

TEX HOWARTH – PRESIDENT 6 RAR ASSOCIATION

The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis



Tex Howarth has been a member of the Defence Force for as long as I can remember. To be honest, I must admit that it is really when we were both serving in 6 RAR Enoggera that I first came across him. He was big bloke, tough as nails and certainly knew his job as a Corporal. I was only a little bloke, a young digger and although I had served with 1 RAR and 6 RAR, I was still green behind the ears. We were in separate companies but because of the close proximity of the barracks to each other, it was not surprising that we would bump into each other.

As the years went by Tex went onto bigger and better things, achieving much on his way. Although we were posted to various units along the way, being part of the Royal Australian Regiment meant that you could always find out where others were serving at any given time. Over the years, our military paths took different approaches and each case different objectives and achievements were met and made.

In the case of Tex, he served a total of 32 years in the Australian defence force with almost half of it with 6 RAR. Tex is one of those rare individuals who have come up through the ranks from Private to the rank of a Commissioned officer (Major). During that time with the battalion, Tex served in every company with the exception Administrative Company. His last posting with last 6 RAR was as Company Sergeant Major (CSM) of A Company during the period 1982 to 84. Whilst a member of the Defence Force, Tex served with distinction from Digger to Military adviser in Vietnam, Singapore, Malaya, Butterworth (Penang Island – Malaya), Papua New Guinea and on many postings within the Australian continent.

Tex was not one to consider himself a tall poppy, far from it. Tex would always do what was necessary to see the mission through, no matter where it was. In each case, he would go where his duty lay and in line with the tradition of the Royal Australian Regiments Motto of "Duty First". It this motto that has sustained Tex throughout the years and even more so since leaving the Australian regular Army.

His postings within the Australian continent were also instructive in shaping his character and his belief in looking after his mates and the right thing by them and the regiment. His postings in Australia varied from the Officer Cadet School at Portsea, Victoria, 28 Independent Rifle Company, Perth, West Australia, Land Warfare Canungra, Queensland, West Australia University Regiment, School of Infantry, Papua New Guinea, 49 Royal Queensland Regiment, Defence Corporate Support Centre – in Darwin and the Kimberly, Northern Territory.



After 32 years service, Tex decided it was time to retire from the Australian defence Force for long overdue rest. However, Tex being Tex and not one to be sitting alone in his armchair reflecting on the past, soon found himself involved in supporting organisations that needed his expertise and knowledge.

6 RAR Association. His participation in the 6 RAR Association is well known and his passion for supporting the association is well known. He has been President of the Association as well as holding other roles within the organisation. During that time it has enabled him to obtain a good grasp of the association administration and inner workings.

This knowledge has assisted him to create and implement realistic goals with the long term aim of ensuring that the association retains its integrity and credibility with in the veteran community. Tex realised that there are many hurdles to overcome, but always believes that open communication and good management will overcome any challenges that the association faces.

Currently, Tex has been elected another term as the President of the association and in his second term, his main focus is to continue building on the current membership base by targeting the newer members of the battalion. He understands fully that not all members can be satisfied with the decisions of the executive, but he is open to suggestions, ideas and any constructive criticism that may enhance the goals and aspirations of the association. Having said this, Tex also believes in robust discussions that lead to a successful outcome on behalf of all members.

Apart from the attracting new members, Tex is fully aware that time is taking a toll on the older members and is concerned for their welfare of the association's members. He is also particularly concerned about those young soldiers who served in places such as East Timor, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan and of their families.

Whenever a soldier has paid the supreme sacrifice doing his duty, Tex thinks of the families and loved ones who have been left behind to grieve and cope with their loss. Tex as President of the 6 RAR Association ensures that the families know that the association is there to support them in their time of need.



***The Voice from the Pavement** - Peter Adamis is a (not for profit) Journalist/Commentator. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538*