon: Assembly, 11 Lonsdale St Braddon 12pm – 3pm (POC Cameron Wainwright).
- Assault Pioneer Platoon: TBA (POC John Simeoni)

17 Troop, 3CER

- Lunch, The Duxton, Turner from 1pm (POC Jeramie Faint)

B Squadron, 3/4 Cav Regt

- The RUC, 54 McCaughey Street, Turner from 1.30pm (POC Kevin McAteer)

BSG

- The Grill, Kingston Hotel from 1130 (POC Phill King)

RAN

- HMAS Tobruk guided tour of AWM, from 10.15am (POC John Perryman)
- HMAS Tobruk/Jervis Bay/RAN, Dinner, EQ Café, Deakin (POC John Perryman).

UNOSOM

- Federal Golf Club, Red Hill 1pm – 4pm (POC John O'Grady).