



SITREP

Lara RSL Sub Branch



Issue 3, August 2024

Presidents Report

Welcome to another issue of SITREP!

Whilst normally this time of year is somewhat quieter following on from ANZAC Day, it seems as though there has not been the traditional lull this year which is a fantastic sign for the health and prosperity of our Sub Branch!

Also, the types of activities that we have been participating in have been varied from our standard ones and this is a true testament to the hard work of the committee in ensuring that we continue to build our relationships with so many other community groups. From being invited to Ingenia Lifestyle Village to accept a donation, to having the Scouts tour the Sub Branch, from celebrating 3 milestone birthdays to starting sporting events that we never even knew existed!



I would also like to pass on a few messages of thanks for some things that have taken place over the past three months. A big thanks to the Gothard family for their kind donation of a trailer load of wood for us to burn and keep everyone warm out the back! Thank you to Nicole for organizing the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at the Sub Branch and to everyone who was able to support this event and together we raised \$606.30 for the Cancer Council.

This quarter we headed off to Monbulk RSL and also Upwey-Belgrave RSL for a bus trip to have a look at all of their amazing displays. This trip was also planned so that we could have a good look at their work done in partnership with the team from Honouring Our Younger Veterans Australia, in preparation for our own partnership with them which will see similar displays set up at Lara on the 6th of September!

I would also like to thank all of those members who came along to celebrate our 75 years in our current building. This event was a huge success and judging from the feedback that was received, a great night was had by all who attended.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is coming to a close, and throughout this long process, many Veterans and their families have shared some incredibly difficult stories in the hope of making a difference to those who follow in our footsteps. The Commission has released an interim report which is available to read online, but is also available in a printed book. This book can be ordered free of charge at www4.pmg.com.au/dvrsc. If anyone would like a copy and is unable to order it online, please let me know and I will process the order for you. I received my copy at the beginning of August and am half way through reading it and I can tell you that it is both a compelling, and confronting read. For anyone reading it that requires support, please reach out to us, or alternatively, Open Arms Veterans & Families Counselling is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046.

As always, your committee are constantly mindful of our Duty of Care to ensure the safety and security of all our members and guests at the Sub Branch. We have recently made some changes to our incident reporting mechanisms, the safety and security of our volunteers behind the bar, and more recently we have installed CCTV both internally and externally at the Sub Branch. We are also in the process of installing some external lighting to also further improve the safety for our members. It is also important that we all keep our Code of Conduct in the forefront of our minds in all of our interactions and as such, I have asked Russell to also include that in this quarter's newsletter as a reminder for everyone.

As you will see from the Upcoming Events page at the end of this newsletter, there is a lot of activities happening at the Sub Branch over the coming quarter, so we welcome everyone to come on down and get involved! If you would like to see different activities taking place, please reach out to one of your committee members to start those discussions!

Yours aye,

Marcus McEwen

President.

Ingenia Life Style Lara



Ron, George, Marcus, Anita and Ray

On the 16th May 24 the Lara RSL was invited to the Ingenia Lifestyle group. These ladies from Ingenia have been knitting red poppies in the lead up to Anzac Day and have kindly donated their profits to the Lara RSL. We do have an ongoing bond with Ingenia Lifestyle as a number of our RSL members reside in the village.



We also know of two more of our members who are in the process of moving in. A big thanks to the Ladies of Ingenia Life for their effort and their generous donation. We look forward to having more interaction and commaradery in the future.

2nd Lara Scout Group



On the Evening of the 23rd May 24 we hosted a visit from the local Scout Group headed up by John Smith and Jody Jones. It was an entertaining night as the Scouts were asking questions that adults don't usually ask. It was a case of being 'quick on your feet' so to speak.

We had questions from how many times have we been shot at to what was the turning point in each of the wars. They were certainly an inquisitive bunch and enjoyable to be with. I certainly found it an entertaining and a different way to spend an evening. Looking forward to the next visit from one of our young community groups.

Certificates of Appreciation

With the generous support that our sponsors provided in the lead up to Anzac Day and on the day, we decided to acknowledge these organisations by presenting each of them with a certificate of appreciation.



Marcus receiving the \$2,000 cheque from Brett Richie who is one of the board members of the Lara Sporting Club.

Without this donation we would not of be able to provide the all round sound which was mentioned the previous year.



They are pretty snazzy looking certificates; we did hand out more than you see here. Very grateful to all.





Chris from Invictus Australia kindly offered the Lara area a chance to try out the relatively new sport of Pickle Ball. This game has become very big in the United States and is taking hold in the land of the jumping kangaroo.



Chris the Pickle Ball Ambassador



Steffi Graf and Andre Agassi

Three Big Birthdays for the August issue



This quarter of the SITREP sees three big birthdays between the end of April and the end of June. **Margret Hart headed up the trio of birthday's** by celebrating her 80th birthday quietly at the Lara RSL, "and a nice bunch of flowers that they are".



Well done Fred and Ginger!

On Saturday the 1st of June **Maureen also celebrated her 80th** birthday. Maureen is part of a number of groups/organisations around town and some of these people were present at the RSL for this occasion.

We had a surprise treat during the afternoon when Maureen and Les took to the dance floor to give us an exhibition of the tango. I was fully expecting toes to be stepped on but no, it was conducted in fine style.



As the example was now set, it was time for the crowd to get involved. Pool table to one side and let the music play. Both of Maureen's daughters were present and are in this photo to the left. These three ladies had a good sing-a-long and could possibly rival the Pointer Sisters, they were "so excited and they just can't hide it".

Last and definitely not the last is our oldest regular member.



On the 25th of June at around 1000hrs the sounds of the Scottish Bagpipes could be heard from the end of June Meaney's Street. Sashi played two or three tunes for the birthday girl. Elizabeth and Ian the ever reliable chauffeurs were present on the day as were Dave and Fiona McBean.

The feed back from June's combined Meeting/Party was that there were around 70 people in attendance with a fair contingent from the Meaney Clan.



There used to be a TV program called "My Three Sons" we have 'My three Daughters'.



Julie, Carla, June and Lynn

New Trailer in action Again



There are your "haves and your have nots"

Then you have your light blue Supervisors and your dark blue labourers.

Note: The two Supervisors with hands on hips.



Thank you Steve, Robin and Liz Gothard for donating your wood to the Lara RSL. A very generous offer indeed.

And while we are thanking people, thanks again to Stephen Cook and the gang up at the Melton RSL for hand balling this BBQ trailer over to us. It has seen snags over at the tennis court during the week and a load of wood on Saturday. Very handy.

Australian's Biggest Morning Tea

Lara RSL Sat 15th June



"A big thank you to everyone who attended my Biggest Morning Tea last Saturday. I did not imagine the event would be so popular with between 45 to 50 people attending. Those that did attend had a great morning enjoying an assortment of slices, cakes and biscuits. The homemade jelly slice being a big hit, I am now eager to do another morning tea next year, but I will also make it bigger with more raffle prizes and include more games. Well done everyone for raising \$606.30 to go towards the

cancer council and vital cancer research."



Nicole Witworth

Monbulk to Upwey - Belgrave RSL Bus Trip

Sunday 16th June



From what I have been told everyone enjoyed the day on the east side of Melbourne. It was expected that the bus would propel you all with speed and comfort and rocket you to your destination. But the word on the street was that the turbo flange was just hanging on (no power up the hill), the floor was wet and there was no heating. I also heard that the guy who booked the bus did a runner and took off overseas. "You can't trust anyone these days".



It doesn't look like it got any warmer once they got off the bus.



This guy is on the same pay rate as us.



"That's a big table James".



I don't mine.....d if I do.

Melton RSL's President's Ball Sat 22nd June



Lara RSL Contingent



Early in the evening



Jackie the Secretary's Secretary
and Jackie the Sunbury Treasurer



OF SERVICE

by Jenani Therone, Artist

AUD \$279



Most of our members would remember Jenani and Samy who have come to the Lara RSL on a number of occasions, in fact they are fully paid up members. Jenani did speak about a special project that she was launching and that day arrived. A few of our members got a jersey in this fine art publication and they were invited to the launch at the Shrine of Remembrance on Thursday the 20th Jun 24.

The Lady who is on the cover is Stephanie Fraser a 13 year Navy Veteran. Stephanie joined the Navy as an Underwater Combat Systems Operator in 2007 at the tender age of 17. In 2020 Stephanie became paralysed from the neck down due to service injuries and has been on a journey to recovery since.

If this tickles your taste buds you can go on line to purchase this publication and read the full story on Stephanie. There will be names in this book that you will recognise and not forgetting that we know the author, she is one of us (a Lara RSL member).

Where has the Lara RSL Logo been ?



Lara Hats resting just outside the Bar in Vanuatu.



Enduring the harsh pacific conditions in Vanuatu



Lara shirt hanging out at the Swagman Hotel
in Mungindi, NSW.



Fore Deck guns and hat in Darling Harbour.



HMAS Vampire (Destroyer) at the Aust Maritime Museum



A coat hanger for the hat?

The Trifecta (Anzac Parade in Canberra).



Marcus came across the submarine that Roy was on back in the day. The HMAS Onslow is an Oberon Class submarine carrying 16 Mark-48 torpedos.

Rotary Awards Night in Bell Post Hill



Lara District



Philippine Restaurant in Bell Post Hill

Bob, Michael the new President and Roy

There will be a Sip and Paint evening on Friday 30th Aug at the RSL which the Rotary Club will be running. I'm not sure if drinking and painting go together but we can give it a try.



Last Post Ceremony-Australian War Memorial

Commencing at approximately 16.30hrs daily, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

Marcus was fortunate enough to be asked to lay a wreath on behalf of the Lara RSL Sub Branch, which he graciously accepted. The Last Post Ceremony is proudly supported by RSL Australia and the RSL & Services Clubs Association.



RSL Vic Promotional shoot at the Lara RSL

On the 12th of July we had a professional surf photographer and one of the RSL Vic staff pay us a visit. The story goes that, the images and promotion that RSL Vic use are out of date and they are looking for a face lift. Lara RSL Sub Branch and one other RSL have been selected for the new branding. This time we were not taking the photos; we were the props and models for the evening.

Hanwha Meeting

On Wed 10th July, Marcus and I meet with some of the Hanwha senior management team at the RSL. Hanwha Defence Australia now have a location based out of Avalon and have expressed their desire to have more involvement with RSL's in the area. Hanwha's staff is made up of approximately 24% Veterans!

Marcus has got wind of this information and reached out to our neighbours across the highway. Brett and Susanne were happy to meet with us and as a result of this we have taken some positive steps forward.

Both Brett and Susanne have invited the Lara RSL Sub Branch (Ex Service Members) to the event below. I will be taking names as it is a ticketed event at no cost. This will be announced in the lead up to the event.



The Hanwha team also expressed an interest in supporting the 2025 Kokoda Challenge next year. Ongoing, we can see a bright future between ourselves and the Hanwha team at Avalon. Not only are they manufacturing hardware for the defence forces they employ around 40% ex-military. Geographically speaking we are their closest neighbour (RSL) and Marcus was quick of the mark thankfully.

As Marcus has said on our face book page “a big thankyou to Rebecca Berg” Executive General Manager at RSL Vic for putting us in touch with the Hanwha staff.

Lara RSL 75th Anniversary Dinner



Tri Service Flags enter



Joe with the portrait



Youngest members cutting the cake



Kira, Mitch and Katie



Twins at birth, Anne and Fiona



John, Hanna, Ray and Charlie



Ella George MP and Rev'd Roxanne Addley



Kev, Wendy and Hanna



Margaret and Maureen



Marcus and Isobel



Robin, Liz, Margaret and Rupri



Liam and Fiona



First dance



Tom, Kira and Mitch



This guy could talk under water



Bob S, Marcus and Vic Robb



Chris from Invictus & Paul (Torquay Pres)



Hanna And Anne, stayin alive



Les and Maureen



Russell and Rupri



Margaret and John



Gareth and Isobel



Cerberus Navy Vocalist



Cerberus Navy Lead Guitarist

109th Annual Conference RSL Victoria AGM Sat 27th 2024



Marcus, Paul the Torquay RSL President and I drove up to the Sandown Race Course nice and early on Saturday morning. By the time we got to the venue we were two coffees down each.

A lot was said by various RSL branches and some verbal chest poking was going on. To be honest the coffee and chest poking does help keep you alert.

In the end there were some relevant ideas put forward and a clear sign that there is a younger generation coming through at the state level. This is encouraging.

Some of the points pertaining to us at branch level were:

- Privacy laws don't allow us to know where service people settle once exiting the military service.
- Current serving Defence members and active Reserves to have free membership.
- There are military service people who returned from war that are lying in unmarked graves around the country.
- A yes vote was obtained on affiliate members being eligible for nomination for life membership, this now needs to go to the national level for their approval.
- Veteran support needs to be national , not just state.

Regional 8a Veteran Support Forum Geelong RSL Mon 29th Jul 2024

Following on from the State meeting Marcus and I took the shorter trip to the Geelong RSL where each of the RSL Branches gave a briefing on what has been happening in their areas. The body of the talk was around the HUB and where it was at. Talk mainly focused on the satellite setup, we know that the Geelong RSL will have the main body of the HUB which will look after veterans in town but there will be two satellite sites set up outside of Geelong.

Ocean Grove will be the first with Torquay to follow sometime after. We did ask the question as to who's lead we are following and it seems that Victoria is the first to run with this new system. That means it will be work in progress and they will be working on the finer detail as they go. As for the Lara RSL Sub Branch Marcus has offered our services on a limited basis, as we are not in the main loop of the HUB. Never the less we will keep our ear close to the ground and do what we can in our local area.

Bendigo Bank Grants Night Thur 01 Aug 24

The Bendigo Bank Grants Night was held out at the Little River Sporting Club. To our surprise Ian Wagstaff was setting up and busily being involved, it turns out that Ian is not only a member of the Lara RSL Sub Branch but manages the Little River Sports Club which he had been a member of since the 70's.



Once the 60 plus people were settled the meeting got under way and as usual Libby Bate got things rolling by welcoming everyone and introducing the guest speaker.

Libby asked small groups of us to come outside to look at the hiace van (little bus) that they have donated to the You Yangs Mountain Bike Club. It's very impressive with the zebra pattern cam color look. Liam did a check on the plates and it isn't stolen lol.

We will certainly be doing more work with the gang at the Bendigo Bank.

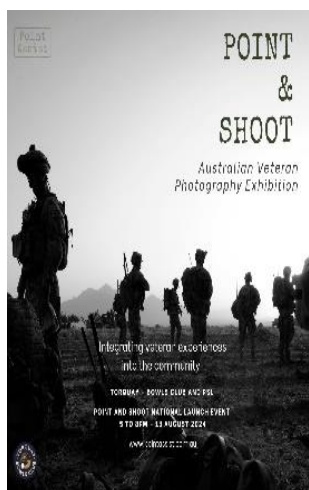


On Fri 02 Aug 24 I dropped in to see the lads at Lara Tyre & Battery Service, they checked out a service fault that I had and I will also be needing news tyres soon. This is the place to go, you can have a chat to Charlie the cherry ripe stealing Cocky, he will also give you a bit of lip.

Bendigo Bank Promotional Shoot 09 Aug 24



It didn't take long to catch up with the Bendigo Bank crew again. Natalie and Sheyne dropped in for an hour or so to interrogate or was it to interview Marcus on what he has done for the RSL in the past 18 months. Marcus also explained about some of the upcoming events that he has put in place. Natalie did mention that when she has been here on a couple of occasions the atmosphere was exciting.



Showcasing a collection of career imagery and accompanying stories from Australian veterans, this exhibition brings a voice to the unique experiences of serving personnel.





“Shell Shock” A controlled detonation of a large IED (improvised explosive device), dwarfing the two Bushmaster Fighting Vehicles. The likely IED location was identified by a 2nd Commando Regiment Reconnaissance Team, noting the hard worn foot pad leading straight to the site from the local village,

John Dixon-Afghanistan 2009

A kill and capture mission on a well-known high-level Taliban Commander. When we landed, we were engaged immediately and spent the whole day clearing the village in contact. My patrol had been on the move without sleep for 72 hours when this photo was taken. This SASR (Special Air Service Regiment) six-man team had been in another province just one hour earlier conducting an SR (Special Reconnaissance) mission on a different Taliban person of interest.

Jordan McCallum-Afghanistan 2007



It was no this deployment I felt the greatest sense of purpose in the grey cams contributing to Boarding Operations in the Middle East Region. I hold this deployment close to my heart as I learned so much including the type of war fighter I wanted to be and the kind of person I didn't want to be. This image symbolises hard work, purpose & passion for the job.

Samuel Hicks-Middle East Region 2018

The Point and Shoot Exhibition at the Torquay Bowling Club and RSL was a wonderful display that was well worth the look. There was one photo of diggers playing cricket with the young local lads. A couple of hours later on a patrol the cameraman was dead and the bowler lost his legs to an IED.

You can also look through these images on line at pointandshoot.online



The Lara RSL Sub Branch
in conjunction with
Honouring Our Younger Veterans Australia



Invite you to attend the unveiling of Victoria's
Largest display of modern Veterans memorabilia!



6:30pm, Friday 6th of September at the
Lara RSL Sub Branch, McClelland Ave, Lara

Come along and join the team from your RSL as we present to our community this very special display of post 1999 Military uniforms and weapons as we seek to embrace more modern era service, whilst never losing focus on those who shaped our early service history.

These pictures are an indication only of the displays we are building. Exact displays may vary. Enquiries can be directed to the President, Marcus McEwen via email mmcewen@lararsl.com.au or 0455 190 679.



Lara RSL Committee at your services!

President	Marcus McEwen	0455 190 679
Vice President	Roy Cook	0433 704 460
Treasurer	Andy Donald	0400 824 496
Secretary	Russell Lowe	0490 116 181
Logistics Officer	Bob Lawson	0417 575 604
Memorial Custodian	Dave Boulton	0413 315 355
Governance Advisor	Bob Schouten	0402 940 470
Appeals Officer	Maree Clancy	0414 369 213
Bar Manager	Dave Flatt	0431 675 993
Asst Bar Manager	Ray Mills	0468 999 724

We Support the people who support us:





Lara RSL Sub Branch

CODE OF CONDUCT



As a member of the RSL Sub Branch of Lara, I have a duty to:

- Act as a representative of the RSL.
- Maintain the professional image of the club.
- Encourage and support mateship, camaraderie and teamwork with members and guests.
- Avoid conflict and or confrontations within the club or between members.
- Support the welfare needs of our members.
- Adhere to the RSL constitution and By-Laws.

The following list of guiding principles are for members to act **Professionally**, **Consistently** and **Appropriately** when representing the RSL:

Friendly	I will be polite and courteous to members and their guests.
Respectful	I will treat others with Respect and Respect others views and opinions.
Approachable	I will make an effort to make others feel welcome in our club and to actively engage in conversation where appropriate.
Unbiased	I will not allow my personal views or prejudices effect the image of the RSL or to offend its members or guests.
Diplomatic	I will encourage diplomacy and be diplomatic regarding sensitive issues or issues of a religious, political or racial nature.

Marcus McEwen
President

Russell Lowe
Secretary



F453380 WO2 Jacqueline Adams

Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps



WRAAC School Georges Heights, Sydney 1982

Forward: I am aware that I have covered three men who have served in the Army. I have thought as to who some of the next candidates should be, I had two in mind, so I have picked the one closest to home... actually I have picked someone in my home. This quarter we have the longest serving female from the 30-40 regular members that attend the Lara RSL throughout the year.

Early Life

Born in the Gorbals, Glasgow on the 09 March 1963, Jackie and her family lived the life that everyone else lived in that area, cold, cramped and low on cash. Jackie's dad, Peter John Adams (PJ) worked down in the shipping yards along the River Clyde like so many others.

Ship building on the Clyde was renowned throughout the world. Records and knowledge of these events date back as far as the 15th century. They had the first steam ship to cross the channel (1814), the first turbine steamer (1901), and the first diesel-electric paddle (1934), all built on the Clyde. Also well known was the fastest clipper, The Cutty Shark which is currently displayed in London just off the Thames River.



After World War II the shipping industry went into decline and by the 1960's the industry had collapsed. That's when Jackie's parents Peter and Isabella (Isa) bought a hand full of tickets for Australia (10 Pound Tourists).

The family consisted of the two parents and five children (in order of age) Anne, Jim, Catherine, Mary and Jackie. Now, travelling on the "Fairstar" across the seven seas bound for Melbourne. In October of 1964 they arrived and were relocated to Whyalla in South Australia. Jackie's Dad, PJ was then gainfully employed in the ship yards , which still exist.

In 1985 Jackie's Mum (Isa) now a widow, moved to Salibury Plains in Adeleade where she joined the Salisbury RSL and had many freinds and got plenty of laughs. Isa was able to be a service member based on her time in the Royal Air Force between 20 November 1942 - 30 August 1946.

Jackie and PJ on the "Fairstar"

Prior to Jackie's Mum moving house, Jackie completed her Year 12 education, then got a job as a junior sewing machinist making Army Greens (uniform) for a period of four months (Preminition of things to come ??). Having moved to Melbourne Jackie enrolled in a Ladies Business College in Dandenong but after a few weeks the Army recruiting office rang up and put Jackie on the spot. They wanted her to commit immediatley, Jackie looked around the room and thought that this current course she was on wasn't going to take her far, so she took up the offer.

WRAAC School (Aug – Dec 1982)
Georges Heights, Sydney

The **Women's Royal Australian Army Corps** (WRAAC) was formed as an all women's Corps of the Australian Army in April 1951. It's Colonel-in-Chief was Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon. Prior to the WRAAC there was the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS). The AWAS was formed during World War II and as a result, the WRAAC is considered to have it's origins in the AWAS.

WRAAC School was located on prime land at Georges Heights, Sydney. This is only 8km North East of the CBD and directly east is the Pacific Ocean. Jackie has said that she never really appreciated the significance of where she was at the time. Being young and busy with her life, trying to get somewhere in the world, the surrounds went unnoticed.

Every Sunday the recruits were allowed to phone home, the only problem was that there was one phone box. With 60 female recruits and the female officer cadets near by this could take awhile. You needed to have a pocket full of 20c pieces and patience. The other problem was that the Officer Cadets had precedence over the other ranks when lining up for their calls home.

Jackie remembers ringing her mum early on during Basic Training and saying that she hated being there and that she wanted to go home. At just 19 years of age, Jackie said she found the training brutal and she was physically and mentally unprepared. However, she endured, toughened up and life got a bit easier. At the end of the 12 weeks training Jackie didn't want to leave the friends she had grown close to. Hence, the apron strings were cut and she was a fully blown A.J. Without realizing it she started on her love of comraderie of the military.

In 1985 female soldiers begun training alongside male recruits at 1 Recruit Training Battalion (1 RTB) at Kapooka. This ended the establishment of the WRAAC School and the beginning of male/female training at Wagga Wagga.



Let's get to know each other



So.....you feelin lucky punk



Empty Mag



"Not my preferred make up"



Jackie third from the front

March out Parade WRAAC School 1982



CARO (Dec 82 – Jan 85) St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

After WRAAC School Jackie went to Bandiana, Wodonga where she completed her Initial Employment Training (IET course) in Clerical work in the **Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps** (RAAOC) which led to a posting to **Central Army Records Office** (CARO) at 366 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne.

CARO was where all the administration for the full time Army was processed, such as: Postings, Discharges, Long Service Leave, Service Transfers, promotion and trade courses plus many other admin procedures. Jackie recalls every Friday was a civilian dress day which was very convenient because they would go down to the local pub for lunch and sometimes the boss would go as well. Occasionally, the Bosses would get a few drinks in them and they wouldn't go back to work, neither would their workers.

During this posting tenure Jackie completed her promotion courses and was promoted to Lance Corporal (LCPL).

1 RTB (Jan 85 -Jan 87)

Kapooka, Wagga Wagga, NSW

1 RTB (Recruit Training Battalion) was the next posting that Jackie took up. This is where all the enlisted males and newly located females went for their basic training. Jackie worked under supervision in the Battalion Headquarters for a short period of time to cut her teeth before being sent out to one of the companies to be "THE" Company Clerk.

Some of the other memories that Jackie has is that all clerk admins rotated the duties of Master of Ceremonies (MC) at the march out parades, and Jackie got her fair share of this. On another occasion whilst at 1 RTB, Jackie showed her skills at the rifle range by becoming the Best Female Shot.



After initially living in the barracks, Jackie then set up house in Wagga Wagga and lived with a couple of her mates whose names are Julia and Julie. This quickly became known as the Triple J Ranch, they even had mail delivered to their letter box which was address "Triple J Ranch". During this posting tenure Jackie was promoted to CPL.

School of Military Intelligence (SMI) (Feb 87 – Nov 89)

Canungra

Now at SMI Canungra as the Orderly Room Corporal (CPL) Jackie would run the desk for intelligence with a junior staff member under her command.

SMI was co-located with a few other Army Units, Land Warfare Centre, 10th Independent Rifle Company (10 IRC), Battle Wing and a training establishment for Warrant Officers promotion courses. Canungra is situated west of the Gold Coast and south of Brisbane, you would be forgiven for thinking that you were in paradise. But this location was chosen for it's jungle like conditions and hilly terrain. The Land Warfare Centre has had a few of our members put through their paces over the years. Graeme Toll, Dave McBean OAM and myself (Russell Lowe) have all been through the mill at one time or another.

It was originally established during World War Two as a Jungle Training Centre to prepare troops for combat in the South West Pacific area during the 1950's and 1960's.

It was at this time that I was posted to Canungra. Arriving just before the end of year break Dec 1988, I was given the job of running the bar for four weeks at the boozier. It was terrible, singing drinking then drinking singing, but I got through it. In the following two months I noticed a young lady that happened to live upstairs from me and I now know that she noticed me. On the 9th March (Jackie's Birthday) I got an invite to Jackie's good mates place, Nicky Formby (see SMI staff picture) and that was the start of our longstanding relationship.

*After a while people noticed us spending nights together and that was a **NO**, **NO** back in those days. We both lived on barracks and you weren't allowed to fraternise with the opposite sex. The boys I worked with would slam a broom handle into the ceiling to let me know that it was time to get to work, I did spend some time in Jackie's quarters. This couldn't continue so we moved off base and rented a house in Beaudesert. This was allowed.*

Russell Lowe

(During this posting tenure Jackie completed all of her promotion courses required for SGT.)



SCHOOL OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
STAFF 1987

Front Row	CAPT A.N. CHANTLER	CAPT D.W. WILLARD	FLTLT S.J. BUTTERWORTH	CAPT D.C. WRAIGHT	MAJ M.J. NORRIS
Left to Right	LTCOL K. METCALF	WO1 P.J. SCANLAN	MAJ J.R. SHERWIN	MAJ N.R. WATSON	CAPT N.D. BRODIE
	CAPT A.M. LEVER				
Back Row	WO2 J.F. HINGST	WO2 P.A. KIRKMAN	SSGT J.S. BUTLER	LCPL K.J. MUNRO	WOFF R.F. PARRY
Left to Right	WO2 L.G. WILSON	C. CAMERON	SSGT G. SHEPPARD	PTE N.J. FORMBY	CPL D.M. LOWE
	SSGT M.J. PASCOE	WO2 D. COX	SGT K.J. BALLARD	WO2 K.A. PENGILLEY	CPL S. ADAMS
Absent	CAPT R.T. WILKINSON	CAPT J.M. CORBETT	CAPT R. MODDERMAN	CAPT L.M. O'KEEFE	CAPT G.J. JONES
	WO2 M.F. QUINN	WO2 R.G. LUHRS	SSGT P.A. GARWOOD	PTE P.A. COLLEY	

Unfortunately, they weren't intelligent enough to get Jackie's name right. CPL J. Adams not CPL S. Adams



End of the Obstacle Course 1988



Athletic Carnival 1987



Jackie and Russell off to work

SCMA (Nov 89 – Oct 90)

St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

Now, Jackie was posted back to St Kilda Rd as a Sergeant in Nov 1989, but the name had changed from CARO to SCMA (Soldier Career Management Agency). The name change was made to reflect the role that they actually did, in that it managed the career of current serving soldiers. Due to service requirements Jackie & I were separated for a period of time. Jackie lived in service accommodation near her work location at Charsfield House on St Kilda Rd and I was sent to the RAEME (Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) Centre at Bandiana. Jackie would be relocated months later and I would start my VM's (Vehicle Mechanic) course

RAAOC Centre (Oct 90 – Dec 91)

Bandiana, Wodonga



Jackie's posting was supposed to be as the Orderly Room Sergeant (ORS) but when she arrived at the RAAOC Centre she was informed that she would be an instructor. This was a shock but Jackie was up to the challenge. To add to the stress of the matter, Jackie was also thrown into instructing on a Subject 4 for SGT Advanced Clerical Course. Whilst the tenure of this posting was only 12 months Jackie recalls it as being super stressful, and very fortunate that we didn't have children at this stage.

Puckapunyal Log Battalion (Dec 91- Jan 93)



Jackie was posted as the Orderly Room Sergeant (ORS) during this time. Now, starting the Pucka shuffle which would go for some eight years in various units located at or close to the Puckapunyal area, plenty happened during these years. Starting at (PLB) then P & EE Graytown and finishing the shuffle with (AST), this is where we bought our first home and had our two sons. We also made some good friends, both military & civilian. This was the longest time that we spent in one location.

My wife, our son (Bradley) and the day I sold my Harley Davidson

P & EE Graytown (Jan 93 -Oct 95)

Puckapunyal

Based on the outskirts of the Puckapunyal Range is the Proof & Experimental Establishment, Graytown. With a staff of roughly 30 military, mainly Gunners and Army Technician Officers (ATO's). Jackie was their Chief Clerk (and only clerk). This was a more low-key posting. Jackie would car pool with a couple of other workers to travel to this location. At times when driving to work they would cut across the Puckapunyal Range as this would save time. One of the guys in the car pool would contact Range Control to make sure there was no **live** firing at that time. She recalls at times things were a bit vague with the message and it didn't always go to plan, there were some tense moments, and they did have a few close calls, remembering that this was the home of the School of Armour and the 1st Armoured Regiment at the time, meaning large shells and bullets. As P & EE were responsible for testing all sorts of munitions and weapons (as the name suggests) Jackie did get an opportunity to partake. She does remember firing a Smith and Wesson hand gun that made her feel like Dirty Harry or was it Wrangler Jane?? Jackie also fired a Carl Gustaf 84mm anti-tank weapon amongst other assorted weaponry. Jackie also recalls they had large water tanks on the base & on really hot days they would end up cooling down in one of the water tanks, "must have been when the Commanding Officer (OC) was away."

Jackie left this posting and went on maternity leave (Oct 95 – Aug 96) to have our first son (Bradley).

When we first moved out together back in the Canungra days, we were recognised as de-facto, now seven years later we married at the Somerset Winery in Seymour on the 01 Jul 1995. For work purposes Jackie chose to use her maiden name as she had already established many contacts over the years.

Army School of Transport (Aug 96 – Sep 98)

Puckapunyal

Now returning to work as a mother as well as a soldier, Jackie recalls everything was much more arduous and complex and so much busier, and of course priorities had changed. Resuming the Pucka shuffle, Jackie took up a position as the Orderly Room Sergeant at The School of Trucks. Jackie's Chief Clerk, a Warrant Officer Class two (WO2) was into fitness in a big way. He would umpire the football on the Wednesday's and would also get away at any opportunity to train in the pool, run and anything else to do with fitness. This left Jackie to pick up a lot more of the work load. Jackie recalls lots of busy times, fun times, great comradery, but also sadness as she lost two of her male clerks, one in a very horrific car crash and another to suicide. Jackie left this posting to take up maternity leave and have our second son (Stewart).

4 Training Group (Mar 99 - Jan 01)

Adelaide

Jackie recalls she was "strongly" encouraged to cease her maternity leave with our second son (who was four months old) and return to service in Adelaide. Our family of four packed our belongings and left for the state of South Australia and drove to Adelaide. We initially lived on base at Woodside, in the Adelaide Hills but later purchased property close to Jackie's work at Hampstead Barracks. This period of our life was about our family. Having two young boys that were not old enough to go to school made life a little hectic.

This posting was to an Army Reserve Unit as The Chief Clerk (SGT). This unit was responsible for delivering a variety of courses to Army Reserve Personnel from various Corps. It also had an Army Cadet unit attached. The idea was for Army Cadets you continued on to Army Reserve and in some cases onto to Australian Regular Army.

Apart from normal day duties there were periods of 24 hr duty rosters, on call and also unit parades on Tues evenings just to add to the chaos of home life. During this posting Jackie also completed her various courses required for the rank of Warrant Officer.

1 Combat Signal Regiment (Jan 01 – Jan 02)

Darwin

Jackie was posted on promotion as a WO2 and took up the appointment of Chief Clerk of The Regiment.

This was a posting Jackie did not wish to go on, a location she didn't want to be in, but with no choice in the matter she was sent anyway, discharge was the other option. Jackie and the boys flew while I drove up a bit earlier and picked them up at the airport in Darwin.

Our first night in Darwin was at a motel in town. This was the day prior to moving into our married quarter. Jackie found it too hot to sleep in the bedroom so she slept on the couch. During the night I could hear Jackie yelling out that someone was in the room. I flew out of bed to see a guy running out to the balcony and off he went. A great introduction to our new location.

We noticed that our small backpack was missing along with a camera. The scary thing was that both the draws in the kid's bedroom were left open, "the thief got that close to our kids", just thinking what could have happened made Jackie really anxious for a long time. Not a good welcome to a new posting location.

Jackie didn't like Darwin at all, "too hot, too humid". I remember the removalist moving our boxes into the married quarter. He was sweating like a pig. I asked him what he thought of the heat and he replied "it's not hot mate". I thought, you should look in a mirror.

That was the year 2000 and our 20 years' service was fast approaching, we had both decided that 20 years' service each was enough. Jackie had submitted her application for discharge and we were awaiting another posting to return south pending discharge in Aug 02.

Victoria Barracks (Jan 02 – Aug 02)

Melbourne

This was a six-month gap filler for Jackie, whilst awaiting her discharge in Aug 02. Jackie performed administrative duties during this time. Jackie was commuting from Watsonia to Vic Bks everyday whilst I was posted to Watsonia and had a shorter commute. Jackie chose to transfer to The Army Reserve instead of discharge. This would prove to be a wise decision in the short term. Some 12 months later the family then moved once again. Jackie had completed her 20 years' service and we were off to Geelong.

Army History Unit (Fort Queenscliff)

Queenscliff

Jackie was contacted by the Army History Unit in Canberra to enquire if she was interested in an Army Reserve position at the museum, Fort Queenscliff. This posting was to be short term whilst they found another candidate. Jackie said she would do it for a short time as it was not her area of expertise. Four years later, still at the Fort she eventually discharged from the Army completely. During this time Jackie was taking on the role of curator for the Army History Unit – Fort Queenscliff. This entailed setting up display cabinets, managing and co-ordinating the decommissioning of all small arms weapons held at the museum. Jackie enjoyed that role but wasn't keen on the commuting. So, in the end Jackie finished up military service.

Geelong



We have now lived in the Geelong area for the past 21 years. Firstly, living at one side of Grovedale for approximately a year then purchasing a property on the other side not far from the Waurin Ponds Shops. In this time, we have seen the Waurin Ponds Shopping complex more than double in size, not to mention numerous new housing developments on the road to Torquay.

Jackie has spent the last 10 years working in Aged Care as an Activity Officer which she has enjoyed over this period of time. With this she has made some good friends.

Lifestyle Team – Melbourne Cup Function

Outside of work Jackie likes to keep busy. The first year that we lived in our current home, Jackie sent out a flyer to everyone in our court to inform them that we would be setting up out the front of our home for drinks and nibbles.

This worked out just dandy and 20 years later we all know each other very well and we also have a winter get together, with hot casseroles and bakes.

Jackie spends a fair bit of time down at the gym, but on a nice sunny day you will find her in the garden. She can also be seen taking a good walk on a nice day. In the summer months Jackie will be at a beach playing in the shallows.

I have owned a couple of sailing boats over the years. This one is the little 15ft Jaffa. "I love the sound of the water slapping the hull on a light breeze day".

The second Boat I owned was a 25ft Farr, this was great for overnight trips, it was bigger and faster. Jackie wasn't a big fan of the boat leaning on a windy day but as you can see, she was willing to have a crack.





“How do you know you have a good wife? You ask her to clean stones for two days. LOL, and a good job done”

Not long after selling the Farr we started coming to the Lara RSL. This was partly out of convenience and partly because of previous experiences with the RSL. The convenience is that both our sons live in Lara and we usually do some jobs at their homes before we come up to the RSL. The experience is that we had been to a couple of Anzac Days at the Lara RSL over a number of years and found it was a well-oiled operation. We even have photos to prove it. Now, it is part of our Friday evenings and we hope to continue with this routine for many years to come.



Medals

Defence Force Service Medal, 1st Clasp

Long Service Medal

Achievements

Commendation (General Officer Commanding)
Training Command 1989

Achievement of Excellence (Commandant Army
Logistics Training Centre) 1997

Commanding Officer's Commendation
(Puckapunyal Logistics Battalion) 1999

Jackie, Bradley, Stewart, Russell

Members Information (Optional)

Name	
Rank	
Service No	
Service e.g. Army, Police.	
Corp	
Postings	
Awards, Achievements.	
Medals	
Other skills e.g. bomb disposal, Navy Pilot.	

Affiliate connection and social members skills also welcome.

Once filled out leave at Lara RSL Sub Branch bar.

Any questions call Russell Sec. Ph 0490 116 181

(We are looking to update our membership list, Return this sheet to the RSL Bar, thanks)

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES!!

August:

Saturday 17th August 1-4pm – Lara RSL Ladies Event

Sunday 18th August 10:30am – Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service, Nth Geelong

Saturday 24th August 8am – Bendigo Bus Trip – Details to come in due course.

Friday 30th August – Rotary Club Sip & Paint at the RSL – BBQ Night.

September:

Friday 6th – Presentation Evening at the RSL.

Friday 13th – Hanwha Defence Australia Land Forces Expo.

October:

Friday 4th – Karaoke Night

Saturday 19th 12pm – Thank you for your service day.

Sunday 20th 10am – Melton Bowls Day.

Wednesday 23rd – Rotary Club Escape Room Challenge at RSL

Thursday 24th – Lara Probus Group tour of RSL

November:

Monday 11th – Remembrance Day

Wednesday 13th – Rotary Club Barefoot Bowls