

50th Anniversary 3rd Battalion RAR Vietnam 1971
Dining Night Program
Ainslie Football Club Canberra ACT 5th June 2021
9 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force

**The Commemoration for the Battle of Long Khanh
including Operation Overlord**



PREPARE:

Friday 9:30am Tables and Seating Tony and Robert Redman

- Review Video setup, projectors and audio.
- Test run Apple computer with video and sound/compatibility issues/.
- Setup presentation in video format stops/starts timing.
- 3 RAR & 9 Sqn Banners display.
- Table seating markers for guests. 4 x RAAF – Position NOK markers.
- Finalise numbers. 145.
- Count tables – settle on 26. (10 per table) **Tables are not to be moved by members.**
- Position rostrums & microphones. Check volumes. (Handheld for Peter if needed)
- Lighting.
- Bars 2
- Attendance Register at ONE entrance tick off to verify attendance, numbers and COVID requirements.

Program:

- 4:00pm Last Post Ceremony setup computer and test projectors and screens.
Bar Remains Closed until END of Last Post Ceremony.
- 4:30 pm Monitor arrivals at venue. Jeanette and group of 4 at door to check entry.
Ryan +2 others to manage seating and direct to designated tables.
- 4:45pm Last Post Ceremony Broadcast - Ryan Tubman to initiate & monitor
- 5:00pm Last Post Complete – Display HEADER.
- 5:10pm Bar Open
Member's arrival and register checking in.
Maintain door entry check in.
Ryan, Graham Kells, Terry Beaumont to manage seating and entry problems.
Non-registered arrivals to be signed in, full details and pay \$60 cash on entry.
- 6:20pm 3RAR Group Pipes Drums assemble at top of stairs. (O group - entry & tunes)
- 6:30pm Members Seated – On my mark - Ryan to signal Pipes and Drums.

50th Anniversary 3rd Battalion RAR Vietnam 1971

Dining Night Program

Ainslie Football Club Canberra ACT 5th June 2021

	Arrival Pipes and Drums - overture performance. (2 tunes +)
6:30pm	Be Seated & Welcome. Bar closed
6:35pm	All stand – Ainslie dining staff to assemble for remembrances. Display Remembrances Video - 1 minute each slide + Ode. (Timing 0.17 seconds to 1 minute 52 seconds.) Display “Be Seated” continue video without stopping
6:37pm	Sydney Welcome Home Parade Video– reminisce on old times. Display timing = 1 Minute 53 seconds to 6.0 minutes. Stop video at HEADER
6:45pm	Welcome speech, recognise guests and intro – Tony Cox
6:55pm	9 Sqn RAAF Speech - Robert Redman
7:05pm	Introduce CO Peter Scott Initiate pipers - “Were a pack of Bastards” (play at least twice) CO Speech – Peter Scott (Hand mic available if needed)
7:10pm	Maj McCarthy Introduction – Display 3 RAR McCarty HEADER
7:15pm	Video 3 RAR in Action - 2020
7:20pm	Maj McCarthy closing remarks. – Display 3 RAR Thank you Maj McCarthy Display Dining Night HEADER - stop
7:21pm	Close formal setting.
7:22pm	Dinner Served
8:30 pm	Initiate 3 rd Battalion Photographs Vietnam 1971
9:30pm	Stop Photographs. Display Dining night HEADER.

WELCOME SPEECH: Tony Cox Coordinator / Organiser

CALL TO ORDER

No intro – play video 1 minute silence
Proceed to HEADER SCREEN & hold

TRIBUTE to the WOUNDED:

- We have made tribute to those who were Killed in Action in 1971
- Now let us pay tribute to those who were wounded.
- You have endured the scars of war physically and psychologically.
- We commend your courage for having done so.

WELCOME

It has been 50 Years

I welcome everyone to Canberra. Blame 5 platoon for the cold. *(They could have ignored the enemy's presence and held off attacking until October, but no they had to pick June)*

Possibly the last words said your wife said to you as you left home were – Have you got your medication? I hope you did not forget anything.

I thank the 3rd Battalion pipes and drums for their dining night introduction. We are very pleased to have you here and for you to be a part of our evening. Thank you for your musical entry and especially for the piper this morning at the grave side service for Lt John Wheeler. He endured -2c Canberra morning in summer dress to perform at the service.

50th Anniversary 3rd Battalion RAR Vietnam 1971
Dining Night Program
Ainslie Football Club Canberra ACT 5th June 2021

Introduction of 3 RAR members:

MAJ Nicholas	McCarthy
WO2 David	Nicholas
LT Jayden	Green
LT Patrick	Omodei
SGT Trevor	Catalano
Mr Zach	Dawes
Cpl Roger Stephenson	Ryan
LCpl Connor Peter	Dawson
Pte Nicholas Luke	Johnstone
Pte Andrew William	Wright

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION: For those who don't know - I am Tony Cox
I am your organiser and coordinator for this the 50th Anniversary Reunion.
The planning and preparation have dominated my thoughts for so long. So
Please bear with me whilst I debrief myself by having a few words.

There is no committee, but I don't work alone. I commend:

- Peter Scott and David Lean who have provided a listening ear guiding balanced and direction when needed.
- Terry and Sue Beaumont of A Company
- Cliff and Jan Fletcher of B Company Backed up by Jeff Barrett
- John Herlihy for Delta Company having taken over from Clive Usher.
- Robert Redman representing 9 Sqn RAAF

- Each have been there when needed.
- Nothing has ever been a problem.
- Always positive suggestions, support and problem solving.
- Never a harsh word and always lots of laughs and banter.

- We thank the Commonwealth Government Commemorations section of the Department of Veterans Affairs for recognising the significance of Vietnam 1971 and for their service in developing the Commemoration for the Battle of Long Khanh and for including Operation Overlord.

A little under 3 Years ago, Peter Scott and I considered the 50th Anniversary 3rd Battalion RAR Vietnam 1971 to be in 2021.

Originally it was planned for October, but it was Canberra.

Luckily reunion foundations were put into place very early thus providing locked in Last Post Ceremonies that have survived the past 18-month scramble by other groups for dates affected by Covid.

50th Anniversary 3rd Battalion RAR Vietnam 1971

Dining Night Program

Ainslie Football Club Canberra ACT 5th June 2021

Peter Scott made applications for a Commemorative Postage Stamp and Coin to commemorate the Battle of Long Khanh and Operation Overlord.

The application was rejected - however Peter persisted and eventually the concept in both instances were approved and developed to issue.

We welcome our guests:

Adonis	Cox
John	Cox

Product and Project Development Manager Sales, Royal Australian Mint

Last Post Ceremonies:

The Last Post Ceremonies cannot occur unless families request them. An offer was made, and the families grasped the opportunity with enthusiasm, so having researched I tendered for positions and was successful.

Thanks - AWM Last Post ceremonies group especially **Jennifer Surtees**

I have never been able to separate 3RAR casualties with RAAF casualties. RAAF families have mingled with 3 RAR families over the years so when an event such as this occurs, we become involved as one.

Originally this was to be a Charlie Company night however it became almost impossible for families from each group to share their attendances. 9 Sqn RAAF were invited to join with C Company but when I notified other companies it became a no brainer for all of us to gather as one.

We are delighted then to welcome our families of the next of kin of those KIA in 1971.

I welcome the families, relatives, and friends of:

- 2Lt David Paterson

Sarah	Hollier
Christine	Alomes

David Paterson's Grandchildren

Kate	Hollier
Erin	Hollier
David	Hollier

- Lt John William Wheeler

Ruth	Ellis
------	-------

Unfortunately, Ruth is an apology. Family illness. Ruth lives in QLD and she would have made the trip solely to attend the grave side service this morning.

- Pilot Officer Ronald William Betts direct family:

Judith	Stanton
Margaret	Betts
Suzan	Knowler

50th Anniversary 3rd Battalion RAR Vietnam 1971

Dining Night Program

Ainslie Football Club Canberra ACT 5th June 2021

- Cpl David John Dubber MID

June	Edwards
Lisa	Dubber
Patricia	McIntosh
Andrew	McIntosh
Margaret	Baker

- Also, an apology – Covid restrictions stopped the family from attending however we are working on the Commemoration and Last Post ceremony.

- Flight Lieutenant Everitt Murray “Lofty” Lance

Murray	Lance
Graham	Lance
Meredath	Lance
Sinety	Lance
Blake	Lance
Krystina	Barbaro
Daniel	Barbaro

- Private Paul Manning
- **Manning family will arrive Wednesday.**

There are many requirements for the Last Post ceremonies before the AWM accepts the application.

- **I thank Harley and Dean Stanton** for their accepting the responsibility in making application to the archives for all the Service Records. The process was not strait forward, and it took a long time.

Years Ago

Sitting on my little patch of cleared dirt in the ”J” in a night defensive harbor I would look around to my right and left and possibly give the blokes I could see a thumbs up if they happen to be looking.

They would return the sign. There were No words.

We were too busy cleaning our weapon before giving it a good night kiss before dark.

Our priority OFF COURSE was to volunteer for a double gun picket during the night. Now that’s a prize worth fighting for.

I didn’t think much of it then, but I know now that I observed respect from members of the platoon for each other. Nothing was said, it was just there.

I remember thinking these guys are pretty good. I never thought the opposite at any time. We had a job to do, and we were doing it. It was hot, wet, uncomfortable, there were hardships every day, but everyone just got on with it.

50th Anniversary 3rd Battalion RAR Vietnam 1971

Dining Night Program

Ainslie Football Club Canberra ACT 5th June 2021

In later years when I have had time to ponder, I consider them to have been POSSIBLY the best of the best.

And there I was sitting among them, accepted and holding my position in the platoon as expected and required.

I OBSERVED THAT Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion always acted professionally. I never saw otherwise.

They may let off larrikin steam occasionally, and it was all good fun, but never in the bush.

That same friendship, comradeship and professionalism exists in this room tonight.

Every one of us were soldiers once.

We proudly represented Australia in 1971.

I have at times felt pride in being a veteran and I know you do too.

The fact that you have overcome the cold and the distance to be here in Canberra this weekend is an example of your dedication, your fellowship, your professionalism and your love for each other. Nothing gets in the way of that.

Sometimes I AM ASKED , why do I put myself to all this trouble organising these events.

I'm here to honour the memory of those who were lost in Vietnam in 1971, and at other times.

I'm here to honour the families who have suffered because of that war. They have lost a member of their family that cannot be replaced.

I'm here because I promised myself that I would never forget them. -“Lest We Forget”

I'm here to honour the memory of our experiences together and to once again feel the atmosphere of good men who know what honour, courage and real friendship is all about.

INTRODUCE:

Wing Commander Robert Redman CSC RAAF (Ret'd) 9 Sqn 1970 - 71

- Robert Redman's Speech

INTRODUCE

Col Francis Peter Scott DSO Commanding Officer 3RD Battalion RAR Vietnam 1971

Announce Peter Scott	HEADER
Prepare Bagpipes play	DISPLAY VIDEO of Words Timing:
Play The Director	6 minutes 11 sec to 6 Minutes 50 seconds

50th Anniversary 3rd Battalion RAR Vietnam 1971
Dining Night Program
Ainslie Football Club Canberra ACT 5th June 2021

	Time for two rounds.....?
Peter's speech	DISPLAY HEADER

Thank you Peter

Announce Maj McCarthy 3rd Battalion RAR Townsville

- 7:20pm Maj McCarthy closing remarks. – Display 3 RAR Thank you Maj McCarthy
Display Dining Night HEADER - stop
- 7:21pm Close formal setting.
- 7:22pm Dinner Served
- 8:30 pm Initiate 3rd Battalion Photographs Vietnam 1971
- 9:30pm Stop Photographs. Display Dining night HEADER.