

STAND TO

Newsletter of the 6 RAR Association



Merry Christmas to all our members, from your hard working 6RAR Association Committee

DECEMBER 2024

6 RAR ASSOCIATION



Celebration of Life - 2LT Geoffrey Kendall, MG, MID

By Wayne Giddings, OAM

On Friday 13 September, I had the privilege of attending a celebration of Geoff's life, held at Victoria Park in Brisbane. Geoff passed away on 29 August. As most of you will know, Geoff was the original Platoon Commander of 10 Platoon, D Company 6 RAR and lead his platoon in action at Long Tan.

After a brief recess and relocation inside, Geoff's son Steve led a more informal celebration and reflection of the Geoff's life. This was beautifully brought to life by a wonderful presentation of photos and video footage, compiled by the family. The anecdotes and stories, shared by good mate Ian Ferguson, provided a fitting end to this tremendous occasion.



L-R: Barry Vassella, Laurie Drinkwater, Bill Roche, Travis Jeffery (played Geoff Kendall in the Danger Close movie)

Another legendary Battalion figure is gone, but never forgotten. May Geoff Kendall rest in peace.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Association incorporated with the Office of Fair Trading, QLD on 10 Sep 24. We have adopted a simplified title of 6 RAR Association, INC.

This is a terrific outcome and ensures the current and future committees are properly supported and protected, while also improving our governance procedures. This will require us to conduct annual general meetings and complete annual financial auditing and reporting requirements. Our first AGM as an incorporated Association will be held during the 2025 Reunion.

I attended the annual National Council Meeting of RAR Australia, in Canberra over 20 – 22 Nov 24. Much of the discussion centred on how to make membership of Battalion and State Associations more attractive to young veterans. The RAR Corporation continues to engage in key advocacy issues affecting all veterans and is our voice in the national conversation. We endeavour to keep you informed of these issues through our newsletters and social media.

It has been another busy year for your committee and I would like to thank each and every one for their work and diligence on your behalf. I look forward to a break and then getting back to work on finalising preparations for our reunion in 2025.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your families and friends. As always, take care of one another and stay safe.

Regards

Wayne



6TH BATTALION, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

Long Tan Lines, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Qld 4051.

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel Edouard Cousins

RSM: WO1 Michael Keefe **21C:** MAJ Darren Cocker



6 RAR ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Wayne Giddings OAM - Mob: 0400 434 930 - Email: wayne.giddings9@gmail.com
Vice President:	Vacant
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Postal address:	Allan Whealan, PO Box 225, Red Hill, Queensland 4059

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Reunion 2025 is moving slowly, all the venues are booked, we are looking to find a guest speaker for the Gala Dinner, **BUT**, we need **YOU** (our members) to come on-board and register for Reunion 2025, being held in Brisbane over the weekend 6 to 8 June 2025.

IT IS time to register, as we badly need to increase our numbers for the Meet & Greet and the Gala Dinner before we must pay the next round of compulsory deposits (totalling \$12500) to the 2 venues in early March 2025. If we don't reach our goal of 200 people attending each event, we'll forfeit all deposits meaning the Association will be \$20,000+ (deposits already paid plus what is due in March 2025) out of pocket!! Currently, we only have 34 guests registered for the Meet & Greet, 27 guests registered for the Gala Dinner and 28 guests for the Memorial Service/BBQ – these low number seriously places the entire Reunion at risk! The Registration Form is included as a drop-out with this Stand To Edition, please consider attending Reunion 2025, 6 RAR's 60th year and help celebrate a great milestone.

As we race towards 8 June 2025 and AGM 25, the 1st face to face AGM in 10 years, thanks to COVID, which also brings in the new era of yearly AGM's (*pity the QLD Office of Fair Trading couldn't be swayed into allowing us to continue with 5 year AGM's*), members should start thinking about nominating for Committee or who they would like to see 'run' the Association in 2025/26 and into the future.

All committee positions will be declared vacant at AGM 2025, so please consider joining the Committee and helping the Association. A full list of positions will be in the March 2025 Stand To Edition, along with Nomination and Proxy Vote Forms.

Yes, I will nominate again, but I only intend to stay for a year or 2, as I will be 70 over the Reunion weekend and have been involved with RAR Committees since 1998, so am looking towards 'retirement'.

Thank you to those who have renewed their Stand To subscriptions and who have registered for Reunion 2025. Unfortunately, you will have received those forms again with this Edition, please disregard them.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families.

Wheels



Stand To - For those who served their country in peace and war in 6 RAR, 6 RAR/NZ ANZAC, 6th Battalion Group (East Timor), MTF 1 Afghanistan, Iraq and Taji VII, or RCB; and for their families— in mateship and mutual support. No copyright infringement is intended.

6RAR Technical Support Platoon awarded Gold commendation



Above: Members of the TSP with Chief of Army LTGEN General Simon Stuart, AO DSC and RSM-A WO1 Kim Felmingham.

On Wednesday, 20 November 2024, 6RAR was privileged to host the Chief of Army and the Regimental Sergeant Major - Army to award members of our Technical Support Platoon (TSP) with the prestigious **Army Group Gold Level Commendation**.

This commendation reflects the exceptional dedication and professionalism displayed by the TSP throughout 2023 and 2024. Their commitment to excellence has been instrumental in ensuring the operational readiness of the battalion, consistently keeping them moving and mission-ready.

The work of the TSP often goes unnoticed, but it forms the backbone of their success. This award recognises their achievements and serves as a testament to their vital role in the continued effectiveness of the battalion.

Congratulations to all members of the TSP on this well-deserved recognition.

Images and information courtesy of [Defence](#)



MUSEUM UPDATE

Welcome to the last update for the year from the WO1 George Chinn, DCM, 6 Battalion Museum.

It has been a very busy year for the volunteers and with various promotions and calls for assistance there has been an influx in donations. Many donations have come from our “Old and Bold” Vietnam veterans who only now feel they can part with their precious memorabilia. A number of our current veterans have also donated memorabilia but have also contributed with photos and first-hand accounts of their deployments to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) and other theatres like East Timor and the Solomon Islands. All donations are gratefully accepted.

This year saw the volunteers visit the Cleveland RSL and Museum and the Maryborough Military & Colonial Museum. These visits enabled the volunteers to see how the larger museums operate, to take note of their displays and museum layout, to take away ideas that can be implemented in the 6 RAR museum and lastly foster a lasting relationship with these and other museums.

As a result of our visits and with the help of your generous donations our displays are growing. We are also very grateful to our Facebook members for answering those museum questions we post to ensure our descriptors and stories are correct in every detail.

Throughout the year the museum was also called upon to assist with supplying memorabilia to various battalion functions and dinners. We provided a number of museum items to the annual Legacy Dinner conducted in the city; this year's theme was the Vietnam War.

In 2025 the WO1 George Chinn, DCM, 6 Battalion Museum will be upgraded with 7 top of the range museum display cases to the value of \$10,000. This will be the most significant upgrade to the museum since its inception.

This was only made possible by a DVA “Saluting Their Service Grant” won by Teresa Pyne and her business, Bushfriends Intuitive Coaching & Healing. Teresa is donating these display cases to the museum on behalf of her family, especially her dad WO1 Ray Pyne. Ray was an original member of 6 Battalion following his posting from 2 Battalion for the raising of the 6th Battalion in June 1965, for service in Vietnam. Ray served 10 years within 6 RAR before being posted to Kelvin Grove Training Centre and then Army HQ Canberra.

In conclusion, the museum volunteers, wish to thank RSM WO1 Michael Keefe and MAJ Grant Coombe OC C Coy and Regimental Trust Fund President all the best as they leave on posting from 6 RAR, it has been a pleasure working with two professional and dedicated members of the Battalion.

Museum volunteers at the Arana league club for Mel's Big Birthday lunch.

Photo: Left to Right
Mel McCormack, Baz Shipway,
Gus Guthrie, Stan Albert and
Teresa Pyne.



**The Editor would like to acknowledge all those who have contributed photos and articles for this issue.
Edition deadline for March is 17 February 2025. Send to bazue@optusnet.com.au**

25th Anniversary of Australia's service in Timor-Leste

On 20 Sep 24 a National Commemorative Service was held, at the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra, to mark the 25th anniversary of Australian service in Timor-Leste.

The majority of Australian service spanned between 1999 and 2013. The anniversary provided an opportunity to honour and remember the service of all men and women who served in Timor-Leste, and the sacrifices of their families. Tragically, six Australians lost their lives while deployed, or as a result of their service.

In particular, we pay tribute to the contribution of the 6th Battalion and remember the first tour loss of Corporal Stuart MacMillan Jones. Lest We Forget

By M A Rahman (Rami)



A service in Canberra has marked the 25th anniversary of the largest deployment of Australian troops since the Vietnam War



7 months until 6 RAR ASSOCIATION REUNION 2025 IT'S TIME TO REGISTER

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF 6 BATTALION SERVICE

6 – 8 JUNE 2025

FRIDAY 6/6/2025	Meet & Greet	Amora Hotel, 200 Creek St, Brisbane	\$40pp
SATURDAY 7/6/2025	Gala Dinner	The Sofitel Hotel Brisbane, 249 Turbot St Brisbane	\$150pp
SUNDAY 8/6/2025	Memorial Service	Memorial Garden, Towner St, Gallipoli Barracks	
	AGM	DKVC Club, Towner St, Gallipoli Barracks	
	BBQ Lunch	DKVC Club/MI Block, Towner St, 6RAR	\$40pp

Registration and pre-payment required for ALL events.

No tickets sold at events!

No registration for Sunday – no entry to barracks!

Registration form included with this Stand To

Need More information / want to arrange your own special mini reunion over the same dates

Contact the Secretary, Allan Whelan

Phone – 0427 632 402

Email – wheels6rarassn@gmail.com



From the Commanding Officer – 2024 in Review

LTCOL Edouard Cousins (Commanding Officer)

Looking back at 2024, a year characterised by *Defence Strategic Review*-directed change, there are three words that come to mind to describe our Battalion – professional, adaptable and resilient. These three attributes have been on display throughout the year, as the Battalion pivoted in record-time from being an excellent mechanised unit, to one able to operate as a light, rapidly deployable, PMV-enabled infantry Battalion through all phases of war. The professionalism, drive and determination of our people made this possible.



The year started at pace, with a number of lines of effort in full execution within days of returning to work. In Quarter 1, Exercise SUPPORT COY WALK drove hard to remediate live-fire shortfalls from 2023's fire-danger period. ExerciseHEELER WALK enabled the rifle companies' attainment of Army Training Level (ATL) 1-3 (ie individual, section and platoon skills), while Ready Battle Group (RBG) specific courses (such as Population, Protection and Control) enabled our early adoption of RBG responsibilities. Concurrently, the first of our internal Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) driver courses supported our early pivot from M113AS4 to Bushmaster. Bravo Coy continued their support to the Return to Urban Live Fire (RTULF) trials, honing their art in the urban. Quarter 1 culminated in the successful execution of our hard-fought Section Competition (well-done 63C!) and a Soldiers' Dining-In night, during which Dan Keighran, VC, joined us and presented awards. 6 RAR's character was on full display.

After a well-earned Reduced Tempo Period, Quarter 2 continued in a similar manner. Elements of Delta Coy and Recon Platoon deployed in short-order to New Caledonia to work with the French Armed Forces New Caledonia (FANC) on Exercise TAGATA TOA, Bravo Coy continued their RTULF journey, and our internal PMV driver courses continued building our capability. The Battalion paused to mark ANZAC Day with a Dawn Service (notable mention to the RSM's singing!), a march through Brisbane City, and a Function at the Dan Keighran, VC Club. Shortly after, the Battalion deployed to Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) to commence Exercise DIAMOND DAGGER; 7 Brigade's Combined Arms Training Activity (CATA).



Largely facilitated by Support Company, this CATA provided our rifle platoons the opportunity to execute an exceptional 360-degree live-fire platoon attack range, and our rifle companies the opportunity to attack a dug-in defensive position with the full range of Support Company capabilities and danger-close 155mm artillery. Exercise DIAMOND DAGGER saw the final tactical use of M113AS4 in 6 RAR, as Delta Coy executed a combined arms, mechanised combat team attack with tanks, engineers and artillery in direct support. Exercise DIAMOND DAGGER culminated in a 7-10km dismounted Battle-group insertion by night into an Assembly Area, move to a Form Up Place and conduct of a Battle-

group attack; a rehearsal for what would be required in later exercises. Demonstrating 6 RAR's trademark adaptability, Delta Coy 'hung up' their M113AS4s, and moved straight into Tully for a dismounted Regional Warfighter exercise where they performed splendidly.

Quarter 3 commenced with the Battalion continuing driving hard at PMV courses, RBG-related “Essential Qualifications” and preparing to deploy on Exercise DIAMOND RUN, the CTC-led “Southeast Queensland Warfighter” exercise. Just prior to our deployment on Exercise, CPL Staines and LCPL Boland led our Duke of Gloucester Cup (DOG) Cup section through the first ever Tully-based DOG Cup. Our DOG Cup section performed to an incredible standard, coming home first (by an exceptional margin) in the endurance event, placing fourth overall.

Exercise DIAMOND RUN was 6 RAR’s opportunity to deploy Tranche 1 of our motorised capability (Command and Control nodes, Support Coy elements

and the newly-formed Whiskey Platoon), and the high-water mark for our Battalion’s collective training. It was also the opportunity to demonstrate our proficiency across all phases of war, and certify as the Ready Battlegroup, reinforced by a Platoon with an Anti-armour Section, Recon soldiers and a Company Commander from 1RNZIR. The Battalion deployed to SWBTA in good order, across multiple means, and commenced achieving our assigned missions; seize the airfield, hand it off, and advance south. In classic style, the step-off on our advance met with torrential, record-breaking rain. Demonstrating true-grit, the Battalion continued through the night, and attacked the enemy’s position from an unexpected direction, achieving surprise and destroying the enemy force. The exercise continued through the advance, urban attack and defence, culminating in a live-fire Battlegroup defensive battle with layered danger-close 155mm artillery and the full suite of Battalion



weapons, including javelin, mortars, Mk47, 84mm, .50 cal. With the power of a Battalion Engagement Area demonstrated, enter Exercise DIAMOND TRIDENT.

Exercise DIAMOND TRIDENT saw the short-notice planning and execution of a Battlegroup HEELER Tactical Airland Operation (TALO) from SWBTA to seize an airfield at “Scherger Island” (RAAF Scherger) in the west of Queensland’s Cape York Peninsula. This short-notice deployment, supported by RAAF and USAF aircraft, was in support of a fictional DFAT-led non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) to rescue Australian nationals from an unstable security situation. Again demonstrating remarkable adaptability, within less than 48h after departing our defensive position in SWBTA, moving through Rockhampton and RAAF Amberley, 400 members of our Battlegroup, including PMV and 155mm artillery, were more than 2000km away, conducting a NEO and fighting a cunning enemy force within a civilian population. After 48h, our mission was complete, and the Battalion re-deployed to Long Tan Lines. Within a week of the Battalion’s return home, the Alpha Coy-led Operation KUDU Rotation VIII was farewelled to deploy to the United Kingdom, as part of international efforts to train members of the Ukraine Armed Forces.



On return from a hard-earned Reduced Tempo Period in Quarter 4, the Battalion assumed responsibilities as the Army's Ready Battlegroup and switched focus to individual training and skills with the execution of the Section Commander's Battle Course, Mortars, DFSW, Recon, Sniper and SCCC courses. These courses are being executed in an exceptional manner; tough, yet pragmatic, ensuring that the knowledge of our most senior experts is transferred to those up-and-coming. I am constantly impressed by the professionalism of our people.



2024 has proven once again that our people, and the teams they form, are our most important asset in Barracks and in the field:

- Our logisticians working through arduous conditions and staffing-shortfalls to keep the Battalion supplied and moving forward.
- Our rifle companies' relentless pursuit of objectives regardless of season weather or terrain.
- Our mortar platoon ready to support at a moment's notice with expertly applied indirect fire.
- Our Anti-Armour teams moving over huge distances with heavy weight to block enemy movement and protect our flanks.
- Our reconnaissance patrols and snipers out in front of the Battalion covering huge distances with heavy weights, informing the Battalion's planning and manoeuvre.
- Our Command and Control nodes and our Signals Platoon working to plan, communicate and control our operations.
- Our training teams and Combatives Cell, ensuring our capability and lethality.
- Our Rear Details teams who look after our Wounded, Injured and Ill while the Battalion is deployed.
- Our Clerks ensuring our people are well-administered, and our financial and administrative systems are in good order.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class 1 Mick Keefe, as his two-year tenure at 6 RAR comes to a close. I have never met a senior soldier so passionate about our Battalion and its people. He has been a force-of-nature within our Battalion for two years, working tirelessly to support our people, to guide our warfighting culture, and to steady the ship as we move through a period of change. Thank you RSM, it has been a rare pleasure – fair winds.

To the men and women of our Battalion – thank you, your families and loved ones all for your continued hard work, dedication and passion. Your work to pivot our Battalion from one expert in mechanised operations to one which is demonstrably light, PMV-enabled and rapidly deployable, has been truly remarkable. This has required mental and physical resilience, a sense of humour, and an incredible amount of teamwork. To all those who are posting this year, I wish you all the best in your next postings, and please travel safely and enjoy a break with your family, friends and loved ones. Thank you also to the members of the 6 RAR Association, Long Tan Association and the work of our Museum volunteers – we could not maintain our vital links to our Battalion's incredible history, our foundation, without you.

As we move towards the end of 2024, the Battalion continues driving combat capability, maintaining readiness, and demonstrating the best of our storied Battalion – professionalism, adaptability and resilience. I look forward to working with you all through 2025, ready to contribute to our Battalion's next chapter.

Duty First!

Lieutenant Colonel Ed Cousins

Commanding Officer

6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment



D Coy Catchup 2024 Wangi Wangi NSW

On 18th August, Long Tan weekend, a few D Coy Singapore and 2nd Tour 11 Pl D Coy plus their partners caught up at Wangi Wangi caravan park for an informal get together with a rollup of about 30 plus. It started with a meet & greet at Wangi Wangi RSL where a few tall tales were told and photos were displayed.

On the Saturday various activities were available with some of the group having a Lake Macquarie lunch cruise and others having a quiet punt day and a few beers at Wangi Wangi Workers Club followed by a BBQ back at the Caravan park.



On Sunday we had a Memorial Service for Long Tan Day arranged by Wangi Wangi RSL Sub Branch where we put in for a wreath and Dave Piggott laid it at the Memorial wall on behalf of 6RAR Association, the event was covered by NBN News. *A footnote to the service, a special attendee was Mrs Norma Hines a resident of Wangi Wangi, a patron of Wangi RSL Sub Branch and widow of 2nd Lt Peter Hines A Coy 6 RAR also laid a wreath and did us all the pleasure of joining in after the service.*



Dave Piggott being interviewed by NBN News



After the service we retired to the club for lunch and the afternoon was taken up with dancing to good 70s music where John Fenech did his best John Travolta impression. The evening finished with campfire drinks. All in all, we had a great time catching up with old friends and making new ones in the 6 RAR family.

A special thanks to Wangi RSL and Sub Branch for letting us participate and to Leigh Warren the President for his help over the weekend.

Les Garbett D Coy 70-75



Farewell to the last of our trusty buckets!

This month WO2 Pene and WO2 Balmer moved the last M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carrier out of Long Tan Lines.

This marks the final stage of 6 RAR's transition from a Battalion expert at mechanised operations to one optimised to project by air to respond to regional contingencies



6 RAR members attended Remembrance Day Service and Christmas Lunch in Victoria.

Below Photo: Senior ADF Representative Officers from Victoria (middle former CO Maj Gen Jason Blain)



Above Photo: M A Rahman (Rami)
Maj Gen Jason Blain DSC AM CSC
and Major Adon Cadona



From the right: Premier of Victoria Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, Melbourne Lord Mayor Nick Reece, Victorian Senator Raff Ciccone, Victorian Veterans minister Hon. Natalie Suleyman MP, Ministerial advisor Veterans Oliver Williams, Shrine CEO Mr Dean Lee and former Shrine Chairman Air Vice-Marshal Chris (Retd).

Photo credit to: Susan Gordon-Brown.

Battalion in Training 2024

Direct Fire Support Weapon (DFSW) Basic Course recently qualified our people in the full suite of weapons employed by the DFSW Platoon:

MK47 Automatic Grenade Launcher



50cal Heavy Machine Gun



84mm Carl Gustav

MAG58 in the Sustained Fire Machine Gun role



11 Platoon D Company Vietnam 69 – 70 (by John Fenech)

According to Doug Beetson, member of 11 Platoon, it was the 8th May 1970, our platoon was ordered out and requested to go 15 miles north of the task force base at Nui Dat.

Getting into an APC the carrier hit a heavy Chinese land mine. The platoon lead by CPL B A Chapman who was on top of the carrier with CPL Lance Onslow & PTE J Fenech.

Extract for an Australian Newspaper at the time:

CANBERRA - Six Australian soldiers were wounded yesterday when their armoured carrier was damaged by an enemy mine in Vietnam. Army HQ said today that the carrier stuck a pressure-type mine 13 mile north west of Nui Dat.

Private J Fenech of Sunshine North is in a serious condition in the US 24th Evacuation Hospital at Long Binh.

The others wounded are Pte D.R. Piggott of Springfield Tasmania, Pte D.J. Beetson of Bedford WA, CPL B.A. Chapman of North Sydney NSW, LCPL K. Onslow of Albion Victoria and Pte B.J Buchanan of Darling Point NSW. They are all in a satisfactory condition.



A helicopter took them to the 1st Australian Field Hospital, Vung Tau. Fenech was later taken to the American Hospital

At the very same time, John Fenech's brother, CFN William Fenech was attached to 106 field workshop in Nui Dat. The Australian army in its wisdom sent William home with John to comfort his family. William then returned to Vietnam to continue his tour of duty.

I lost contact with platoon members for a long time, then in the late 90's on one Anzac Day an inquisitive young lady (My daughter- Jane Fenech) saw two men wearing Vietnam medals and decided to go and have a chat to them to ask when they served and if they knew PTE John Fenech. It just turns out that the two gentlemen were PTE Peter Trad & PTE Norm Fraser. They were stunned when they knew that PTE John Fenech was still alive.



As time went on PTE D. Piggott from Tasmania tracked John Fenech living in Victoria. Their friendship has been a very close one.

On Long Tan Day 2024, 11 Pl held a successful reunion at the Wangi Wangi RSL, thanks to the Club President (Leigh Warren) and members, who made them feel welcome and helped make a successful day. At the Reunion, they remembered those who have passed away since including, Neil Rankin, Brian Chapman, PC Smith, Tim Broad, John Haywood, Daryl Knapp.

ADMIN POINTS FROM THE SECRETARY

AUSTRALIA POST ‘ISSUES’: We are experiencing ‘issues’ with our PO Box. We’ve held PO Box 225 at the Red Hill Post Office for 30+ years, but it is now a licenced Post Office, privately owned and operated and it changed owners in the past 12 months, which has caused ‘issues’, such as, correctly addressed mail being returned to sender, missed redirection of mail (see below about redirection) and misplaced mail.

Our secretary, (Wheels) lives 200k NW of Brisbane and for the past 4+ years, our mail has been successfully redirected to him at his home address – a system that worked well until now! Now, the current licensees (who according to Aust Post are following their ‘guidelines’ correctly) will only redirect the mail if the mail is addressed to a person, not to 6 RAR Association, as an Association is seen as a business and redirection of ‘business’ mail requires a \$1400+ per year business redirection fee, instead of a \$140 fee (that we pay) to redirect mail for an individual!

The simple solution for members is to ensure all mail is addressed to Allan Whelan, 6 RAR Association, PO Pox 225, Red Hill, QLD 4059 – we are changing all our forms and letterheads accordingly, as we’ve used this PO Box for so long, it is well known to members and we’d don’t want to move to somewhere that might also ask for the \$1400+ yearly fee.

6 RAR ASSOCIATION EMAIL ADDRESS. Through the Association database program, we send our bulk emails (Vale, General Info, Funeral emails etc) through an email platform using Mail@loveadmin.com as the sender’s email address.

Mail@loveadmin.com can’t/shouldn’t be used as the Association’s email address, as a few people have tried to do in recent months and if used your email will simply be rejected and returned undeliverable.

The correct email address for the Association is wheels6rarassn@gmail.com



Centre Former and oldest living CO, Peter Stokes 70's With David Waterston and Ross Anderson-Brown, at Melbourne's Vietnam Veterans Day 2024

VALE

<i>Obit</i>	<i>Name</i>	
WAYNE CONSTABLE		MAR 1988
CHARLES FREDRICK CLARK		AUG 2020
CHRIS J. SMITH		JAN 24
GEOFF KENDALL, MG		AUG 24
MARK MULLER		SEPT 24
KEN KITE		SEPT 24
PAUL ORLOWSKI		SEPT 24
BILL SNAPE		SEPT 24
REX MCCALL		SEPT 24
PAUL COPPOCK, OAM		SEPT 24
DICK STEVENS		OCT 24
MICHAEL VALENTINE		OCT 24
TREVOR COCKBURN		OCT 24
DICK HUMBY		OCT 24
KEVIN BARRY		OCT 24
STEWART BELFORD		OCT 24
TONY SAYER		NOV 24
JOHN WRIGHT		NOV 24
GARRY JEFFRESS		NOV 24
MARK MOORHOUSE JENNINGS		DEC 24



RAR BRISBANE LUNCH
1st Thursday of every month
Grand Central Hotel
(under Central Railway Station)
From 11.30am

**No RSVP needed, simply
turn up.**

**Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans
Associative** - Victorian Branch has a Veterans Advoca-
cacy Centre in Boronia. Phone 03 9761 2727

Address 83a Boronia Ed Boronia Victoria.

**If you are aware of the passing of any members of
6 RAR past or present please send the details to
the Secretary PO Box 225 Red Hill QLD 4059**

Email: wheels6rarassn@gmail.com

PUBLISHING POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Members are encouraged to contact the Editor to submit any item, article, story, or photograph or general interest to the readership. The name and address of the sender must accompany contributions. The Editor reserves the right to decide publication of any item, for any edition of the newsletter. All articles are considered for publication strictly on merit and must be received by deadline dates. The views expressed in 'Stand To' are entirely those of the contributors and are not necessarily the views or policy of the 6 RAR Association.

INCORPORATION WE ARE NOW FULLY INCORPORATED

On 10 September 2024 our application to 'incorporate' was approved by the QLD Office of Fair Trading, meaning we are now a fully Incorporated Association.

As per the Member's vote in May/June this year, our official name is now 6 RAR Association, INC and we have changed our bank account name accordingly and are in the process of changing our name where required.

As explained in the postal ballot process, Incorporation, offers greater protection to the Committee and to members in the event of a legal challenge, but more importantly, it allows us to apply for DVA and other Grants and to book facilities for reunions without having to have another Association 'sponsor' us.

Yes, there will be costs involved, but we hope to keep them to a minimum.

Over the process of Incorporation, your committee investigated the need for and cost of having Association insurance – for now, we have decided to follow the lead of most other RAR Associations by not having Association insurance, due to the cost, instead we'll simply take-out public liability insurance for Reunions etc or as required.

Copies of the Rules are available for all members, for now via email & PDF, but we'll soon have printed copies available in booklet format for those who want a hard copy. Contact the Secretary, wheels6rarassn@gmail.com / 0427 632 402 for your copy.

The Committee thanks all those who participated in our postal/email ballot and those who offered workable suggestions – your contributions have helped make our Association stronger. Thank you.

Monthly Rifleman's Lunch



First Friday of every month from 11.30am at the Mooloolaba Surf Club.

Lunch is open to all serving or ex-Infantry soldiers of all eras. \$15 with a choice of steak or fish.

No booking needed

Contact: Allan Whelan 0427 632 402

Dear Members,

I would like to wish all members a safe and happy Christmas and New year as we head into 2025, Don't forget to renew your membership to this great Association it's yours. We have our 5 year AGM in June 2025, so if you can help in a position please stick your hand up as some of us have been holding positions for 10 years plus and need a break.

DIGGERS this is your Stand To so anything you think of please send and I will sort the fine details and place within our Stand To on your behalf.

My email:

bazue@optusnet.com.au

Stay safe and check on your mates.

RUOK is everyday.

Cheers

Shippy



TUK TUK ADVENTURE

By Stephen Hull



Hi All, Four blokes from Australia and New Zealand are teaming up for the adventure of a lifetime and to raise funds for charity - and we would love to have your support for a very worthy cause!!!

Over 14 days in April 2025, we will be self-driving two "Indian Rickshaws" (aka "tuk tuks") about 3,000 kms. With no set route, our trek will take us from tropical Fort Kochi, Kerala, in the far south of India, to the Thar Desert in the north-west

state of Rajasthan, finishing at a palace in Jaisalmer (also known as the 'Golden City'). Our two teams are "DaGs", David Hull and Glenn Evans, and "The Rusty Nuts", Kent Price (the Kiwi) and Steve Hull – *Steve is former 6 RAR (Rifle Platoon, Pioneer Pl Commander and AADJT).*

The rickshaws are just slightly more powerful than a lawn mower – this means two weeks of unpredictable adventure while navigating the back roads of India. With no set route, and no back-up support, we'll probably get lost, get stuck or break down - so a dash of madness definitely helps!



About our fundraiser: the team members are covering the costs of participating in Rickshaw Run India - which means that all funds raised from donations made here will go to assisting children and women via our chosen charity: Sambhali Trust – <https://www.sambhali.org>

Our goal is to donate \$A5,000
(but why stop there if we can raise more)

to this marvellous charity based in Rajasthan in India, and we would love to have your support in meeting our target. During the event we will be visiting Sambhali Trust in Jodhpur, and then afterwards the four of us plan to remain in Jaisalmer for several days - we'll be helping out with work on maintenance and repair on some of the Sambhali Trust buildings.

Please donate, share and spread the word to assist a worthy cause and to support a former 6 RAR soldier to achieve the goal of \$5000+. To donate, please use this link:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/india-rickshaw-run-for-sambhali-trust?fbclid=IwY2xjawGmBltleHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHdNXSvwyxKX_NYsEy7Ci2KsfbADxbKPN8ESYTnj_7dxpIqnzEHUKGzJPXw_aem_5LHPbBf3INvf2ZlpgN8q_Q

OR

Donate (EFT deposits only) through the 6 RAR Association, INC and we'll transfer your donation to Steve: 124-185, 10163894, 6 RAR Association, INC, use 'Tuk Tuk' as your deposit reference (so we know who the donation is for).

Follow Steve's adventure in April 2025 at,
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61569138202370>

6 RAR ASSOCIATION REUNION 2025

“CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF 6 RAR”

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 20 MAY 2025. All payments required before 20 May 25. No tickets sold at any event.

NAME	GIVEN NAMES	SURNAME			
EMAIL		PHONE			

YOUR GUEST/S NAME/S	MG	GD	BBQ

I/WE ARE ATTENDING:	TIME	COST PER PERSON	PAYING FOR (NUMBER ATTENDING)	SUB TOTAL
Meet & Greet (MG) Friday 06/06/2025 Amora Hotel 200 Creek Street Brisbane. DRESS: Neat Casual.	1800h	\$40.00	(Include yourself)	\$
Gala Dinner (GD). SATURDAY 07/06/2025 The Sofitel Hotel Brisbane, 249 Turbot Street Brisbane. DRESS: Male - Coat & tie. Ladies 'After 5 wear'.	1800h	\$150.00	(Include yourself)	\$

Please seat me with _____ or with Sub Unit/Group: _____

Memorial Service/AGM/BBQ Sunday 08/06/2025	At 6 RAR: DRESS: Neat Casual.	0900h	\$40.00	(Include yourself)	\$
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Please complete the ID requirements on page 2 if attending on 8 June 2025.

Total Owing:	\$
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PAYMENT:	Cheque/Money Order Payable to the 6 RAR Association	O R	Preferred method - Bank deposit or EFT to: (BSB 124-185 Account Number 10163894 Name: 6 RAR Association INC. (Deposit Reference = Surname + R25). (cheaper than paying by credit card)
Credit Card	Card Number:		
NOTE: Using a Credit Card adds a 3.5% fee to your payment.			(expiry date) (CVV)
(Name on Card)		Signature	
PAY BY INSTALLMENTS (for Credit Card payment only – will add a 3.5% fee for each payment).			I wish to pay in 5 monthly instalments (total owing divided by 5).
			\$

Please complete the additional information (as required) on the next page.

6 RAR ASSOCIATION REUNION 2025 (CONTINUED)

If more space needed, please use a 2nd Registration Form

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS (Every attempt will be made to provide your requirements, but it can't be guaranteed)				
NAME	DIETARY REQUIREMENTS ie, Gluten Free / Vegan / Vegetarian etc	FUNCTION (TICK AS REQUIRED)		
		MG	GD	BBQ
		MG	GD	BBQ
		MG	GD	BBQ
		MG	GD	BBQ

PHOTO ID REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY TO 6 RAR CURRENT GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED FOR EACH PERSON ENTERING THE BARRACKS ID = Driver's Licence/Proof of Age Card/Passport/Defence ID/Other Government Issued ID. (Copies are NOT required). (CHILDREN: UNDER 16 = NO ID. 16 – 18 = SCHOOL ID IS ACCEPTED. OVER 18 MUST HAVE ADULT ID.)		
FULL NAME:	ID NUMBER	STATE OF ISSUE

When completed – Return to 6 RAR Association by:

POST:	TO: MR A. WHELAN, 6 RAR Association INC, C/- 99 Wickham Street, Nanango QLD 4615	O R	Email: wheels6rarassn@gmail.com
	(Remember to save the file after completing)		

HOTEL DISCOUNT OFFERS

See attached list - lots of discounts have been arranged.

NOTE: If using hotel booking sites, WOTIF, Booking.com, Hotel Trivago etc, make sure you select the correct cancellation option, or you may have to paid in full if you cancel. REMEMBER: the cheapest option might not be the best option for your circumstances!

 6 RAR ASSOCIATION ABN 53 464 051 844 www.6rarassociation.com	6 RAR ASSOCIATION 'STAND TO' SUBSCRIPTION/RENEWAL 2025-2030 Please Tick or Cross the appropriate box/es. www.6rarassociation.com
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NAME: _____

(Given Name) (Surname) Post Nominals

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ **STATE:** _____ **POSTCODE:** _____

HOME PHONE: _____ **MOBILE PHONE:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I renew my Stand Subscription for the 5 year period until June 2030 by:

By Email (PDF) @ \$100	<i>Tick/X</i>	or	By Post @ \$120	<i>Tick/X</i>
			SUB TOTAL	\$_____

DONATION	
To help the Association retain FREE membership, I donate to the Association:	\$_____
TOTAL	\$_____
PAY BY INSTALMENT: I wish to pay by 4 monthly installments (Credit Card payments only)	
<i>Tick/X</i>	

PAYMENT				
Cheque/Money Order Payable to the 6 RAR Association	O R	Bank deposit or EFT: (account details below)	O R	Credit Card (add a 3.5% surcharge)
(BSB 124-185 Account Number 10163894 Name: 6 RAR Association. (Deposit Reference = Surname + ST, e.g. 'BloggsST').)				
Card Number:				
			(expiry date)	(CVV)

(Name on Card)

(Signature)

When Complete, please return to:

BY POST TO: <u>(addressed as shown)</u> Mr Allan Whelan, Secretary 6 RAR Association INC, PO Box 225, Red Hill Qld 4059	O R	BY EMAIL TO: wheels6rarassn@gmail.com Please remember: To scan & save your file before emailing. Credit Card or EFT payments only by email
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6 RAR ASSOCIATION INC REUNION 2025 DISCOUNT ACCOMMODATION OFFERS

OPEN FOR JUNE 2025 BOOKINGS NOW!!

RIVERSIDE APARTMENTS – Southbank:

Book direct with the Hotel – E: FOM@riversidehotel.com.au P: 07 3846 0577

We are happy to organise a corporate rate for you guys and I am happy to hold the rooms so they can contact me directly for bookings. See details below:

Standard hotel room – Consists of a queen and a single bed, tea and coffee facilities, dining table, mini fridge, and all our rooms have a balcony. The rate is \$160 a night room only.

1 Bedroom Apartment – Separate bedroom and lounge room, a queen bed in the bedroom and a fold-out sofa in the lounge room, cooking facilities, fridge, laundry facilities, and all rooms have a balcony. The rate is \$175 a night room only.

1-bedroom Superior Apartment – Similar size and details to the 1 1-bedroom apartment but recently refurbished. The rate is \$195 a night room only.

A full buffet breakfast can be organised for an extra \$25 per person each morning.

RYDGES SOUTH BANK

A couple of different links and contact details below that you can distribute to your members:

1. Discount link for accommodation
 - Using this link, the members can make their bookings and will receive 10% off the Best Available Flexible Rate.
 - o www.rydges.com/private-page/local-delegate-direct-booking-page
2. Dining Discounts:
 - o 20% off on Bacchus Restaurant bookings - <https://eu.sevenrooms.com/xGE5sSSe>
 - o 20% off on Soleil bookings - <https://eu.sevn.ly/xodqMmok>
 - Contact phone number: Members can contact the hotel directly via: Phone: +61 7 3364 0800
 - Email: reservations_rydgessouthbank@evt.com

Amora Hotel, 200 Creek Street Brisbane Discount is valid: **03/06/2025 – 10/06/2025 only**

This is a dedicated link for Reunion 2025 – simply follow the onscreen prompts:

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/113954?RatePlanId=9033386>

It is up to individuals if they wish to take advantage of any of the accommodation offers secured by the Association for your stay in Brisbane for Reunion 2025. There is no obligation for members to stay at these accommodation venues.

Mantra South Bank Brisbane:

Discount offered: **10% off** (valid: **05/06/2025 – 09/06/2025 only**)

Promo Code: **6RARASSO25**

Notes: All rooms are subject to availability at time of booking. There will be no release backs or inventory updates leading up to check in.

- **Promo codes are only valid for bookings made online; and will require full prepayment.**
- Bookings will also be subject to any minimum night stay restrictions as listed on the website.

How to book:	1. go to: https://all.accor.com/a/en.html	2. In 'Where do you want to travel' type in Mantra South Bank Brisbane
	3. Enter Check in/Check out dates & Room/Guest details (Hint: Don't 'click' the search button yet!)	
	4. Click 'Special Rates' (in blue below check-in/out area)	
	5. Look for Other special rates and promo code Choose a Rate (right side of screen)	
	6. Click the down arrow	7. Scroll down the list to the end & select Promo code
	8. Enter the promo code - 6RARASSO25	9. Click on Confirm
	10. Now go back up and click Search	11. The Search will take you to the room type available via the discount offer.
	12. Simply follow the onscreen prompts to complete your booking and you will get email confirmation.	
	Once booking is confirmed, it can be accessed via My Bookings on the same website or app by logging in using the Reservation number on your confirmation and the Surname on the booking .	

Online Terms and Conditions apply to these bookings. For full terms & conditions please

<https://all.accor.com/a/en/information/internet-sales-conditions.html>

TREASURY - STAR HOTEL - Terms & Conditions

• 10% off Best Available Rate or		• 20% off Best Available Rate & Minimum 2 night stay
• Please note discount is calculated from “Best Available Rate”, not from lowest rate available.		
• Valid for all room types.		• Rates are bookable 3 days pre and post event dates.
• Rates are subject to availability & Blackout dates apply.		• Bookable via Star Website & Central Reservations.
• Hotel rates are only valid per 12 months, if the event is more than 12 months out hotel will not be open for bookings.		
How To Book:	Go to https://www.star.com.au/brisbane/	Choose your date/s
	Enter number of guests	Click on Special Code & scroll down the list to Group Attendee
	Click on Group Attendee	Enter Group Attendee Code - EVENT
	Click search rooms	Follow the prompts

Stay 1 night to receive 10% off room accommodation, rate inclusive of GST.

Stay 2 nights to receive 20% off room accommodation, rate inclusive of GST.

Sofitel Hotel, Brisbane, 249 Turbot Street Brisbane Discount is valid: **04/06/2025 – 09/06/2025 only**. This is a dedicated link for Reunion 2025 – simply follow the onscreen prompts:

<https://www.idem.events/r/army-association-reunion>

ADINA HOTELS AND APARTMENTS

APARTMENT HOTEL ANZAC SQUARE 255 Ann Street Brisbane.	&	ADINA APARTMENT HOTEL BRISBANE 171 George Street Brisbane
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Offer of 20% off the hotels fully flexible rate. Important information about online links:

- The % discount off the hotel's fully flexible rate will apply over the event dates.
- book and pay for their own accommodation.
- The hotels won't be holding the rooms as the rates and allocations are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- If the hotels are no longer able to offer the discounted rate, the online link will automatically close and the next available rate will show.
- From time to time the hotels run specials with strict terms and conditions such as fully pre-paid and non-refundable. Those specials have a limited inventory and will be available for your members to book, if they are happy with those terms and conditions.
- Please note that we are unable to issue a contract for online links as rates and allocations are subject to availability at the time of booking.

Please use the following links which will automatically sign members in to the 6 RAR Association profile where you will be able to select the dates and room type to make a reservation.

How To Book:	Adina Apartment Hotel Brisbane Anzac Square		ADINA APARTMENTS BRISBANE – 171 George Street Brisbane	
	CLICK: Book Now	Enter number of guests	CLICK: Book Now Note: this is a different link to the one for Anzac Square	Enter number of guests
	Select your stay date/	Scroll through the rooms offered	Select your stay date/s	Scroll through the rooms offered
	Click SELECT for your selected room	Follow the prompts	Click SELECT for your selected room	Follow the prompts

NOTE: The online link for both venues is a dedicated link for Reunion 2025

NOTE 2: Neither link for the Adina Apartments are working - contact Wheels, 0427632402, for info.

EVOLUTION APARTMENTS

Our units are fully self contained and we do not have a food and beverage facility in the building. Guests can cook for themselves in the units.

We can off 10 x 1 Bedroom Apartments for \$205 per night. We also have 6 x 2 bedroom / 2 bathroom Apartments available f for \$ 305 per night.

Website: <http://www.evolutionapartments.com.au>

How To Book:	Go To: http://www.evolutionapartments.com.au	CLICK: Make a Booking
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EMPORIUM HOTEL SOUTH BANK

We would be able to offer 10% off our fully flexible rate for your attendees, which would be valid on all of our room types and include our breakfast rates.

If they are staying longer, we also have a Staycation special always available on our website which may be more favourable depending on the length.

Rate Access Code: 6RAR

NOTE: This is a dedicated Reunion 2025 link

How To Book:	Go to https://reservations.travelclick.com/103264?RatePlanId=9186219	Use the right arrow to scroll through the months to June 2025
	Select your stay dates	CLICK: Apply
	Select your room/s from the list	CLICK: Go to Check out
	Follow the prompts	

8 PROPERTIES BY CLLIX:

Event Name: 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Reunion 2025		Promo Code: 6RAR2025	
Discount:	12% of our website advertised rates	Cancellation:	Will depend on the rate plan they booked
Stay Dates:	June 3 – 12, 2025		
Sale Date:	By the time we received confirmation you wish to proceed until Jun 11, 2025		
Available Properties BY CLLIX:	Brisbane CBD:	Brisbane Skytower	
	South Brisbane:	Brisbane One Apartments	Atlas Apartments
Arena Apartments		Soda Apartments	Ivy & Eve Apartments
		Hope Street Apartments	
Car Parking:	Brisbane Skytower - \$35 per night, per apartment (limited and pre-booking is required)		
	South Brisbane – free car parking space per apartment except Studio room at Brisbane One Apartments.		
To Book any of the above:	Go to www.cllix.com	Click 'Select' & select the Hotel you wish to book from the list	
	Enter your dates	Enter number of guests	Enter Promo Code 6RAR2025
	Click Book Now	Follow the prompts	