



A proud moment for one of our members, Lieutenant Colonel Darleen Young and her family following her investiture at Government House, Sydney as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2013.

L-R: Daughter Krystal, son Lachlan, LTCOL Young, husband Paul Shrubbs (CPL ex-UNSWR) and son Gareth (currently serving as the Platoon Commander of the Heavy Weapons Platoon, Battle Ready Group, 3 RAR).

THE KENSINGTONIAN



Newsletter of the UNSWR Association April 2014

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COMING EVENTS

Mid-Year Lunch. The Association's Mid-Year Lunch will be held in the ISC Room of the Royal Automobile Club at 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney on **Friday 4th July 2014 (12.30 pm for 1.00 pm)**. The menu chosen is of two courses including pre-lunch drinks (beers, soft drinks and Club wines).



Members' partners and friends are also most welcome to attend and the cost will be \$100.00 per person, with payment on the day by cheque or by cash.

RSVP by Friday 27th June 2014 to the Secretary at <http://www.unswr.com.au/Page3.php> or by phone on 0438 555 303.

Committee meetings. All members are always welcome to attend Association committee meetings which are held about three times each year. Apart from providing an opportunity to have a say in the Association's activities, the meetings enable contact with current members of the Regiment when the meetings are held at Kensington.

The next committee meeting will be in the ISC Room at the Royal Automobile Club, commencing at 11:30 am on Friday 4th July 2014.

Exercise POLYGON WOOD. Brigadier Alan Murray, CSM, Commander 8th Brigade has invited the Association to send a representative observer to a major exercise to be conducted around the Singleton Army Camp on 17th and 18th May 2014.

The exercise will comprise soldiers from both the 5th and 8th Brigades organised into a 550-strong Battle Group operating a range of infantry weapons, mortars, Bushmaster vehicles and engineering plant and equipment. When assembled, the organisation will be known as Battle Group WARATAH and will be reinforced by a platoon of British Army soldiers.

Being a local, Sergeant Barry Archer has been nominated as the Association's representative.

VALE ARTHUR HERBERT SACHELL, OAM



MAJ Terry O'Brien has given the following report on the funeral service of the late **Arthur Satchell, OAM**, former Bandmaster of the Regimental Band who sadly passed away on 22nd January 2014, aged 86.

On Tuesday the 28th of January, the funeral service was held for a previous UNSWR Bandmaster; the late WO1 Arthur H Satchell, OAM. The service was conducted at the Menai Corps Hall of the Salvation Army.

His funeral was well attended by both fellow Salvationists and UNSWR members, together with Fire Brigade, Artillery and Leichhardt Band members with whom Arthur had also served as Bandmaster.

Current and past members of the UNSWR Band included Drum Major **SGT Peter Ryan (Official Mourner)**, **Steve Freney**, **Vince Sedgwick**, **Gordon McMaugh**, **Kel Bakewell**, **Kevin Skues**, **Ian Stenning** with **MAJ Frank Rugers** representing AABC. Also, **Ross Griffith** from the Artillery Band attended.

Other past UNSWR members who attended included **COL Sandy MacGregor** (Arthur's first UNSWR CO), **MAJ Ron Hack**, **MAJ Terry O'Brien** (HQ Coy CSM and OC, respectively - the Band was then part of HQ Coy) and **MAJ Ken McKay**.

LTCOL Michael Hough's apologies were extended, he being unable to attend. His comments were...."I was CO UNSWR (for part of) the time that Arthur was Bandmaster and as an ex-CO and a member of UNSWR who fondly remembers him and how he built up, and contributed to, a fine military band, I am most sorry to hear of Arthur's death", We would all concur with Colonel Hough's comments.

An engine and crew of firefighters from Menai Station represented Fire and Rescue NSW. His son in-law **Major David Terracini** of the Salvation Army conducted the service.

Arthur would have approved the note perfect Salvation Army Band recital in his honor

We from UNSWR were amazed at the number of Brass Bands Arthur graced with his energy, professional skills and intellect.

As it was concluded at the end of the funeral service “We all thank God for the privilege of knowing Arthur and for the generous way he invested his gifts and fun loving nature with us.” Amen to that.

Also of note is that the *History of the University of New South Wales Regiment 1952 – 2006* contains many references to the Band and its achievements (pages 201-234) during Arthur’s time – and indeed the achievements of the all the ‘old and bold bandsmen.

VALE NATHAN JAMES MCALISTER

Earlier this year, the Association became aware of the tragic death of a former member of the Regiment, ‘Wal’ (**Nathan James**) **McAlister** who had died of burns on 4th February 2014 as a result of an explosion at a fireworks factory where he was working. Late of Quandialla in the New South Wales Central West, Nathan was only 38 years of age when he passed away.

Upon becoming aware of Nathan’s passing, Association member **CPL Phil Beaver** of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Palmerston in the Northern Territory provided the Association with the following 2012 group photograph.



CPL Nathan (“Wal”) McAlister (rear) with fellow soldiers in B Company of the 51st Battalion, the Far North Queensland Regiment, Weipa, Queensland, July 2012. (Photograph courtesy of CPL Phil Beaver).

Phil has noted that Nathan was a good friend and that the two of them undertook the Recruit Course at Kapooka December 1996. Phil added

“..... I last saw him in July 2012 at B Coy 51 FNQR which I was posted to at the time. He was a patrol commander for Operation Resolute, having come up from Mt Isa. Nathan was posted to D Coy 51 FNQR. He patrolled from the tip of Cape York to Weipa over nine days and during this operation I snapped a photo of him the day his patrol arrived back in Weipa.

“When I first saw him in Weipa I called him Wal, a name which he told me he had not been called since UNSWR”.

Rest in peace Wal.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2014 has been a year of change for the Regiment – welcoming a new Commanding Officer, LTCOL Alain Dunand and new senior command team appointments including Operations Officer CAPT Luke Marshall and OC Cadet Coy CAPT Colin Bigger (a replacement XO is yet to be appointed). WO1 Phil Thompson continues as RSM. In addition, BRIG Paul Couch has been appointed as the inaugural Colonel Commandant of the Regiment.

We extend our congratulations to the new appointees and look forward to working with them for the benefit of the Regiment and the Regimental family.

The Association committee has had a briefing from LTCOL Dunand and discussions with the CO and the command team about how we can assist the unit. Initiatives that have been discussed (and are in various stages of implementation) include:

Instituting a new mentoring program for officer cadets;

- Resurrecting some of the important Regimental trophies and awarding them for achievements relevant to the Regiment's current role;
- Working with the Regiment and Army to examine to possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Regiment and the University to foster closer ties between the two institutions;
- Assisting with a stock take of Regimental silver (by that term, I mean Trust silver, silver on loan from Allied units and the Regiment's own silver). In future, this may include assisting the unit to build a new silver cabinet to store and secure the silver;
- Conducting a guest speaker program involving former UNSWR officers who have had successful careers (either civilian, military or both) and how Officer Cadets can learn from their experiences. These will be on training nights and we will advise you of them and encourage you to attend to meet and talk to the staff and cadets;
- Commissioning and completing Honorary Colonel portraits for MAJGEN Hoeben and COL MacGregor.

All involved are aware of the previous unsuccessful mentoring program. However, the command team is keen to pursue this initiative and we are taking steps to address what we believe were the shortcomings of the previous program.

All of us were concerned about the demise of the Lancer's Band and what has appeared to be a threat to the UNSWR Band's existence. We expressed our very strong desire that a similar fate does not befall the UNSWR Band. The CO recently advised that:

“Chief of Army advised on 31st March 2014 that the current situation with Army Reserve bands, in particular those associated with Armoured Corps and Infantry Battalions, is to be retained for the time being. There has been some discussion in the ex-service community which has led to some correspondence to Government. This correspondence appears to be premature in that no decision had been made on the future of those bands at the time of that correspondence.

COMD 8 Bde has also advised CO UNSWR that he is very happy with the current arrangements for the UNSWR Band (tasking, structure, resources) and is not supportive of any changes for the remainder of his command tenure”.

Given the stated position of the Chief of Army, it would presently serve no purpose (and perhaps be counter-productive and damaging for the Regiment and the Band) for individual Association members to write to members of Parliament or senior bureaucrats seeking their intervention to preserve the Regiment's Band. We will continue to monitor the situation and let you know if it changes. If you have ongoing concerns about this, please call me or contact me by email.

The Association Secretary, Peter Godfrey and I attended the Regimental dinner at the Depot on Saturday 12 April. As usual, the officers, Officer Cadets, Senior NCO's, NCO's and soldiers put on a very enjoyable evening (including a very entertaining Subbie's Court). The dinner was also attended by BRIG Couch as Colonel Commandant. In these times, one of the objectives of the dinner is to give officer cadets experience of formal dining-in occasions (including hosting duties) prior to commissioning. Sitting in the drill hall, even though it was well camouflaged by decorations for the evening, brought back many fond memories of great characters and good times.

The Regiment will participate in Exercise POLYGON WOOD in mid-May, in an area all too familiar to each of you - Singleton training area. We have been asked to send an observer and Barry Archer has volunteered (I am sure you won't need any maps Gunner, as you'll remember every track and dry creek bed). Barry will take a few photos and give us a report for the next newsletter.

I will also attend an 8 BDE briefing by BRIG Allan Murray, CSM (COMD 8 BDE) on Saturday 21 June 2014 at 2/17 RNSWR Headquarters at Pymble. The briefing will be an update on recent changes and planned changes relevant to the Brigade and the Regiment. I will report on this update either in the next newsletter or by separate email to you.

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

Colonel “Sandy” MacGregor, MC, RFD has concluded his appointment as the Regiment’s Honorary Colonel after seven years of service and has handed over to **Brigadier Paul Couch, CSC, RFD** with a new title of Colonel Commandant. We thank Colonel MacGregor for his stewardship and look forward to working with Brigadier Couch.

While most members of the Association have known COL MacGregor for many years, BRIG Couch is new to the Regiment so an opportunity is now taken to provide a profile of him.

Paul Couch enlisted as a soldier in July 1970 into “B” Company 19th Battalion, the Royal New South Wales Regiment (19 RNSWR). He was promoted to Lance Corporal in August 1972 and to Corporal in July 1973.

In April 1975 he was commissioned from the ranks into the 1st /19th Battalion, the Royal New South Wales Regiment (1/19 RNSWR) as a 2nd Lieutenant and posted as a Platoon Commander in “B” Company. In September 1977 he was promoted to **Lieutenant** and posted to “A” Company. In May 1981 he was promoted to Captain and posted as the Mortar Platoon Commander.



After attending Intermediate Course at the Reserve Command and Staff College (RCSC) in 1983/1984 he was promoted to Major in November 1984 and served as Officer Commanding in “A” Company and Support Company.

After a total of 18 years’ service in 19 RNSWR/1/19 RNSWR he was posted in 1988 to the 41st Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment (41 RNSWR) for three years as Officer Commanding “D” Company in Taree and later as the Operations Officer.

He commanded “D” Company 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment on Exercise “Kangaroo 89”.

After attending Senior Course RCSC and the Intermediate Officers’ Course at the Land Warfare Centre, Canungra in 1991 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in January 1992 and posted as the Commanding Officer of 41 RNSWR.

He served as the Commanding Officer of 41 RNSWR for four years followed by three years as a Tactics Instructor at the Land Warfare from January 1996 to December 1998.

In February 1999 he was promoted to Colonel and posted as the Chief Instructor at the Regional Training Centre New South Wales, Moorebank.

He was promoted to Brigadier on the 1st January 2001 and posted as the Commander 8th Brigade. On completion of his posting at 8 Brigade, he elected to transfer to the Stand-By Reserve on the 31st December, 2002.

Brigadier Couch was awarded the Reserve Force Medal in 1985 and the Reserve Force Decoration in 1990. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in 1996 for his service as the

Commanding Officer of the 41st Battalion. He has also been awarded the Australian Defence Medal and the Anniversary of National Service Medal.

He was appointed as Regimental Colonel of the Royal New South Wales Regiment effective from 1st June 2007 and as Colonel Commandant of the University of New South Wales Regiment from 1st July 2013.

Brigadier Couch lives at Cundletown near Taree in New South Wales and is a Solicitor by occupation. He is married to Carmel and has five children and seven grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoys fishing and playing touch football and golf.

Lieutenant Colonel Pete Docwra has handed over command of the Regiment to **Lieutenant Colonel Alain Dunand**, Royal Australian Artillery.

LTCOL Dunand enlisted in the Army Reserve in April 1983 as a gunner in the Royal Australian Artillery. In July 1985 he was selected for officer training and graduated with the Sword of Honour from 43 course, OCTU, 2 Training Group. In August 1986 he was posted to 10 Field Battery, 23 Field Regiment where he held regimental positions. He was awarded “2nd Div Gunner Officer of the year” in 1989 through course and Regimental work.



He attended Reserve Command and Staff College at 2nd Training Group from July 1990 to Jun 1991 and was subsequently posted as a Company 2IC/Instructor to University of NSW Regiment. In August 1992 he was posted to 11 Field Battery, 23 Field Regiment as Forward Observer and subsequently Battery 2IC (BK).

In July 1994 he pursued job opportunities in Europe and was posted to the Inactive Reserve. He spent 3 years in the U.K. and 6 years in California working for Software Companies before returning to Australia in 2003. He re-activated with 7th Field Regiment and completed the ARA Intermediate Staff Course at Canungra in 2004. Postings at 7th Field Regiment included Assistant Adjutant, Projects Officer, Forward Observer, Battery 2IC and finally as Battery Commander of 28th Field Battery located at Dee Why.

In 2009 he was posted to HQ 8 BDE as OC 8 RRF, responsible for delivering domestic support to ADF Operations within 8 BDE. In Jul 09 he commenced full time service as SO3 Ops and Brigade Major. In Mar 2010, as OC 8 RRF, he was responsible for force generating and mounting the Low Risk Search (LRS) in support of OP MUSTANG which transitioned to EX READY HAND for a Coy(+) RRF exercise in Sydney.

In 2010 he completed Staff College studying at the Australian Defence College, Canberra. As the Brigade Major 8 Bde he had oversight mounting and demounting various operational rotations for Op ANODE and Op RESOLUTE. In December 2011 he received a Commander Second Division Commendation for his work as OC RRF and Brigade Major 8 Bde from 2009 to 2011. He deployed on operations to Timor Leste on Op ASTUTE in 2011.

On promotion in 2012 he was posted into HQ 8 Bde as Chief of Staff, commanding the HQ and responsible for mounting and force preparation of Op ANODE R29 to the Solomon Islands. During his tenure he served as Full-Time Chief of Staff and was involved in the planning and conduct of the Bde HQ Unit Establishment Review.

He is currently posted as Commanding Officer of the University of New South Wales Regiment based in Kensington responsible for Soldier training in NSW and Officer Cadet Training in 8 Bde.

His civilian career over the past 30 years is in I.T. and has held roles as computer operator, programmer, analyst, team leader and most recently as Office Manager and Director for Perforce Software. He holds the office of President of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (NSW).

LTCOL Dunand lives in Cherrybrook in North Western Sydney, is married to wife Christine and has two sons Simon and Patrick aged 23 and 21 respectively. His interests include aviation, information technology, videography and mechanical engineering.

The Regimental Sergeant Major of UNSWR, **Warrant Officer Class One Philip Thompson** has kindly provided the following notes on his background.

On 26 February 1986 I enlisted into the Australian Army and on completion at 1 RTB was allocated to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC). Completing my Initial Employment Training (IETs) at Puckapunyal I was posted to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment (2 Cav Regt) as an M113 Dvr/Sig and Assault Trooper at Holsworthy, Sydney.



Since those early days I have held various postings that have included B Squadron 3rd /4th Cavalry Regiment, Warrant Officer and Non Commissioned Officer Academy, Combat Training Centre - Live in Townsville, the School of Armour in Puckapunyal, the Soldier Career Management Agency in Queenscliffe, 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment - Queensland Mounted Infantry (2/14 LHR - QMI) in Brisbane, the Department of Material Organisation (DMO) in Melbourne and the University of New South Wales Regiment here in Sydney.

The opportunity to serve to date in four different Brigades has enriched my military career and enabled me to meet and serve with the very best and smartest soldiers within the Australian Defence Force.

I have had the opportunity to exercise with multinational forces in England, America and New Zealand and deploy to the deserts of the Sinai. To operationally deploy to Iraq in support of stabilization forces in the southern region of Al Muthana; to Baghdad, as security for the Australian Embassy; the highlight being Command Sergeant Major of the Counter Insurgency Training Centre in Afghanistan. I certainly appreciate that we live in the luckiest country in the world.

During my time in the Army I have been supported by my family, Cathy, my wife and Nathan Jade and Keiran, our children. They have travelled extensively throughout Australia supporting me and have been enriched with the experience that has been afforded to us. Our family has been expanded with three grandchildren so we are blessed.

My current posting to the University of New South Wales Regiment has given me a far greater appreciation for the Reserve commitment our people undertake. The commitment they provide to the 2nd Division is to be commended. I have truly enjoyed my tenure here at the Regiment and look forward to another year as RSM.

CONGRATULATIONS

Many members will recall **LT W.G. (Bill) Belcher, OAM** who was Music Director of the Regimental Band in the period 1992-1994.

Bill and his wife, **Doreen**, reside in Penrith NSW where they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2013 and our hearty congratulations are extended to them.



Bill and Doreen Belcher, Penrith, NSW, 2013. (Penrith Press, 22nd November 2013).

CONTACT DETAILS

With this newsletter for your information is an extract from the Association Membership Register.

If you have not already done so, please advise the Secretary at <http://www.unswr.com.au/Page3.php> should you have had a change in your contact details, unit or military status (e.g., to Standby Reserve) in the past two years.

NEW ZEALAND BAND WEBSITE

A friend of the Association and a former Drummer in the 2nd Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, **Les Thompson**, has recently developed a website that provides interesting photographs depicting Band history.

The link to the new website is www.2canterburynmwcband.co.nz

PRE-COMMISSIONING TRAINING IN THE ARMS TODAY

The 27th February 2014 edition of *Army – The Soldiers’ Newspaper* contains an article about pre-commissioning training in the Army Reserve today. One of the soldiers interviewed was **OCdt Brittany Szlezak** of UNSWR who was undergoing a phase of her pre-commissioning training. Her comments during the interview were that the training was helping to set her up for her Army and civilian careers. She added....

“To have so many chances to really push myself in a supportive environment with a lot of professional and experienced staff has been exceptional.

I think there aren’t too many places where you are pushed constantly and come out the other end with so many new skills.”

The whole article can be seen on pages 12 and 13 of the newspaper.

(<http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews/>) then click on BROWSE ISSUES/2014/February 27th 2014.



Finding the way:
OCdt Brittany Szlezak checks her bearing during the field phase of her officer training at Singleton.
Photos by Sgt John Waddell

Officer Cadet Brittany Szlezak of UNSWR training at Singleton, January 2013. (Photograph by John Waddell, Army - The Soldiers’ Newspaper, 27 February 2014)

UNSWR AS SEEN BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN DE TELIGA

Lieutenant Colonel John de Teliga recalls taking UNSWR (then organised as an infantry battalion) to annual camp in the Grose Valley, Blue Mountains in May 1965. Upwards of 600 members of the Regiment were said to have spent the camp in the winter chill of the Blue Mountains with no base camp - humping their weapons, food, and gear for 16 days of practical soldiering.

John recalls that there was substantial opposition from the chain of command on the basis that it would be too cold and the soldiers would not have parkas, winter weight sleeping bags and other cold weather equipment. He replied that he had given them six months’ notice to equip themselves (and many of us will recall that we used to do just that when it came to good quality winter field gear)! John’s adjutant on the camp was Captain Karl Baudistel who was later killed in action during the Vietnam War. (Captain Baudistel’s sword hangs in the UNSWR SGTS/OFFERS Mess). The end of exercise assessment was that the camp was most successful.

John de Teliga's Army service spanned almost 30 years (including active service with the 2/2nd Infantry Battalion, 6th Division, 2nd AIF from July 1942 to June 1946) and he regards his reward as having had an opportunity to serve his country. He was a renowned tactician - Colonel George

Warfe is reputed to have said to one of John's contemporaries, Lieutenant J. Stafford: "There are two field officers in the Australian Army who know their tactics and one of them is John de Teliga".

On his retirement, John received a letter from Colonel Jim Hodgson, Headquarters 8th Task Force which contained the farewell: "It is my opinion the Army will lose one of its most efficient officers on your retirement. Best wishes for the future".

John's father, Guildford de Teliga, was also a soldier and served with the King's Royal Rifles of the British Army during the First World War. He also served in the 2nd AIF during the Second World War.

In 1989 John de Teliga donated a Japanese Sniper Rifle from the Second World War to the Regiment as a perpetual prize for marksmanship.

John is in good health and turns 92 this month. We wish him many happy returns.

We would like to acknowledge a generous cash donation by John to the Association recently. The donation will be put to a worthy cause which is expected to be determined at the next Committee meeting.

BRYAN PAPE

As this newsletter goes to press, we have been advised of the passing of one of our long-standing members, **Captain Bryan Pape** at his home in Armidale on 29th April 2014.

A funeral service for Bryan will be held at 10:00 am on Friday 16th May 2014 at St Stephen's Uniting Church, 197 Macquarie Street, Sydney and a tribute to him will be included in the next newsletter.
