

# FOREWORD

by

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
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As you read through this magazine, I'm sure you'll be struck by the extent and variety of activities that we have undertaken in 1986. It's been a very busy year, but a most satisfactory one for the Battalion, and I hope you feel a real sense of achievement for all the hard work you've put into your jobs throughout the year.

There have been many highlights during 1986, and I want to acknowledge some of them here. Exercise Maxi Beagle and K86 were the big training events which allowed you to show your competence as professional soldiers. You performed extremely well in quite unique circumstances. Special mention must also be made of our Gloucester Cup and AASAM teams which represented us so successfully in their respective competitions. The individual performances of our pistol shooters and the winning effort of the Orienteering team were great achievements.

It has also been an exciting year on the sporting fields, with some very close competition. I have been most impressed with your spirit and the manner in which you've played the game at every level from inter-company to inter-service. In inter-unit competition, all our teams represented the Battalion with distinction.

Special congratulations go to the Volleyball team which won its third consecutive premiership. The



Hockey team enjoyed particular success, and a magnificent team effort resulted in a fine win in the Athletics. Special tribute must also be paid to the supervising officers, coaches, trainers and supporters who provide all the backup for our sporting teams.

In 1986 we have received a lot of support from outside the unit which must be acknowledged. The civil communities of the Gulf country and the Bowen Basin have been most generous in assisting our exercises. The business community of Townsville, and particularly Magnetic Island, have lent their support to our enterprises. Closer to home, a special thanks must go to our wives and families for their patient and consistent support.

At the end of the year many of us will move on to new jobs and new faces will join the Battalion. To those leaving I extend my thanks for your contribution in the Battalion, and I wish you well in your new appointments. For my part, I will leave after a most satisfying two years. It has been a privilege to command and work with the men of 2/4 RAR. I am very proud to have been a part of the Battalion.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and I trust that the Battalion will continue to enjoy good fortune and good soldiering.