

NEWSLETTER

Issue No 17 – April, 2011

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"Founded: 23 April, 1988"

President's Message

**Mrs Dexter Purcell, WO1 (Standby Reserve),
President, RAADC Association Inc.**

Ex-Servicewomen's Memorial Cairn Garden Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne 20 November 2010

In November 2010, I attended the Service of Remembrance held at the Shrine in Melbourne to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Ex-Servicewomen's Memorial. This dedication of the Memorial Garden and Cairn brings to close the original aims of a group of World War 2 ex-servicewomen, led by Sybil Irving, who sought to build a memorial within the Shrine grounds over sixty years ago.

A landscaped garden designed by Katherine Rekaris includes ceramic violet flowers intermingled with plantings of native violets and grasses. (The violet was long regarded the flower of remembrance, before the poppy of WW1) The garden is surrounded with young jacaranda trees and the memorial cairn is placed centrally within the garden.

The ceremony was conducted by COL Jan McCarthy, AARC (Ret'd) (Ex-Director of Nursing - Army), and prayers and blessing of the cairn by MAJ Jean Smart, OAM of the Salvation Army.



Dexter Purcell placing a poppy in front of the cairn. The ceramic violets can be seen here.

The memorial garden is dedicated to the women who served and are serving Australia in the Navy, Army and Air Force, some 70,000 since the Boer War.



The cairn in the memorial garden, where various Servicewomen's Associations and Navy, Army and Air Force representatives laid wreaths.

If you would like to visit the garden when next you are in Melbourne, it is located on the left of the Shrine forecourt (northern side), halfway up, near the steps.

Dexter F. Purcell
President
RAADC Association Inc.

RAADC Association Inc. AGM 2011

The Annual General Meeting of the RAADC Association Inc. will be held on SATURDAY, 21 May 2011 commencing at 1100 hours. Venue for the Meeting is 'Seadrift' Guest House, 47 Balmoral Road, Montville, Q, 4560.

Marty Mylne has extended an invitation to those attending the AGM to overnight at the Guest House if they wish.
Please notify us if you wish to stay overnight and if so please bring a sleeping bag, blow up mattress and pillow.

Should you require further details regarding the overnight stay or the AGM, please phone Vice President Mal on (07) 3408 0417 or Marty on (07) 3399 3342.

Welcome

The RAADC Association (Inc) Committee welcomes Morgaine Miscombe and Cpl Joanna Theobald as Joint Serving Members on the Committee.

We also farewell Cpl Haydee Stevens who has chosen to leave the Regular Army to pursue a career out side of the armed forces. The Committee wishes to thank Haydee for her commitment and dedication to the Committee and wish Hyadee the best in her future endeavours.

ANZAC DAY MARCHES 2011

Qld – details are found on the special Anzac Day/AGM Flyer
ACT – contact WO2 Peter Quintus-Bosz for details
Peter.Quintus-Bosz@defence.gov.au

In time for Anzac Day.....

The Salute by Veterans at the Cenotaph or
Wreath Laying Ceremony
(Remembrance Service)
Author - Unknown

It will be noticed at any Remembrance Service or when passing a Cenotaph Veterans will place their Right Hand over their "Left Side" many believing that they are placing their 'Hand over their Heart' in Respect or Remembrance of their Fallen Comrades";- this is not so.

The Veterans Salute to their "Fallen Comrades" originated in London on Armistice Day in 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall at the same time a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the "Unknown Soldier" halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment. Those present included the senior Soldier, sailor and many Victoria Cross winners. The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guard Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including many Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that "No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice".

Colonel Stephen Curry Colonel Commandant RAADC

Stephen Curry was born on 11 February 1954 in Sydney. After completing his secondary education at Benilde College, Bankstown, he attended the University of Sydney to undertake a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree that was completed at the end of 1976. Whilst an undergraduate he enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement, completing the last seventeen months of his degree as an Army officer.

Colonel Curry's initial appointment upon graduation was as a Captain dental officer within 12th Dental Unit, Kapooka. After two years he was posted to 2nd Pacific Islands Regiment, Wewak, Papua New Guinea for twelve months. Over the next fourteen years various postings to the dental facilities at Holsworthy,

Kapooka, Bonegilla and Randwick followed. During this time Colonel Curry spent eight years in sub-unit command positions as Officer Commanding the dental facilities at Holsworthy twice, Kapooka and Randwick both once.



Colonel Stephen Curry

In November 1993, Colonel Curry accepted a staff placement in the Office of the Surgeon General ADF as the Staff Officer Grade 2, Dental Materiel and Logistics. He held this position for just over four years until 1998 when he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and posted as the Commanding Officer, Canberra Area Dental Unit. After three years he was posted as the Staff Officer Grade 1, Dental Plans and Programs, in the Directorate of Defence Force Dentistry. In January 2006 he was promoted to Colonel and took over as the Director of Defence Force Dentistry.

In 2004 Colonel Curry was awarded a Chief of Defence Force commendation for his development of the ADF Dental Officer Career Structure and organisation of the 2003 Section Defence Force Dental Services international conference of the Federation Dentaire Internationale.

Colonel Curry is married to Kate. He has three daughters. His leisure interests include building, woodwork, electrical /electronics (he has completed a Certificate in Electrical Trade), leadlight, blacksmithing, and metal work. He plays golf badly and enjoys the outdoors environment.

In February 2009 Colonel Curry retired from the Australian Regular Army after 33 years of service, however he continues to provide ongoing dental and materiel support as a Reservist within Joint Health Command.

UPDATE ON ARA CORPS STRENGTH

As part of our role to keep past members informed on Corps matters, I have reproduced below two emails recently published by Head of Corps (HOC), Lieutenant Colonel Genevieve Constantine.

Whilst no one alludes to the outcome of the recent structure review to being anything but disappointing, I feel it important to advise you that the outcomes could well have been severely worse. There may have simply been NO RAADC in ADF service.

This latest review has been mooted since 2007, and HOC, both present and previous (LTCOL Suzy Atkins) and the Corps RSM, WO1 Kym Chiesa have worked long and hard on this matter, fighting a battle that has been ongoing for some twenty years.

When I was Soldier Career Manager at SCMA in the early 1990's and we had anything from 150 to 170 soldiers on the books, the then HOC, COL Viv Bird and I were 'keeping the wolves at bay' on this issue and it has been an arduous fight for all RAADC personnel concerned in the intervening years.

Some abbreviations to note:

FORCOMD: is Forces Command, once known as Land Command, but now also includes what was Training Command

ECRM: Employment Category Review Manager

APC: Army Personnel Committee

ALTC: Army Logistic Training Centre (where School of Army Health is under command)

I will continue to advise Association members of further outcomes.

Dexter F. Purcell
President

22 Sep 2010
UNCLASSIFIED
Fellow Corps Members

In the interest of keeping you up to date I can provide the following information:

As you will be aware dental has recently come under very close scrutiny as a result of the Combat Health Support (CHS) Force Modernisation Review (FMR) and also as a result of the requirement for Army to reduce its uniformed manpower. The mandate of the CHS FMR is to deliver structures that are deployable, affordable and sustainable.

Dental was required to review the current numbers of uniformed personnel within FORCOMD and to align with Defence Planning Guidance. As such our numbers will reduce from the current 59 positions in FORCOMD to approx. 37. This is the number required to force generate five deployable dental teams. The aim is to have these positions centralised into one region, to ensure guidance, support and mentoring, release for competency level training and continuous professional development; and to facilitate a more collegiate environment. This will hopefully address many of the current recruitment and retention issues.

Dental trades were presented to ECRM and the APC. Army has decided that it no longer requires dental technicians or SDA-Ps as a deployable capability. The dental technician trade and SDA-P stream will be terminated as of 30 Jan 2011. Members will be on a non-reduction provision (NRP) for 18 months and it is my intent for these personnel to continue using their current skills under the NRP is complete. I am currently working to try to achieve this outcome.

I wish to pass on my thanks for your continued diligence and commitment.

Regards

Genevieve Constantine
Lieutenant Colonel
Staff Officer Grade One Dental Plans and Programs/HOC RAADC
Directorate Defence Force Dentistry
Joint Health Command

18 Nov 2010
UNCLASSIFIED
All

I have received the minutes of the Army Personnel Committee (APC) held on 7 Oct 10 and can advise you of the following:

The APC:

Approved the termination of ECN 404 Technician Dental and SDA-P stream of ECN 029 Dental Assistant;
Approved the immediate cessation of all transfers into ECN 404 TECH DEN;
Approved a Non Reduction Provision (NRP) for current SDA-P and TECH DEN for a period of up to three years commencing Jan 11.

An Implementation Plan will be released before the end of the year and the Employment Category Sponsor (ALTC) will release info through an integrated Comms Plan including HOC. Once I receive this I will pass on this information.

I am happy to take your concerns and to provide a consolidated response to ensure that these are considered in the implementation plan, so please provide me feedback as soon as possible.

I am sorry that the news is not better and I know that the future will be somewhat uncertain for some of you. Please provide me what feedback you can so that I can attempt to make the transition smoother.

Corps numbers with the restructure will see 37 positions within FORCOMD and 29 within JHC following the civilianization of 10 positions WEF 17 Jan 11. Therefore the total Corps number will be 66.

Regards

Genevieve Constantine
Lieutenant Colonel
Staff Officer Grade One Dental Plans and Programs/HOC RAADC
Directorate Defence Force Dentistry
Joint Health Command

Can't get enough of the Newsletter?

The Association has some back copies of the Newsletter and if you send an email, letter or call the Secretary and we will be happy to dispatch the copies to you.

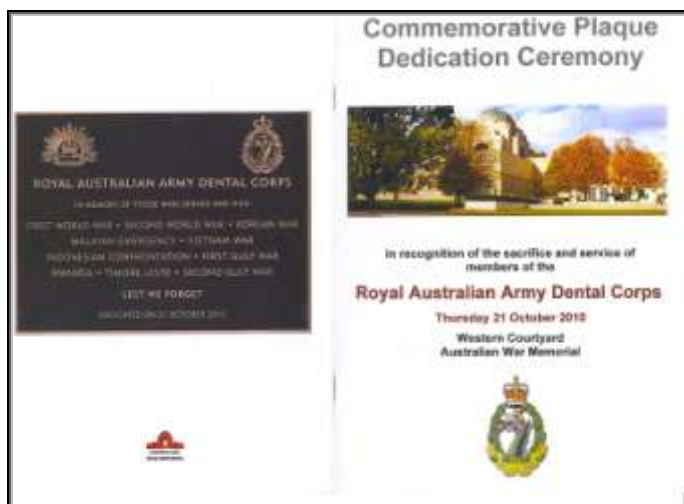
Do you know?

Captain Gordon C. Marshall
Australian Army Dental Corps
World War II
Prisoner of War on Ambon
Died in 1972

The Association has received an enquiry from the 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance Museum Curator and the museum has read of the inventiveness of Captain Gordon C. Marshall in constructing medical instruments to ease the sufferings of fellow prisoners. The museum is trying to locate a photo of him so they can commemorate his fine service.

If you can help, please email the Association:
secretary@raadcassociation.com

**Commemorative Address
RAADC Plaque Dedication,
Australian War Memorial
21 October 2010
HOC Lt Col Genevieve Constantine**



In the last newsletter, Dexter Purcell wrote about the RAADC Plaque Dedication at the AWM and the following is the HOC Commemorative Address:

The Director of the Australian War Memorial, MAJGEN Steve Gower, AO, AO (MIL) (RETD), COL Viv Bird (RETD), COL Stephen Curry (COL COMDT

RAADC), WO1 Dexter Purcell (President of the RAADC Association), Fellow members of the RAADC (past and present), Invited guests, family members and friends, A special mention to Arrow Bronze Foundry, ladies and gentleman, As Head of Corps of the Royal Australian Army Dental Corps it is my pleasure to welcome you here today to the Australian War Memorial for the dedication of a plaque in memory of all those RAADC personnel who have served and sacrificed for their nation.

The 21st of October was chosen for the dedication of this plaque as today marks the 62nd anniversary of the then Prime Minister's request to the Governor General to seek permission for the granting of the Royal Charter to the RAADC.

The plaque that will be unveiled today commemorates the involvement of dental personnel in conflicts and peace keeping operations from WW1, WW2, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, Iraq, Somalia, Rwanda, Bougainville, East Timor and most recently supporting our soldiers in the Middle East. The unveiling will be performed by COL Viv Bird (RETD) and the current Regimental Sergeant Major of the RAADC WO1 Kym Chiesa.

From our very humble beginnings in 1915 as the Australian Army Medical Corps (Dental) Reserve, with the first dentist J.K. Henderson who was a 4th year dental student and served as a medical corporal, through to the granting of separate Corps status on the 23rd April 1943 when we became known as the Australian Army Dental Corps, through to the granting of the Royal charter on 10th November 1948 and the myriad of changes in the composition of our Corps to date, dental personnel have demonstrated a willingness to provide essential care despite the adversities and hardships of conflicts.

By April 1916, a total of 36 dental units had been formed. SSGT and CPL Technicians and PTE orderlies (Assistants) were added to the Reserve in 1916. The emphasis was the relief from pain by extractions and the provision of dentures for chewing. By November 1919 there were 130 dental officers serving with the Australian Imperial Force.

By October 1939 dental units were provided on the establishments of three field ambulances, one casualty clearing station, two general hospitals and one convalescent depot. Ultimately, approval was granted for the formation of additional dental units on the basis of one unit per 1 000 troops.

During WW2 dental units were involved in beach landings, where care had to be given to the specialised, fragile dental equipment which could not be allowed to be affected by salt water. Native bearers transported a dental section over the Kokoda Trail and dental supplies were dropped by parachute into New Guinea.

In the Middle East, during the advance to Benghazi a dental surgery was set up in a converted Italian ambulance and during the siege of Tobruk, arrangements were made for a dental centre to be set up in a cave.

By 1944 there were 435 dentists in the Army. Like other service corps, the AADC suffered casualties and attracted recognition. Corps personnel served with distinction in all theatres in which Australian forces were deployed.

In September 1952 the 101st dental section was raised and sent to Korea, followed closely by the 102nd dental section which was raised in August 1953. During the latter stages of the war, a mobile dental van was part of the equipment which enabled dental personnel to accompany their Battalions.

With the emergency in Malaya and the presence of Australian troops in the area, it was decided to send 103rd Dental Section to Malaya, comprised of Major Lowenstein and Staff Sergeant Long. They arrived on 10 October 1955. This section was later expanded and 32 Dental Unit was raised. An RAADC presence was maintained in Malaya until 1960.

With the participation of Australian Forces in the war in South Vietnam (SVN), the RAADC was called upon to provide a dental service. On 10 June 1965, a dental detachment under command of Captain Peter Naughton arrived at Bien Hoa. With the

build-up of Australian troops in SVN as well as the enormous amount of civil aid work which could be done, the dental contingent in SVN was increased and the next Corps unit to arrive was 32nd Dental Unit, commanded by Major Ron Beynon. Later the 33rd Dental Unit became operational in May 1966, at Vung Tau with CAPT Viv Bird as a Dental Officer.

Dental Teams have also deployed on Operation Habitat to Iraq in 1991, Operation Solace to Somalia in 1993, Operation Tamar to Rwanda in 1994/95, Operation Bel Isi to Bougainville from 1997, on various Operations to East Timor since 1999 and as Part of the Al Muthana Task Group to Iraq most recently. Individual dental personnel have also deployed attached to health units and as military observers.

Dental personnel have displayed and continue to display commitment, dedication and diligence, and most importantly Esprit de Corps during all of these ventures and it is only fitting that we unveil this plaque today as a reminder to all, of the outstanding level of support and the sacrifices endured by dental personnel.

**A fine career for a woman:
Australian women in the Army 1941-84.**

This exhibition examines the proud history of two of Australia's most significant military services: the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS), formed in 1942 at the height of the Second World War (1939-45) and disbanded in 1947, and its successor, the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) created in the 1950s in response to the new challenges arising in the Cold War era. Created with the assistance of women who served in these organisations, the Shrine hosts this exhibition in 2011 to mark the 70th anniversary of the formation of AWAS and the 60th anniversary of WRAAC.

Dates: 11/02/2011 - 03/07/2011

Location: Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

<http://www.vic.gov.au/event/2011/02/a-fine-career-for-a-woman-australian-women-in-the-army-1941-84.html>

WRAAC 60TH ANNIVERSARY
REUNION, SYDNEY 11 - 13 FEBRUARY
2011



I attended the Reunion weekend earlier this year - and what an event for all. A group of my own friends and colleagues stayed at the YHA, The Rocks, along with about 40 other ladies. We practically took over the hostel. The accommodation was excellent, modern and clean. And the location fabulous, with great city views from the rooftop.

The Meet and Greet was on the Friday night - drinks and finger food at the Kirribilli Club. There were easily 400 women, all trying to recognize and renew contact from many years ago. Thankfully we all had nametags dangling from WRAAC lanyards around our neck, and it became quite commonplace to just grab somebody's tag, read it, say hello and move on - if it was not the name one was suspecting. Sounds kind of rude, but given the numbers and the years past, it was deemed acceptable behaviour. And we all laughed about it.

Saturday saw us all on parade at WRAAC School, Georges Heights. Formed up in six ranks, right dress at half-arm intervals and looking pretty damn good. Accompanied by 1st/15th Royal NSW Lancers Band, playing "Soldiers of the Queen". The CSM for the day, Carolyn McMahon, did a sterling job.



A plaque dedication and flag lowering ceremony at Irving Place followed the parade and then we were issued with a 'lunch-box'.

Saturday evening was the Reunion Dinner, also at the Kirribilli Club. There were 350 WRAAC (including some RAANC) members in attendance. The food and wine was excellent. There was a slide show of great photos throughout the night.

The guest speaker was MAJGEN Liz Cosson, CSC (Retired) who had graduated as a WRAAC officer before being allocated to RAAOC. We managed to rustle up five RAADC girls.



L to R: Kerry Chapman, Tanya Marshman, myself, Trudy Thomas, and the girl behind me I did not know and failed to take note of her name, my apology.

Sunday concluded the event with a church service at the Garrison Chapel, The Rocks and lunch aboard a cruise boat on the fabulous Sydney harbour. It was a very full weekend and we arrived home exhausted - all that fun and talking does a girl in.....!!!

The WRAAC Assn (NSW) has agreed to host the event again in five years time, so for those of you who missed this event, you may wish to get ready for 2016, and we will keep you informed via this newsletter.

Dexter F. Purcell
President
RAADC Association Inc.

ADF Health Services Journals

The Association has copies of the 2009 and 2010 ADF Health Services Journals

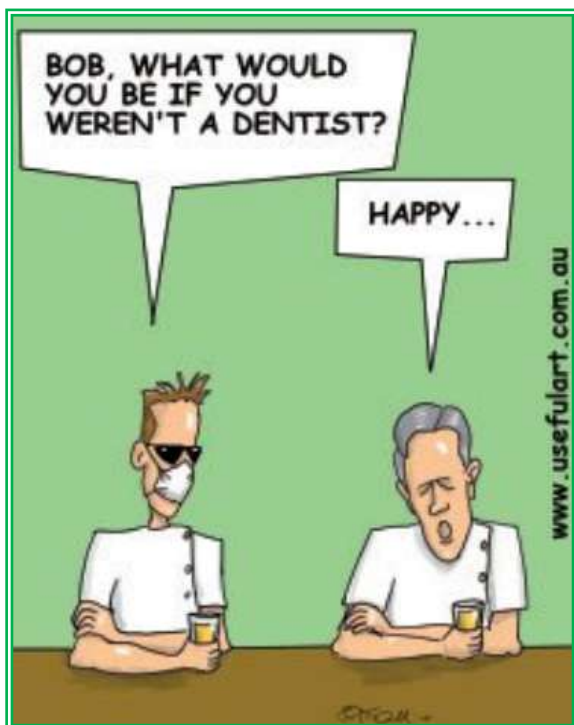
If you wish to obtain a copy, please email the Secretary and a copy will be forwarded to you.

RAADC Association Membership

At last year's AGM, a question was asked by Ray Wilkinson regarding membership for spouses and/or families of deceased RAADC Association members

Under "Class of Membership Item 4 c. Affiliated Membership:
Affiliated Membership may be awarded to a spouse of a deceased eligible member, or any person approved by the committee who has an association with the RAADC."

The classes of membership in the constitution are: Ordinary Member, Life Member, Honorary Member and Affiliated Member.



Published with the permission of Trevor McDonald and Australasian Dentist.

Reunion 2013 RAADC 70th Anniversary

The next RAADC Association Reunion will be held in Brisbane in April 2013.

At this stage, the dinner will be held on Friday 26 April 2013 and it is expected other activities will be planned around this time.

We will keep Association members updated as the planning progresses.

Conclusion

We hope you have enjoyed Issue No 17 Bumper edition. The next newsletter will be circulated later in the year.

If you have any items you wish to include in our next newsletter, please send them to:
secretary@raadcassociation.com

Till next time – "Keep the Dragon Flying"

