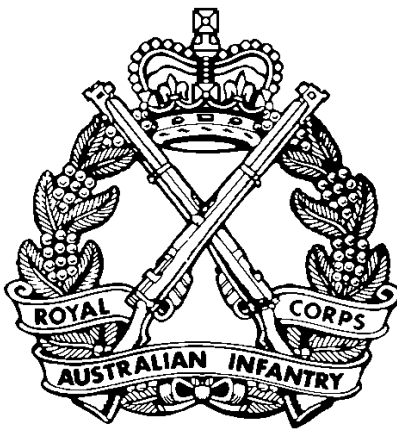




Infantrymans Muster



General Guide





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A bit of History:

The concept of The Infantryman's Muster (The Muster) was 1st raised on the "RAR Buddies" Facebook page in 2012. The original idea floated was having a get together of veterans with their families at the gold coast war museum. Mororbike rides for the kids and a BBQ were some of the planned activities but the September weekend date proved unpopular due to the major football codes finals being held. Duncan Scott Dobbie (formerly Scott Duncan Richards aka SDR), launched the concept once again during general discussion within the facebook group "RAR Buddies" early in 2014.

The intent was that the Muster would be a 'get-together' for interested current or ex Infantry Soldiers of the Australian Army. Based on the general concept of the Deniliquin Ute Muster, it was intended to be a gathering of blokes, from all across Australia, to a centralized point, on or near the Regiment's birthday 23 November, to reconnect with old mates. The discussions occurred within the RAR Buddies Group. Not long after, Eric Guttridge offered his property at Jimna, and the idea kicked off.

An Organising Committee of comprising 18 veterans was assembled on facebook and 11 met face-to-face at the Ettamogah Pub to nut out some details. Elements of the organizing committee met onsite, on Wednesday 22nd October and checked the site out and finalized preparations. Further discussions, within the group, determined that The Muster would be for ARA RAInf only.

This document is the result of those meeting/s.

The Inaugural (2014) Muster had in excess of 130 attendees, a great base to build on.

The 2015 Organising Committee was reduced to 8 and met online quite often, with a couple of 'live' meetings to finalise the Muster Plans. 2015 also saw in excess of 130 attendees but many first-timers. The Regiment put on a few events around the country which drew from our numbers and 2016 looks like it will be huge. 2015 saw the addition of a band and catered dinner. These will continue.

The 2015 Organising Committee remained at 8 and met online quite often, with a couple of 'live' meetings to finalise the 2016 Muster Plans. During the 2016 year, Titles within the committee were announced and discussion turned to Incorporation. This was to protect the Name and Assets with Membership being optional – compulsory for committee members. A strategic Planning Meeting was held over the Easter weekend and a 5 year plan was in place. Incorporation was achieved on 17th June 2016.

The Infantrymans Muster is not affiliated with ANY Association/s. These Rules are in place ONLY to ensure the continuing integrity of The Muster.

1. There is to be NO ADVERTISING, in any form, of ANY Assoc/Club - other than Muster/Regiment/Battalion and those Organisations we support.
 2. ONLY Muster/Bn/Regt Flags/Banners are permitted!
 3. Bn/Regt Flags/Banners are permitted to identify your group/location BUT there is to be NO open recruiting (Hawking) for your Assn.
 4. Any Private Sales are to be approved prior to the Muster by the Organising Committee
 5. No vehicles are to be pre-positioned. Sites cannot be reserved.
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TOPOGRAPHY

Jimna is situated approximately 90Kms North-West of Caboolture via the D'Aguilar Highway to Kilcoy (50Kms +/-), then the Kilcoy-Murgon Road to Jimna (40Km +/-). Eric's property is approximately 10Km further past the 'township' of Jimna. The entry is sign-posted, on the right-hand side of Kilcoy-Murgon Road.

It is mostly open woodland with scattered and varied vegetation, the road/s in are dirt but easily manageable in a standard vehicle; no extra preparation is required. The layout of the Muster area is similar to Pandanus Park Veteran's Retreat at Cape York; ie. Campsites are selected on a first-come first-served basis, Amenities are somewhere between 'Limited' and 'Non-Existent', so attendees should be FULLY self-sufficient. The final planning stage will confirm what, if any, amenities are available but attendee's expectations should be LOW.

Eric's property is located halfway between Peach trees (camping ground) and Landcruiser Park (4wd place). Both are great places for camping and 4wheel driving. Both are approx 10km away. The last ten km to Eric's property is dirt/ gravel road that is well maintained. The only issues to be aware of is roving cattle and big arse semi trailers carting logs. Get off the road when you see them. They take up the whole road.

Jimna is a town of 20 houses. A small shop that sells goffas, gumpy bars and frozen pies. The surrounding areas are mostly National Parks, presenting a very safe area.

SITUATION:

SDR's suggestion that the Inaugural Event be confined to members (past and present) of the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR), as opposed to the wider Royal Australian Infantry Corps (RAInf), was universally accepted. A post-event debrief decided on the attendance criteria for future events remaining as ARA RAInf Only. A facebook PAGE was setup to be the Information Centre for attendees with all updates posted as they become available. During the debrief, Eric's property was confirmed as the AO, an attendance fee of \$100.00 (\$30.00 for spouses/partners) was set – with an attendance pack of shirt and Stubby Holder included (Brett Rowbottom's design was accepted for the logo)– and it was confirmed as an Adults-Only event. Future debriefs may confirm/alter these conditions. A final planning stage occurs once the cutoff date has arrived and attendance numbers are confirmed, in location to finalise ALL details of the Muster.

MISSION:

To reconnect with old mates, in a peaceful setting, on or near the Regiment's Birthday.

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EXECUTION and General Outline:

As is to be expected, this is a multi-phase Operation, involving transport to/from the AO, Actions within the AO, Preparation and Departure.



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The official dates for the event are the weekend before 23rd November. Early arrival and/or Late Departure is permitted but please notify Eric Guttridge of your plans. No transport is arranged for Early/Late Arrival/Departure. Transport MAY be arranged for Friday/Saturday arrival and/or Sunday/Monday Departure; this will vary from year to year.

Transport To/From: Attendees should have their own transport or arrange 'car-pooling' with fellow attendees prior to the event. The organisers are extremely limited in their resources to arrange transport.

Actions within the AO: We humbly request ALL ATTENDEES to be on their best behavior during the Muster. This event is the culmination of a lot of planning by a lot of people and is on PRIVATE Property. The age-groups of attendees are as varied as you could possibly get, and quite a few wives may also be in attendance. The Muster is not to be viewed as a 'Platoon Piss-Up' but a wider Regimental Reunion, sharing the respect we all share with The Badge. No 'sabre-rattling' or 'pissing contests'; At this event we are all EQUAL. Do not plan this to be a 'get square' event. RESPECT your fellow Skippy Soldiers.

The long-term success of the event lies with the success of each annual event and it is imperative that we all behave respectfully, the inaugural event set the tone. **No Glass is permitted, cans and plastic only.**

Whether we know it or not, like it or not, we are on show. To the wider public, the Army, and most importantly, The Regiment. Word of this event has travelled far and wide and many people, including those still serving, are awaiting positive feedback and information for future events.

Future success may well lie with the involvement of the Battalions and their Associations; with their future involvement, the sky is the limit. The Infantryman's Muster could become the showpiece of The Royal Australian Regiment, The Australian Army and all Associations, it is up to us – the attendees - to create something that all current, former and future Infantrymen are proud of and seek out to attend. The Inaugural Attendees did their part, now WE must follow their lead.

Camp Sites: You can camp anywhere within the Muster AO. As a general rule avoid camping too close to another campsite without discussing your intentions with the nearby campers. Some Veterans seek space though this cannot always be guaranteed. Do not cut down trees to access or clear your camp site. There are designated sites with fire drums and pre-prepared firewood but these sites may be taken – First in, First served. Feel free to fly your Bn, Coy or Pl Flag and respect others that do.

Program of Events: Muster is intended to be a place where we can rest, relax, re-connect with old mates and meet new ones. For this reason few events are pre-planned though some events may 'just happen' with minimal or no notice. However, these events are planned:

Construction of Memorial: Inaugural attendees 'laid a Stone' in a garden bed surrounding a rather unique tree stump. The stones have the name(s) of a deceased brother written with paint on it or a simple, yet meaningful message was applied. This garden has become the Muster Memorial and is unique in that the names are placed by someone who served with, or knew personally, the deceased. You may wish to add to this memorial - an item of attachment may also be added if you choose. From 2016, Named Rocks are being replaced with Dog Tags. OUR memorial is our centerpiece.

Entertainment: May or may not occur. Eg., the Inaugural event had no organised entertainment but 2015 and 2016 had a band on Saturday Afternoon/evening. Each year will be on it's own merits.

Saturday Night Dinner: A BBQ Dinner will be supplied, as part of your attendance fee, on the Saturday Night. Actual menu will be dependent on available resources.

Recovery Breakfast: served prior to the Memorial Service at the HQ complex so bring a plate, eating irons and a mug (Disposable plates and cutlery will be available) . As with Dinner, menu will be dependent on available resources.

Regimental Birthday. Commemorated on the Sunday, with a short Service of Remembrance at the Muster Memorial near the HQ. For the Inaugural event, the Memorial was blessed prior to the memorial Service. Assembly is at TBC hours for a service at TBC hours. Dress is casual (medals may be worn, if you wish).



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Group Photo. A group photograph will be taken immediately before or after the service. This serves to create a record of the attendance and over time will serve to show that as we age we get more handsome. Copies of these photos will be placed on the Muster Page and can be downloaded and printed for personal use.

General Debrief: Presentation of Financial Records for previous year/current event and ideas for improvement. Maximum attendance is encouraged. Suggestion box will be available for those unable to stay for the meeting.

Departure: At your leisure at the conclusion of the Memorial Service or as arranged with Eric. Prior to your departure, ensure your campsite is 'as you found it'. Rubbish should be taken with you but we will try to have collection points for centralized collection and removal to the tip by late-stayers. Please do your bit.

ADMINISTRATION and LOGISTICS

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, UPON ARRIVAL, PLEASE SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER, so we can keep track of numbers.

Facilities: Muster is strictly bush camping. SHOWER FACILITIES may be available but are dependent on water, so come prepared to provide your own. Long drop/s will be in place.

Rubbish: All rubbish must be either burned to ash, deposited in Rubbish bins provided or carted out with you. There is a signposted rubbish tip at Kilcoy. **Your campsite must be clear of rubbish when you depart.**

Water: Limited fresh water is available from the water tank onsite and should probably be boiled before drinking. Otherwise bring drinking water with you.

Drinking the local water may constitute a health hazard so it is your choice and your responsibility.

Power Supply: There is no power at Muster, however, 240volt generators are permitted, though we ask that these be positioned so that they do not inconvenience adjoining campers. If you require your generator to run all night due to medical needs either erect your camp well clear of other campers or inform the nearby campers of the potential for all night noise. A mix of solar and generator power is common and may be the ideal option. Solar is generally reliable however there can be consecutive cloudy days with little to no sun rendering most solar installations inadequate. Don't forget to bring fuel for your generator - a tankful per day is a good guide.

Firearms: The display or use of firearms is prohibited.

Food and Liquid Refreshments: You should be self-sufficient for the duration of your stay plus a few extra days. Resup is available at Kilcoy (50kms) and Murgon (85kms) Jimna does not have a store nor Service Station. Do not rely on others to do your shopping for they may not have the time nor inclination to do so and may not be able to cart the extra supplies.

Medications and Medical Intervention: Urgent medical help is at least an hour away. Our Standard Operating Procedure is to drive all medical cases to Kilcoy Health Centre. First aid may be available at Muster courtesy of former medics or nurses camped therein but bring your own first aid kit. It is an essential item. **DO NOT RELY ON OTHERS.**

IMPORTANT: Bring all your medication needs with you.

Battalion Flags and Badges: Campers are encouraged to display unit flags or badges and the Australian Flag at their camps. Use your initiative to design signage for your camp but remember that whatever you bring in must go out with you.

Reserved Campsites: There are no numbered or reserved campsites. First come first served applies.

Please do not camp within 50 metres of the HQ complex.



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Clearing Campsites: The immediate area on which your camp is situated may be cleared of twigs and grass for safety. No other vegetation is to be cleared. Trees, whether dead or alive, are not to be felled or defaced in any manner whatsoever.

DO NOT carve your name into the trees. This is not our land.

Fuel: The last refuel is at Kilcoy so bring enough fuel to travel the 50kms to Muster and return plus extra fuel for travelling within the AO, if desired.

Therefore you need to leave Kilcoy with enough fuel to drive:

Kilcoy to Muster = 50 kms

Muster to Murgon = 85 kms

And return!

Camp fires: Camp fires are permitted but no standing timber is to be felled. Your fire must be clear of all tentage, fuel, gas and grass and extinguished prior to your departure from Muster. Firewood must be sourced from within the Muster AO if at all possible.

NO STANDING TIMBER IS TO BE FELLED - THIS INCLUDES DEAD TIMBER

Other Campers: Please note that despite your desire to camp away from others there is a high probability that you will gain close neighbours. This is unavoidable due to the shortage of suitable camp sites and the influx of attendees. Please show restraint and accept this as inevitable.

Climate and Weather: Day time temperatures hover around 30 degrees whilst nights can be cool - down to 14 degrees - sometimes less. Rain is rare and expect it to be hot and dry at this time of year.

Clothing: The standard dress is very casual. Jeans and a T shirt is about as formal as one needs to be. Saturday evening may be designated Tropical Saturday with ultra bright Hawaiian style shirts, shorts and dresses as the order of the day. Otherwise bring a warm top and long daks. Long pants and a full sleeve top may be necessary if the horseflies and mossies are active, which is unlikely.

Footwear: Sturdy runners or shoes should be worn as the ground is unprepared and rough with sharp sticks. There are also biting creatures in abundance. If you plan to go walking, then sturdy boots are essential.

Safety: Generally, Muster is a very safe place however there are snakes in the area and some are deadly.

Coastal Taipan, **Eastern Brown Snake**, Eastern Tiger Snake, **Red-Bellied Black Snake**, Common Death Adder, Spotted (Blue Bellied) Black Snake, Rough-Scaled Snake, Eastern Small-Eyed Snake are indigenous to the area, though most are rare. Be careful around logs etc. **Please do not kill them**, if you see them. Scorpions are plentiful and painful.

Pets: Please be courteous enough to leave your pets at home or arrange with Eric prior.

Bushfires: The entire region is subject to dry season fires that travel very quickly therefore do not camp in or near long grass and do not set fire to the grass as the resultant fire can spread well beyond Muster AO, endangering other property and people. Committee members will do their utmost to clear the Muster camping area, ensuring the safety of most camp sites. Please park your vehicles in such a manner as to allow quick escape – if needed.

Wild Animals: Dingoes, wild pigs, cattle and horses often wander close to or around the camps. If you leave them alone they will not bother you.

Boozier Gathering. The 'Boozier' is located at the Southern tip, next to Eric's Humpy. As a general rule the Boozier is always open with the closing time uncertain - usually when the last person departs. Attendance at the Boozier is not compulsory but these gatherings are meant to be a fun-filled relaxing opportunity to meet other attendees. They are worth attending but please bring your sense of humour. You may want to bring



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your own chair and drinks, too. Auctions and/or Raffles usually occur at The Boozer on Saturday Night. This is also where the band will play.

Bushwalking: Plenty of scrub and tracks to walk around. 1:100,000 scale topo maps are available at Jimna Information Centre for about \$15.00 but these are less than ideal for navigation. The tracks within the Muster area are NOT marked on any maps as they are quite new. IF you are heading out on a walk in the Great Aussie Bush, **LET SOMEONE KNOW HOW LONG YOU PLAN TO BE AWAY**. Without Nav Gear, it is easy to become disorientated. **IF WE KNOW YOU ARE MISSING, WE WILL COME LOOKING.**

Topo Maps may be downloaded for free at <http://qtopo.dnrm.qld.gov.au/desktop/>. YOU set the area and scale – anywhere in Qld.

Livestock: Cattle are run on the lands in and around Muster. All these animals are owned by other graziers in the region. Leave them alone.

Alcohol: Alcohol is available in Kilcoy. Attendees must drink responsibly and NOT be a nuisance to other campers.

COMMAND and SIGNALS:

OUR success lies, mostly, with the fact that there is no 'commander' at Muster. However The Muster is overseen by a committee. If in doubt ask for a Committee member.

Mobile Phone Reception: Optus/Vodafone are pretty good in most areas of the Muster Property. Telstra is Hit n Miss, usually goes from the high ground to the North.

On Arrival, and signing the Attendance Register, A Suggestion Form will be available. Please take one, fill it in and return it prior to departure, or before. These suggestion will form the basis of the post-event debrief, which is open to all who wish to attend. The debrief will be held after the Memorial Service and will be preceded by a 'General Meeting' to elect The Muster Committee. Nomination/s for committee positions may be placed on the Suggestion Form. Distance is not a factor for committee positions but willingness and ability to attend future events is.

**ENJOY YOURSELF, ALLOW OTHERS TO ENJOY THEMSELVES
AND LAUGH – A LOT.**

DUTY FIRST – AND ALWAYS



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The Regimental Prayer

O God, We, Who Have Served In The Royal Australian Regiment,
Consecrate Ourselves To You By Giving Ourselves Body And Spirit
To Your Service And To The Service Of Our Fellow Man.
Cleanse From Us Everything That Could Mar This Service.
Grant That We May Live Our Lives
That At All Times We Put Our Duty First.
Help Us To Think Wisely, To Speak Rightly, To Resolve Bravely,
To Act Kindly And To Live Purely.
Give Us The Courage To Defend The Cause Of Justice,
Freedom, Truth And The Right To Liberty.
This We Ask Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Infanteer

He is born of the earth on the day he enlists
He is sentenced to life on the soil
To march on it, crawl on it, dig in it, sprawl on it
Sleep on it after his toil.

Be it sand, rock or ice, gravel, mud or red loam
He will fight on it, bravely will die
And the crude little cross telling men of his loss
Will cry mutely to some foreign sky.

He's the tired looking man in the untidy garb
Weather beaten, foot sore with fatigue
But his spirit is strong as he marches along
With his burden for league after league.

He attacks in the face of murderous fire
Crawling forward, attacking through mud
When he breaks through the lines
Over wire and mines
On the point of his bayonet is blood.

Should you meet him untidy, begrimed and fatigued
Don't indulge in unwarranted mirth
For the brave infanteer
Deserves more than a sneer
He is truly the salt of the earth .

In Memory of Fallen Comrades

LEST WE FORGET