

7TH COMBAT BRIGADE DEFENCE WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

On Tuesday 30 May 2017, I was privileged to host on behalf of the RAR Association Qld Branch and representing the 4 RAR Assoc, Qld Inc, the visit of 31 students from 20 high schools from the Brisbane area, to the Royal Australian Regiment, National Memorial Walk at the Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera Qld.



The students were part of the 7th Combat Brigade, Defence Work Experience Programme (DWEP) whereby high school students visit many of the units within the barracks and experience Army life over a three day period. Approximately half of the students either came from or were the children of parents born in a country other than Australia. I welcomed all students as the sons and daughters of ANZACs and welcomed those from other countries into the protection of the spirit of the ANZACs and of those whose names appeared on the RAR Honour Roll.

My welcome task was to explain, in the time allocated, the origin, history and the composition of the RAR National Memorial Walk including :

- the purpose of the contemplation building,
- the composition, history and role the Royal Australian Regiment ,
- the purpose and history of the National Memorial Walk,
- the design and purpose of the Roll of Honour
- the design and purpose of the Walk itself,
- the design and purpose of The Diggers' Rest area, and
- the role of Dad's Army in maintaining the Walk

The initial briefing was conducted in the contemplation building itself followed by a tour and explanation of the design of the walk, the design and system of the individual commemorative plaques, the commemorative trees and the procedure for the spreading of ashes.

At the completion of the tour of the Walk, students were asked to stand before an individual commemorative plaque and in unison, state out loud the rank and name of the soldier depicted on the plaque before them.

Those students who had family members who were killed overseas or who had died since in any service, were requested to name that person during the ceremony. I explained that this action responded to the request of the original ANZACs to remember them.



Some 4 RAR Association key rings were given to those who responded to a pertinent question by answering " 4 RAR". *My way of keeping the 4 RAR name alive on the day.*

Alan Price
President