



INGLEBURN RSL SUB-BRANCH



The Battle of Coral - Balmoral

54th Anniversary Commemorative Service

Monday 16th of May 2022 @ 1030hrs

***Battle of Fire Support Bases Coral & Balmoral, Vietnam
12th of May – 6th of June 1968***

Battle of Coral/Balmoral

Australian, New Zealand and United States forces were involved in a series of actions between May and June 1968 at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral some 20 kilometres north of Bien Hoa city. Sitting astride a route used by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces approaching or departing Saigon and nearby Bien Hoa, the bases comprised defended positions for artillery, mortars and armoured vehicles which in turn supported infantry patrols of the area. The North Vietnamese launched several strong attacks in an attempt to drive the Australians from this important area. The Australians also initiated combat during their many patrols outside the bases. These actions, over a 25-day period, made up Australia's costliest and most protracted battle of the Vietnam War.



Gun pits ... at Fire Support Base "Coral" in Vietnam in 1968

Order of Service

Flag Party Mounts

Catafalque Party Mounts

“Acknowledgement of Country”

*'I begin today's Coral/Balmoral Commemorative Service by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present.
I extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here present today.'*

Welcome Address - **by Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch President
Mr. Graham Toll**

Hymn – “O Valiant Hearts”

O valiant hearts who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.
Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war
As who had heard God's message from afar
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,
To save mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.
Splendid you passed; the great surrender made;
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God

Prayer: **Reverend Father of Holy Family Parish – Ingleburn
Father Henry Adler**

*Those who survived Coral – Balmoral have had hard times,
But let us direct our thoughts and prayers today to the memory
of those who died for our great country and us.
Let us pray, Father, you advised us to love you and our neighbor.
Nobody qualified as our neighbor as fully as the mates who were
lost at Coral-Balmoral.*

They died in a sacrifice that was made for their mates,
and all Australians. We pray that you have rewarded them with
a special place in your kingdom of heaven.
We offer this pray through Christ our Lord, who also died for us.

Amen

Commemorative Address

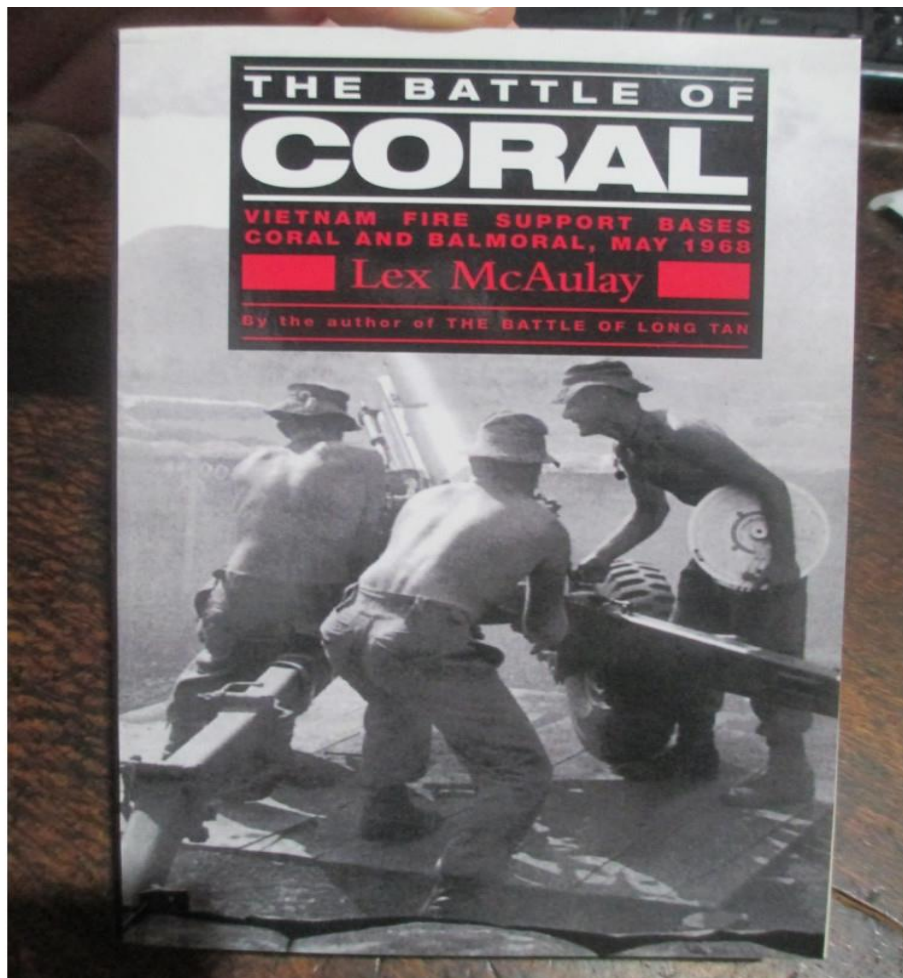
Prayer of Remembrance

Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father,
We remember with thanksgiving those who made
the supreme sacrifice for us during times of war.

We pray that the offering of their lives may not
have been in vain.

May grace enable us this day, to dedicate to the
cause of justice, freedom and peace and give
wisdom and strength to build a better world.

For the honour and glory of your name through
Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Reading of the Honour Roll

"They shall grow not old"

1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

Private D.E. Abbott
Private E.J. Bailey
Corporal I.K. Dawson
Corporal R.B. Hickey
Private R.L. McNab
Lance Corporal W.H. Martin
Private C.R. Nisbet
Private J.A. O'Brien
Corporal J.G. Pearce
Private L.R. Sheppard
Private B.M. Trimble
Private A.J. Wallis
Private R.C.A. Watson
Private H.W. White
Corporal J.H. Whitton
Private B.T. Young

3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

Private L.N. Brown
Private A.J. Cooper
Private J.W. Desnoy
Sergeant P.E. Lewis
Private W.M. Thomas
Private J.T. Worle

12th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

Gunner C.J. Sawtell
Gunner I.J. Scott

104th Signals Squadron, Royal Australian Corps of Signals

Signaler A.H. Young

161st Independent Reconnaissance Flight

Major G.A. Constable

"We will remember them"

Wreath Laying

Piper – “The Lament”

“The Ode”

“The Last Post”

(One minute’s silence)

“The Rouse”

“The Benediction”

The National Anthems

United States of America

New Zealand

Australia



Catafalque Party Dismounts

Flag Party Dismounts

Ceremony Concludes



Heads bowed, members of 1RAR attend a mass conducted at Coral by Father George Widdison, a Roman Catholic Padre, for those who died during the fighting at the base in May and June 1968.



Extraction by Helicopter



Peter Cosgrove

*Governor-General of the
Commonwealth of Australia
and Commander-in-Chief
of the Defence Force*

BE IT KNOWN that with the authority of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second,
Queen of Australia, I have awarded the

UNIT CITATION for GALLANTRY

to

1ST AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE (FORWARD) which includes
Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force (Forward)
1st and 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment
A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment
C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment
12th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers
Detachments in direct support of and located with
1st Australian Task Force (Forward)

in recognition of acts of extraordinary gallantry in action

CITATION

*For extraordinary gallantry in action in the Binh Duong/Bien Hoa Provinces of South Vietnam
from 12 May 1968 to 6 June 1968, during Operation THOAN THANG.*

*GIVEN at Government House, Canberra
this fifteenth day of May 2018.*

By His Excellency's Command

Official Secretary to the Governor-General