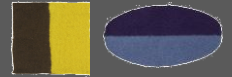




# 31<sup>st</sup>/42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

## The Royal Queensland Regiment



### CO's Welcome



*LTCOL Damien Green*

G'day and welcome to the first edition of the Bi-Annual newsletter of the 31<sup>st</sup>/42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment.

I am extremely privileged and excited to be appointed the Commanding Officer of a Battalion with such a rich and distinguished history.

Throughout my travels this year I have observed excellent training conducted by intelligent, well trained NCOs and Officers. This training has been well attended by enthusiastic and professional soldiers who have appreciated the training opportunities that have been provided. I am extremely impressed and proud of the quality of personnel we have in the Battalion at all rank levels.

It has been a pretty exciting start to the year kicking off with the one in 100 year floods in Townsville which cancelled our plans of conducting Exercise First Step in Mackay at the start of the year. Our thoughts go out to all those who were affected by the damage caused from the floods which had such a huge impact on people's lives.

I was extremely proud of our contribution to the Joint Task Force for Townsville Flood Assist which the RSM and I visited regularly throughout the operation. We were very impressed with the leadership, cohesion, morale and performance of everyone in the Task Force who operated under some pretty arduous post disaster conditions.

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Throughout the year it has been my focus to try and grow the Battalions ranks and we have invested significant effort into establishing networks outside of the unit in North Queensland.

I am keen to grow our relationship with our associations therefore I encourage all members and former members of the Battalion to join the Battalion Associations to ensure we have the ability to provide support and a social outlet for each other into the future.

The key focus of the Battalion besides growing our numbers is the raising, training and sustaining of our soldier, NCOs and Officers to contribute to operations as well as Battlegroup CANNAN.

The Battalion is working hard to continually develop our combat mindset and skills to ensure we remain ready, reliable and relevant.

It is exciting times for 31/42 ROR as we have now been tasked with raising an Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Platoon capability to validate during EX HAMEL 2020.

Finally, I would like to thank all those that have supported Battalion and Brigade activities so far this year—without you it would not have succeeded.

I would also like to thank the families of the Battalion for their support. We understand that a life of service comes at a cost and we appreciate the sacrifices you make that enable the Battalion to achieve its mission.

**CO LTCOL Damien Green**

## RSM's Welcome



*WO1 John Stafford*

A belated welcome to 2019. As your new Regimental Sergeant Major, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my responsibilities as RSM at the 31st/42nd Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment (31/42 ROR).

During my career I have been posted to a number of units and training establishments, these include 3 RAR, 6 RAR, 2/17 RNSWR, 4/3 RNSWR, School of Infantry, Royal Military College–Duntroon, and recently Army Headquarters.

I have deployed to East Timor as part of INTERFET in 1999 with 3 RAR and Afghanistan on OP SLIPPER with 6 RAR (MTF 1) in 2010.

As the RSM, I see my primary role as being responsible to the Commanding Officer for providing advice on the delivery of training for all ranks in their technical skills for employment as well as to assist in the development of our potential leaders of the future. Keeping the Part Time component of Army qualified, trained and current is becoming more and more challenging given the lack of available equipment we have access too but also due to how dispersed the unit is across Central and Northern Queensland. This is a unique challenge to 31/42 ROR and one which will take a number of solutions to be developed and implemented. Although challenging it is not impossible.

Unlike the Regular Army, we have a much longer and richer history which continues on to this day. It is important that we learn this history and pass it onto the newer members of the unit and the community so that we honour those that have come before us and those that fell in service to the country. It is important that these continue to be observed now and into the future and not lost in time.

I am also charged with maintaining morale and discipline in the unit. My advice to all on this topic is that if there are lapses in self-discipline or judgement, then it is up to all members of the unit to address it. You all know what right looks like and if you see something that is not right then demonstrate some moral courage and say something and fix the issue at the lowest level.

I look forward to getting out and about with the Commanding Officer and seeing the Battalion and doing some "Good Soldiering" together and making it fun in the process.

# JTF658 Townsville Flood Assist

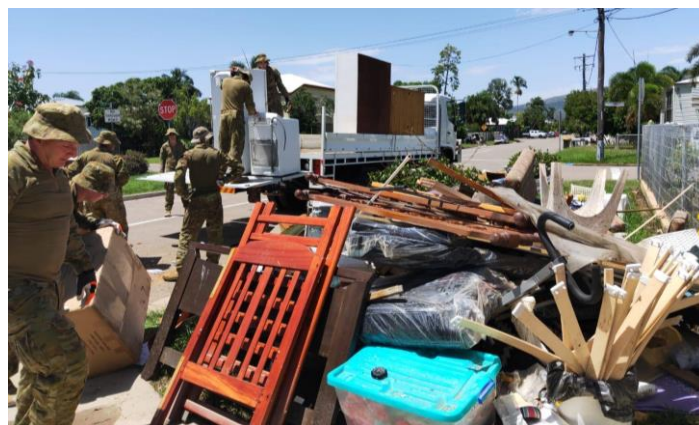
## Platoon Commander's View

The start of 2019 began hard and fast. Within weeks of the New Year coming into play, Townsville was hit with the 100 year flood. Although I'm sure most of you would have heard of this occurring, what you might not know, is that of the awe-inspiring work done from members within the BDE and especially 31/42 ROR.

Within days, members from across the AO rose to the call for help and were on the streets assisting all that they could. What I will say is that working with the Platoon reminded me why we put on this uniform every day.

To watch the self-sacrifice and the act of putting others before you even in the most trying of circumstances, demonstrated by each and every one of the members was by far one of my proudest moments of working as a Lieutenant. Well done guys.

- PL COMD LT Courtney McKenzie





### Platoon Member's View

As a member of 31/42 RQR, I was quick to put up my hand and volunteer in the flood clean-up that the unit would conduct. My decision to volunteer was driven by the sense of helping out those in need and less fortunate. My role was to assist the suburbs of Railway Estate, Oonoomba and Idalia in the removal of their flood affected belongings.

The days were hot and long and were spent going from house to house collecting furniture, household appliances, clothes, toys (just to name a few) and transporting it to the dump near Officeworks. The appreciation and gratitude of the residents was so heart-warming, it was all worth it despite the strenuous conditions we were working in.

To be a part of a team and give back to the community was very rewarding and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

- PTE Nelson

## 11 BDE COMD's Conference

Immediately following the Flood Relief efforts in Townsville the CO, RSM, OPSO and ADJT attended the first 11 Brigade Command Conference for 2019 held in Canungra from 15-17 Feb 19.

The conference was a great opportunity for the newly appointed Brigade Commander Brigadier David Thomae to provide guidance for the year to his Command Team and Direct Command Units.

It was also a good opportunity to meet all the new appointments within 11 BDE. It was at this conference where 31/42 RQR were tasked with being the BDE SME on ISR and DATE.



*WO1 John Stafford, MAJ Chris Rosenthal (rear), LTCOL Damien Green and LT Courtney McKenzie with BRIG David Thomae (centre)*

## DATE Training

On the 18th-19th of May, The Battalion was thrilled to host MAJ Anthony Swinsburg (HO FORCOMD) in the conduct of Professional Military Education on Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE).

DATE consists of several fictitious countries and a comprehensive array of conventional, hybrid and irregular threat groups. DATE can be uniquely tailored to support training for individuals to major collective training activities.

With the Battalion tasked to become the subject matter experts of this new and exciting capability, to learn from one of the best tactics instructors was a fantastic opportunity for the Unit.

Thank you to MAJ Swinsburg for imparting his knowledge and we look forward to working with him in the future.



*LTCOL Damien Green and MAJ Anthony Swinsburg*

## Induction 2019 and Exported Training

Once the flood waters receded and the Battalion was able to get back to normal business, Induction Training was conducted by BHO and Sub Units in home unit locations. This saw all Bn members sitting through two days' worth of presentations and briefings covering off on all manner of topics from Unacceptable Behaviour, Fraud and Ethics, Land Range Safety and Suicide Awareness to name but a few, as well as conducting some Basic Fitness Assessments and LF1 Shoots in the Weapon Training Simulation System to cover off on some of the requirements for Army Individual Readiness

Those members that were unable to attend the Unit run induction training weekends had the pleasure of doing it via the DPN, which in most cases took considerably longer and is not as interesting as the unit run sessions. This also meant that due to Induction Training and FPAT being a mandatory requirement annually for all members of Defence - those that had not completed the package were not able to continue with other training until it was completed.

Once Induction Training was completed the Unit was able to conduct some good training in the form of a number of Exported Training Courses. These included Army First Aiders Course with a Care of the Battle Casualty component, Army Combatives Program Training, Battle Management System Training and a Combat Shooting Course.

Notable mentions in dispatches from these courses was the Chief Clerks "Oscar" worthy performance as a casualty during the Care of the Battle Casualty course. During ACP, the ADJT's use of aggression, which was reminiscent of "Berserkers" from the middle ages and SGT Lowien bringing in his bag of edged weapons for "Show and Tell" which raised a few concerns from the RSM.

On the BMS front, those that attended starting the week fresh but as the training progressed, they started looking more and more like the "Walking Dead!" It was also interesting seeing the Bn Orderly Room out of the office at the range cracking rounds down range on the Combat Shooting Course. We did have a Drone taking footage however the "Pilot" WO2 Dale (Maverick) Ingram err'ed on the side of caution and flew so high that it looks like a documentary on "Ants".

A big well done to the Instructors and Support Staff and to the Ops Cell for standing the training up and delivering professional packages. My last point is that all members of the Unit should look at attending at least one course a year to professionally develop their individual skills as it may add weight in the future with career and deployment opportunities. It also important to remain current and relevant especially in this dynamic period with all the changes coming into the service.



## Exercise Platoon Warfighter 1: 22-31 March 2019

The Battalion concentrated a combat team sized group to TFTA to undertake activities to meet gateway requirements for EXs BROLGA RUN and HAMEL 2020. These activities included, refreshing the basics transitioning to an FTX (up to Platoon Ambush and Attack) culminating in an LFX up to Section Live Fire within a Platoon environment.

The activity was highly successful.

This was the first time that the Battalion had concentrated in this size since EX HAMEL 2017.

During the course of the activity, we had a number of visitors: COMD 2 DIV, MAJGEN Kath Campbell, AO, CSC and COMD 11 BDE, BRIG David Thomae visited during the FTX phase.

Highlights of the visits was the briefing on ISR capability by CPL Solis in addition to speaking with and visiting the soldiers whilst on task.

The Townsville DFR Military and Civilian staff visited during the SECTION Live Fire on Friday 29 March 19 to assist in providing an insight into the type of activities potential candidates will experience. They enjoyed talking with the soldiers, some of whom they had recruited, observing the SECTION LF Attacks and dining on hotbox cuisine.

All DFR personnel commented that the experience provided more context and increased their understanding of the tasks of an Infantry Soldier; and were keen to repeat the experience. Another highlight of PLWF 1 was the attendance of 31st Battalion Association members at the end of activity function where the President COL Greg Stokie, RFD (Retired) addressed those present.

The Battalion now has a CT (-) nucleus ready to participate in EX Brolga Run and EX HAMEL 2020.



*Members of 31/42 at Townsville Field Training Area*

## 31/42 Unit Recruiting

Well it has been a year of excitement and interesting challenges for the recruiting of new members to the unit. With some interesting candidates coming to recruiting events (ex ARA guys wanting to come back into the system due to the grass not being as greener on the other side and a healthy mix of candidates that look like they're about to attend a Marilyn Manson concert).



With no ATO (Accelerated Training Option), not the Australian Tax Office – ATO.... There has been a steady flow of recruits into OUR NO leading to a steady follow on into the unit. I have been continually attempting to try and convert all recruits (men and woman) into the best ECN in Army—ECN 343 Rifleman but I will continue to offer all other corps as well. Although this is still a work in progress at this time... We have been conducting a number of presentation across the AO from school visits to work places and other events. It is tough work getting paid to attend some of the biggest events across the AO (Big Boys, Rockhampton show, V8's, etc).



The unit also conducted a presentation to the Wilmar Sugar Mill in Ingham (well the unit will not be short for sugar for our brews in the near future) with plenty of interest from the team. Therefore, it is looking good for Ingham to once again have soldiers parading there.

One of the most successful continuations from the recruiting team is the meet up of Councils and other key businesses/enterprises from the Command team of the Unit. Having met some of the biggest players across the AO, the Command Team has built a steady relationship with the mayors from Ingham to Mackay, down to Rockhampton. The Unit is

committed to building relationships with businesses across the AO to show them how incredible Army really is and what a benefit it is to have individuals from the Army Reserve as a part of the community.

Officer Cadet recruiting is still underway, so if you know anyone that knows their way around a cucumber sandwich and how to drink a cup tea with your pinkie up, please get them to apply. On a serious note, recruiting for the unit is going well & is moving from strength to strength and I would like to thank all the URLO's across the unit for their hard work recruiting members into the unit. With the growing of numbers within the unit, we need to maintain the rage and keep going. If need to know about recruiting or have any enquires please feel free to contact me via my mobile 0427 698 096.



- SGT Grant Lowien URLO



## Defence Reserve Support Council

Battalion HQ has been extremely active in engagement this year to provide awareness to the benefits of employing and releasing Army Reservists for training.

All of this engagement is focussed towards growth within the Battalion in terms of recruiting and attendance. DRSC play an important part in this and is one of our key enablers in achieving the growth we need. In order to empower DRSC to be fully effective we are reliant on Battalion personnel providing us with employer details so assistance can be provided in releasing employees to attend ADF training.

We would also like to invite employers to activities such as BOSS LIFT and Employer Challenges in addition to recognising those businesses that support defence through the release of their Army Reserve employees at the Employer Support Awards.

## 31<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Associations

As I have indicated in my Command Directive the Battalion Associations are critical to the preservation of our rich history.

I intend to maintain a close relationship with our associations and extend an open invitation for them to attend any of our Battalion activities in all of our locations. We were fortunate enough to have members of the 31st Battalion Association visit us during EX PLATOON WARFIGHTER in March this year.

Battalion Associations are important to us as when we leave the ADF these associations provide the opportunity to reunite with our comrades as well as celebrate significant events in our Battalions History.

We are talking to industry to promote the benefits of employing reservists who receive world class training in leadership, first aid, management, planning and training from defence at no cost to the employer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the former State Manager MAJ Matthew Cross, CSC, DRSC CO Chair Mr Mark Schultz, DRSC RLO MAJ Rob Grant, DRSC FNO Chair Lara Wilde and FNO RLO MAJ Kev Waring for their assistance in helping represent the Battalions Area of Operations and providing us with opportunities to talk to industry.

We look forward to increased engagement in the coming months to grow our regional network of employers current and future. I encourage everyone to nominate your employers for the DRSC Employer Support Awards as this is a great way to show our appreciation for their support in building defence capability.



I encourage all current serving and former members of the Battalion to join the 31st and/or 42nd Battalion Associations to maintain a link with our forebearers and each other. We are looking forward to attending the 42nd Battalion Reunion in Mackay on 27 Jul 19 as well as the 31st Battalion Church Parade on 18 Aug 19.

- CO LTCOL Damien Green

## ANZC DAY

On ANZAC Day we remember the ordinary Australian men and women who were prepared to not only make personal sacrifices by leaving their Family, Friends and loved ones and answering the call to war, but also those that gave their lives for the freedom and quality of life that we continue to enjoy today.

In remembrance of these service men and women, 31/42 RQR once again supported local services and events spanning the width and breadth of the Battalion's Area of operations from Cairns in the North to Gladstone in the South. In total the Unit supported over sixteen tasks with the lions share going to Capricornia Coy fulfilling thirteen with a little help from 11 CSSB, 11 ER and OUR.

BHQ and Kennedy Coy also represented well, having the lead this year with the 11th BDE ANZAC Day Dawn Service. The service itself was well attended even though the weather forecast looked dim with expected showers. Turnout was well in excess of one hundred pers made up of members of the local 11 BDE units, their families as well as members of the 31st Bn and 42nd Bn Associations.

The service itself was poignant with a stirring address given by the Commanding Officer which spoke about the sacrifices made not just by those that go off to war but also those left behind at home and the turmoil they experience waiting for word or news of their loved ones. Some would get a letter and others a telegram, the latter would see lives forever changed as the true cost of war was born by those left behind.

Also, a big "Thank You" to the CHAP Louie Clun from the 5th Aviation Regiment who came in at the last safe moment to preside over the service and a well done to CPL Howe and the other members from the Unit, 11 CSSB and 11 BDE who fulfilled duties as part of the service. All your efforts were to the highest standards and made the service a great success.

After the Dawn Service, BHQ made the drive north to Ingham where it participated in the ANZAC Day March and attended the Service at the local memorial. It was great to get out and amongst the local community especially given that we are trying to re-establish the ties with communities were the Battalion once had a presence. Post service, we all returned for some lunch and refreshments at the local RSL where we got to bang the drum for the unit prior to departing to Townsville.

Overall, ANZAC Day 2019 was an outstanding success given the outcomes for the Battalion. We assisted our local communities to pause and remember those that served, those that fell and those that were left behind. It is important especially in this day and age that we keep our Customs and Traditions alive and we educate the next generations as to what those that came before us did so that their sacrifices are not lost in time and places like Gallipoli, Fromelle and Passchendaele become just names of places in lands far away that hold no meaning.... **Lest we Forget**



## 7 Shop – Battalion Training Cell

We have a big year ahead of us with a lot of new training requirements such as:

- Raise, train and validate the ISR role
- Certification for the new LRS requirements
- Combat shooting and ACP training
- Bridging training and qualification for the new Rifle Practices to RP 3A
- PME on the new Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE)

Just to name a few. To date we have been pushing through the LRS, Combat shooting and ACP side of the house and conducted the first ISR course during PWF2, upskilling 6 of our soldiers and officers in the advanced skills required for the task. Our C2 also received PME on DATE under Army's new Land Adversary System.

The next 6 months will prove to be just as busy as the last with more Combat Shooting, ACP, AFA, DATE implementation, CMC Bridging and RP qualification, Bn Military skills, HE Ranges, ISR training and more.....I know, how are we going to keep up with it all you ask? How do we maintain our skills and knowledge with this much happening?

Well, the CO has just the thing for you –“In your own time go on” What is this you ask? We are developing a knowledge platform to reduce training and knowledge fade that can be accessed from your phone, tablet, IPAD or laptop/computer. Using FORCENET as the knowledge access point,

you will be able to view video/youtube training clips, listen to podcasts and links to PME articles/documents on leadership, combat resilience and more.

If you are already a member on FORCENET you will have seen Warning Orders and Event invites to Bn training activities starting to appear. If you're not a member, GET CONNECTED so you can take advantage of the material that will become available once we go live.

“In your own time go on” is now live! With anything new, the training cell will need your input and expertise in some areas. We will be establishing a “Good Ideas Fairy” inbox that you can send your ideas and questions to. We are looking for members that: want to explore their inner Spielberg or Hemsworth to assist with training videos; is a closet geek/nerd and have a need to release their inner Sheldon or Gates; has, like our training cell, a good face for radio to voice their hidden Red Symons and John Laws.

Your expertise in these areas will greatly enhance the end product. Until we have the “Good Ideas Fairy” inbox up and running, you can contact the S7WO1 WO1 Ashley Barker at [ashley.barker@defence.gov.au](mailto:ashley.barker@defence.gov.au)

We look forward to hearing from you.

- BN Training Cell



*Army Combatives Program (ACP) Training*

## Mackay Civic Reception for Keith Payne VC

On 24 May 2019 the CO was fortunate enough to represent Chief of Army at the Mackay Civic Reception for Mr Keith Payne VC (Born in Ingham) on the 50th Anniversary of his actions in Kontum Province, Vietnam which saw him awarded the Victoria Cross. His actions were as follows:

On 24 February 1969 he was appointed to the Australian Army Training Team in Vietnam. In May that year he was commanding the 212th Company of the 1st mobile Strike Force Battalion when it was attacked by a strong North Vietnamese force. His company was isolated and surrounded on three sides when Payne's Vietnamese troops began to fall back.

Payne, by now wounded in the hands and arms and under heavy fire, covered the withdrawal before organising his troops into a defensive perimeter. He then spent three hours scouring the scene of the day's fight for isolated and wounded soldiers, all the while evading enemy troops who kept up harassing fire.

He found some 40 wounded men, brought some in himself and organised for the rescue of the other, leading the party back to base through enemy dominated terrain.

Our Battalion represented the first (31 ROR) and last unit (42 ROR) in which Mr Keith Payne, VC served.



*LTCOL Damien Green and Keith Payne VC*

## Exercise Platoon Warfighter 2 01-09 June 19

From 1-9 Jun 19 The Battalion conducted (BCCC Modules 1, 2 and 3, AFA [CBS], ISR, ACP, Wpns Cses), provided instructors (P1 Trailer and Gwaggon Conversion Course) and released personnel to attend a range of individual qualification courses (BMS Modules 2 and 3, P1 Trailer and Gwaggon Conversion Cses) conducted by other 11 and 3 Bde Units.

78 personnel attended the courses and activities during PLWF2. We also had the pleasure of hosting two NZ Army Reserve personnel LCPLs Hayes and TaLiauli who participated in ACP, 9MM SLP Mark 3, observed some of the courses conducted during PLWF2,.



## Kennedy Company

The first half of 2019 has seen Kennedy Coy busy supporting our local community and undertaking training across our regular Tuesday night parades, weekends and block periods as well as members travelling away to undertake promotion and career development courses.

The Company led the planning and execution of Ex PLATOON WARFIGHTER 1 at Townsville Field Training Area which saw soldiers undertake section and platoon training and a series of live fire activities across 9 days. This activity saw a return of 31/42 ROR planning and executing block periods of training which was well received by all involved.

April saw the Company farewell its 2IC, Captain Daryl Batchelor who has moved to the Gold Coast with his family to take up new civilian employment. We thank Daryl for his dedicated hard work over many years which saw him at the acting OC throughout 2017 and 2018 and hope to see him return to the North in the future.

The next six months will see Kennedy Company focus on generating Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance sections for the 3rd Brigade exercise in Oct 19 called Ex BROLGA RUN and then complete preparations for the next cyclone season.

- OC MAJ Merrick Lalor

## Mandatory Training Weekend

Following a return of services and with it, normality for the region, the year began to resemble its standard format, beginning our schedule with the mandatory training weekend, including the ever-riveting mandatory briefs, AIRN compliance shoot and the Basic Fitness Assessment, which all in attendance agreed was the highlight of the weekend.

## March Range Weekend

Providing the first opportunity to revise and hone trade skills, the range weekend saw several WTTs and Live Fire practices, from compliance up to the advanced application of fire, inclusive of the elusive 'Advanced Marksmanship Practice' (AMP) (which still remains elusive... but LCPL Ryan Leahy was pretty close). In addition to standard EF88 practices, the opportunity arose for the application of fire on targets exceeding 400m, providing the opportunity for soldiers to trial the weapon system in its 'marksman' role. With the LSW, all members were refamiliarized in the LF5 and LF9 practices with the weight of the Minimi from the 'standing unsupported' position, reminding us all of the necessity and importance of a proper arm workout routine



## Exercise Platoon Warfighter 1

Representing both a continuation of training and a benchmarking of current skills within the Company (and the Battalion), the Warfighter 1 consisted of two primary phases: blank-fire and live-fire. As a part of the blank-fire phase, the elementary skills and dispositions of a Rifleman as an individual, as well as a member of a section and platoon were on display, beginning with section formations and building into extended patrols, section attacks, ambushing and the construction and inhabiting of an OP, with a little damp weather thrown in for good measure (as the adage goes, "if it ain't raining..."). This eventuated in the culminating activities for the Exercise, as well as providing the framework for continuation training in the year ahead, the live-fire activities, consisting of fire lanes, paired lanes, fire team attacks and finally, section level attacks with HE natures. All members benefited from the in-depth AARs conducted by the Training Staff, of which the maintains and improves provided insight and recommendations for the training program in lead-up for the next major exercise, Broлга Run.

## ANZAC DAY Townsville

Having attracted a larger turnout than previous years, the ANZAC Day service for the Brigade in Townsville was held at the 31/42 RQR Rock Cenotaph, with catering provided by 11 CSSB – serving a gunfire breakfast of everything, including the necessity of coffee and rum. The service included a number of speakers, including the CO, who led the key-note address and the RSM, who led the national anthem. After demounting the Catafalque party, members past and present took the opportunity to catch up, while BHQ continued on to attend the Ingham Parade, re-establishing our presence within the region.



## ANZAC DAY CAIRNS (Trinity Beach)

The community support and turnout for the dawn service at Trinity Beach was noted by the Trinity Beach ANZAC Day Committee as being one of the largest gatherings to date. The Cairns Platoon provided an outstanding spectacle as the catafalque party with the representative wreath laying by WO2 Scott Taylor.



Closely followed by the dawn service was the street parade which was very well attended by serving and ex-serving members, emergency services and school students.

It was noted that there was a lot of public interest in the parading of the EF88 weapon systems. The Trinity Beach Anzac Day Committee have expressed their gratitude for the Cairns Platoons' support stating that it was the best presentation that they have seen.

## 2 RAR OPFOR Tasking 20 May-26 May

Seizing upon an excellent short notice tasking, the Company contributed a number of members to 2RAR as Opposition Forces for ISR elements on one of the ADFs most arduous training grounds, Lindeman and Rattlesnake Islands. After completing the necessary battle prep on Monday, rough sea conditions delayed departure from Airlie Beach to Lindeman Island, stranding our contingent to suffer the equally rough conditions of the Airlie Beach Lagoon, of which members have reported were quite difficult, but they all persevered with much daring and courage.



Upon the sea providing a reprieve, members disembarked and began establishing their position amongst the former Club Med resort, inclusive of an inflatable 'mobile' SAM system. The following days saw to the establishment of routine and patterns of life, while occasionally patrolling and contacting 'less established' ISR positions and culminating in a combined air and amphibious assault by both 2RAR and the USMC, leading to the successful capture of the resort.



The activity provided an excellent opportunity to work alongside our regular counterparts in building our basic skillsets, and importantly, building and maintaining the relationship between the Battalions.

## Exercise Platoon Warfighter 2 (brigade courses period)

Providing the opportunity to build capability and lethality, members of the Company attended a variety of available courses, including the Dismounted Combat Shooting Course, Army Combative Program and the Army First Aid Course.

These courses go a long way to remediate some individual training shortfalls and progress our combat mindset. From this suite of courses, the capability of Kennedy Company's soldiers have been significantly enhanced with the ratification of a fair proportion of training shortfalls.

# EX PLATOON WARFIGHTER 1



# ANZAC DAY



# ASSOCIATIONS





# Capricornia Company

## From the OC

Team, it has been a busy year for all and I would like to start with a huge thank you to you and your families acknowledging all efforts in making/keeping the Coy battle effective. The second half of the year sees us moving into the Readying Stage of the FORGEN Cycle with the main effort focussing Brolga Run in October in the lead up to Hamel in 2020 and I'm sure you will all maintain the rage in order to ensure Cap Coy remains operationally effective.

I would like to acknowledge the ARA Staff at the Depots and WO2 Schenck in Gladstone who all keep the Coy training effective and administration timely. In addition without the support of 11 CSST we would need to CASEVAC the TRGWO – who currently has little hair remaining citing work stress. Regards to all.

- OC MAJ Robert Grant

## From the 2IC

The start of the year always begins with the standard governance and AIRN requirements and is a fair indication of the enthusiasm towards parading for the year with 2019 stepping off on its good foot first....

The direction at company level has been to maintain the combat mindset by revision of ACP and CS skills during weekly training with the majority of members being formally qualified with these skillsets. Further development of ISR capabilities is also progressing under the watchful eyes of relevant SME's to be able to provide this capability as part of reinforcing BG Cannan during the 2020 "Ready" year with 3 Brigade.

Although the beginning of the training year has been busy (don't ask some of the staff how many times they have driven to and from Townsville), Capricornia will continue to provide relevant training as well as improve soldiers and capability for the rest of the year....

*Semper Paratus Defendere - Cede Nullis.*

- 2IC LT Stephen Wooler



## Training WO Capricornia

An extremely busy first half of 2019 for Capricornia, where once I had a good set of hair on my head I now have gone completely bald. Not sure if this is due to age or the tempo (which has been high) having a part to play in it.

But seriously even with the high tempo Capricornia Coy has supported many activities this year including PLWF1 & 2, ANZAC day which we covered off on nine Catafalque parties and numerous

other tasks such as the Harbour Festival in Gladstone which we came 2nd in the raft race, PME, DATE Trg, Trg weekends, Backyard Assist, several Recruiting activities and not to forget CAMPUS courses and the new LRS theory & practical assessments. We even managed to get one weekend off this year which was well spent cleaning the house, mowing the lawns and reacquainting myself with the wife.

We have seen several soldiers attend promotion and specialist courses and will promote some of these soldiers/JNCOs shortly, in addition we have continued to recruit well in all three locations but sadly we seem to lose as many as we recruit due to general attrition of pers moving to other locations or deciding that they need more family time. We wish all these members the best of luck in the future and hope one day they will return to us. For the remainder of the Coy, continue to keep up the excellent effort and remember to have fun as this is the part time of your life.

- WO2 Paul Lergessner

## 4 Platoon

Gladstone Depot has had a good start to the year with the soldiers getting down to business in what has been a jam packed training program both at home and travelling frequently to Townsville for other training activities run by the unit. Gladstone's primary goal has been to increase their numbers and be seen in the public eye to generate that interest. Having done so in the year so far by participating in the Gladstone Harbour Festival raft race which was a successful event and support to the RIC cell. Also in the hopes to draw some exposure have started training at the Gladstone showgrounds on select Tuesday nights for room to manoeuvre and also to "be seen" and hopefully generate public interest. This year we have recently welcomed two new qualified soldiers to the ranks who can add to strengthening a section identity on future activities.

As with previous years the Depot has supported ANZAC commemorations by providing ceremonial support to Gladstone city and Tannum Sands services. The tempo of the training year has been challenging but soldiers are looking forward to putting a strong showing for the remainder of the year to assist providing the strong capability the Company has consistently offered to the Battalion.

- SGT David Coulter



*The CO presents CPL Kneen & CPL West with their 15 year Long Service Medal on PLWF1*

## 5 Platoon

2019 has moved quickly and morale is high. We have successfully achieved the halfway point for the year and thoroughly enjoyed working together in Platoon War fighter 1, Platoon War fighter 2 and our Infantry Minor Tactics weekend. Coming away from that weekend where all we can say is "The Platoon only wants more!"

Members have in addition shown support to ANZAC day, Recruiting activities, Cadets and most recently the Backyard Blitz clean-up day, actioned by Legacy, & the DRSC. It goes without saying the outstanding dedication that our members have to 5 Platoon & 31/42 RQR is what continues to drive the Platoon.



Tuesday night's add to our strong capability & the training offered by NCO's is second to none. The life like situations and training that is delivered in the small time frame is to a standard that instils a level of confidence in the diggers. 5 Platoon is looking for-ward to Brolga Run in October 2019 and gearing up for Hamel 2020.

- LT Misty Evans

## 6 Platoon

The Mackay platoon is lucky to have a strong cohort of JNCO's to lead the platoon training on the road to ready. PLWF1 started the year and all the Capricornia sections ZIC's where staffed from Mackay, the exercise was a hit especially the live fire lanes. PLWF2 saw several members of the platoon update their skills and gain new competencies, at the same time we had 2 members completing subject courses for corporal. The future is bright for JNCO's in Mackay.

As always the regular army staff plan and conduct quality IMT training and ranges which is greatly appreciated by the part time members.

ANZAC day saw the platoon manning 4 catafalque parties across the Mackay region, as always it is an honour to commemorate those that have gone before us and all feedback was positive with invites to participate again next year.

The New Year has seen a new mess committee and several social functions being conducted. Raffles are being conducted to support the RTF, with the quality of the prizes seeing much interest in ticket sales. Upcoming dinners and CQ Ball look to be supported strongly from the F.S Deal club. After several years the mess's weapons have been remounted on the walls and the sword donated by the late LTCOL Frank Marchetti estate also mounted.

All eyes are now firmly on Brolga Run, with strong interest in the ISR training, for those not selected for the ISR platoon the OPFOR role for the battalion will test the remaining members.

## Supportive Employer Day – SWBTA - 02 March 2019

Three key Employers travelled to SWBTA for the morning to observe and participate alongside serving members of 31/42 ROR.

The Employers observed specific training in weapons handling and firepower demonstration followed by sampling combat rations for morning tea/lunch.

The opportunity to socialize with the employees and employers was also well received.



*Corrective Service employees with Dep GM Ms Alexis Livingstone*



*Mr Darren Bowman (QLD Health), Ms Lexi Livingstone (Corrections) & Ms Belinda Tidbury (QLD Health) & OC Cap Coy at the MTR-B SWBTA*

## Gladstone Harbour fest—raft regatta

12 Soldiers from 4PL participated in the Gladstone Harbour Festival Raft Regatta. This year the Army team took out second place against 12 competing teams.

The event helped promote the fact that Gladstone has an active Army Reserve Unit and has supportive employers from a variety of industries and commercial in the region.

The event was well attended by the public and the Army Team's presence was noticed.

Members of the local media focused on the team, with some good publicity about the work that Defence Reserves do in the Gladstone community.

Well done to all those who were involved and a special mention to WO2 Schenck for organising the event & conducting liaison & training etc.

- OC MAJ Grant



## ANZAC Day – Rockhampton

I would like to acknowledge the great efforts of all those supported various Catafalques in the Cap Coy AO who travelled far & wide to support – excellent work!

- MAJ Robert Grant

In addition, members of Capricornia Coy 31/42 RQR were present at this year's ANZAC Day Service in Rockhampton and posted the Catafalque party at the Rockhampton river-side cenotaph. The Rockhampton ceremony also played host to 200 members of the Nepal Ghurkha Rifle Regiment, who paraded alongside other services and community groups.



*Rockhampton Catafalque Party – prior to mounting the Cenotaph*

## Backyard Assist

The latest Rockhampton Backyard Assist on the 14 Jun was organized as part of Legacy's Backyard Assist an initiative that helps older widows of deceased servicemen maintain their yards in Queensland.

The day was a success providing a sense of satisfaction to all those who participated. The event encapsulated the realising of the spirit of community and acknowledged the sacrifices of service men, women and their families, noting Legacy provides much needed support to families that have lost a loved one in war or peace serving their country.



The following persons teamed up to clean up 5 x War Widows Backyards – acknowledging their efforts of - WO2 Paul Lergessner, CPL Arnie Jones 11 CSST, LT Misty Evans, CPL Steve Gross 35 CBT ENG SQN, CPL Adam West, PTE Dale Johnson, CAPT Adam Fairhurst DRSC, Mrs Jennifer Robertson DRSC State Chair, Mr Mark Schulz DRSC CO Chair, Capricorn Correctional Services Officers, Rockhampton Child Safety Officers, SES Keppel Sands members, All Wayz Concreting Pty Ltd, 12 Legatees & Staff members.

## Cockscomb Veterans' Retreat

The President of Cockscomb Veterans' Retreat, Mr Bob Holmes invites all personnel of 31<sup>st</sup>/42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion to attend Veteran's Day as detailed below.

# Cockscomb Veterans Bush Retreat Inc.



ABN 13846673994

## Veterans Day

Cockscomb will be holding their annual Veterans day service on Sun 18<sup>th</sup> August Commencing at 11 am

Following the service and Wreath laying ceremony a BBQ lunch Will be available consisting of a burger and sweets for \$10 also refreshments will be available all day

All current and past members of the Defence forces, Emergency Services and interested members of the general public are invited to attend

This year we are fortunate to have 1RAR band playing on the day, also Rockhampton Pipes and Drums will keep us entertained. The Catafalque party this year will be provided by 31/42RQR

For further information – phone Cockscomb 0475 591 027 Bob 0427225421

E'mail [Cockscombvets@gmail.com](mailto:Cockscombvets@gmail.com)



Lot 124 Camma Road – CAWARRAL QLD 4702

Telephone: 0475 591 027

Email: [cockscombvets@gmail.com](mailto:cockscombvets@gmail.com)

<http://veteransretreat.blogspot.com>



## **42<sup>ND</sup> AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION**

It is business as usual for the 42nd AIB Association. Planning for the Annual Reunion on Saturday 21st September 2019 is well advanced and the details will be broadcast in the near future. The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Old Drill Hall Archer Street Rockhampton on Friday 23rd August 2019. The secretary will promulgate a meeting notice in late July.

Between the two World Wars and following the outbreak of WWII the Battalion camped and trained on the Capricorn Coast in the vicinity of Wreck Point and Cooe Bay. To acknowledge this location as a place of local military historical significance the Association approached the Livingstone Shire Council with a plan to erect a monument or plaque. The discussions with Council staff were very fruitful. The council will support the project and have arranged for the donation of a Sandstone block which the council will install leaving just the plaque to be supplied by the Association.

The Association has a plan to erect more plaques across the region to acknowledge the commitment of not only those who served in the Battalion during the two World Wars but all those who have served and continue to serve.

A copy of the plaque is attached.

- Mr Darryl Prizeman, President 42nd AIB Assoc Rockhampton

## **EVENTS TOWNSVILLE BRANCH 31<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION ASSOCIATION**

### **Commemorative Service Sunday 18th August 2019**

This year's Commemorative Service will be held at **St James Cathedral on Sunday 18th August commencing at 10.00 am**. The Service will be followed by morning tea in the Cathedral. There is no need to notify attendance. Garry Edwards, President of Mackay Branch of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Association will be giving one of the Readings.

### **Reunion Luncheon Townsville Yacht Club Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

The Luncheon will be held at the Townsville Yacht Club on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019, 12:30 for 13:00**. If you would like to attend, please talk to Greg Stokie from the 31<sup>st</sup> Association at the Dinner tonight as he will have attendance forms available. Alternatively email Greg at [gregory.stokie@bigpond.com](mailto:gregory.stokie@bigpond.com) and he will email you an attendance form. All returns must be to Greg by 5 August 2019 for catering purposes.

The Luncheon follows the Church Service but both are quite separate functions.



**42<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:garry_edwards53@hotmail.com)  
0400 243 779

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 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion / 9FD Ambulance / 31st/42<sup>nd</sup> 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 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019 at 6PM – EVENING FUNCTION**

**President – Garry Edwards, Vice President – Michelle Furlong, Secretary – Liz Ward**





**42<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 text).....

Otherwise your phone number .....

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

Were you in 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion / 9FD Ambulance / 31st/42<sup>nd</sup> 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**



**31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:gregory.stokie@bigpond.com)

**Electronic Bank Details**

National Australia Bank

BSB: 084-766

Account Number: 57-874-2457

Account Name: 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion Association Inc Townsville.

Reference: Please ensure that you include your name.

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

**The Secretary, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion Association (Inc)**

**11 Azalea St, Aitkenvale QLD 4814**

**Phone (07) 47798002**