



No 11  
September 2003

# The WAURior

The official newsletter of the Western Australian University  
Regiment Association Inc.

## In this edition...

Look out for these items and more

- ✓ **Survey Results**
- ✓ **BJ Smith's contribution**
- ✓ **Unit History file**
- ✓ **Sightings**
- ✓ **History Committee report**
- ✓ **Official history Part 11**
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## Contributions sought!!

Thanks to BJ Smith, Charles Crouch's brother Nicholas and Bill Hawthorn for their outstanding contributions to this edition. Remember, If there is something you would like to see in your Newsletter, please let me know. As I keep saying, I would be delighted to receive contributions from other members as well!

Michael Jenkin (Ed)

## Ramblings from the Secretary

With Michael Jenkin

I can hardly believe that it is September again where does the time go? Of course the **BIG** news this edition is that the Association's application for a website grant from LotteryWest was successful. LotteryWest - formerly the Lotteries Commission - put the application through a rigorous selection process and we came up trumps thanks entirely to Shaun Chapman's work. The grant is for \$3,594 and will be used to purchase a "you-beaut" computer, printer, digital camera etc etc and to fund two places on a web development course. This is a fantastic achievement and there would not be many other Associations of our size and age who have achieved this. The new gear will allow us to make huge in-roads into the history project and you will see the Association camera being used at the Reunion. As you already know, Shaun commits an enormous amount of time and effort to the history project - his success in the grant is a great credit to him and I am sure has given him the incentive to press on with the project - now if he could get some volunteers for some of the projects he has on the go - researching the history of the Stirling Highway depot for example, I reckon he would be rapt! The other big news is of course the reunion - please make a note of this in your diary and commit to attending - 25 Oct 03 - see you there!

★ **WAUR REUNION** ★

★ **25 OCT 03** ★

The Association's next social function is the Reunion being held at John Kargotich's farm in Byford on Saturday, 25 October 2003 (note new date) . The ticket price of \$50 includes premium beer, wine, soft drink, Gourmet BBQ & salad dinner with dessert and a commemorative photo. Tickets are on sale now – don't miss out. See back pages of this edition for the Admin Instruction and all details!! Please circulate to all members and former WAUR members you know. See you there!

## Welcome to the Following New Members

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The Committee would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following members who have joined the Association since the last edition of The WAURior:

**June 2003** Thor Farnworth (2002-?), BJ Smith (1987-1991), Adrian Kowald (1990 –1993)

**July 2003** Cen Evans (1963 –1967)

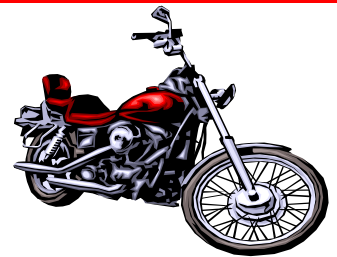
**August 2003** Ian Sutherland

Your Association now has **105** paid up members.

## WAUR LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT

Mick "Easy Rider" Matthew's is crossing the Nullabour on his trusty Triumph. His much anticipated Insider report will be issued with the October Minutes. Mick writes from Norseman

*I Had everything yesterday rain, wind, fog at night and finally lightning (the big, loud, forked, I hope I done get hit kind)and plenty of trucks. No roos thank God. Anyway Time to hit the road. Lets hope he doesn't come across any marauding Wombats*



## 2003 Duntroon Graduation

Adrian Hinds recently attended son Toms graduation from Duntroon. They both served with WAUR and are both members of the Association. Louise Hinds filed in part the report on the right.



Above: Adrian, Tom, Chris and Louise Hinds.  
Below: On Parade

*On Saturday 9th June we were able to witness the Trooping of the Colour, and while it was really freezing, we felt the whole ceremony was absolutely awesome. That, for us, set the tone for the whole "graduation week" which began with the Ecumenical Service for the cadets on Sun 15th. The chaplain gave a sermon which was a brief as it was powerful, reminding the cadets that they, as officers in the Australian Defence Forces, carried the responsibility for the lives of many men and women. He urged them to reflect and pray each day and to seek wisdom and guidance from God, and said that if, at this stage of their lives they didn't believe in God, then they should seek wisdom and guidance wherever they could find it. As CSM of Gallipoli company (which he joined in honour of my grandfather who was a member of 10th Light Horse) Tom read one of the lessons and lead the congregation in the Lords Prayer, so we felt very proud. Adrian wore his WAUR Tie which I had bought for him from you some months earlier, he was very pleased when dignitaries noted it and asked for details - Tom was proud to claim that he and his father had both been members of the University regiment of WA Reserves, 45 years apart!*



# ASSOCIATION SURVEY - FIRST TAKE

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Compiled by Shaun Chapman

**Overview:** On August 20 2003 a short questionnaire was sent out to all our members by e-mail and post. As at 27 August, 37 responses have been received. Early days yet but I thought a breakdown of responses so far would be useful. Please - those who have yet to complete the form do so ASAP. A complete breakdown will be in the next WAURior. **[Ed: Is that of you and I, or the results?]** **Results:** below are question by question breakdowns and interpretations of responses...

**Q1: Are we keeping you informed on Association activities? Yes 37, No 0**

Everyone responded with Yes to this one which is pleasing. It's a fine line between informing our members and bombarding them with e-mails to the point of stalking charges being laid. Additional comments were that the Minutes were entertaining and that our work was excellent compared to other organisations.

**Q2: Are you happy with types/ frequency of Association functions? Yes 30, No 3**

Majority are happy about what we do there was a request for more Sundowners and informal gatherings and a comment that the Tuesday nights were hard to get to due to being in Fremantle and a week night.

**Q3: Are there functions you would like to see put on? Yes 13, No 19**

A few suggestions here: Dining In night or restaurant outing, more Sundowners / informal gatherings at pubs, museum tour and also big support for a family day/picnic and a range shoot. Social events have been a bit of bug bear for the Association, non or poor attendance at past events and committee members spending a lot of time on the day to day running of the WAURA leaving us with even less time for social outings being the factors in limiting the events we organise. That said a family day is planned to be at Kings Park this Summer date to be confirmed. Several members have been tasked with putting together a range shoot but so far nothing concrete has come of it. Another approach will be made to WAUR in the near future.

**Q4: Are you planning to attend the October reunion? Yes 15 +(3 committee), No 21**

A lot or request to move the date to the 25<sup>th</sup> (which we have done)

**Q5: Do you enjoy reading the newsletter? Yes 37 No 0**

Results speak for themselves - a lot of time and effort goes into the WAURior and Mike and I are very happy it is so well received.

**Q6: Anything you want in the newsletter that isn't there now? Yes 9, No 28**

A few suggestions here: More Member profiles / "where are they now" stories; more on WAUR Today; Membership lists; Page 3 Girl. I would note that member lists and years served with WAUR have been put in each December WAURior with new members listed in each issue in between. The appointment of Mick Matthew's as WAUR Liaison Officer should see more information on WAUR today come out. We have a copy of the Unit brief which given the OK will be serialized over several editions. The "Sightings page" and "60 seconds with..." are aimed to keep members informed on what people are up to. Unfortunately a total absence of contributions makes it difficult. We can look at an expanded interview with random members but at the end of the day we can only publish what we have. On the page 3 Girl issue, whilst this might be an attraction, in these days of equity and fairness we would have to have a page 3 boy and neither me or Mike are prepared to either source or select pin up boy photos.



**Q7: Can you suggest any improvements to content or format? Yes 3, No 31**

Suggestions here for smaller fonts to condense page numbers and more interviews with past/present members of WAUR.

**Q8: Have you purchased any merchandise(ties, pins etc)? Yes 16, No 19**

**Q9: Are you planning to purchase items at a future date? Yes 23, No 10**

**Q10: If you haven't purchased and/or not planning to, why is that? No responses**

Pleasing result everyone who hasn't purchased items said they will, and half those who had already purchased will do so again. Various excuses offered but the expression "I am a slack and idle digger. Sir!" covers it. There was a request for on-line selling but I am afraid that while this sounds great - technically it is all too hard given the modest number of sales we make. Members can deposit directly into our bank account either via internet banking or at any branch. (contact Shaun Chapman for bank details and items can be posted). We need to sell these items so just do it!

**Q11: Do you have any suggestions for merchandise items? Yes 13 No 21**

A few here: car stickers, T-shirts, Jackets / rugby tops, Wall plaques and blow up dolls [Ed: Thank you to Mark Davids for that one...]. All good ideas but until we shift what we have we can not look at producing more. Minimum numbers on producing items is the killer. However Wall plaques and a photo CD-ROM are next cab of the rank as far as merchandise is concerned.

**Q12: Are there services you would like to see offered? Yes 6 No 26**

Several requests here for a members service register where members can offer discounts or barter services to each other. We have a wide range of skills, talents and businesses amongst our members and it is a bloody good idea that we have been talking about for over a year now. Time is the enemy here. If some one can come up with a workable system we would be only too happy to facilitate it. There was also a couple of requests for an online database of members to aid reunions between members. This will be investigated - security of information on the net the prime concern.

**Q13: Do you intend to renew your membership? Yes 37, No 0**

Speaks for itself.

**Conclusion:** Overall, everyone who responded was very happy with the Association. There were a lot of positive comments which is much appreciated.

A few negatives about the Tuesday night meetings came out and we take this on board. I guess the Tuesday meetings are our link to WAUR and a chance for committee members to meet face to face and finalise Association business. Rather than keep these meetings closed, we invite members to attend. Whilst Fremantle is out of the way for most and a late weekday night can be hard to handle, the fact is that WAUR is at Artillery Barracks and parades on Tuesday nights.

When the Association was set up, it was decided that it would be member driven and every comment made has been noted. A lot of it is over to you – Attending the reunion in October and purchasing merchandise are the two immediate things you can do.



## You asked for it - now buy it!

In response to member's demands, your Association (at great expense to the management it has to be said) arranged for the production of quality ties, lapel badges, cuff links and tie bars. These items are available by mail order. The lapel pins, tie bars and cuff links are in a quality gold coloured metal and feature the Unit crest. The Association ties are modelled on the original Unit tie and have been made up in a quality silk blend material.

**STOP PRESS Members can now direct deposit into the Association account. Merchandise will be posted – Contact Association Treasurer Shaun Chapman for details.**



Tie Bar



Shirt Crest



Stubby Holder



## Price List

### INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

Cuff links (pair)	\$20.00	(Gold metal, swivel clasp)
Lapel pins	\$ 7.50	(Gold metal, single pin)
Association Shirt	\$30.00	(Quality fabric, embroidered logo)
Song book	\$ 2.50	(Authentic reprint - all the favourites)
Stubby holders	\$ 7.50	(Yellow text on Green, top quality)
Tie bars	\$12.50	(Gold metal, bulldog type clasp)
Ties	\$45.00	(Silk blend)

### VALUE PACKS

Association pack (Tie, tie bar, lapel badge, cuff links)	<del>85.00</del>	\$75.00
Tie pack (Tie, tie bar)	<del>57.50</del>	\$50.00
Lapel pack (Lapel badge, cuff links)	<del>27.50</del>	\$25.00

***The following was WAUR's contribution to the 1962 Chronicle – an Annual report on the Royal Green Jackets activities.***

Picture a sun drenched isle of golden sands set in the sparkling Indian Ocean, where pretty girls abound – sound inviting? Imagine yourself lying in a rough bush thicket infested with man-eating mosquitos while the blazing sun cooks you in the breeze less hollow in which you hide. Rather less inviting? These descriptions are of the same place, viewed through biased eyes. The place is Rottnest Island, twelve miles off the Western Australian coast and the venue for Western Australian University Regiment's two weeks annual camp which starts off each year's training. As may be seen from the two impressions the Island is most suitable for tropical warfare training and combines with it all the right ingredients for leave. Following the reorganisation of the Australian Citizen Military Forces in 1960 this unit was reduced to an establishment of 125 all ranks, this meant that the twenty five years old Kingston Barracks at Rottnest would be admirably suited to the size of this unit and as the Barracks were sited at one end of the island away from the settlement, close training areas, field firing ranges and recreation areas were readily accessible.

The main exercise of the '62 camp, the flushing out of isolated pockets of "Phantom" sympathisers, featured some amusing event particularly the penchant shown by the Rifle Company Commander and his complete entourage for setting up shop in a prominent steel and concrete blockhouse, a war-time gunnery O.P. The bandsmen masquerading as stretcher bearers spent their time burning vast quantities of hexamine tablets in the smallest of ill-ventilated compartments in the base of the bunker to brew a continuous menu of stewed tea. Not even through unsubtle hints by the Chief Umpire that seaborne bombardment had rendered the position a heap of rubble did the merry band vacate the place for long. Some displeasure was shown by the lighthouse keeper at 2am when a pitched battle was fought on his front porch. His picturesque but somewhat uncouth turn of phrase heard at a range of two hundred yards in the not too stilly night would have done justice to any old sea dog. Long night patrolling was a feature of the exercise and light aircraft were used to locate day laying up positions. An enemy provided by 1 Special Air Service Coy, Royal Australian Regiment proved the need for tighter security and quite a few lessons were learned.

Feeding over the three day period was from 24-hour packs but for those seeking a variety of diet, living off the land presented some problems. For a sand covered island has little to offer except what lies in the surrounding waters so the natural thing for at least one digger was to do what some people might expect of an Aussie – go fishing with a spare wireless aerial. One might add that for those with strong teeth and poor taste, the island offers a great number of small kangaroo-like creatures known as Quokkas. These are marsupials, covered with grey fur and stand about ten to fifteen inches high. In fact it is to these creatures that the island owes its name. When Vlaming, a Dutch navigator, landed on the island in the early seventeenth century he named it "Rats' Nest Island", mistaking the marsupials for great rats. Living on an island with several salt lakes the creature only drinks salt water; they are also protected fauna, two factors contributing to their unsuitability for the Menu. The '62 exercise did at least lack the violent activity which galvanised the unit into action twelve months previously. A thunder flash got out of hand in the tinder dry scrub in a sun temperature of about 40°. The cry of "Fire! Fire!" had a startling effect on the recruit platoon, who, plunged into the fury of their first battle, unleashed a profuse amount of blank ammunition at a non-existent enemy, thereby adding greatly to the confusion.

Less sympathetic members of the community claim that 20% of the island was burnt out, be that as it may, the most embarrassing part of it was the presence of the Commander, Western Command!

Rottnest Island has but one hotel, a handsome building used as the recreational resort of State Governors in the early days of the Colony....

...Not only has it been the hub of Regimental leave night activities but the Regimental Band, playing on three or four occasions was a draw card to the holiday makers, particularly on the last night of the Camp. So Camp literally ends on a bright note.

In regard to sport, the unit basketball and badminton teams just didn't make the showing of previous years. Perhaps our Depot being further away from the University than the one occupied four years ago may have resulted in the dropping off of interest in inter-unit sport. On the other hand the Regimental Depot has proved most satisfactory in the provision of many amenities lacking in either of our two previous Regimental Headquarters; the Officers and Sergeants messes have good entertainment facilities and the Other Ranks' Canteen ample room in which to operate. An all ranks Regimental Ball was held in mid year and seems assured of being a regular annual function.

From the point of view of training, a weapons course was run in the middle of the year and most members made the acquaintance of the American M60 General Purpose Machine Gun which replaces the Bren and Vickers in the Australian Army. During the year the Australian made SLR, a slightly modified version of the Belgian FN, fully occupied the racks vacated by the faithful .303.

A Green Jackets visitor seeking refuge from the steaming heat of West Africa was Captain K.J. SMITH attached to the Royal Nigerian Army. Captain SMITH spent a few leisure hours in the Officers' Mess. He is son-in-law to Brigadier L.H. RUSH, one of our Honorary members, whose snuffbox has been rashly sampled on a few occasions. Some inter change between the Regular Army and the Citizen Forces is evidenced by Sergeant N. MASON-JONES who forsook law studies, left us at the beginning of the year, and has just graduated from Officer Cadet School at Portsea (the equivalent of Mons OCS) being commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. During the year Lieutenant G. BELLEVILLE embraced civilian life and came to us from the Special Air Service Company of the Royal Australian Regiment with a background of service in Korea and Malaya.

For the VII British Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Perth during November, Western Australian University Regiment personnel were called in for a diversity of duties. Our Depot had originally been set aside as the venue for the wrestling, however, the Drill Hall proved to be undersize so was relegated to the secondary role of training ground. The centre court at Royal King's Park Tennis Club was ultimately chosen as the tilting ground and several officers were assigned to VIP reception: in short this meant a free night in the Royal Box. Junior members of the unit found themselves entrusted to the collection of tickets, parking of vehicles and ushering at the main stadium. At the fencing venue, one officer, formerly a State Sabre and Epee Champion very nearly found himself a participant in an impromptu bout with an official who doubted the legality of his presence at that centre.

Several members of the unit were also employed on the administrative side of an impressive ceremony on the Perth Cricket Ground when His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, presented new Colours to the first Battalion Royal W.A. Regiment. Prior to the presentation, a stirring sight was witnessed in the final trooping and marching off of the eight old colours of the 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalions now amalgamated in the new Pentropic Battalion. The massed bands of Wester, Central and Southern Commands in white helmets and tunics contrasted well with the jungle green of the troops. On 27<sup>th</sup> November, His Royal Highness visited the University of Western Australia to attend a lecture by Sir Mark OLIPHANT. Members of the unit and our opposite numbers from the University Air Squadron provided a detachment to line the entry to Winthrop Hall. Although not a formal Guard of Honour it was agreed that it added "tone" to the occasion! The Commonwealth Games concluded with an activity, "The Festival of the Swan".



...(A word of explanation at this stage should point out that although a venerated brick edifice on the banks of our river produces an enjoyable Lager of similar name, there was no relationship with the festival). This festival included an army parachute drop into the river, in which one member of the unit participated. He cannot altogether be blamed for this frivolity for after all a temperature of 102° had been recorded on the third day of the Games. The training year begins with Camp and ends with preparation for Camp. In 1963 we hope to be able to report on a seaborne assault on Garden Island from our base at Rottnest. In our last Camp aerial reconnaissance was used for the first time, now with amphibious plans ahead WAUR hope to be able to encourage recruiting into the unit, nevertheless we are sorry an "overseas" Camp does not extend as far as Penang.

With 1962 at an end our Commanding Officer's tour of duty also comes to an end. It is significant the Lieutenant Colonel I.G. MEDCALF ED leaves the Regimental Headquarters of this unit, the same building that had been the RHQ of the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia, in which Private I.G. MEDCALF had enlisted twenty-two years before. His place is taken by a former Sapper, Lieutenant Colonel M.A.S. WILLIAMS, who, prior to migration to this State in 1957, commanded a Field Squadron in 106 Field Engineer Regiment RE (TA) in Sheffield and who enlisted in the Territorial Army as a driver in the 55 Division RASC in Southport in April 1939. Such has been the activity of Western Australian University Regiment in 1962. There is every expectancy that 1963 will be an even more eventful year.

## **Campfire Tales - Part 3**

By Bill Hawthorn



....Spinning some cock and bull story about a separate group needing the equipment we managed to draw the required permit for a jeep and the associated cleaning gear. This gave us a golden opportunity to drive into Northam during the day, pretending to be on official duties. Some of the men seemed to quickly find lady friends in town so we developed a roster system as to whose turn it was to borrow the jeep for those clandestine visits. As it turned out our misappropriation of one jeep for non existent cleaning duties was a misdemeanour compared to one private of Russian descent who decided he'd had enough of the army so he stole a jeep and drove it to his parent's place in Albany - a week later he was back in camp in jail under guard and charged with numerous offences.

I could speak to him through the iron bars of a small external window and learned that he was enjoying the whole debacle, as being a law student, he was studying military law and preparing his own defence and seemed confident that he could beat the charges against him. His only complaint was that because he couldn't eat in the mess hall his meals were rather Spartan and he asked me to get him a packet of biscuits and some chocolate, which I duly did, passing them through the iron bars when no one was watching.

Naturally the case of Private ??? versus the Western Australian University Regiment created some interest amongst the members of the unit. However all this was thrown into chaos as the Australian Government announced that compulsory military service was being abandoned. This meant that all the conscripts in the regiment on a specified date would be free to return their military equipment and leave the regiment with an honourable discharge. Whatever happened to our Russian law student, I don't know, but I think the army was glad to get rid of him so it probably dropped the charges against him or imposed a hefty fine. Of course, faced with a huge reduction in their numbers the WAUR., NCOs and Officers seemed to conduct a rushed public relations campaign to encourage as many people to stay on in a voluntary capacity as possible.

The pay was good, it was fun and there was the promise of promotion so I stayed on. At the end of another camp at Northam the day of return to Perth for the troops became a real dilemma. On the final night of our camp a certain band of renegades had broken into the sergeant's mess and breached the liquor store, stealing and consuming vast quantities of spirits. As it turned out many of the renegades were drivers of our army trucks so it was a sobering experience the next day to see the drivers trying to pass a sobriety test by walking a white tape laid out on the parade ground. Only 20% of the drivers passed the test - it looked as if we were to be marooned in Northam. At this stage every available man who had an army truck driving permit and who was sober was called upon to help get us all back to Perth. Our return journey to the city was in a slow carefully driven convoy with many of the trucks occupants suffering from hangovers. Fortunately we all arrived safely in Perth. Before closing on my memories of Northam, I should refer to a Salvation Army man whose name I think was Horrie, who on the hottest days would appear with his van at the end of a days training. He would supply us all with ice cold lemon squash drinks which were very much appreciated..

## **ROTTNEST**

There were many things that happened on our annual camps at Rottnest, but perhaps the most memorable was the big fire where we succeeded in burning out probably half the island, not intentionally mind you. It all came about through a number of factors, but what ever were its causes, the effects were burned into our memories for a long time.

I recall being dug in on a ridge overlooking the airstrip and nearby salt lake. We had a series of trenches dug in around a spur usually with 2-3 men in each trench positioned so as to give us a good field of fire. We had dug in the previous evening and slept fitfully, awaiting a pre dawn attack from enemy forces. I remember it as being early dawn and some of us were engaged in trying to conjure up some kind of breakfast with our hexamine tablets and little cookers. In the pre dawn light it was barely possible to detect any movement, so we were constantly on edge uncertain about an impending attack. What actually happened, I am uncertain of, but I was informed that an officer was demonstrating how an Aldershot grenade worked. This was not unlike a large fire cracker, but instead of lighting a fuse, it was ignited by striking some touch paper and then you had about 4-5 seconds before it exploded with a shattering sound sending bits of smouldering paper swirling in a cloud of smoke. The Aldershot grenade apparently landed in a tinder dry bush which ignited when the grenade exploded. Hence we heard the command "FIRE" and we responded thinking we were being attacked by an unseen enemy in the half light of dawn. The barrage of fire from blanks fired by sleepy awakening troops caused a huge amount of confusion and did nothing to put out the spreading fire, in fact it probably started a few more fires as it wasn't long before we found ourselves surrounded by a raging ring of fire. Someone yelled out, "Abandon the hill ". There was a wild grab for blankets, clothing, back packs and cooking gear, but such was the ferocity of the fire that much of the gear was abandoned. A dishevelled mob gathered on the air strip and gazed up at the hills which were ablaze, it was a serious business. Any blankets we had were soaked in the salt water of the lake and we were formed into small fire fighting units of about 7-8 men in each unit under the command of various senior ranks. With wet blankets we made some attempts to work around the periphery of the fire extinguishing some regions, but the main front was now disappearing over the hills as a stiff sea breeze carried it further away.

We mustered our resources, numerous jeeps arrived and a trailer load of fire fighting gear. We were issued with rakes, shovels and poles to the end of which were attached heavy canvas strips for beating out the fire. The local fire brigade arrived in an old water truck with an antique pump and a strategy was worked out between the army command and the local fire brigade. I don't think it worked too well as a short time later I saw the fire brigade truck hopelessly bogged on a sand track effectively putting it out of action. Armed with our fire fighting flails I found myself with about 20 other soldiers under the command of one of our lieutenants who had control of two jeeps to transport us to the fire front. We were assigned to head off the fire as it raced towards a steep hill that had 2 large 10,000 gallon water tanks perched on its summit.

The vegetation up the slope of the hill was low scrubby and reasonably sparse, whilst on top of the hill there was there was a copse of large ancient Rottnest Island Tee trees. The vehicles were parked under the trees and we formed a line of 20 men and advanced down the hill towards the oncoming fire in the low scrubby bushes. On the command, "Charge ", we leapt into action, advancing into the low flames beating like wild dervishes in an outburst of exuberant energy. Gasping for breath we paused and examined the results of our efforts: it appeared we had succeeded and put the fire out, but before we could be joyous about our efforts it was noticed that the fire was now further up the hill, behind us - somehow although we had beaten out the fire directly in front of us we had flicked it with our beaters into the bushes behind us. We rapidly retreated, paused and charged again, but the same thing happened. After advancing and retreating half a dozen times with the fire now perilously close to the copse of trees, the order came to abandon the hill. It was a memorable sight as 20 exhausted men clambered aboard the two jeeps , hanging on for dear life as behind us the hill literally exploded. I will never forget seeing the singed peacocks flapping low through the air their tails on fire and the roar of the fire in the large old dense Rottnest Island Tee trees and then the deep rumbling of the water in the water tanks before they exploded ripping open the tank tops in a great burst of steam and boiling water. It was a sound and sight to haunt us for many years later. At the bottom of the hill we stopped and gazed back at the disaster, realizing that we were powerless to do much to contain the fire.

The next two to three days were hellish as we were put on rostered duties that meant a 24 hour containment and surveillance of the fire which due to a wind change and different terrain finally burnt itself out. The night patrol was the worst as I recall, trudging along about midnight under a full moon walking through a smoky bare blackened landscape with every footstep raising fine powdery ash that choked our throats and blackened our faces. The memories of seeing smoke blinded Quokkas, half burnt, but still -alive dropping over limestone cliffs into the sea or the others that hopped into the salt lakes to put out the smouldering fires in their fur which made them look as if they had severe cases of the mange, all this I recall of our Rottnest fire. The army accepted responsibility for what had happened and then proceeded to find a scapegoat. I recall whispers of who amongst the junior officers was going to be court marshalled and I remember proceedings taking place , but can't recall the out come. The army certainly wasn't the flavour of the month that year at Rottnest.

**To be continued...**



Association member and legal eagle Greg Smith is moving up in the world as this July 12 clipping from the West Australian shows (personally I am rather more interested in Nicki) – [Ed: steady tiger!!]



Greg Smith



Nicki Smeulders



## BUSINESS MOVES

**GREG SMITH** has been appointed a partner at law firm Sparke Helmore's Perth office. Mr Smith is a specialist in workplace relations law and occupational health and safety in Federal and State jurisdictions and will head Sparke Helmore's workplace relations, safety and environment team.

Mr Smith was previously with Freehills and Jackson McDonald.

□ □ □

MARTIN DOBSON and Nicki Smeulders

Association Action Man **Barney Clarson** is spending 6 months in the Solomon Islands – word is that he is traveling just fine but missing the WAURA action! The following articles contain reference to Barney's work...

<http://www.abc.net.au/ra/pacbeat/stories/s919391.htm>

[http://www.abc.net.au/asiapacific/news/GoAsiaPacificBNP\\_918807.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/asiapacific/news/GoAsiaPacificBNP_918807.htm)

<http://www.defence.gov.au/opanode/images/gallery/130803d/>

<http://www.pacificislands.cc/pina/pinadefault.php?urlpinaid=8694>

[http://www.ptd.net/webnews/wed/ba/Qsolomons-unrest.RTAM\\_Da6.html](http://www.ptd.net/webnews/wed/ba/Qsolomons-unrest.RTAM_Da6.html)

The photo below appears on the Fed Police Website with the following caption...

"Hurry up and wait. Australian Federal Police and soldiers from Charlie Company 2nd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment wait to embark Sea king helicopters off HMAS Manoora, which will fly them into the village of Avu Avu on the remote Weathercoast where police are establishing a presence in the area as part of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands."

Same column different date.....



Andrew Moore

□ □ □

**ANDREW MOORE** has been elected president of the Wine Industry Association of Western Australia.

Mr Moore is the chief executive of Xanadu Wines and replaces Leeuwin Estate's Denis Horgan as president.



A patient and attentive Barney (centre arms crossed like a woman) waiting to go to Avu Avu.



Association stalwarts and former CO's of WAUR Geoff Simpson and Trevor Arbuckle are seen here at Reserve Forces Day celebrations with members of the DRA:



Association webmaster **Bart Simpson** is being seen around town in some unusual garb as part of the TV series "Love on the Box" in which he stars as Trunky. The show will be screened on Channel Access 31 towards the end of the year...stay tuned. [Ed: More details on page 22 ...]



**When did you join WAUR?**

1984

**Why did you join?**

Get to go shooting and cheap piss (according to Westy (Chris West) these were the reasons I should join).

**Was it what you expected?** Not enough shooting.

**Why did you stay?** I didn't - I went to OCTU then to A SQN 10LH

**Did you have a nickname? What was it? Where did it come from?**

Lewy, From my surname

**What was the best thing you did while you were with the unit?**

Learn to fire a rocket launcher, something with which I had zero experience nor am ever likely to get..

**The worst?**

Saying "Bang, Bang" whilst on exercise due to fire restrictions.

**What is your favourite type of food?**

Apple Pie

**How old were you when you had sex?**

hmm, I had sex when I was 38, also 37 and every year back until I was 17. (except maybe when I was 20, I think that was a dodgy year).

**If you had to change one thing about yourself what would it be?** Nothing. I am happy.

**What was the last book you read?** Noir by K.W. Jetter

**What is your favourite drink?** A free one.

**What is the one thing you never leave the house without?** Wallet.

**This postcard in from John Kargotich who is taking a well earned break from cow herding.....**



### THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED

A COY conducted some watermanship training in March 1991. After a weekend or two familiarisation on the Mark I assault craft, we carried out a tactical exercise in the Peel Inlet. We were inserted in a tributary of the inlet very early in the morning and then slowly patrolled down the river to the Peel Inlet itself. The aim was to reach the ocean. It was a very cold morning, and (then) Cpl Mark 'Vinnie' Vinter set up a tactical hexie stove in the bottom of the Mk I, so we could have a good brew.

When the Mk I is combat loaded with a full section in marching order, it is very heavy and so sits very low in the water. It also handles like an absolute pig! When the Mk I is decelerated quickly, as when the power is taken off, the nose drops. With a full load it submerges. We found this out quickly when trying formation changes in the close confines of the river, the constant throttle changes, along with the bow wave of another boat, would cause the nose to sink. When the nose drops, the first reaction is to power up to raise the nose, but with the Mk I its nose would actually dig deeper – the trick is to power off until the nose has risen, and motor off, hoping the troops aren't too pissed off about getting wet!

When we reached the open waters of the Peel Inlet we found that a strong breeze was blowing. This had resulted in some high seas and the fully laden Mk I's were doing it tough and all boats were taking water. The brave souls of COY HQ weren't liking this too much at all. Then the Cox of their boat dug the nose in and after an eternity, after shipping lots of water, recovered. All the troops in the boat, concerned that their packs were getting wet, promptly grabbed them and stood up. Then for some reason they all moved to the port side of the boat causing it to flip. Men, weapons, packs, equipment went everywhere! Then commenced the mad scramble to rescue everything. This also happened in the middle of the channel and we had to contend with all of the morning fishermen shouting their greetings as they went by – I don't think they believed our line that it was a drill we were carrying out.

The main thing I remember is the poor gunner. The gunner is meant to tie a life jacket to the M60, due to its weight. In his gung-ho ness he neglected to do this and so was bobbing up and down like a half-drowned rat, trying to keep his head above water with this huge weight weighing him down. Though it was a potentially dangerous situation, at the time we were pissing ourselves too much to help the poor sod.

The great adventure quickly ended. We recovered our kit and then towing a turtled Mk1 behind us discretely left the scene. Not very much was said of watermanship training again.

### PTE xxxxxx

I remember being on the anti-armour range one weekend, firing the 84mm Carl Gustav. A certain private **[Ed: who for legal reasons shall remain nameless]** was carrying a pair of 84mm HEAT rounds in their carrying case, when he tipped the case over, causing the rounds to fall out onto their noses. In that instant everyone present was thankful that 84mm rounds have an arming distance.

This same private later gained notoriety when he later transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment and lost a couple of 50 cal. Browning Machine Guns!



## **LotteryWest Grant:**

The Association has just received confirmation that Lotteries West has approved our Grant Application. The amount of \$3500 has been given to the Association to conduct Website training and purchase a digital camera, printer and desktop computer. The GST component of the grant and the purchases is to be met by the Association. This will give us independent IT means and a much needed helping hand to Bart in further developing the Website.

**[Ed: The grant application was entirely the work of our very own Treasurer and unit history buff, Shaun Chapman - this is an outstanding effort by Shaun - Well done mate from all of us!]**

## **Updates:**

The unit history project is steaming along with over 2,500 images scanned so far. A draft virtual photo album has been made and waiting some further video footage and "debugging" before release. The Website has now been made available off line at the Association room.

## **History Requests:**

Outstanding Tasks: Paul Tubman - Scanning Officers Mess Visitors book (scanned needs to be burned to CD). Viktor Komaromi - Digitising video footage (part completed) expected for September Meeting.

## **Work in progress:**

Barracks: work continues on the barracks occupied by WAUR. A mountain of information has been collected and the long slow process of writing up a report has begun.

## **Recently promised:**

Grant Thompson: Photos from the 1980s and 1990s

## **Recently received:**

Lyndon Hopkins: Photos from the 1980's

Adrian and Louise Hinds recently travelled to Canberra to see their son Tom graduate from RMC Duntroon, (Adrian and Tom are both Association members. Adrian served with WAUR from 1956 to 58 and Tom was a member of the unit when he was an Officer Cadet in 1998 before transferring to RMC full time). The Hinds have sent in photos, the Parade booklet, a newspaper clipping and a write up from their trip. Well done to the Hinds clan!

## **Website:**

The IT team have been flat out with newborns and hectic workloads so there has been little change to our site.

## **Historical Display:**

The display is taking shape, office dividers have been put up on legs to display photos. Also various historical documents and photo albums have been laid out for all to see. The computer is loaded with photos and the Website.

**Shaun Chapman**



***Nicholas Crouch is the brother of Association member Charles Crouch. Following service in the ranks with WAUR's sister regiment the Royal Green Jackets, he attended RMA Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Wales. He attended the ANZAC Day service with a school friend, Ean MacPherson, whose father was a POW at Hellfire Pass and in Japan.***

I left Hong Kong on a Thursday afternoon flight to Bangkok. It was a pretty uneventful flight as I was flying China Airlines. They were the only company offering the trip as the SARS virus has virtually killed air travel out of HK these days. I was due to meet up with Nick Moller, a lawyer based in Bangkok, who was a buddy of Ean MacPherson and upon arriving had a few hours to kill prior to Nick finishing work. Luckily Bangkok has one or two pubs to while away the afternoon and escape the traffic and 38 degree heat, so I spent the afternoon re-hydrating on Singha beer and generally being lazy, mindful that it was going to be a long day on the 25th. The game plan was to leave Bangkok with the Mollers later that evening and drive about 200 kms north to the town of Kanchanaburi, where we would snatch a couple of hours sleep at a cheap & cheerful hotel prior to driving the last part of the trip to get us to the dawn service at around..well..dawn. This was being held at Hellfire Pass and then after a 'gunfire' (Bundy rum & coffee) we would head to the Home Phuey resort where we would check in, catch some brekky and then head back to Kanchanaburi where we would attend the 1100hs service being held at the town's Commonwealth war cemetery.

So, at around 10.00pm Nick, Mrs M and the younger Moller child Jamie and myself left their place for the drive out of Bangkok to Kanchanaburi. Even late in the evening, the traffic in Bangkok was horrendous and we passed three separate traffic accidents in about 10 miles of road. It took us an hour to move about 20 miles and it was with great relief when we cleared the Bangkok city limits for a bit of freeway driving. We arrived at Kanchanaburi around 12.00 and quickly located a place trying hard to be a two star hotel which was charging 300 baht for a night. Seeing we were 'farang' or foreigners, the guy at the desk increased the price to 400 baht which was nice of him. To complement this, my room was above a local Thai disco, which was evidently doing good business. Not to worry though as earplugs deadened most of the noise.

Woke at 3.00am feeling worse than I did when I had put my head on the pillow and we managed to get ourselves back on the road for the final leg 70 km drive to the dawn service. On the way we stopped at a service station to get the blood sugar level up, however, Thai 7-11s tend to stock a lot of pickled octopus and little in the way of chocolate. Call me a complete tourist but I passed on the octopus.

With the military definition of first light approaching, we parked at the Hellfire Pass museum which is atop a large flat area next to a hilly bowl like feature. The railway snakes its way around the bowl where it gradually rises to pass close to the visitors centre. The "Hellfire Cutting" was about a 10 min walk downhill where about 300 people had gathered for the dawn service. By the time we had arrived, the service had already started and a tropical dawn was just beginning to throw some light over the tree tops. Throughout the crowds, which numbered over 300, I could make out ten former diggers sat in the front row close to the padre and the Hellfire pass monument which lay covered in wreaths. Amongst this group of sprightly looking ex ANZACs were George Wiseman, 92 and Eric Roedigger aged 93, sitting bolt upright with the morning light reflecting off their campaign medals. Quite a sight.

For those not in the know, Hellfire Pass adopts its name from the "speedo" period of work on the railway. This related to the period between April and August of 1943 when the Japanese increased the already horrendous workload on the prisoners to meet an opening deadline of the complete Burma railway. The effect of emaciated POWs working by bonfire light late into the tropical night created flickering images of what the ANZACs must have truly considered to be a scene from hell at the time..hence the name.

Incidentally, when the railway was opened, the Japanese decided the first train to pass through would be a mobile brothel. Like most places of unimaginable horror and brutality, there was a peaceful, if not calm feeling attached to the scene of what 60 years before must have been a place bustling with forced activity.

When the brief service ended, most of the people began the walk back up the hill toward to the Museum and visitors centre. I used the time to have a look at the cutting which was getting ever easier to see with the sun coming up. Essentially the pass looks as though rough quarrying had taken place to produce a what now is a narrow road strewn with small boulders and pieces of granite. If you hadn't been told of the horrors of carving the cutting out of granite with the most rudimentary of tools, it would seem almost like another public works project. Apparently, for every sleeper laid, one POW died. 16,000 died on the railway. To think of the railway as just a feat of engineering probably doesn't accord it the justice it deserves.

At 6.00 am the temperature was around 38 degrees and although a little light headed from lack of sleep, I could only imagine what it would have been like to have been there 60 years ago, starting the first shift of the day. From talking to Ean's father Neil and the other surviving diggers, we were told that they worked their shifts clad only in makeshift loin-cloths, toiling under the boiling sun with only 15 minutes break for lunch during the day. Shoes were un-imaginable luxury and most, if not all of the POW's issue boots had rotted away in the first few months of the railway work commencing. Being barefoot whilst swinging crowbars and picks, all with chunks of granite being dislodged around you would be a fairly unpleasant enterprise to say the least.

With most of the crowd having thinned out we walked back up to the Hellfire Pass museum where people were queuing for Gunfire and Oatmeal biscuits and generally chatting to each other. Everyone was very good natured and as well as the numerous displays of medals being worn, there were cap badges from a mixture of arms and services on display. I was offered a biscuit from a New Zealand Lieutenant Colonel who was doing the rounds. It made me remember serving meals to the Welsh soldiers in a similar manner on St David's day with the Battalion in Hong Kong. With the day getting hotter, we decided to make a move and book into the Home Phuey resort, which despite its strange name was a very reasonable hotel nestled on the River Kwai. The hotel had been built by a wealthy Thai chap who had come to be good friends of Weary Dunlop in the 80's. A good part of the hotel was comprised of a museum dedicated to the POW's and their life on the railway with a section exclusively about Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop. A nice touch I thought. Managing to check in and find our rooms, a few hours sleep was had by all prior to driving back to Kanchanburi for the service to be held at the war cemetery. Arriving in the town by daylight proved to be anything but spectacular, however, once entering the cemetery you could not help but to be awed by the sight of row after row of headstones spread out on the beautifully maintained lawn. I heard from one old digger that 11,000 soldiers were buried at Kanchanburi. The Americans being the only country to send the bodies of their soldiers back home.

Walking around the cemetery you were able to get glimpses into the truly eclectic mix of people that worked on the railway. As well as having a vast contingent of Australian, New Zealand and Brit soldiers there were also headstones of the odd Dutchmen who had been unlucky enough to be press ganged by the Japanese. Of these, a few of the people had been in their sixties when on the railway.

Not really good work for people of that age and probably not so surprising they didn't last long. There were some interesting speeches given at the Kanchanburi service and one relating to life at Hintock camp was particularly moving (Hintock camp being fairly close to Hellfire Pass). Virtually all the surviving the diggers that I could see were wiping tears from their eyes and it was evident 60 years had not dampened anyone's memory of the time spent on the railway.

At the conclusion of the service, everyone adjourned to the shade of a massive tree to drink a few beers and generally unwind. There is only so much that you can take when it comes to listening to man's beastliness to man and a bit of liquid refreshment was fairly well received. In saying that, it was still fiendishly hot and a beer is seldom turned away by old soldiers...Lunch was spent at a local restaurant overlooking the site of the real 'Bridge over the River Kwai'. Ean pointed out to me the sight of the original wooden bridge which was marked by a cow grazing lazily next to what appeared to be a dirt track leading into the river. The second bridge, built after the first wooden one was bombed, is still in use and we had the pleasure of seeing a train cross it. Half of the bridge being made up of semi circular supports, these being the original spans that survived the constant bombing raids by the Allies throughout the war.

The next morning was spent walking a section of the railway with the diggers and this was good value as we benefited greatly by hearing a blow by blow account from the people who had been there. As mentioned before, even with sturdy shoes the walk seemed quite hard and imagining the POWs in bare feet at the time of construction really was fairly awe inspiring. Neil McPherson and one of the other Diggers did the entire walk back to the visitors centre with us. Similar to Anzac day marches the world over, less and less old soldiers manage the walk every year. I guess old age is doing what the Japanese failed to do all those years ago.

## CHANGES TO THE MESSES AT LEEUWIN BARRACKS

As all should be aware, the future of the messes in Leeuwin Barracks has been investigated at a high level, mainly as a cost cutting exercise due to the low throughput.

As a result on the 15 Sep 03, the Army Officers Mess -Perth will be combining with the SGTs Mess. This will necessitate a number of changes that are yet to be determined and will 'flow-on' as the process occurs. Changes may include some of the following:

- the cessation of the chit system.
- a change in Mess fees (probably a reduction for most members).
- a review of membership of those not automatically entitled to become members (affecting mainly Honoraries and Affiliates).
- changes to the Mess calendar.
- changes to Mess Rules (no significant changes expected)
- changes to the accommodation system. etc...

Additionally, as at 21 Dec 03, the kitchen in the Mess will close down and meals will no longer be served. The kitchen will be still available for Mess functions but will not serve day-to-day meals. The closure of the kitchen issue, will be addressed by the new combined Mess Committee. More details will be forwarded as they become known.

**DON'T FORGET OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup> IS WAUR  
ASSOCIATION REUNION WEEKEND  
DETAILS AT THE BACK OF THIS  
NEWSLETTER.....**

The Association has planned another trip to the Burma Thailand Railway to coincide with Remembrance Day this year. The trip in 2001 was, in fact, the first occasion that Remembrance Day had been observed in Hellfire Pass by any organized group. There are slight variations to the itinerary at the start and end of the trip. If you want information on the Royal River Hotel, you can get it on [www.royalrivergroup.com](http://www.royalrivergroup.com). We presently have some 20 people who have expressed interest in the trip. The bulk of these people are not members of the Defence Reserves Association. As previously advised, the DRA aims to conduct these tours for the benefit of Association members, whilst also being happy to include non-members in the group. Accordingly, as we seem to be exhausting the number of members wanting to do the trip, this may be the last arranged by DRA. (As a matter of interest, you should be aware that I was involved in taking people to the same location for Anzac Day. This year we had 44 people travel, including 4 ex POW's with two being in their 90's. Despite Bali, the invasion of Iraq and SARS, there were no withdrawals). Anyone having concerns about travelling to Thailand is advised to seek information from the Dept. of Foreign Affairs Trade [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au) for travel advice and information on SARS. It would be helpful, for planning purposes, if you could advise Peter Winstanley [pgwinstanley@bigpond.com](mailto:pgwinstanley@bigpond.com) or 93045248, if you are interested in joining the tour. Applications can be lodged from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003.

## **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

### **FARES PER PERSON**

- Members/Travellers \$1700 (twin share) \$250 extra for single room

### **ITINERARY INCLUSIONS**

- Return economy air fares Perth/Bangkok/Perth
- Airport and hotel transfers in accordance with itinerary
- Coach transport during tours (fully air-conditioned)
- Accommodation and most meals 95%
- Free baggage allowance on economy class flights in accordance with ticket conditions

### **ITINERARY EXCLUSIONS**

- Travel insurance (**essential**)
- Costs relating to passports or visa, gratuities, supplementary sightseeing trips and associated meals, laundry, phone calls, items of personal nature and departure taxes Perth & Bangkok.

### **ARRANGEMENTS**

Applications should be made directly to Voyager Tours Pty Ltd (Attention Ms Clara D'Alfonso) enclosing a deposit of \$250. The final payment of \$1450 is payable by no later than 28 September 2003.

### **CANCELLATIONS**

Any cancellation prior to the 28 September 2003 will incur a debit fee of \$200. Any cancellations after the 28 September 2003 or the issue of the ticket (whichever is the later) will also incur extra fees of \$275 charged by Thai Airways and \$250 charged by our Thai agent. Cancellation by participant once the tour has started, will not automatically mean refunds of transfers, hotel accommodation, transportation. Cancellation fees may be charged by the provider. (Comprehensive travel insurance may safeguard against contingencies such as illness). Itineraries may be modified because of events beyond the control of the organizers. Every effort will be made to create alternative programmes within the constraints to hand to the satisfaction of the whole party.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

The responsibility of Voyager Tours is limited to arrange flight bookings, receipt of bookings and liaison with & remittance of funds to Thai agent. Accommodation at Bangkok, Kanchanaburi and Hintoek, transfers and bus and coach transport and meals is the responsibility of Pacific Horizons in Bangkok. Pacific Horizons are not the agents or employees of Voyager Tours. Voyager Tours will not be responsible for any airline schedule change or price increases or the organization of any ground tours or any alteration to the itinerary or price increases for any part of the tour arrangements known as *The Defence Reserves Association Tour (DRAT)*. Payment of the deposit or any partial payment for a reservation constitutes consent to the provisions of the tour package conditions and general information contained in the tour itinerary. The terms under which this tour is undertaken cannot be changed, upgraded or amended except on direct contact with a representative of Voyager Tours.



## DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOCIATION (DRAT 2003)

### RAILWAY OF DEATH TOUR – NOVEMBER 2003

#### NEW ITINERARY – AS AT 18/6/2003

<u>DAY DATE</u>		<u>ACCOMMODATION</u>
1	<b>FRI 7 NOV</b> <b>PERTH TO BANGKOK (TG988)</b> ETD Perth 0700 – ETA BKK 1440	<b>ROYAL RIVER HOTEL</b> D
2	<b>SAT 8 NOV</b> <b>BKK TO KWAI NOI VALLEY</b> Non Pladuk (Start of Burma Thai Railway) Ban Pong (POW's arrived here from Singapore) Visit Nakhon Pathom Temple, Kanchanaburi & Chenkai War Cemeteries, Thailand Burma Railway Centre, Jeath Museum?	<b>PUNG WANN</b>  B/L/D
3	<b>SUN 9 NOV</b> Visit Prasart Muant Singh 12 <sup>th</sup> Century walled settlement and Ban Kao Neolithic Museum. Lunch, cross the Wampo Viaduct by train ,elephant ride (at own expense and risk) To Home Phu Toey	<b>HOME PHU TOEY</b> B/L/D
4	<b>MON 10 NOV</b> Visit Khao Laem Dam (a Snowy Mountain Project) Sanglaburi Monastery, Three Pagodas Pass on Burma Border. Visit Songkurai POW camp site Evening – Light & Sound Show – History of the Bridge over the River Kwai	<b>HOME PHU TOEY</b> B/L/D
5	<b>TUE 11 NOV</b> <b>MORNING: HELLFIRE PASS WAR MUSEUM</b> <b>OBSERVE REMEMBRANCE DAY 11AM</b> <b>AFTERNOON: WALK BURMA THAI RAILWAY</b> <b>MEMORIAL TRAIL</b>	<b>HOME PHU TOEY</b> B/L/D
6	<b>WED 12 NOV</b> To Hintock Road, Hintock River and Kinsayok POW Camp sites. Visit Sai Yoke Yai Waterfall & Raft Down river (Lunch on Board) Free late afternoon	<b>HOME PHU TOEY</b> B/L/D
<b>THU 14 NOV</b>	Hindat Hot Spring and other areas of interest in near vicinity enroute to Kanburi	<b>PUNG WANN</b> B/L/D
<b>FRI 15 NOV</b>	To airport (TG995) ETD 1630 to Perth	B
9	<b>SAT 15 NOV</b> Arrive Perth early am	

MAY BE SUBJECT TO VARIATION





## Australian Army Cadets need YOU!

Australian Army Cadets (AAC) is looking for people with a military background who have an interest in working with young people. Vacancies currently exist for Officers of Cadets (OOC) at units around the metro area and in the Headquarters based at Leeuwin Barracks in Fremantle.

Cadets are aged between 12½ years and 18 years and undertake training in drill, first aid, adventure training, weapons handling, field skills, navigation, ratel procedure etc. Depending on your interests and skills you would be involved in conducting and supervising training; personnel management or logistics. Most units parade one night a week, have 3 or 4 bivouacs per year and attend a one week annual camp.

The appointment process is as follows. After completing application forms, you sit a basic medical, attend an interview with an Army psychologist and undergo some basic testing. You then appear before a Selection Board. On being appointed you attend a weekend induction course and a Senior First Aid certificate course (unless you already have one). Then within 18 months of appointment, you attend a one week OOC course.

OOCs receive an allowance (based on the daily rate for the equivalent rank in the GRES). The current annual entitlement for OOC is 28 full days and 40 half days.

**If you are interested in finding out more contact Michael Jenkin  
on 9264 1694 during office hours for an obligation free chat.**

(Yeah sure what lawyer offers obligation free chats – nice try Mike)

## RSL-ADF Cadet of the Year Scheme announced!

A new RSL-ADF Cadet of the Year Scheme and 'Spirit of ANZAC' Tour Awards will give up to 24 of Australia's top Defence Force Cadets each year the opportunity to visit historic sites of Australian wartime involvement and heroism, such as Gallipoli, Hellfire Pass and Kokoda. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed today at the RSL National Congress in Adelaide by the National President of the Returned and Services League of Australia Limited, Major General Phillips, and the Director General of the Australian Defence Force Cadets, Major General Darryl Low Choy. Australian Navy, Army and Air Force Cadets will voluntarily participate in a series of competency tests including presentation, first aid skills, general knowledge and public speaking to be recognised as 'Cadet of the Year'. ADF Cadets will work with the RSL to run the Cadet of the Year Program in each State and Territory, while the 'Spirit of Anzac' tour will be funded by the RSL. The new Scheme and Awards will be presented annually. Speaking on behalf of the Cadets, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Fran Bailey, thanked the RSL for their strong support of the Australian Defence Force Cadets and their desire to reach out to the youth of Australia. "Cadets are the premier youth development organisation in Australia, and I am delighted this new scheme is now available to further enable our youth to honour the ANZAC tradition," Fran Bailey said. "I am pleased that we are partnering the RSL on this exciting venture which stands to reinforce an iconic part of Australian history in the younger generation." Major General Phillips said the RSL was delighted to provide its support. "This initiative will give these wonderful young Australians a much deeper appreciation of the heroism and sacrifice of our servicemen and women," Major General Phillips said. "The aim of this program is to make these special places more than just folklore for young Australians." Ms Bailey said the ADF Cadet organisation, with 25,000 cadets across Australia, is being revitalised through the Australian Government's Cadet Enhancement Program. The Commonwealth Government provides \$30 million annually to the Cadet program.

# What is "Love on the Box" ?

22

Starring our very own Scott (Bart) Simpson

'Love on The Box' is a sitcom based around the lives of Geoffrey and Ashli O'Connor. They are a recently separated couple who co-host a hugely successful breakfast variety show named W.A. Today. Ashli, with dreams of international stardom, kicks out her husband who has no plans on leaving Western Australia given his family goes back to the dawn of the state. In it's final season, the hosts try to keep up the public image of a happy couple for a few more months for the sake of the show, but it doesn't always work like that. Ashli, with her best friend, the weather girl Michelle, by her side sets off in search of stardom while Geoff and his mate, Trunky the Elephant, host of the children's segment of their show, **[Ed: played with care sensitivity and compassion by Bart...]** work at a plan to get the couple back together. Apart from the usual style of comedy associated with sitcoms 'Love on the Box' will include numerous elements of spoof. It is however NOT a sketch/skit show. Each show follows the one preceding and the same characters appear in each episode and develop accordingly.

## GUEST APPEARANCES BY WAUR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS..

Colin Abbott, Tas Nolan, Viktor Komaromi (pictured below), Chook Chapman and starring.

## BART SIMPSON AS TRUNKY THE ELEPHANT..



Dean McAuliffe was supposed to be in it by like the RAAFie he is he pussied out...

## Bits & Pieces

Nice to know that our work is appreciated...These cheeky blokes have lifted a photo from our web site... [http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-weapons/allied\\_recent.htm](http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-weapons/allied_recent.htm)



**Sorry  
mate,  
what  
safety  
gear was  
that?**





...It was a fine day but a very strong easterly wind was blowing and the writer has to admit that the cordiality extended to him in the Sergeants Mess the previous evening and the turbulence at low level as the aircraft circled the tree topped hills made him thankful he had purchased his own bush hat. At least one other intrepid passenger suffered a similar fate from one cause or the other.

Exercise "Defrost" was set in the State of "Permandurah", an area embodying the geography of Western Australia, with the Communist States of Geraltina and Koolgoorlie to the North and East. Porter parties carrying supplies to the insurgent forces had been reported moving through the area between Toodyay and Bindoon. At 0400 hours the start line was crossed by the Rifle Company under Major Leslie moving out to establish platoon bases from which patrols would harass the porter routes.

The enemy under Captain "Lee Tee" established themselves up the side of a gully, but as to the exact gully no one is too sure to this day. A lesson to learn here was that compass bearings taken on sounds can not be relied upon when reverberation and echo distort it and that compass errors do not have to be very great to cause a miss in the dark. Not too many had a great knowledge of simple astro-navigation.

Water re supply was all by plastic jerry cans and some little embarrassment was caused to the enemy by one member of the self-styled "Pathet Pong" forgetting to pick up his load.

On return from the exercise the Unit spent a day on the grenade range where all members gained practical experience with the 36 m grenade, the 94 grenade and the 3.5 inch rocket launcher. The remaining days of the camp were devoted to promotion examinations and breaking camp administration. So concluded a camp held in old familiar surroundings and the first one at Northam since 1960. Soon after our return to Perth, individual members were to learn with great sorrow that a former Regimental officer had become the first member of WAUR to be killed in action.

Captain G.R. Belleville had left us in January 1964 to return to professional soldering serving up till late 1965 as the Adjutant of 11 RWAR. He was posted to the Australian Army Team in South Vietnam and on 12 February 1966 was caught in a large ambush in the Hai Van Pass - the Pass of Clouds, on the coastal road from Hue to Da Nang. There were many civilians as well as Vietnamese troops in the convoy and, according to the Australian Associated Press dispatch published in "The West Australian" for 18 February there was deadly efficient slaughter and no mercy shown, very similar to that of the Ben Cat ambush. Whilst it is true that a road accident on the return from Camp about 12 years earlier took the life of a driver, Captain Belleville's death was the first battle casualty and it had a profound effect on all who had known him. A few weeks later, Captain K. Aspinall relinquished his appointment as Adjutant / Quartermaster and was posted to Vietnam to take Captain Belleville's place.

In Chapter 1 it was recorded that an Officer Cadet Training Company was raised and that the first members began their course in October 1951. Fourteen and a half years later, in the Officers Mess of the Regiment there was held, on 17 February, the first reunion of these men. A few still serving, but many now out of the CMF.

It was an afternoon when many names were produced from long dormant corner of memory and the stock phrase "do you remember when....?" greatly overworked. The host for this feast of nostalgia was Lt. Col. W.R. Bray, originally senior instructor for the OCTU, and later Commanding Officer.

Memories were stirred again on 29 April when an old member of the Unit paid a return visit. This was Major G. Wright who had been the Regiment's first Adjutant / Quartermaster and affectionately known as "The Spanner" for his ability in past days to produce any number of reasons why a certain course of action should not be taken.

As with Lt. Col. I.G. Medcalf in previous years the Mounts Bay Road Drill Hall had old associations. In it Major Wrighthead served as RSM to the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion in 1939 and on this day in question he paid a final visit as a serving officer for the day was his birthday and marked his retirement from the Army.

At this point, the History of the Western Australian University Regiment is brought to date - June 1966. The future looks healthy with recruitment high and as many enlistees have a background of Cadet service the prospects of the regiment fulfilling its role of providing officers for the Australian Military Forces are bright. At present, the Regiment comes under the Command Officer Training Group, a formation aimed at taking basically trained and suitable candidates and providing them with the advanced training that will be rewarded with the Queen's Commission. Experienced officers may return to the Command. Staff Training Unit of this formation to attend coaching for higher rank.

The country is in a state where a well-trained Army is no luxury or status symbol but a necessity and WAUR is well aware of its part in the production of leaders for this Army.

**The End**



The detailed history of WAUR from its formation on 22 April 1949 till June 1966 – compiled by Captain John Le Tessier, long serving member of WAUR, Unit Historian and one of the real characters to come through the WAUR system, this history details many events leading up to and surrounding WAUR. The original manuscript was discovered at Artillery Barracks was scanned with minimal editing. It has been serialised in the last 11 editions of The WAURior. The Association would like to acknowledge the exceptional work that John Le Tessier (pictured left) did in an era before the word processor and e-mail.

THE BRUCE ROCK VIETNAM VETERANS GROUP  
 INVITE YOU.....to a 'BACK TO THE BUSH' REUNION  
 on the 1st of November 2003

Start the day by enjoying many food venues and browse through a variety of stalls. Catch up with old friends, and make yourself comfortable in the BK Federation Amphitheatre. Be entertained by some fantastic local talent, followed by the performance of the Kalgoorlie and Challenge Brass and Pipe Bands; prior to them leading the march at 3pm.

All Veterans and interested persons are invited to join the march, with members of the 10th Light Horse group through to recently returned Peace Keepers.

Don't want to march ?? Then get yourself an advantage point to wave an Aussie flag and cheer the marchers on.

3pm: March to St Peter's Church where a relighting of the candle at the V Memorial Peace Window will be held, along with the Blessing of Banners and wreath laying will take place.

5pm: All are invited to a free barbecue and drinks at the local recreational grounds.(please bring a salad and a plate of goodies for supper) Enjoy an impromptu concert at the venue.

*Our program will cover several days so hopefully you will be able to join us a little earlier.*

Thursday 30th Oct:

Have a game of bowls, or golf and enjoy a sumptuous meal at the club or hotel.(Reservations essential) Have an afternoon of Bingo, then after dinner, attend an outdoor movie at the Amphitheatre. ( \$5:00 per person)

Friday 31st Oct: Be taken on a tour of the town, and enjoy a leisurely 'Fish and Chip' luncheon, with a variety of lovely salads, at the Roadhouse. (RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL)whilst listening to the soothing sounds of the keyboard.

## Medal Update

*This update in from the Army Medals section for those waiting for their Anniversary of National Service medals(ANSM).*

June 2003

Army Medals Section (AMS) in Melbourne is currently in the process of having its functions moved from Melbourne to Canberra. As of 1 May this year, AMS was processing May 02 medals applications. For ANSM applications, these were first formally received by the Department beginning February 2002. At that time, a decision was made not to register or acknowledge applications given the several hundred thousand that were received. To do so would have taken considerable effort and diverted resources away from the prime task of getting the medals issued, thus adding significantly to delays. This means that, at this stage, it is not possible to confirm receipt of applications not yet processed.

As part of the relocation of AMS to Canberra, all outstanding applications will be acknowledged prior to processing. It is expected, therefore, that all applicants yet to be processed will have their applications acknowledged over the May/June period.

The Directorate in Canberra will be working hard to reduce the backlog once staff are trained and applications have been received from Melbourne and acknowledged. Unfortunately, this means that Army application backlogs will remain at May 02 until around the end of June, at which point DHA is confident that the backlog will begin to reduce.

If your application was sent before and up to May 02, you should receive some advice concerning your application by mid Jul 03. Should applicants in this category not receive advice by this date, they are advised to phone the DHA freecall number 1800 111 321 for advice.

For those who sent applications after May 02, they should also begin to receive advice over the May/Jun period and expect further advice of their applications within 12 months of their applying. This time frame is expected to decrease exponentially over the next 12 months.







FRONT: PADRE R. MOLINEUX; CAPT. R. CRAZE; MAJ. B. GIBSON; BRIG. J. C. NEWBERY;  
MAJ. H. HERNAMAN; LT-COL. H.G. MAWSON; CAPT. L. STEWART; LT. B. THORPE;  
CENTRE: LT. K. KNOWLES; LT. T. SHACKLES; 2LT. T. SCOTT; 2LT. S. STANLEY; 2LT. L. RICCIARDONE;  
LT. N. SMITH; 2LT. P. VAN HATTEM; 2LT. P. HOPKINS;  
REAR: 2LT. K. FELSCH; CAPT. D. CLEMENTS; CAPT. P. BOXSELL; LT. B. KITCHEN;  
LT. I. TINDALE; LT. K. McALLUM; LT. J. MONTGOMERY; LT. P. STANDEN;

ROTTNEST DEC. '77



1990 Enemy Party





Bus fair to anit-war protest rally - \$0.50.

Paint and canvas protest signs - \$32.00.

Asking a retired US Army Sergeant to translate your anti-American slogans - PRICELESS.



1987 Recruit Camp



## **BACK TO THE REGIMENT 2003**

### **Reunion of Western Australian University Regiment ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTION**

15 Sept 2003

#### **General**

1. A reunion of all past and present members of the Western Australian University Regiment ("WAUR") is being conducted by the WAUR Association on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2003 at 1700 h at Yoothamurra, a property located approximately 35 kms south of Perth.
2. A recovery breakfast will be held on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2003. Members are encouraged to stay over night at the property.

#### **Reporting**

3. Members are to report to the main car park of the property **NO LATER THAN 1700 h**. A mud map showing the location of the activity will be printed on the reverse of your ticket.
4. Dress for reporting in is Association shirt and other appropriate neat casual clothing (see cold weather warning below).

#### **Group Photo**

5. A commemorative group photo will be taken at 1730 hrs sharp - so make sure you are on time!

#### **Tickets/Merchandise**

6. For security and planning purposes, admission to the activity will be strictly by pre-paid ticket only. There will be no door sales. Tickets must be purchased prior to 10 October 2003 using the form at Annex A.

#### **Ticket price**

7. The cost of a ticket for the activity is **\$50.00**. The ticket cost includes:

- ⊕ Alcohol – premium beer, red & white wine and port
- ⊕ Soft drinks
- ⊕ Buffet Dinner (Gourmet BBQ, salads, bread rolls & sweets)
- ⊕ Recovery breakfast
- ⊕ Group photo

### **Advance Party**

8. Interested members will form an advance party. Nominations to Shaun Chapman ASAP to: [chapmans@iinet.net.au](mailto:chapmans@iinet.net.au) or wk (08) 9458 1700

### **Clothing/Equipment**

9. Members are advised to bring warm clothing, as temperatures can be expected to plummet soon after sunset. Members intending to stay overnight should ensure that they bring their own sleeping bags and other required personal gear and equipment. Limited tentage will be available.

### **Security**

10. Please be aware that the activity is being conducted on a private property. As mentioned above, entry to the activity will be strictly ticket only, with no door sales.

11. The organising committee accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any loss and/or damage to your personal gear and equipment.

### **Medical**

12. All medical problems are to be brought to the attention of the duty medic. Any member suffering from any communicable disease should advise the duty medic on arrival.

### **Alcohol**

13. Alcohol will be available in quantity during the activity.

### **Merchandise**

14. Association merchandise will be on sale.

### **Contact other members**

15. Members are encouraged to pass this instruction on to all WAURiors so that as many as possible are able to attend the activity.

#### **John Kargotich**

Chairman  
PO Box 13  
BYFORD 6122  
[jkargotich@yootha-murra.com.au](mailto:jkargotich@yootha-murra.com.au)

0411 604 558

#### **Shaun Chapman**

Treasurer  
135 Orange Valley Road  
KALAMUNDA 6076  
[sdc@altechnologies.com.au](mailto:sdc@altechnologies.com.au)  
0418 902 939

#### **Michael Jenkin**

Secretary  
102 Coogee Street  
MT HAWTHORN 6016  
[jenkin@iinet.net.au](mailto:jenkin@iinet.net.au)

9264 1694 (work)

### **Annexes:**

A. Application form

### **Distribution:**

All former and serving members of WAUR.



# ANNEX A - APPLICATION FORM BACK TO THE REGIMENT 2003

PERSONAL DETAILS				
LAST NAME				
FIRST NAME(S)				
NAME FOR LABEL				
ADDRESS				
PHONE/E-MAIL				
DATES SERVED				
TICKET/MERCHANDISE REQUIREMENTS				
REUNION	YES	-	\$50.00	\$50.00
Association shirt	YES	NO	\$30.00	\$
Shirt size (See chart below)				
Cuff links (pair)	YES	NO	\$20.00	\$
Lapel badge	YES	NO	\$7.50	\$
Song Book	YES	NO	\$2.50	\$
Stubby holder	YES	NO	\$7.50	\$
Tie bar	YES	NO	\$12.50	\$
Tie (silk blend)	YES	NO	\$45.00	\$
Association pack	YES	NO	\$75.00	\$
Tie pack (tie, tie bar, lapel pin & cuff links)	YES	NO	\$50.00	\$
Lapel pack (lapel badge, cuff links)	YES	NO	\$25.00	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$</b>

**SEND FORM & PAYMENT TO:**  
**Back to the Regiment 2003**  
 PO Box 317  
 KALAMUNDA WA 6926

**NO LATER THAN 01 October 2003**  
 Your receipt & ticket will be sent to you

## SIZE CHART FOR POLO SHIRT

BEST SIZE cm	90	95	100	105	110	115
SHIRT SIZE	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

## ONLY COMPLETE IF NOT ALREADY A MEMBER

<b>LAST NAME</b>				
<b>FIRST NAME(S)</b>				
<b>ADDRESS</b>				
<b>POST NOMINALS</b>			<b>BIRTH DATE</b>	
<b>CONTACTS</b>	<b>WORK</b>		<b>HOME</b>	
	<b>MOBILE</b>		<b>EMAIL</b>	
<b>SERVICE DETAILS</b>	<b>REG NUMBER</b>		<b>RANK</b>	
	<b>YEAR IN (WAUR)</b>		<b>YEAR OUT (WAUR)</b>	
<b>MOST MEMORABLE WAUR OCCASION</b> (Use separate sheet if required)				
<b>FAVOURITE SAYING FROM THE ERA</b> (Use separate sheet if required)				
<b>BRIEF PERSONAL PROFILE</b> (Family/Job/Hobbies/Achievements etc)				
<b>Membership Agreement</b> I HEREBY APPLY to be an ordinary member of the Western Australian University Regiment Association Inc. ("the Association"), and I agree to be bound by the Constitution of the Association.				
<b>Signature of Applicant:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> /    /				
<b>Membership fees</b> Joining Fee                      \$20.00 (One off Joining fee) plus 1 Year membership    \$10.00 2 Year Membership    \$18.00 3 Year membership    \$25.00  *Overseas and interstate applicants are exempt from the joining fee			<b>Please send your cheque* and this form to:</b>  <b>Hon. Treasurer</b> <b>WAUR Association Inc.</b> <b>PO Box 317</b> <b>KALAMUNDA WA 6926</b> <b>(*made payable to the Association)</b>	
<b><u>Declaration by Authorised Office Bearer</u></b>				
I certify that the above applicant WAS / WAS NOT accepted as an ordinary member at the Committee meeting held on:				
<b>Signature of Officer Bearer:</b> _____ <b>Date</b> /    /				
<b>Office use only</b> Amount Paid \$ _____ Receipt Number _____ Membership Number _____				