

DUNTROON MEMORIAL FRAMES PROJECT

OCS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UPDATE

The Remembrance Room at the Cadets mess at RMC displays a memorial frame for every graduate killed in action, or on operational service, from RMC Duntroon, OCS Portsea, and OTU Scheyville.

In total there are 148 frames. The original project to create them began in 1998. The considerable research required was an initiative of the cadets themselves, with funding assistance provided by the ACT Branch of the Duntroon Society in June 1999.



These frames are not simply historic artefacts — they are a daily reminder to the members of the Corps of Staff Cadets of the service, sacrifice, and values of those who have gone before them. They embody the traditions, courage, and duty that define the officer corps and the legacy every graduate inherits.

The goal of this project is to refurbish and upgrade the frames. Many have faded through sun damage and in several cases, the medals displayed are no longer complete due to new awards and changes to entitlements since the original project.

Fifteen of the frames are for Australian graduates of the Officer Cadet School - Portsea. Here is the list of names:

Maj	Donald	Mackenzie	Bourne	OCS - Portsea	Jun 1952	RAInf
Maj	Peter	John	Badcoe, VC	OCS - Portsea	Dec 1952	RAInf
Lt	Clive	William	Bridge	OCS - Portsea	Jun 1954	RAInf
Capt	Graeme	Rhodes	Belleville	OCS - Portsea	Dec 1957	RAInf
Lt	David	John	Brian	OCS - Portsea	Dec 1958	RAInf
Capt	Barry	Creig	Donald	OCS - Portsea	Jun 1961	AAAvn
Capt	Robert	Bruce	Milligan	OCS - Portsea	Dec 1961	RAInf

Lt	John	None	Carruthers	OCS - Portsea	Dec 1963	RAInf
Lt	Robert	Graham	Birse	OCS - Portsea	Jun 1964	RAA
Lt	Peter	Aubyn	Hines	OCS - Portsea	Jun 1965	RAInf
Lt	Peter	Robert	Marks-Chapman	OCS - Portsea	Dec 1965	RAInf
Lt	Robert	Tom	Convery	OCS - Portsea	Jun 1966	RAInf
2Lt	Brian	Geoffrey	Walker	OCS - Portsea	Jun 1967	RAInf
2Lt	Geoffrey	Robert	Locke	OCS - Portsea	Dec 1967	RAInf
2Lt	Brian	Richard Alan	Jones	OCS - Portsea	Jun 1969	RAInf

Photographs of some of the existing frames are shown here:



MAJ Peter Badcoe
OCS DEC52



CAPT Graeme Belleville
OCS DEC57



LT Peter Hines
OCS JUN65

More research is required to accurately establish any changes to the medal entitlements of international graduates. This work is underway. Once complete, and subject to funding, the frames for international graduates will also be refurbished.

The Restoration Plan

To ensure accuracy and dignity, the project will:

- Update medal entitlements and citation badges based on current Defence Honours & Awards criteria,
- Replace poor quality photographs,
- Revise text where appropriate,
- Replace backing cardboard, and
- Install gallery quality UV protected and non-reflective glass.

To maintain consistency with the frames not needing to be upgraded, and to reduce cost, existing frames will be reused but with new gallery quality glass. A local veteran-owned medal mounting business in Canberra will complete the work. The

supplier has quoted an average of \$350 per frame, depending on the number of additional medals and citations required.

Work on the project is already underway to upgrade the eight frames dedicated to OTU Scheyville graduates. These frames will be rehung soon, with work then commencing on the 15 Australian OCS frames in early October. The OCS Alumni Association has made a generous donation of \$5,000 to allow this work to commence, and other OCS graduates have also contributed.

Funding Requirement

42 frames have been identified for priority refurbishment. The cost is estimated at up to \$15,000. This is a significant sum, and the project's success will depend on the generosity of the graduates of RMC, Portsea, and Scheyville. Beyond this sum, more funds will be required for five new frames - discovered through research and changes to status - as well as the later phase to upgrade the frames of international students.

A Call to Past Graduates

Supporting this project ensures:

- Every fallen graduate is recognised with complete accuracy,
- Their stories remain visible, dignified, and unbroken, and
- Future generations of cadets understand the legacy they inherit.

If you would like to contribute to this project, donations can be made to the Duntroon Society as follows:

Account Name: The Duntroon Society

BSB: 082-926

Account Number: 838263322

As the reference use: DMFP OCS Year of Graduation **eg DMFP OCS 78 and/or detail the name of the frame you specifically would like to fund.**

Personal contributions will safeguard the memory of graduates who gave everything. Graduates planning reunions in Canberra will have the opportunity to view the updated frames — a meaningful way to honour your classmates and fellow graduates.

We have a long way to go to fully fund this project, but if there are surplus funds at the end, they will be retained by the Duntroon Society to pay for other heritage related projects in the Duntroon precinct.

The OCS Alumni Association will be kept informed of progress, but rest assured this project will not end until every memorial frame needing attention has been upgraded.

For additional information on the project, enquiries can be made to Ross Boyd (rossboyd@hotmail.com) or Scott Johnston (scott56@outlook.com.au).

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