

The North Western Ranger

8th/7th BATTALION – 2RVR ASSOCIATION Inc.
VICTORIA'S OWN COUNTRY BATTALION



Vol 23 No3
Sep 2019

IT'S MORE THAN JUST COOKING SAUSAGES

INDEX

Fund Raiser

Vale

Notice Board

Honour Roll

Rouges' Gallery

Tiger Attack Helicopter

MUSEUM INSERT

30 Year Celebrations

Victory Celebrations 1946



Lance, Bob, Bruce and Les prepare for the onslaught!

Model Railway Exhibition BBQ. Many thanks to the following members who supported our three day fund raiser.

Dick Wilkie, Bruce McKinnon, Lorraine Chambers, Les Taylor, Paul Bowden, John Nadge, Bob Prewett, Lance Jennison, Allan Wettenhall, Ian Nunn, Neil Bailey, Chris Liston, Lindsay Govan, Graeme Page, Bob Carmichael.

This year the numbers were down for the exhibition which reflected in our sales for the weekend, our final figure gave us \$860 profit.

Subs are now due



Graeme, can you get a word in?



Patron: The Commanding Officer 8th/7th Battalion The Royal Victoria Regiment.
LT COL David Cadogan-Cowper.

Committee for 2018/19

President	Dick Wilkie	0413 530 260
Vice Pres	Tom Chambers	0435 569 597
		03 4373 1329
Secretary	Allan Wettenhall	0417 190 361
Treasurer	Barbara Birthisel	0438 504 260

Brian Driscoll	Warrnambool	03 5595 4273
Lindsay Govan		0417 053 160
Bruce McKinnon		0412 370 923
Ian Nunn		03 5331 6758
Les Taylor		0417 190 351
John Nadge		0407 007 873
Bluey Frank		0417 546 709

For Warrnambool Hospital Visitations

Newsletter Items

Tom Chambers as above

Presidents Report

Welcome all to the September edition North Western Ranger.



Sadly we extend our deepest condolences to Mick and Nicole Carroll and family having lost their eldest son Harrington (Harry) whose full and vibrant life well lived will always be remembered, our thoughts and prayers are with you. May he rest in peace.

Sunday July 7 2019, the revived Reserve Forces Day was celebrated at the Shrine.

Although numbers were down the parade format was well received.

Should this parade continue next year, mark your diaries Sunday 5 July 2020, celebrate your service, be proud, be there.

Your committed committee is meeting regularly at Ballarat RSL and on behalf of our membership I thank them for their enthusiasm and service which is second to none.

Please refer to our events notice board this newsletter we need your support, think about an early reply, join us and enjoy the Esprit de Corps afforded by your association.

I welcome new members to our assoc.

Rodger Paterson	Wedderburn
Brian Currell	Dandenong North
Jason County	Craigieburn
Jeff Maddocks	Warrnambool

I look forward to meeting you at our social functions.

Until we meet again, good health, good luck, Smile. See ya.

Dick Wilkie. Pres.

VALE

SCHepis, John Garth 06/03/33 – 29/05/2019



John never married and had no children. He was the eldest of eight children. He had his own electrical contracting business and retired in his early seventies.

John was called up for National Service in 1952 and completed his training. He transferred to the 8/7th Battalion (CMF) and was posted to the Signal Platoon. 1956 he was gazetted as Platoon SGT and commenced his Officer Training and his final posting as CAPT in 1960. He transferred to the Reserve List in 1962.

John was a long serving Ballarat member of the Association and many lifelong friendships were forged during his time in service.

 **NOTICE BOARD** 

Warrnambool Dinner.



Saturday 12 Oct 2019

Location; **Warrnambool RSL**

Corner Liebig & Merri Streets

Time: **6.30pm**

For bookings contact **Lyndon King Mob 0447 623 291**

Neat casual, members and **partners** welcome.

Ballarat Dinner 2019



Saturday 9 NOV 2019

Location; **Ballarat Golf Club**

1800 Sturt Street Ballarat

Time; **6.30pm for 7.00pm**

Dress: Coat and tie, Miniature's may be worn.

Bookings; Secretary **Allan Wettenhall 0417 190 361,** Bruce McKinnon **0412 370 923**

Pickup bus for hotel / motel accommodation out to 5 Km



Annual General Meeting

Sunday 10 November 2019

Location: **Midlands Golf Club /Ballarat RSL**

Time: **9.30am. for 10am start**

Correction to March edition: Page 1 – Cpl Peter Krupa, re photo.

This was not taken at 'S' Block. 'S' Block was across the creek and was the home for 22 RVR from 1969 until it closed in 1975. There is nothing there now but some overgrown roadways and footpaths and a very small Parade Ground with some trees growing on it!

The photo was taken at what remains of "O" block, now known as the National Service Line. Neil.

Honour Roll: September 2018 to September 2019

2018

Graham Tapscott

Allan Kidd *

Ray Stowe

Lew Jones-Owen *

Ken Lemkie

Gary Thornton *

Ron Rumble

Robert Tung *

Max Baudinette

Gary Sutherland *

2019

Wayne Dunbar *

Brian Sanderson

John Schepis

Lest We Forget

Should you know of any name that should appear on the current list, please contact the editor.

*Served in unit but not members of the association.

Visit to Pucka Range



Left: Digital Target Indication Equipment. Hard to see the black dots on the screen in the picture but it is easy on the screen
Quick demo on the Pistol Range.
Stripped EF88.
Two man weapon pit, note the DTIE on the top left of pit.

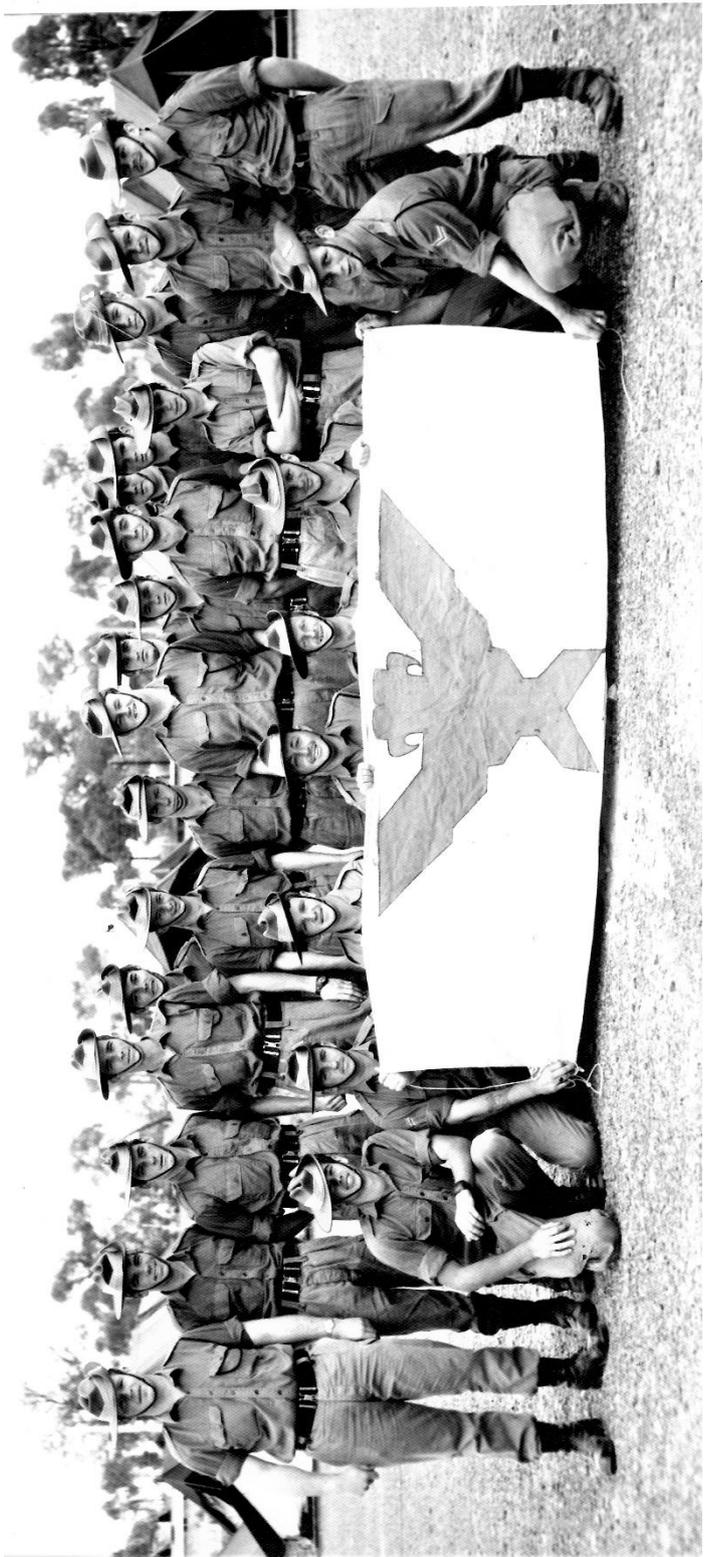
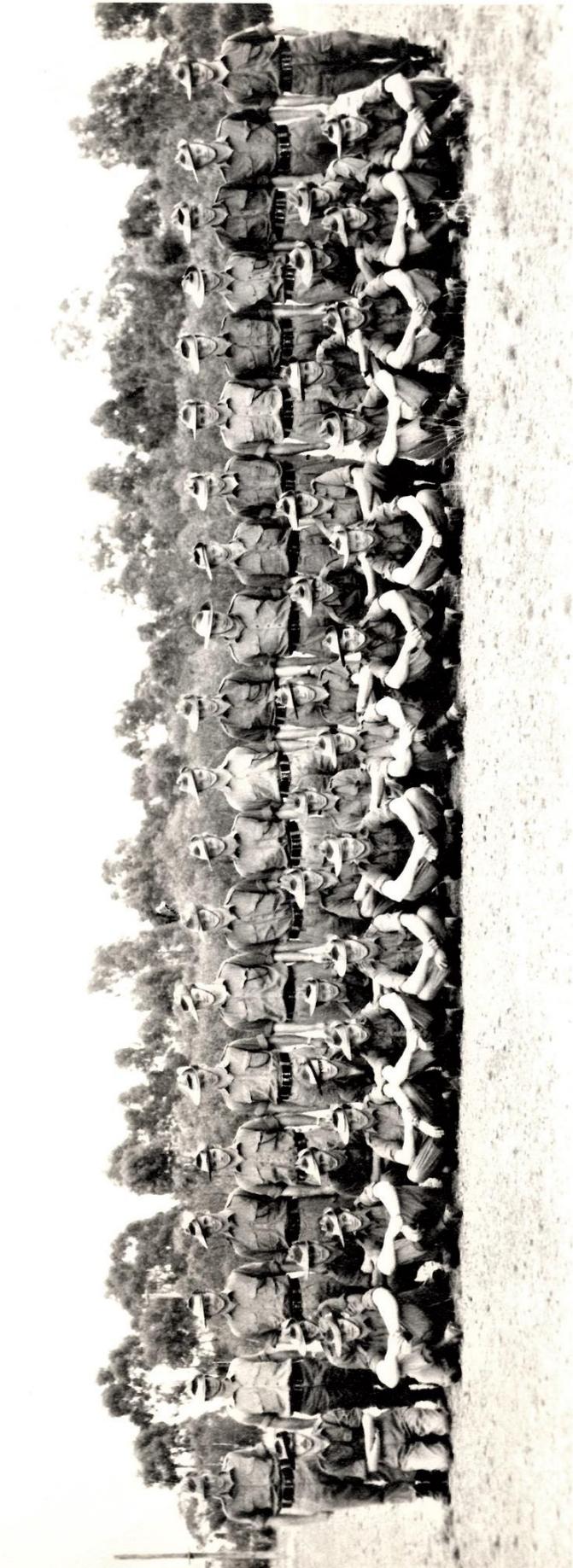


B Coy 2RVR

Date?

Rouges Gallery

5 Platoon B Coy 2RVR (The Screaming Red Eagles) 1970



Tiger Attack Helicopter, a change of pace from small arms. Next issue will be the M1A1 Abrams tank.

INTRODUCTION

Australia is a country which is seldom seen as a military power. It has the unique distinction of being a country and a continent, as well as an island. It greatly benefits from the lack of hostile neighbors, which allows it to build a defensive military. Having an extremely long coastline to protect, Australia needs to place special emphasis on its Navy and Air Force and equip them with high-tech weaponry to do the job. Sharing coastlines between the Indian and Pacific Oceans means that even though Australia doesn't have enemies, it needs to be able to project power in the region and safeguard its territory and sea lanes in case of any unforeseen situations. Their army plays a major role in overseas UN and NATO deployments and anti-terrorism missions, which makes it necessary for them to be well equipped. The Australian Military uses a mixture of imported and locally built equipment to fulfill their duties.

Tiger Attack Helicopter



Side view of the Tiger. Note the nose-mounted 30 mm cannon.

The Euro copter Tiger is an advanced light attack helicopter which is designed to carry out anti-tank warfare and provide fire support for ground troops. It has a unique all-composite fuselage made out of carbon fiber, aluminium, titanium, and Kevlar. The fuselage is also armoured and can withstand hits from small arms fire and cannon rounds up to 23 mm in caliber. The design is very crash-worthy and it is evident from the fact that the crew of a French Tiger survived a crash with only minor injuries. It has a self-protection suites to defend itself from IR guided missiles. The Australian Army procured 22 of these lean and mean machines and officially designate them as Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters (ARH).



Front view of the Tiger. Note the 19 cell 70 mm Hydra 70 unguided rocket pods (right inner pylon), 7 cell 70 mm rocket pods(outer pylons) and launch rails for Hellfire missiles (left inner pylon). This helicopter is armed with a nose-mounted 30 mm Nexter cannon with 450 rounds of ammunition. There are 4 under-wing hardpoints for a variety of weapons like 70 mm unguided rockets, Hellfire missiles and 12.7 mm gun pods. Australia recently tested the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System laser guidance kit for use with the 70mm unguided rockets. This will further increase the effectiveness of the Tiger in a modern-day battlefield scenario as it turns a ‘dumb’ munition into a ‘smart’ weapon. The Tiger may also be operated from the Canberra class LHDs that Australia is building. They would be effective close air support (CAS) platforms for Australian troops deployed from those ships.



Polo Shirts **Bottle Green or Black:** \$40 Caps \$ 20 Pocket badge \$25
Note; All items plus postage if required.

Name tags: \$10 Lapel Badge \$10

Bumper stickers: No Charge





Collection of the 8th / 7th Battalion



MUSEUM OPEN HOURS

Open Thursday afternoon
1 – 4pm,
Fourth Sunday of the
Month, 9am – 12noon
Open Thursday afternoons
or by appointment.

Phone
Neil Leckie,
0400 573 802
or **John Coull.**
0481 286 167

BALLARAT RANGER MILITARY MUSEUM CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

A morning tea was held at the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum on Sunday 28th July 2019 to celebrate to 30th Anniversary of the opening of the museum in the old Ranger Barracks on 28th July 1989.

The Museum Manager, Neil Leckie, welcomed those in attendance, which included the Commanding Officer 8/7 RVR Lt Col David Cadogan-Cowper, Acting RSM 8/7 RVR WO2 Brad Turner, Sandy McCann and Allan Douglass of Ballarat RSL, former Presidents of the Nashos Stan Kellett and Arnold Treloar, former Vice-President of the Nashos Ken Grundell and former Treasurer of the Nashos Mrs Kath Kellett, along with a number of other interested locals.

Neil spoke of how the museum started its life in two rooms in the old Ranger Barracks that we, and every teenager in Ballarat, now known as Dan Murphy's. The first Curator, Bill Akell told of how as the Quartermaster of 8/7 RVR he found some boxes of memorabilia in the barracks and suggested to the then CO Lt Col Douglas Ball, that the items should be displayed. Lt Col Ball then gave Bill the title of Curator of the Battalion's Collection and told him to find some way to display them. Bill arranged the two rooms in the barracks and the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum was born in 1989.

Bill was asked by a Ballarat Courier Reporter if there was any planned official opening to which Bill replied no! Bill said that when they did open it perhaps it would be nice to have some well-known person, like the Minister for Defence, open the museum. Shortly after that an article appeared in The Courier stating that the Minister for Defence would soon be officially opening the Ranger Museum. The CO asked Bill if he had made that statement to which Bill replied that he was just throwing thoughts around and The Courier had taken it as 'gospel'. The then Member for Ballarat Mr John Mildren contacted the then Minister for Defence, Mr Kim Beazley, and a date of 28 July 1989 was settled on. The rest is history!

Neil Leckie then spoke of the closing of the old Ranger Barracks and the battalion moving its HQ to B Company's Russell Street Depot. He then spoke of the move to the Sebastopol Hall as a temporary home for the museum. Curator Mark Broemmer, who happens to live near the hall and knew of the empty room there, continued the story. He contacted the council and arranged for the use of the room at a 'peppercorn rent' of \$1 per week. He spoke of the then 8/7 RVR member, Major Cliff Gowers, who was responsible for the move from the old Ranger Barracks to the Russell Street Barracks, organising for the 'uplift' of the museum to Sebastopol.

On the opening of the new Ranger Barracks in 2003, the former Q Store Hut that had been moved from the rear of the old Ranger Barracks to the Russell Street Barracks, for the use of the Army Cadets, became vacant. In 2004 Neil Leckie was XO of the Battalion and had the position of Museum Manager as one of his responsibilities. As XO he was able to arrange for the hut to be moved to the barracks to be used as the museum. With a lot of self-help by the members, some of whom were at the morning tea, and other people such as Jeff Sculley and some of his Vietnam Veteran mates, the museum took shape and was opened on the battalion's 150th Birthday on 9 August 2008.

As most will be aware, the museum was given a bequest in 2017 from a 'Deceased Estate' to assist in funding an expansion of the museum. Working with any government department is a slow frustrating process, but finally there is light at the end of the tunnel. In the near future, the museum will have an agreement between Defence and the 'museum' allowing for civilians to operate on Defence land. The agreement has the CO's blessing and once it is formalised discussions on an expansion to the museum can commence. It is more likely that such an expansion will take the form of the current hut being extended at both ends rather than a second building, but expansion to our display area will be most welcome.

Lt Col Cadogan-Cowper then gave a run down on the battalion's participation in Exercise Talisman Sabre in Queensland and upcoming activities it will be a part of.

The gathering then participated in a morning tea provided by the Museum Curator (and former Caterer of 8/7 RVR) Mark Broemmer, and a walk through the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum - the 'Unit Historical Collection' of 8/7 RVR!

Bill Akell and Ted Kenna VC unveiling the VC Wall, (four VC for 7th Bn and three VC for 8th Bn in WW1 and one VC for 8th Bn AIF – WW2)





MHR Kim Beazley, the then Minister for defence, studies the wall depicting the VC recipients from the 8/7th Battalions, along with CAPT Bill Akell, (QM 8/7 RVR and Curator BRMM)



Commanding Officer, 8/7th Battalion, LT COL Douglass Ball In discussion with Kim Beazley seated in a WW2 Willy's Jeep.

London Victory Celebrations of 1946

From Wikipedia.

The London Victory Celebrations of 1946 were British Commonwealth, Empire and Allied victory celebrations held after the defeat of Nazi Germany and Japan in World War II. The celebrations took place in London on 8 June 1946, and consisted mainly of a military parade through the city and a night time fireworks display. Most British allies took part in the parade, including Belgium, Brazil, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Luxembourg the Netherlands and the United States. The parade arrangements caused a controversy surrounding the lack of representation of Polish forces.

Victory parade

The first part of the parade was the Chiefs of Staff's procession, featuring the British Chiefs of Staff together with the Supreme Allied Commanders. This was followed by a mechanised column which went from Regent's Park to Tower Hill to The Mall (where the saluting base was) and then back to Regent's Park. It was more than four miles long and contained more than 500 vehicles from the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, British civilian services and the British Army (in that order).

Next came a marching column, which went from Marble Arch to The Mall to Hyde Park Corner. This was headed by the flags of the Allied nations which took part in the parade, each with an honour guard. Next came units of the navies, air forces, civilian services and armies of the nations of the British Empire. They were followed by units from the Royal Navy, followed by British civilian services, the British Army, representatives of certain Allied air forces and the Royal Air Force. This was followed by a fly-past of 300 aircraft, led by Douglas Bader. In the aftermath, 4,127 persons needed medical attention and 65 were taken to hospital.

Most of the allies were represented at the parade, including representatives from the USA, France, Belgium, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway and Transjordan.

The only allied countries not represented at the parade were USSR, Yugoslavia, and Poland.

Australian Contingent

The Australian contingent was headed by Major General Ken Eather, an officer with a distinguished record in the war. The contingent consisted of 250 servicemen and women, drawn from the three services, including Privates Richard Kelliher, Frank Partridge and Reginal Rattey who had received the Victoria Cross during WW2. The Victory March Contingent sailed for the United Kingdom on HMAS *Shropshire* on 8 April 1946.

Nighttime festivities

After sunset of the same day, the principal buildings of London were lit by floodlights, and crowds thronged the banks of the Thames and Westminster Bridge to watch King George VI and his family proceed down the river in the Royal barge. The planned festivities ended with a fireworks display over Central London. However, crowds continued to gather in London and surrounded Buckingham Palace even after the Royal family had retired from the festivities. Many festival goers could not return home that night and spent the rest of the night in public parks and other public areas around London.

Political controversy

The parade caused political controversy in the UK and has continued to be criticised because of the lack of representation of Polish forces. During the war, more than 200,000 members of the Polish Armed Forces in the West had fought under British High Command. These were loyal to the Polish government-in-exile, were opposed to the Soviet Union since the time of the Nazi-Soviet pact and hoped to return to a democratic, non-communist Poland after the war. However, by 1946, the British government changed its diplomatic recognition from the pro-democracy Poles in exile to the new communist-dominated Provisional Government of National Unity in Poland, where, according to Winston Churchill and others, totalitarian control was being established.

The British government initially invited the Soviet-backed government in Poland to send a flag party to represent Poland among the allied forces in the parade, but did not specifically invite representatives of the Polish forces that had fought under British High Command. Britons including Winston Churchill, figures in the RAF and a number of MPs protested against the decision, which was described as an affront to the Polish war effort as well as an immoral concession to communist power. Also, the pro-democracy Polish forces did not agree that the Soviet-backed Polish government could represent them, and saw the development as a negation of what they had fought the War for.

After these complaints, 25 pilots of the Polish fighter squadrons in the Royal Air Force, who had taken part in the Battle of Britain, were invited to march together with other foreign detachments as part of the parade of

the Royal Air Force. The government said this was a necessary compromise due to the political circumstances of the day. Also, after the public criticism in Britain, last-minute invitations were sent by Foreign Minister Bevin directly to the Chief of Staff of the Polish Army, General Kopanski, who was still in post in London, and to the chiefs of the Polish Air Force and the Polish Navy and to individual generals.

These invitations were declined, and the airmen refused to participate in protest against the omission of the other branches of the Polish forces. The Soviet-backed Polish government, in turn, chose not to send a delegation, and later cited the invitation to the pilots as its reason to stay away. In the end, the parade thus took place without any Polish forces. The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia also stayed away.

Unit Badges



A few of the badges acquired for the Museum.

In the next issue I will endeavour to list in

chronological order, starting when it all began with the Rangers, the different badgers worn by our members over time.

HMAS Ballarat seizes suspected arms shipment.

Nearly half a million rounds of small-arms ammunition and 697 bags of chemical fertiliser were found on the dhow.

Defence says the fertiliser has possible dual use for the manufacture of improvised explosives.

“This seizure is of significant concern to maritime security, in particular the illicit proliferation of ammunition and chemicals which could be used to produce explosives,” a Defence spokesperson said.

“HMAS Ballarat has safely disposed of the seized items and has resumed routine tasking.”

Defence did not say when this boarding and seizure took place, though the photos are dated 26 June.

HMAS Ballarat has conducted 38 boardings since deploying to the Middle East on Operation Manitou in November last year.

During this time the crew of HMAS Ballarat has stopped illegal narcotics in excess of AUD\$1 billion from funding terrorism and other illegal activity.

This is the first direct interdiction of actual ammunition and suspected bomb-making chemicals. HMAS Ballarat is on her second deployment to the Middle East— the 67th rotation of a Royal Australian Navy vessel in the region since 1990.

Any member who would like to change their contact details by way of email may do so using the email addresses: Allan Wettenhall allan.wettenhall@bigpond.com

or fill in your details information below. Postal Address; Secretary, PO Box 543 W
Ballarat West 3353

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\$20.00 PER YEAR due on 1st October

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Editor: Tom Chambers. All members are encourage to submit articles for the newsletter by email or surface mail.

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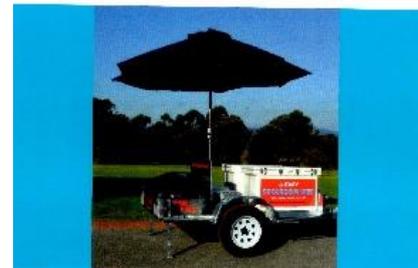
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