

XXXI / XLII



31st/42nd Battalion



The Royal Queensland Regiment

2020
Battalion Newsletter



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LTCOL Damien Green

What a busy year for the Brigade and the Battalion 2020 has been. We thought we were busy last year kicking off with the Townsville Floods but this year has 2019 trumped.

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CO's Welcome

LTCOL Damien Green

The Battalion has committed to multiple concurrent Domestic Operational deployments this year starting with OP BUSHFIRE 19 ASSIST, then search for a missing person in Mackay followed rapidly with OP COVID-19 ASSIST and then the Emergency Support Force for the Central and North Queensland High Risk Weather Season. Most of the Battalion has deployed on a Domestic Operation this year and performed to an excellent standard.

The impacts of the COVID pandemic were felt by all in one way, shape or form. For the Battalion it meant quite the opposite of staying at home in isolation with personnel tasked with assisting the Queensland Government in the conduct of Quarantine Compliance Monitoring, Border Checkpoints, and Bio-security Zone checkpoints all over the state. For many of us we remembered the horror and sacrifice of war for the first time from our homes and driveways. Throughout this time right until the present – we have all had to observe Queensland social distancing requirements to ensure we reduce risk of catching and spreading COVID.

For a time the Battalion was required to conduct training remotely through distance learning via platforms such as Zoom, The Cove and ForceNet which has now validated different ways in which we can achieve training outcomes efficiently and effectively. It does not, however, replace our requirement for conducting collective training for war. We have seen another positive effect through the use of technology which is the ability for interested people to apply to join the Defence Force through an on-line process including the conduct of Officer Selection Boards.

Despite these challenges the Battalion has achieved much over the last two years in the conduct of Raise, Train, Sustain operations and

DOMOPS. These include but are not limited to the following:

- mobilising and deploying ISO Townsville Flood Assist
- Deploying on EX PL Warfighter at TFTA in extreme weather conditions
- Raising an ISR capability
- Deploying on EX BR19
 - Rifle Platoon operated to an excellent standard in extreme weather conditions
 - ISR conducted demanding Trg (well designed by the RSM) in the same weather conditions and validated their high standards during the STX lane achieving better results than other Recon Pl's.
- Contributions to Rifle Company Butterworth Malaysia.
- Deploying on OP BA19 - Kangaroo Island to assist the local community in recovering from the devastation that received worldwide attention. Our contribution received validation through the overwhelming community response to the troops on the ground.
- Searching for missing persons IVO Mackay which resulted in finding the elderly person alive and receiving lifesaving treatment against exposure.
- Deploying on OP C19A for extended durations.
- Contributing to Legacy through welfare calls and EX Backyard Assist. Special thanks to Defence Reserve Support.
- Taking the lead on recruiting in CQ, NQ and FNQ
- Supporting significant ceremonial occasions on ANZAC Day, and Remembrance Day.

Sadly – during this time we also said farewell to SGT Darren “Taz” Whitehouse who lost his battle with cancer on 28 October 2020. Taz was

a great character of the Battalion who always had the welfare of the soldier at heart. My deepest respect and condolences go out to Taz's wife Deb and family who were by his side every step of the way during his battle.

Besides the usual postings we will also say farewell to the Battalion 2IC MAJ Ian Reid who retires with effect 17 January 2021 after 40 years of distinguished service. MAJ Reid has dedicated much of his life to the Royal Queensland Regiment and it will be a sad day for not only him, but also the Battalion and Regiment when he retires. We also say farewell to Mr Nigel Harper who will retire after a lifetime of service to the ADF in the Army and APS. I know I speak for everyone when I thank you both for your service wish you all the best in your retirement.

This year also marks my final year in Command of the Battalion. I feel extremely privileged to have had the honour to command a unit with such professional Officers, Warrant Officers, Senior NCOs, Junior NCOs and soldiers. The achievements over the last two years are confirmation of the calibre of people we have in the unit and for that I could not be prouder. I thank each and everyone one of you for the commitment you have shown to the unit in what I would consider an unprecedented operational tempo which has asked a lot of the Battalion and for that I am extremely grateful. All of the excellent work we have achieved could not have been possible if it weren't for the support of our employers. Your commitment and sacrifice contributes to defence capability and is very much appreciated. I am grateful that we have the annual Employer Support Awards to recognise employer contributions to Defence, and hope to see these grow in nominations. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the unsung heroes of our military capability - the families and partners. We know and greatly appreciate the sacrifice you make every time your partner walks out the door on task or deployment. You all deserve medals for your

sacrifice and I genuinely and whole heartedly thank you for this.

Finally, I would like to wish the incoming Commanding Officer of the Battalion, LTCOL David Gandy (Bio on last page), all the best for his tenure and I look forward to hearing about the Battalions exploits into the future. I hope you all have a great time with friends and family over the Christmas Holidays and all the best for a great 2021.

Regards,

CO LTCOL Damien Green

RSMs Update



Firstly I would like to say what a year 2020 turned out to be for the Army and in particular the Battalion and its members. As the Commanding Officer mentioned we have been through some significant challenges and unprecedented events in 2020 that none of us could have anticipated especially coming out of the year we had with 2019. It seems like only yesterday that we were all looking forward and hoping to get back to business in January 2020 with a crawl, walk, run plan to get us back into the business of raise train and sustaining our foundation warfighting capability. Alas this was not to be as is now becoming a normal part of our Australian Summers we were required to deploy domestically in support of the Bushfire recovery efforts on the East Coast and in Southern Australia. This saw a platoon + of the unit away for nearly 1 month in support of those communities directly

impacted by the Bushfires. The feedback from these communities and the members returning was that the support provided by the Australian Defence Force was critical in saving lives as well as assisted in the speedy recovery of the communities as well as increased morale of the general populace. A great effort by all those who supported the operation unfortunately this was not the end but just the start of the DACC support we would provide to the Australian people.

As we are all aware now in March as we had members returning from OP Bushfire Assist 19 and from RCB the world was starting to deal with a worldwide pandemic. Although we are well positioned geographically we were not immune from the spread of the COVID 19 virus. Initially the majority of the fulltime ADF went into lockdown and adopted a work from home mentality to limit the spread. For the 2nd Division we picked up the responsibility of assisting the state government with the Hardening of Borders and Quarantine Compliance Management. This was timely as due to the closing of a majority of businesses the ADF was able to keep its part time members fully employed as well as provide a sustainable workforce to the COVID Taskforce that was OP COVID 19 ASSIST.

As the year progressed and we slowly eased and then reinforced restrictions depending on the daily numbers of those infected and their locations we slowly recommenced our raise train sustain operations however utilizing remote learning via ForceNet and The Cove. This method of training delivery is now a normal part of Battalion life and is effective especially given the dispersed area of operations we are faced with.

On the Customs and Traditions front we saw a number of ceremonial activities cancelled, or significantly modified due to social distancing requirements. The standout was ANZAC Day which saw all the battalion's ceremonial tasks cancelled. Although we could not gather collectively, the majority of the Unit held their own driveway services as part of the RSL's #LightUpTheDawn initiative. Although we did

manage to support Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day due to the easing of some Social Distancing requirements. In 2021 we will continue to plan, conduct and support ceremonial activities within the constraints at the time. This is an important aspect of our service life and is a key responsibility to help maintain some of the customs and traditions of the Army and the Unit.

In regards to Honours and Awards the Battalion has had a great deal of its members acknowledged for their exemplary service and outstanding achievements. These have ranged from the awarding of Australian Defence Medals, Defence Long Service Medals and Clasps, RAINF 20 Year Service Certificates and Australia Day Medallions. Some of the more significant awards were Soldiers Medallions for Exemplary Service to PTE Nelson, CPL Anderson, CPL Davenport and CPL Howe. Army Commendations for CPL Solis (Bronze), SGT Valle (Bronze) and MAJ Lalor (Silver). One of the most significant presentations of the year was of WO2 Lergessner's Federation Star for 40 years of service to the ADF. Well done to all those who received recognition in 2020.

As we finish off 2020 with the preparation for the High Risk Weather Season and the assuming of the responsibilities of the Emergency Support Force for both Central and North Queensland we are saying farewell to a number of regular staff who are discharging, retiring or posting out in 2021. To MAJ Ian Reid (Retiring), CAPT Cameron Atkinson (3CSR), WO2 Scott Brady (1 RAR), WO2 Dale Ingram (UNSWR), WO2 Brenda Rozitis (School of Armour), SGT Pat Marshall (P & EE-

GRAYTOWN) and Mr Nigel Harper (Retiring) we would like to thank you for all your efforts and service and wish you all the best in your new endeavors and Units. Also leaving us at the end of 2020 is the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Damien Green who is heading back to CTC in Townsville as the Chief of Staff in 2021. From the Unit I would like to thank the Commanding Officer for his leadership and tireless efforts made throughout his tenure. Having spent a majority of my time with the CO and seeing him constantly being the number one spokesman for the Unit I can honestly say that he has always put the well-being and needs of the Battalion and its members both past and present first. We wish him, Ronnie and the Girls all the best in the future and hope that he looks back on his time with fond memories.

In closing of this update I would like to wish all members of the Battalion a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year. I hope you all get a decent rest with your loved ones and families and I look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

RSM WO1 John Stafford

Executive Officer's Retirement

MAJ Ian Reid originally enlisted into the Australian Army General Reserve (GRes), in 1980, from St George in South West Queensland, as a Rifleman with the 49th Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment, "The Bushman's Rifles".

He remained with the 49th Battalion until his promotion to Sergeant in 1985, where he was subsequently posted to the 41st Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment, appointed as the Pioneer Platoon Sergeant, and Depot Commander, Murwillumbah Depot from 1985 to 1989.

In 1989 MAJ Reid returned to 49 RQR on promotion to WO2 and from 1989 – 1990, MAJ Reid undertook a period of continuous fulltime service (CFTS) with QUR as an Instructor with the GRes Officer Cadet First Appointment Course, and then as a Team Leader posted to the Land Command Battle School (LCBS) Battle Wing Tully.

At the end of 1990, *MAJ Ian Reid - Piping at Belgian Gardens cemetery on Remembrance Day 2020*

MAJ Reid was posted back to the 49th Battalion, as CSM C Company 49 RQR Ready Reserve, where he remained until 1995, when he was posted as a

Warrant Officer Instructor with the 51 FNQR Training Team until 2001.

In 2001, MAJ Reid posted to the 25th/49th Battalion and was appointed CSM B Company and Depot Commander Warwick and Stanthorpe Depots.

He was commissioned to the rank of CAPT on 01 Jan 2004 and was appointed 2IC B Company, then operating from Toowoomba, Dalby, Roma, Goondiwindi, Warwick and Stanthorpe Depots. In 2005 he posted to the 31st Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment, and was appointed as 2IC B COY and Depot Commander Charters Towers Depot, until 2007, where he was posted to the



Queensland University Regiment North Queensland Company, as the Senior Instructor First Appointment Course, and PL Commander, Owen Stanley Platoon.

In 2009 he was posted to 141 Signals Squadron as the Operations Officer, until his promotion to Major 01 Jan 2010, when he assumed Command of Bravo Company 31/42 RQR until the end of 2014.

During this posting, he undertook another period of CFTS. For 7 months in 2011-12 he deployed to the Solomon Islands on Operation Anode, Rotation 26, before returning to 31/42 RQR.

In 2015 he was appointed as Executive Officer and Second In Command of 31/42 RQR where he remained until the conclusion of 2020.

During the COVID 19 Pandemic of 2020, the CO of 31/42 RQR, LTCOL Damien Green, was seconded to HQ Joint Task Group 629.3, which meant that Battalion Administrative Command was transferred to MAJ Reid for four months. October 2020 marked MAJ Reids 40 years of service to the Australian Army as a Reserve Soldier and Officer, and saw him tender his application to retire from Service.

On his retirement, MAJ Reid wished the Battalion 'all the best in 2021'. He also gave grateful thanks for all of the support that he received from the CO, RSM, Officers and Soldiers of the Battalion, during a very demanding year. He also offered his best wishes to Maj Barbie Keller the incoming XO.

He has given a commitment to work with the Battalion Associations in 2021.

Operations Officer's Update

2020 year-to-date was definitely not what was planned and envisioned by anyone. Firstly, thank you across the Battalion for the response to first of the 2020 challenges, Operation Bush Fire Assist (OP BA) – 32 personnel deploying this number would have been far higher due to the initial embargo of the deployment of personnel

from outside metropolitan areas. This was followed up by some of the RCB 128 personnel transitioning to 5 BDE for OPBA in NSW whilst the rest of those were deployed to Kangaroo Island.

The second challenge was OP COVID-19 ASSIST where the response across the Battalion was outstanding and in particular to the initial focus on Task Units 3 then 2 and the reinforcements to Task Unit 1 and the individual key staff appoints to JTG 629.3. In addition to this was the rate of effort to support the deployment with command, movements, logistic support and Reception Staging On-forwarding & Integration by those personnel, who either through position, MEC or availability, could not themselves deploy. The Battalion again was the nucleus of the North Queensland response.

What next?

- Firstly, touch base with your employers – we will thank them for your release to support the above and secondly engage them during your commitment planning for FY 20/21 in order to achieve the Battalion and your goals with their support with the courtesy of timely notice for relief planning. Remind them and link them to the Employer Support Programme – this assists in your release.
- Secondly, the focus for the remainder of CY 2020 will be a combination of individual training – specialist and career, ECN 343 Competency Log, AFA currency, ACP, BCCC (digital) Modules,
- NV1 – is critical to your employment. Technically no NV1 - no DPN or Defence Establishment access. The only personnel at Baseline are trainees, this system is being

tightened up and there is little room for delay.

- Opportunities for deployments – these still exist: generally you will need to be ECN 343-2, be NV1, AIRN current, MEC 1-2, and have fulfilled any other criteria.

Despite the unusual start to 2020, FY 2021 will provide plenty of scope to increase the capability of the Battalion, to challenge the individual and provide opportunities for deployments and advancement. There will be at least three training weekends, as well as some of the following activities: over 16-19 July a PME (EF88 Ensemble, F89 and NFE) with follow-on NFE training in Mackay and Rockhampton, Military Skills Weekend, HE and FTX, a Brigade/Individual Courses period, some stand-alone sessions and opportunities to train with CTC and 3 Bde Units.

In the S3 and S7 Cells we have SGT Marshall as the A/OPSWO, WO2 Ingram has returned and will look at the OPSWO duties once he is back from OP RESOLUTE, CPL Clayton Anthony has joined the OPS and the S7, WO1 Ash Barker is still with albeit working 4000km away – congrats to leading the IYOTGO and Distance/Dispersed Trg during COVID. I look forward to an exciting year in 2021 and seeing you at training/on task.

OPSO MAJ Christopher Rosenthal

Adjutant's Update

The ADJT position has been challenging, fast paced and has definitely given me a much greater appreciation of how the battalion functions. I've gotten to know so many more soldiers and it's extremely gratifying to be amongst a group of high performers that share a 'get it done attitude'.

So many volunteered for the fires on OPERATION BUSHFIRE ASSIST and it happened all over again with the same great attitude during OP COVID-19 ASSIST. Accompanying the CO and the RSM, I met

many of the soldiers returning from domestic and international operations and their employers and families.

The commissioning ceremony of Lieutenant Cathren Hawker on 26 May was a special event. As our unit CPL OP SUP, CPL Cat Hawker provided many years of valuable service. She has now accepted a position as Nursing Officer with 11 Combat Service Support Battalion in order to use

her tertiary qualifications and provide more valuable service to the ADF.



On 17 March I accompanied the Executive Officer, MAJ Reid to Mackay to extend our appreciation to employers of Reservists. SGT Steve Oberg started the night off with a presentation showing the work done on Kangaroo Island to help the community recover from the devastation they'd suffered. Awards were then presented to Mackay Base Hospital Security Manager, Ms Sarah Springate and to the Operations Manager of Central Queensland University, Mr Aaron Hardman. An impressive series of equipment and capability displays followed with Ms Springate and Mr Hardman getting involved.

I also hold the position of Unit Public Affairs Officer and Secretary of the Jimmy Gordon VC

Club. Thank you to the RQMS WO2 Brenda Rozitis for all her efforts refurbishing, cleaning and categorizing all the mess property. It's been a massive effort and the mess looks great for it. We've also been in discussions with the military museums at Jezzine Barracks, Charters Towers and Ingham. I encourage everyone to get out to these places and soak up some of our long and distinguished history.

In July I took up the position of OC Combat Team Cairns on Quarantine Compliance Monitoring duties. We had up to 50 personnel from Army and Navy working on frontline tasks with Queensland Police. This is an essential task with interest shown from strategic levels within Defence, including visits from Chief of Navy and Commander 11th Brigade.

We've once again demonstrated to the general public and the Government that we can rapidly respond to tasks and provide capability in times of crisis. The precedent has been set so I expect, in times of disaster and disruption, Australians will now expect to see Army Reserve personnel working closely with Emergency Services in that 'First Responder' category.

ADJT CAPT Cameron Atkinson

Capricornia Coy



OC Capricornia Coy

Team, to say it has been an interesting year so far would be an understatement. I must start by saying thank you to the soldiers, NCOs, SGTs, Warrant Officers and Officers of Capricornia Company for their efforts and their dedication to duty in these challenging times.

We have seen a shift from the traditional Tuesday and Trg Weekend activities to an online home based training and a self-motivated fitness training regime to accommodate restrictions while remaining effective and motivated. I commend you on your ability to change and be flexible whilst maintaining the drive and commitment to the Coy/Bn. The demands made of us this year have been unique and unprecedented in our careers and as always, you meet and exceed my expectations.

Currently we have personnel supporting OP Highroad in Afghanistan and closer to home with OP COVID-19 ASSIST. We have deployed soldiers to RCB and OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST all in the space of 5 months. Thank you and well done to you all.

Finally, once again I would like to acknowledge the families that support and underpin the foundation of our endeavours. We could not do what we do without you – thank you.

Regards,

MAJ Grant



Above – MAJ Grant presents then LT Wooler (now CAPT), his 20 year certificate.

TRG WO Capricornia Coy

When the start of this year kicked off in-line with the new Battalion Training Program it looked like we were in for a cruisey year but that changed quickly thanks to the world deciding to have a pandemic, very inconsiderate. At the same period we still had personnel on 'Bushfire Assist' and three soldiers in Malaysia who did an outstanding job in both locations, but I think the Bushfire Assist guys got the better deal by getting to go to numerous free concerts, fishing, saving Koalas and many more fun things, whilst the Malaysia soldiers were fighting through the jungle in extreme temperatures, killing heaps of bad dudes with blank ammunition and attending range shoots in the town Pulada, wondering if they would be attacked by tigers or trampled by elephants.

Besides the above, the year kicked off with the usual Force Preservation Training to prepare us for the year ahead. I then attended EX Second

Step (Unit planning conference) along with a bunch of others who tried to avoid going but got dragged along kicking and screaming. I then got chosen to support the Officer Training course in Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney as the unit wanted their best man to attend.

On return from Holsworthy we were back into training, conducting shooting with Kennedy Company in Townsville and then thanks to Corona Virus, the world fell apart and we were quickly re-tasked to support COVID-19 and cancel most of our planned activities due to new social distancing rules. In order to maintain currency and soldier training the S7 (Training Officer) along with a number of our Senior & Junior NCOs quickly developed on-line packages which could be completed from home locations allowing our soldiers to be employed and maintain that unit cohesiveness and skills required to keep them ready for future tasking.

During my time with the Company I have learnt some interesting facts about some of the soldiers:

- LT Evans thinks she is a General on the frontline
- SGT Marks is like a sweet & sour lolly, grumpy one moment and then quite sweet soon after
- SGT McCulloch is more bitter and twisted than me
- CPL Davenport cannot read or write
- CPL Solis thinks the world revolves around him
- LCPL Becker is the richest soldier in the world
- LCPL Hibble needs to get his family photos off Facebook
- LCPL Cox is the most intelligent person I know
- PTE Abela is the best machine gunner in the world
- PTE Brown looks like he just turned 16
- PTE Bryan is well developed in some areas
- PTE Dahal speaks six languages but not English
- PTE Eyles is by far the best looking soldier in the Defence Force
- PTE Ford is a poor policeman as he hasn't had a desk pop yet
- PTE Johnson has been in the Army 20 years and hasn't learnt a thing

- PTE Patton is just annoying
- PTE Kuhl can grow a moustache overnight
- PTE Porter can smoke 3 packets of cigarettes in a day
- PTE Spencer can outrun most of the soldiers over a long distance
- PTE Stanke needs a shut-off switch as he works at 500% capacity
- PTE Tuilovoni is a man-made mountain who also annoys me with family photos on Facebook

Again, I thank all my soldiers for their on-going support to the unit in difficult times like this, they continually surprise me and make you proud to be part of their team. For those who have families at home with them, please appreciate the extra time you have with them

4 Platoon

It's been a busy time for 4 Platoon. The staff Christmas party involved skeet shooting at Gladstone Target Club. When the scores were tallied, no Queen's Medals were awarded; the proprietor suggested that if Gladstone were ever invaded by clay targets that we might be in serious trouble (He did qualify this with some praise, believing that if Gladstone were attacked by an open bar, 4 Platoon would sort it out in quick time).

In January, the bushfires saw a call out for OPERATION BUSHFIRE ASSIST, of which some of our members went to Kangaroo Island to provide support. SGT McCulloch took over as the Training Sergeant around this time, providing a very hands-on approach, which has been welcomed at the depot. Concurrently, PTE Valentine returned from completing his time at Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia where he 'acquired' a jungle-related illness, suffering terribly. On the upside, his flight from Malaysia wasn't cancelled.

In February, both Capricornia and Kennedy Company concentrated at the Mount Stuart

and try not to kill each other. For those who are home alone feeling sorry for yourselves, you will never know how lucky you are until you get married.

TRGWO WO2 Paul Lergessner



Training Area for the annual range weekend, recertifying on both the EF88 Enhanced Austeyr Rifle and F89 Minimi Light Support Weapon. In between range details, training staff conducted concurrent lessons on BCCC, room clearing and navigation, benefiting all participants.

On Tuesday nights, training has included weapon drills and electronic practices of RP3A, facilitated through recently acquired digital platforms. Additionally, many members completed the COVID-19 ASSIST pre-training in preparation for potential deployment.

In support of JTG 629.3, two members travelled to Cairns in support of the operation, while the remainder of 4 Platoon has continued parading

from home. Although parading from home has had its perks, a feeling of intense longing for the re-opening of the boozier remains apparent amongst members. Although economic experts initially projected that the closure of the

Gladstone All Ranks Canteen during initial restrictions would detrimentally effect the Gladstone economy for years to come, 4 Platoon is ready to ameliorate these dire predictions in short order.

PTE Rowe



OP BA 19 (Left):
PTE Spencer picqueting pickets.



(Right) PTE Clements sending conflicting messages – Camouflage and hi-vis at the same time.

5 Platoon & ISR

We have seen a busy start to 2020 with members from both Platoons Deploying to OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST and OP COVID-19 ASSIST and in addition members nominated for possible deployment to OP Highroad.

We had members CPL West, PTE Brown & PTE Stanke return from Rifle Company Butterworth after a successful deployment, and at short notice, conduct a DACC tasking in Mackay to support emergency services to locate a missing local.

Members that are not currently deployed have adapted to the new development of remote training and it just proves to show that on all levels we need to remain vigilant and ready to take on the next challenge.

One thing that remains very clear in my mind as I reflect on what all members of both Platoons have demonstrated is that as part of a Reserve body and part of 31/42 RQR, the quality of our members, is second to none. Their great attitudes and how capable each member is in their own right should be admired. Holding both Civilian and Military qualifications is a very valuable asset and this was proven time again on OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST. To be able to walk away from the property owners each day knowing that you all contributed to someone's life was very humbling and those moments will remain very special to those community members for the rest of their life.

Members on RCB deployed within days of completing Brolga Run, and all reports say that they did us proud. In addition members in such



uncertain times are willing to leave their families and civilian workplaces and support OP COVID at short notice.

As a whole this is something I wish to thank each and every Platoon member for and admire

LT Evans

6 Platoon

Well 2020 is off and racing for 6PL. We kicked off the year with OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST by providing 8 members to assist the local community of Kangaroo Island off the coast of South Australia. This was a good result for the Mackay depot and an excellent opportunity for our newer diggers to learn new skills and gain operational experience.



Above - PTE Casali and PTE Angus inspect burnt out vegetation along the coast line of Kangaroo Island

that you remain motivated to support 31/42 RQR and on every level. You are doing a top job representing the Unit, and in the way you continue to support each other.'

After arriving in Adelaide and conducting RSO&I at Keswick barracks the team moved straight over to KI to begin assisting the local community by rebuilding fences, pulling down burnt out structures, retrieving burnt bee hives and assisting the local council with replacing road side signage being some of the many tasks undertaken over a four week period.

Concurrently Joint Operations Command Townsville received a request from Queensland Police Service to provide assistance to look for a missing person just north of Mackay. We were able to stand up ten personnel with a combined effort from Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville.

It was to be the third and final day of the search when we arrived at the Command Post. While the lads prepped there gear a recon was conducted with the officer in charge from QPS. A short time later two search areas were established and the team stepped off.

By lunch the first designated search area was done and dusted, a quick feed was had by all and just prior to stepping off the rescue chopper had located the missing person in the second search area.

The success of the search only highlighted the valuable skills and experience the Army Reserve bring to the community.



Above - PTE Doolan and PTE Abela assisting in the missing person search

Whilst some of the team were off participating on ops and searches, the rest of the team was off to Rockhampton for the yearly round of governance training, LCPL Jeppesen returned as CPL Jeppesen, which we duly congratulate him on achieving. With his promotion, the Mackay platoon is now fully staffed with NCO's – the first time in many years.

Some of our NCO's were also off supporting courses early in the year to train the next generation of soldiers, CPL Papazian and CPL Jeppesen gained valuable training experience from supporting these courses.

With all troops back parading the annual mess meeting was conducted with CPL Spain being elected the new PMC of the FS Deal club. Departing PMC LCPL Cox presided over a meeting which saw the mess commit to some major expenditure in the 2020 year, the first being a large screen TV which was purchased and mounted in the mess. Further expenditure included attendance at several unit and associated functions throughout the year culminating in the mess Christmas function, these functions suddenly where put on hold.

Our last training weekend saw Capricornia company marry up with Kennedy company in Townsville for a range weekend. Once again, the Mackay lads competed amongst each other to see who would take out the top shot award for the Mackay depot. 2019 winner CPL Spain was out shot by 2018 winner LCPL Prior, the year is not over yet and the competition continues on future range weekends.

Soon the impending doom of COVID-19 reached out and touched almost every city on the planet. Anticipation filled the depot and again the lads were keen to know when and where they were going to assist. Time passed with no tasks to fill and then the isolation kicked in. Slowly the tasks started to roll in with support to Kennedy Company in Cairns. Small groups have been providing relief in place allowing the diggers up north some well-earned rest.

With the restrictions of COVID-19 in place and not looking like letting up anytime soon, it's only a matter of time before we are run off our feet with our own tasks.

Working from home presented a new challenge to Tuesday night training, the 1st round of training was well prepared and the team fully

supported this new concept. The introduction of PT into this schedule got many out of the house and pounding the local pavements.

Again, the Mackay team has stepped up with one of the lads being successful in their nomination to serve on operation Highroad in Afghanistan, we wish this soldier safe travels and look forward to having them back in 2021. In the meantime the local team members back in Mackay will be ready to support their family in whatever capacity is necessary.

ANZAC day dawned with the unit complying with the lockdown restrictions which saw each member reflect individually at home on the meaning of the day and thinking about those that have passed before us including members we have served with. PMC CPL Spain's promise of a few drinks to commemorate ANZAC day once the mess reopens will not be forgotten by the mess members who eagerly await this day.

Stay Safe and Clean Hands.

SGT Marks and SGT Oberg



Above – SGT Oberg presents an award to CPL Jeppesnn.

Capricornia's Employer Recognition Evening

On the 14 March C Coy hosted an Op Bushfire Assist Employer Appreciation Night with a Hawaiian theme in order to acknowledge personnel and their civilian employees that attended OP Bushfire assist and the RCB Deployment.

The CO & RSM presented certificates of appreciation to acknowledge employers releasing their personnel to deploy on operations. The event was also attend by MAJ Ben Lansky from Defence Reserve Support.

The event overall was a success and demonstrated the importance of employer recognition in order to influence & maintain the sustainability of the Army Reserves in Central Queensland and moreover to encourage future support.

The following awards were presented.

OPBA Awards

AD-JD Spencer – Mr Albert Spencer – for PTE Vicki Spencer (**Right**)

Hastings Deering – Mr Brad Mckellar-South – for PTE Matthew Hibble (**Below**)



Dept of Child Safety – Ms Neeta Span – for LT Evans
(Right)

HSE Mining - Mr Reece Robinson - Mr Jake Reynold's
Employer – husband of LT Evans

RCB

Allwayz Concreting – Mr & Mrs Glen & Pam Stack -
CPL West

MAJ Grant



Capricornia Company's Backyard Assist

On the 28 Aug 20 Capricornia Coy, DRS, 11 CSST, QUR and 11 ER personnel (and their employers) conducted Backyard Assist in support of Legacy with general yard clean up, mowing, minor repairs & maintenance tasks in care of local Rockhampton war widow (Mrs Lila Collins) in Park Avenue Rockhampton.

The aim of the day was to provide much needed support to a war widow, create community awareness for Legacy and its Charter & to provide a sense of personal satisfaction to the participants. Overall the event was a success and achieved the aim. The clean-up was akin to television show like Backyard Blitz, with a full backyard makeover occurring.

Mrs Lila Collins and family were greatly appreciative of the efforts of all pers that supported the event. Moreover, a huge thank you for personnel and their civilian employers who supported the day, a great effort with an excellent outcome.



C Coy Backyard Assist (above): The BYA Team – inc Legacy, DRS, Defence members and their Civilian Employers.

42nd AIB Association – Rockhampton

The 42nd AIB Association has been quiet as we await the relaxation of the Covid-19 restrictions before planning any activities for this year. In addition, the planned unveiling of the plaque to the Battalion at Wreck Point on the Capricorn Coast is also on hold.

Sadly, another of the Battalion WWII Veterans recently made the final roll call.

The Association would also like to thank & acknowledge the work of the soldiers, SNCOs, Warrant Officers and Officers of the Unit for their support to OPBA & OPCOVID.

Cede Nullis

Mr Darryl Prizeman

President 42nd AIB Assoc Rockhampton



42nd AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION

Central Queensland's Own

In the period prior to the Second World War, the 42nd Battalion camped and trained in the vicinity of Cooe Bay and Wreck Point. With the outbreak of the war the Battalion trained extensively in this area prior to departing on operations in the South West Pacific campaign.

During the War the Battalion served in New Guinea and Bougainville from 1943 to 1945. The 42nd and other Battalions of the 29th Brigade served continuously on operations in New Guinea for 18 months.

The Battalion saw First World War active service from 1916 to 1918 in France and Flanders as part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Division.

LEST WE FORGET

Kennedy Company

OC Kennedy Coy

2020 saw Kennedy Company dispersed to the four winds with personnel deploying on all of the Battalions Operational commitments. Throughout this period WO2 Scott Brady admirably provided the much needed Command and Control of the Company while the OC was deployed on OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST 19 and OP COVI-19 ASSIST. **I would like to commend everyone in the Company for their commitment under extreme circumstances this year, your performance has been exceptional.**

Due to proximity and the Kennedy Coy Area of Operations, the conduct of Quarantine Compliance Monitoring was our COVID Main Effort and on-line training a Supporting effort for those not deployed. Towards the end of the year as things started to return a bit more towards normal as the social distancing requirements started to relax we were able to get back into training to achieve Baseline requirements in the conduct of the Army Combatives Program, Combat Shooting and Tactical Care of the Combat Casualty. Thank you to all who were involved in standing this training up to be completed within a very condensed timeframe – I appreciate that this would have taken considerable effort to achieve.

2021 is shaping up to be a good year for Kennedy Company with MAJ Steve Tetley as the Company Commander and WO2 Steve Marks as the Training WO. Kennedy Company has room for growth and it would be great to see more people joining our ranks in 2021. It has been a real honour to have served with you all over the last two years and I wish you and your families all the very best for the future.

OC MAJ Merrick Lalor



Above – CO and OC greet CPL Howe (Middle-Right) and PTE Ford upon their return from OP Bushfire Assist.

Training weekend 4 - Range Weekend 20-22 Mar 2020

The range weekend was conducted at MSTA, with soldiers deploying to the field on Friday evening. The entire Battalion converged from all depots including Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Cairns and Townsville. The chartered coach for Capricornia Company members didn't arrive until well after midnight but it was comfortable enough for many to catch a couple of hours sleep on the way. This was the first weekend where COVID social distancing considerations were enforced. The aim of the first day was to practice all soldiers with Range Practice (RP) shoots, up to RP3A. Before shooting commenced, revision was conducted on combat behaviours, use of cover and combat

reloads. Concurrent training between details consisted of Machine Gun Tripod lessons with CPL Pearson, 152 radio lessons with CAPT Atkinson and room entry drills with SGTs Oberg and Titifanua.

Drone qualified soldiers were able to get some flight time with the in-service Multi-Rotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (MRUAV) and add some hours to their log books.

Overall the weekend was a success with all RPs completed. Staff were satisfied with the combat behaviours demonstrated by the soldiers and some excellent scores recorded.



Above – CPL Leahy instructs new soldier, PTE Connell on the F89 Light Support Weapon.

ARMY FIRST AID COURSE

On the weekend of 06-07 March instructors from 9th Close Health Company conducted an Army First Aid/Tactical Care of the Combat Casualty Course (AFA/TCCC) at Lavarack Barracks. Two thirds of the students were from 31/42 RQR (both Capricornia and Kennedy Company). The instructors were paramedics, nurses and other medical staff in civilian life and many had Emergency Department experience on top of operational deployments. It was “bleedingly” obvious they were familiar with the realities of serious injury.

The first and second days included refresher training on all the usual CPR, bandaging, burns, bites and stings etc but there were additional more advanced topics not previously covered in the Basic course. These included first aid for airway issues and included demonstrations on

how to insert a nasopharyngeal tube. Also covered was the SAM chest seal for serious injuries of the lung. Some of the injuries displayed on screen were pretty graphic for those not often exposed to trauma.

The second half of the course saw lessons more focused on combat casualty care including catastrophic bleeding, managing blast injuries and operational stress reaction.

The final day saw the assessment phase. Scenario planning had been well developed and required students operating in an infantry section to extract patients and provide care for varying serious injuries all whilst under fire.

This more advanced training has been rolled out across Army and will absolutely save lives.



OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST – JTF 1111

When the Australian bushfire emergency began in December 2019, hundreds of fires raged across our country, destroying homes and claiming lives. On 04 Jan 2020, the Governor General announced that for the first time in our Nation's history, he would be enacting a mandatory call out of some 3000 Army Reservists. Our unit staff were overwhelmed by calls from 31/42 RQR soldiers asking if we would be included and expressing their desire to lend a hand. However, the callout was manned primarily by the 4th, 5th and 9th Brigades. We were advised that we may be called upon to deploy as a relief in place to assist the soldiers who had been on the ground for 4 weeks. By the start of February however we still hadn't been called to support, so we thought we had missed the trip.

On Tuesday the 4th of February, 31/42 RQR members were contacted and advised that we had been asked to provide a PL to deploy to South Australia on OP Bushfire Assist for approximately 4 weeks, leaving in 48 hrs, Thursday the 6th. We were to speak to our families and employers and seek leave to commit to the operation. Unit staff were extremely impressed with the commitment of our soldiers, when they filled the EMD at such short notice, even having to knock back a few members who were keen to go after the manning was filled.

Kennedy Coy members included: MAJ Lalor, CPL Howe, LCPL Leahy, PTE Swart, PTE Cheney, PTE Ford, PTE Lawler, PTE Brown, PTE Sandilands, PTE Daddow.



Thursday we said goodbye to our families and flew to Adelaide where we married up with our brothers and sisters from Capricornia Coy. It was to be the first time that 31/42 RQR would deploy a PL on operations since the 31st and 42nd battalions were amalgamated in 2008. A very proud moment in our unit's history. On Friday, we conducted Reception Staging On-forwarding & Integration (RSO&I) in the morning at Keswick Barracks and in the afternoon travelled via coach and then ferry to Kangaroo Island. When we arrived on the island, we were transported via coach to the small town of Parndana which was to become our home for the next month.

There's not much at Parndana with a population of about 152 people, however they have a pub, bakery, café and an excellent sports ground which is where our base camp was set up. Parndana was the perfect staging area as it is central to the island with good access for us to deploy into our AO's.

Home consisted of tents with stretchers, demountable ablutions and meals through a field kitchen. Some of our soldiers ordered self-inflating mattresses online and liaised with the local bakery (also the Australia Post outlet) to assist with delivery, to make life more comfortable.

As soon as we landed on the ground, we were set to work. Days consisted of morning PT (freezing cold at 0600 for us warm blooded North Queenslanders), breakfast and then deploy on the day's task. As we started moving around the island, the devastation became utterly apparent. The landscape was black and desolate. In some areas to the West it was likened to a moonscape where the fires were so ferocious that destruction was absolute, with only a few blackened stumps remaining among a thick blanket of ash as far as the eye could see. We saw piles of twisted iron left where once proud family homes had stood.



31st/42nd Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment

As soldiers we are used to time in the bush and the usual sounds of insect, bird and animal life all around us. Most of the places we worked there was no life, only an eerie silence coupled with the constant smell of burnt bush and rotting animals.

As the fires were out by the time we deployed, our platoon was tasked with assisting in the recovery phase of the operation. Our main tasks included: Debris clearance from destroyed homes and sheds, rolling up destroyed fencing and building new fences.

The local people we met and worked with shared their stories, some of which were of basic survival during the fire storms. We saw the pain in their faces as they showed us their once fertile and green farm lands which had been reduced to ash. Farmers spoke of generations of merino breeding stock being lost along with their homes, machinery and livelihoods. However, the Australian spirit was well and truly alive with these people. Despite all they had lost, they were determined to keep moving forward.

We all experienced a tremendous sense of pride in being able to help our fellow Australians get back on track. Some expressed their surprise at how much we achieved in a day or two, but when you throw a full platoon of hard working Australian Soldiers at a job, it's gonna get done quick! Local property owners told us that before we arrived to help them, they didn't know where or how to start the massive clean-up tasks. But that after we had worked for a few days with them, they could now "see light at the end of the tunnel" which wouldn't have been possible without us.

Most of us hadn't been to Kangaroo Island and didn't know much about it, but there are some of the most amazingly beautiful beaches and stretches of coastline there that I've ever seen. After work each day we tried to go home via a beach or bay to give the team something to look at other than scorched earth.

About halfway through the deployment a number of our soldiers had the opportunity to do a chainsaw qualification course on the island. After this, we spent the remainder of our time on the island in the National Parks, clearing fallen timber from tracks working as chainsaw teams. We also completed a clearance task in vicinity of "Remarkable Rocks", which is one of the most picturesque places on the island. A section was detached who were tasked with building potato boxes. Kangaroo Island farms produce a large percentage of Australia's potatoes and the majority of their harvesting boxes had been destroyed. Without the construction of hundreds of new boxes they would not have been able to harvest their crop.

We were originally to Return To Unit (RTU) on 28 Feb, but we were asked if any of us would

volunteer to stay on for an extra week to help wrap up the operation and RTU on 06 Mar instead. Again we had more soldiers put their hands up than were needed.

We withdrew from the island on 01 Mar leaving a small contingent of 1st Armoured Regiment to complete the pack up of the base camp and moved back to the mainland. We conducted de-mount training at Keswick Barracks and flew home on 06 Mar. It was a very proud moment to be met by the CO, RSM, OC and ADJT at the airport to welcome us home! Overall it was an excellent deployment and all members expressed an overwhelming sense of pride at having the opportunity to work as part of a platoon with our mates from 31/42 RQR and assisting our fellow Australians to move on from what had been the hardest experience of their lives.



In memoriam - SGT Darrin (Taz) Whitehouse



On 28 October 2020 our friend and colleague SGT Darrin (Taz) Whitehouse passed away peacefully in the presence of his family at the Townsville Palliative Care Ward. Early in the year Taz and his wife Deb were frequent visitors to BHQ in Townsville while his health persisted.

Taz served in both the regular Army and in the Reserves. On 15 April, and due to COVID, we organised a surprise Skype presentation of the fourth clasp to his long service medal. Deb was instrumental in gathering the family and keeping the event a secret from Taz.

On 07 November members of the Battalion attended the memorial service and joined a very large gathering of friends and family at the Bohle Barn Hotel. Taz never lost his good humour and hundreds of smiling photos of him scrolled across a display mounted behind the platform.

Taz was a great friend to many in the unit and he will be missed.

OPERATION COVID-19 ASSIST

As news of the COVID-19 global pandemic exploded throughout February and March, many 31/42 RQR members asked what part we would play in assisting with the crisis.

On Friday 27 March we were contacted and advised that 31/42 RQR had been tasked to contribute soldiers to the Joint Task Group (JTG) in order to provide support to government and emergency services in relation to COVID-19. Everyone who could afford time away from their civilian employment were to attend. The timing of the operation was excellent for a number of members who had recently found themselves unemployed due to widespread standing down of staff in the local area. We were to parade at 0700 on Saturday 28 March, where we conducted lessons on hygiene, first

aid and awareness of the Corona Virus. We were briefed on likely tasks which included:

- Compliance with self-isolation and quarantine measures, which consisted of visiting people at their homes to confirm that they were isolating as directed. Meeting international travellers returning to Australia at the airport, escorting them to hotels where they would be quarantined for 2 weeks and ensuring that they stayed in their rooms at the hotel. Conducting Vehicle Check Point's (VCPs) or PCPs (Police Check Points) on either State borders or access roads to indigenous communities.

We established a battle rhythm and constructed a training program as we moved into the planning phase of the operation. We conducted

PT each day and then moved into lessons structured around our likely tasks. We completed lessons on:

- VCP/PCPs
- First Aid
- Hand hygiene
- Door knock and ID procedure
- Satcomm for use in remote communities

The first task we received was to meet international travellers at Cairns airport, escort them to a hotel and then monitor compliance. This task was manned primarily by Kennedy Company members from Cairns and Townsville, with reinforcements sent up from Capricornia Company. The soldiers worked 8hr rotating shifts in conjunction with Qld Police (QPS).

The next task we received was to assist QPS in establishing and manning a Control Point on the access road to Yarrabah, a small indigenous community South of Cairns. It was assessed that the impact of Corona Virus on the community could be devastating.

As of the date of writing, we have not received an end date to OP COVID and our soldiers are still deployed on task. Even though the restrictions have now been eased here, the QLD government has advised that it will be a significant amount of time until we can get back to a semblance of normality. Until that day comes, our soldiers will continue to assist in fighting the spread of the disease.

With consistent arrivals and increased demand for manning shifts have been combined and stretched out from 8 to 12hrs, this is despite already being supplemented with members from 11 CSSB and the Navy. Approximately 30 people will be departing isolation in the coming days, so ideally shifts will return to 8hrs a day soon. The task is expected to continue as Queensland health and the Australian Government further develop their response to COVID-19.

PTE Emmett



Above - PTE Kelly and PTE Lawler return to RAAF Garbutt after serving with JTG 629 on OP COVID in SE Qld.

ANZAC Day 2020

Due to the current global pandemic, ANZAC Day 2020 has been unlike any in the living memory of 31/42 RQR's members, with all commemorative services cancelled. This is a flash back to our past when Spanish Influenza deaths were approaching 1,000 by ANZAC Day 1919, so the government banned public gatherings, meaning that the usual marches and services were cancelled.

This year, the Returned Services League were encouraging all Australians to hold their own individual dawn service at the end of their driveway. To stream the ABC's broadcast of the service conducted at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra (one of the only services to be conducted). To observe 1 minutes silence at 0600 and light a candle to "light up the dawn".

Despite a moratorium on our usual traditions and practices, our members past and present, both at home and on duty, persevered and paused to show their respect and mark the day in their own way. Whether from the end of their driveways, the balconies of quarantine hotels or on the roadside of remote check points our members were there at dawn.

The last post still rang through the morning air, albeit from the speakers of smartphones and laptops than the brass of a bugle. However, it is these improvised, personal ceremonies that prove over a 100 years of ANZAC spirit will not be dampened, not by the passage of time, nor by social and economic crisis.

Lest We Forget.

PTE Randolph

Drivers Course

Between 29 August and 13 September, 51 FNQR conducted a G-Wagon Qualification Course in Cairns, providing qualifications for the Mercedes 4x4 Dual-Cab Station Wagon, 6x6 Cab Chassis and 6x6 SRV (Surveillance & Reconnaissance Vehicle). Two members of 31/42 RQR were in attendance for every ADI (Assistant Driving Instructor) provided, the Unit sent CPL Darcy Anderson and PTE Jimmy Jensen along with SGT Carol McBain as the ADI.

Lessons commenced at Porton Barracks and comprised familiarization with documentation required for use of defence vehicles, along with an introduction to the vehicles, including

general specifications, safety checks (cabin drill), starting the vehicle, first parade, halt parade and last parade of the vehicle. These different types of 'parades' on the vehicles include such things as checking tyre pressure,



oil levels, load security and cleanliness of the vehicle, especially windows, windscreens and mirrors. Lessons were also conducted on vehicle accessories, slave starting a vehicle using another vehicle and how to change and/or repair tyres.

Upon completion of the introductory/familiarization phase, a road move was conducted to Townsville to use Lavarack Barracks as a Safe Driving Area. The students then moved to the Gallery Range at Mount Stuart Training Area (MSTA). At MSTA, cross country driving was conducted by day and night, in both reduced light and black out configurations. Further lessons in fault finding, winching and recovery were conducted within the undulating conditions of MSTA, however many in attendance found the terrain unchallenging, given the efficacy of range control in evening out formerly difficult gravel trails in recent months (to the consternation of instructors). One small hill was eventually located, which provided students an idea of the capability of the G-Wagon.



After one week in Townsville, the course returned to Cairns, this time with students conducting the road move in accordance with a convoy movement plan. The last few days in Cairns were dedicated to testing students on driving the G-Wagons in urban conditions, a very similar test to gaining a drivers licence in the civilian world. Both CPL Anderson and PTE Jensen completed the course successfully, improving the capability of 31/42 RQR with the provision of two new G-Wagon drivers and increasing our deployability as a Battalion.

SGT McBain



Army Combatives Program

An important and intense courses period occurred in October, November and December this year. It required attendance from students and support staff for 8 weekends in a row and involved approximately 20 scheduled sessions mostly of two days duration. Courses included the Army Combatives Program, Army First Aid and Chainsaw course amongst others. Instructors were

WO2s Ingram and Marks, SGTs Lowien and Marshall and CPLs Howe, Leahy and Siebert amongst others.

Special thanks must go to the Loggies who issue and return our equipment and stores. They're on-deck early every weekend and depart long after everyone else.



Above - PTE Williams and PTE Morrison conducting morning PT on top of My Stuart overlooking Townsville.



**42nd Infantry Battalion
Association Mackay Branch
Membership / Update form**

Return to, PO Box 10047, Mount Pleasant Q 4740 or scan in & email to ... garry_edwards53@hotmail.com
0400 242 779

Your first name, middle initial, last name

Your partner/spouse name as above

Your current postal address

If moving soon, new address

Your preferred email address

Your mobile phone number (best for texts)

Otherwise your phone number

Are you moving before next year's reunion YES / NO

Were you in 42nd Battalion / 9FD Ambulance / 31st/42nd Battalion

Which company were you in

Do you wish to receive invitations to our reunions YES / NO

Which time for the reunion function is best for you - Saturday luncheon / evening

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY 27TH JULY 2019 at 6PM - EVENING FUNCTION

President - Garry Edwards, Vice President - Michelle Furlong, Secretary - Liz Ward



**42nd Infantry Battalion
Association Rockhampton Branch
Membership / Update form**

Return to: Mr T. Cordell, Hon Sec., P.O. Box 403, Rockhampton Q 4700
Or scan in & email to ... tcordell@bigpond.net.au Ph. 0401 916 283

Your first name, middle initial, last name

Your partner/spouse name as above.....

Your current postal address

If moving soon, new address

Your preferred email address.....

Your mobile phone number (best for texts).....

Otherwise your phone number.....

Are you moving before next year's reunion YES / NO

Were you in 42nd Battalion / 9FD Ambulance / 31st/42nd Battalion

Which company were you in.....

Do you wish to receive invitations to our reunions YES / NO

President - Darryl Prizeman, Vice President - Robert Grant, Secretary - Ted Cordell

Annual Dinner/Luncheon Date is TBC



31st INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

TOWNSVILLE BRANCH

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

SURNAME: _____ GIVEN NAMES: _____

STREET: _____

SUBURB: _____ STATE: _____ POSTCODE: _____

PHONE: _____ MOBILE: _____ DOB: _____

CURRENTLY SERVING: YES/NO UNIT: _____

RANK: _____ REGIMENTAL NUMBER: _____

BRIEF RECORD OF SERVICE (Optional) _____

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE OF \$20.00.

PAYMENT BY DIRECT DEBIT: Either mail this completed form to the Secretary (address below), or scan and email to gregory.stokie@bigpond.com

Electronic Bank Details

National Australia Bank

BSB: 084-766

Account Number: 57-874-2457

Account Name: 31st Infantry Battalion Association Inc Townsville.

Reference: Please ensure that you include your name.

PAYMENT BY MAIL: Cheque, Money Orders (Made out to 31st Inf. Bn. Assn. Inc.) or Cash may be enclosed with this application form and mailed to:

The Secretary, 31st Infantry Battalion Association (Inc)

11 Azalea St, Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Phone (07) 47798002

Biography: 8269183 Lieutenant Colonel Dave Gandy RAINF

Since graduating from the Royal Military College in 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Gandy served in a variety of regimental appointments within the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment including a deployment as Platoon Commander to East Timor and multiple international engagements throughout the Asia – Pacific region. In 2004 he deployed to Aceh as a Liaison Officer and Interpreter to the Commander 7th Brigade on Operation Sumatra Assist. Upon promotion to Captain in 2006, he completed the Indonesian General Language course at Defence Force School of Languages prior to conducting international postings during the period 2007 to 2010 to Indonesia and Malaysia, undertaking the Advanced Language Study program in Bandung and facilitating the role of Foreign Tactics Instructor at the Direct Entry Officer College in Johor Bahru. Upon return to Australia, he fulfilled the roles of Operations Captain and Adjutant for the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and deployed with the 3rd Mentoring Task Force in Afghanistan.



On promotion to Major in 2012, Lieutenant Colonel Gandy commanded a Combat Team in Afghanistan and continued his Sub-Unit Command appointment upon return to Australia. During the period 2013 to 2014, he fulfilled the role of Support Company Commander and Operations Officer in the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment during Ready Battle Group commitments, as well as managing the Operational Generation of multiple rotations of the Force Protection Element deployments to Kabul and Kandahar. In 2015, he completed Australian Command and Staff College prior to undertaking another international posting to the United States, as the Senior Instructor to the Company Commander Course at the Manoeuvre Centre of Excellence in Fort Benning.

Upon promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 2018, he was posted to Indonesia as an Instructor at the Indonesian Command and Staff College in Bandung, where he received a Chief of the Army Gold Commendation, as well as being the first ADF officer to be awarded a TNI medal for excellence. In 2020, Lieutenant Colonel Gandy was posted to the Future Land Warfare Directorate in Army Headquarters, whereby he facilitated multiple Capability Establishment Reviews that maximised full-time and part-time integration as part of the Total Workforce System and set the conditions for realising the Army Objective Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Gandy has multiple degrees in Global Security studies and Sociology, as well as a Master's in Strategic Studies, whilst maintaining fluency in Indonesian and Malaysian. He has been married to Tarita for 16 years and they have a daughter Georgia who both reside in Hobart. He is avid sportsman who enjoys Rugby Union, Australian Rules Football, Soccer and Cricket and is keen to continue to play Australian Rules Football and mountain biking until his body 'taps out'. Lieutenant Colonel Gandy is exceptionally honoured to be given the opportunity to command and serve with the soldiers and officers of the 31st/42nd Royal Queensland Regiment and return once again to the great North Queensland region.