

CHAPTER 23

QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

August 2005 - Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 45

EDITORIAL - SYDNEY REUNION

Hats off to the team of tireless workers from Chapter XI ... they excelled in their allotted tasks and made it a pleasure to deal with them.

There is no doubt that everyone who travelled to Sydney for the reunion had a truly fantastic time and that was because everyone who attended joined in the spirit and made it fabulous fun.

However, for a reunion that was five years in the planning there were a number of short falls. For a start being far too expensive, right from the registration package that gave us the most expensive T-Shirt and Cap that most of us are ever likely to own. Then the lack of the normal free drinks in the hospitality suite the excuse that they couldn't provide free beer because of the law was a lame excuse and misleading ... with five years lead time they could have raised sufficient funds to run a 'dry till' right throughout the reunion. As for a hospitality suite basically there was none ... there was no common gathering point. Then there was the \$65.00 chicken and rice dinner at the banquet, not forgetting \$3.00 the bar wanted to charge for water. Let's not forget the woolshed and the standing around for over an hour in the wine sales section before being lead to the woolshed for dinner ... another very expensive meal! One other thing that

wasn't addressed was the cost of drinks at functions at Panthers ... the function price was well in excess of normal bar prices. Again five years (three more than US reunions) allowed heaps of time to raise funds or sponsorships to subsidize the cost of functions and the cost of drinks. Financially there seemed to be a lot of take and no give.

If anyone thinks I'm tough these are not only my views, I have listened to, and read emails from an enormous number of attendees, from Australia, America and New Zealand, like me, all had a wonderful time at the reunion, yet all had the same disappointments.

I note in a recent letter from the International President that he is expecting a big cheque as the Society's 50% share of the profits from the reunion, the By-Laws require this split in profits. This reunion should make an absolute record profit. But is this fair? Should it be that members are grossly overcharged to produce huge profits ... is this the purpose of our reunions?

With five years of planning and preparation this should have been the slickest, cheapest and most cost effective reunion ever held But it wasn't!

However, having made those points, I don't know of anyone who didn't enjoy themselves ... especially me!



The three framed plates above contain the signatures of many of those who attended the reunion. Panarottis Pizza Restaurant paid for the framing and will hang the plates in the restaurant which is located in the foyer of the Penrith Panthers Club. Thank you Jan Stapleton and I'm not sure who helped her, thanks for taking the time to race around getting signatures ... well done.



Barbra Dinardo - John Harper - Paul Dinardo - Marshall Brown



Marshall Brown - Paul Dinardo

Is there any truth in the rumour that Marshall was trying to form a clique involving the International President?

Courage isn't the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength

HOST THE HERD SUCCESSFUL

AIRBORNE!!!

G'Day mate

Ray

Wanted to thank you again for all the Oz hospitality that you and all our new mates showed to us all. Crikey! In all the reunion was beaut! But truly the 'Host the Herd' project was the best. Peter and Margaret Harvey were 'true blue'. It was our fortune by staying with them, that, Lt Ed Kelley and I, were introduced to some of your golfing 'digger mates' that served 67-68 as we did. After Brisbane we stayed in Cairns for 2 days. Port Douglas for 7 and finally 2 days in Sydney. We will stay in touch. Hope to see you during June 06 at Fayetteville, NC (Fort Bragg).

Thanks again

AIRBORNE!!!

Sgt David A Watson

Charlie 1/503 67-68

DEPARTURE FOR DUTY IN IRAQ

Chapter 23, I wanted to send you all a quick note now that I think all Americans have finally departed your continent. I can't believe two weeks has already passed since I departed. Things here have been a whirlwind of activity. We start packing most of our gear in the next two weeks. So we just got done shooting off most of our ammo allotment. I have spent 11 hours sitting in on IED briefs which is like seeing a movie about the worst car crashes just before testing for your driver's license.

As always I had an incredible time in your country. It truly is an amazing place and I find it harder to leave each time. I can't ever tell you how much I appreciate your hospitality and friendship. If any of you ever make trip to the United States, please let me know. Thanks for everything.

Capt. Chris Judge

ED: Chris and his Company depart for Iraq on September 23, please keep him in your prayers and thoughts.

A JOKE - From Iris Du Pillie (Nalder)

For those who don't know Iris, she is the mother of Billy Nalder. He was the first member of the 1RAR Group to be killed in Action. Iris and her husband Ken live in Grafton. Recently, Iris knitted some very nice scarves for the chapter to include with raffle prizes. *Thanks for your support Iris.*

A rather rich widow was lonely and decided to visit a pet shop to buy an animal for company, she didn't like cats or dogs. Then as she looked around a frog said "buy me, buy me!" She didn't think she would but the salesman said ... "Why don't you buy him he be very good company" So she did. On her way home the frog said "Kiss me!" Unsure she kissed him ... and the frog turned into very handsome young man What did the lady turn into? The next motel and ordered a double room!

CHAPTER MEMORIAL SERVICE - BRIBIE ISLAND

MEMORIAL SERVICE



In June our Chapter gathered on Bribie Island for a special service remembering those members who had died since the formation of the Chapter in 1997.

Colin Cochrane conducted the service, a moving tribute to those members who live on in our memories and will not be forgotten.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Phil Dickson



The 2005 Sydney reunion and our annual anniversary dinner are now behind us and for those that were unable to attend the anniversary dinner at Logan Diggers and missed out on my opening address whereby I thanked all regarding the reunion. I would now like to confirm my comments and extend my deep appreciation to all those members who gave great support to our chapter by attending and helping out in Sydney. We had the largest contingent of any chapter there.

It was great to see so many Americans accept our invitation continue their journey to Queensland. To those members who hosted our guests I say thank you. I know all our visitors thoroughly enjoyed their stay and had wonderful memories to take back to their homeland. I would like to give a special thanks to Peter Harvey and his wife, Margaret. Peter is a Vietnam veteran and not a member of this chapter, he plays golf with Ray, to help us out Peter hosted a couple of single guys and looked after their every

need. Also a special thanks to Charles and Cathy Geljon who hosted complete family of four. We really appreciate the effort of all of those members who stepped forward and hosted the Herd.

The three days we organized in Brisbane were successful. The Chapter BBQ that John and Jane Harper hosted at their property for the visiting Americans was a huge success. I am well aware that they together with Marshall Brown put in a huge effort to ensure that it was a highlight of the whole reunion. Thank you so much.

To each and every member that attended I thank you for your company at what was a great reunion. And sadly to those who had to turn back due to road flooding and those that were unable to attend for whatever reason you may have missed something special, but we'll try and make it up to you.

John Rosen (ASSH) is to be congratulated for chairing the formal banquet night. He did a great job and it went off extremely well.

Before I get off the subject of the reunion, I would like to bring to the attention of all members of the chapter the gigantic workload that was carried by our secretary, Ray Payne. Ray was asked by the Inter-

national President, Paul Dinardo, to record all minutes of all meetings that were held, including the AGM, Ray recorded each meeting and when back at his home he spent days transcribing five audio tapes of minutes so as they could be sent to the USA. Only a few of us are aware of the effort that Ray puts in and we all owe him a vote of thanks.

Our anniversary dinner was well attended at Logan Diggers, we had fifty-six members attend and considering that so many members are away travelling and with others on the sick list, we did extremely well. We all had a fun night as usual. I asked Bob Dickson to join me in the traditional cutting of the anniversary cake. Bob hasn't been in great health lately and it was great to see him at our meeting and certainly an honour to have him join me in the cutting of the cake.

With all this over and done with we are now on the downhill run towards our Christmas dinner which will be held at Currumbin RSL. We are hoping that all members will support Val Voyzey's Christmas hamper and bring along some goodies to our normal monthly meeting. We need items that can be put towards this huge hamper, please remem-

ber, try and give something that you yourself would like to receive. If you prefer to donate cash that's quite OK, for Val will put this towards the vouchers that are always included in the hamper.

At our Christmas function we will be drawing our annual raffle and this year first prize will be a four burner, gas BBQ, along with other prizes. The tickets will be included with this edition.

The next big event is our away trip to Townsville. The CO has extended an invitation to our Chapter and we will be inviting him, along with the RSM to attend our Dinner. Details and registration forms are included.

John Rosen has advised me that the meat raffle roster at Redcliffe RSL is going as per plan and all those who have volunteered their time have turned up to do their duty. (that's why this chapter is so strong).

To members that are on the sick list I hope you are on the mend and we will get together again soon.

See you at Kedron Wavell RSL 10th September

Chapter Meetings

Do you have a venue in mind for one of next year's meetings?

Now is the time to let us know.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ray Payne



Well if you went to the Sydney reunion you don't need me to tell you it was a great time. I think Julie and I managed to speak to just about every person attending. We caught up with people we hadn't seen for years and we made a host of new friends and when you think about it ... that's what a reunion is all about.

The real disappointing thing for me was that I lost all of my photographs due to an error on the card in my camera. Hopefully, I'll be able to gather some from you guys.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Welcome Function it came together very well. The gift bags were very well received by the American and Kiwi visitors. My special thanks to Marshall Brown who scrounged most of the items in each of the gift bags, we paid for nothing. Thanks to those who helped us put them together and distribute them.

The reunion itself was a success, however, many expressed strong disappointment at the cost. I'd have thought that with five years lead time they'd have raised sufficient funds to at least run a 'dry till' hospitality

suite or subsidise the functions at least!

Our 'Host the Herd' in Brisbane went well with the visitors being well looked after. They really appreciating the chance to see how we live down here. My thanks to those who participated.

We have just held our annual anniversary dinner at Logan Diggers Club. As usual it was a night of fun and laughter, with the dance floor full most of the night. We were able to provide a four course meal, free bottled wine, beer and spirits all night and all for \$30.00 per person, now that value for your money!

The Chapter is heading to Townsville in October to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of our Groups deployment into Vietnam. We will also be celebrating 1RAR's 60th Birthday. The week away promises to really be a great experience. A registration form is attached please return it before the 16th September.

Woody Pigram has arranged a coach tour out to the town of Ravenswood as part of our Townsville experience. If you don't know Woody you may remember that he has sold more raffle tickets in our annual raffle than any other member.

The town of Ravenswood is a gold mining town now classified by the National Trust. By any measure it is a fascinating town that once boasted 50 pubs and 4000 residents. Now it is basically a ghost town that keeps the average visitor busy for hours and hours. The history, stories, the mullock heaps, the old

shafts, the chimneys, the pubs and the old buildings make it an great journey into the past. The Courthouse Museum is where most visitors find Woody doing his thing as a voluntary curator and guide. The museum features displays relating to the town's history, people and mining history. Other buildings of note is the superb Imperial Hotel, a flamboyant Edwardian building (1902) with multicoloured brickwork, superb balconies and a delightful Edwardian interior. Another pub of particular interest is Brownes Hotel. At the Charters Towers end of the main street there are the ruins of the Mabel Mill which once boasted 30 stamper heads. Behind the Imperial Hotel is St Patrick's Church which has been converted from a Catholic Church into an interdenominational community church to serve the town's small population of 100. The Railway Hotel (1902) has recently been restored and the School (1870s) is still in use. This town is truly a step back into bush history.

Woody has arranged a tour of the Gold mine (no samples though) a guided town tour and a \$10.00 lunch in one of the pubs. This is quite an opportunity that is not available to everybody. The coach trip will be on Thursday, 13th Oct., departing Townsville at 9:00am and arrive back at Townsville by 4:00pm.

As usual there will be no charge for the coach trip, but lunch and beer at the

pubs we are visiting will be at your expense. Details will be provide to those attending.

We are coming up to that time of the year when we start thinking about next year's meetings venues and our 'away' meetings. If you would like to have a meeting in your area all you need to do is tell us of a suitable venue and we'll take it from there.

We have and have had a number of members who have been in hospital and sick at home. Sometimes I don't hear of the illness of a member and the Chapter likes to send out a card just to ensure that those who are not feeling well know that we are thinking of them. So if you know of a member who is ill please advise our 'card lady' Noeline Ferguson on 4630 1663.

On Friday 16th Sept, a Memorial is to be unveiled in Brisbane. Details of the unveiling are in this edition, I feel that this Chapter should make a special effort to be there to witness this dedication. We need to show Brisbane that we are out there. From what I understand there will be a huge rollup of veterans our Chapter should be there in support.

Well I hope you enjoy this edition ... it's a bit late ... but I've had some trouble trying to get started ...!

**Address by Dave Sabben (introduced as having fought at Long Tan)****Frankston RSL Sub-Branch / Frankston & District Viet Vets Sub-Branch****Remembrance Ceremony for Long Tan Day, Sunday 14 August 2005, Frankston Cenotaph.**

I see the Viet Nam Veteran community in Australia as a pool - of people, if you will. Most of the year, the pool is calm. Okay, there might be churning and thrashing under the surface, But outwardly, they're calm. At rest. Normal people, going about their normal business.

Then, once a year, a pebble is thrown into the pool. There's a small splash in the centre, and ripples radiate out to the far edges. And the nation – or a part of it at least – stops to remember the Viet Vets,

The Viet Vets themselves chose the Battle of Long Tan to be the centre-piece of their day. To be the focal point of their own remembrance of all matters Viet Nam. Long Tan wasn't the biggest battle the Australians experienced. It didn't last the longest. Nor did it involve the most troops... But it was perhaps the most desperate, the most critical to the Australian mission, And certainly it was the most decisive in terms of results.

So I stand here today to represent to you the people of the Long Tan story.

In the centre, the splash if you like, was 105 Australian Infantry soldiers and 3 NZ Artillery men. 108 ANZACs walked into that rubber plantation at Long Tan on 18 August 1966.

Within minutes of the first shot, we called for artillery support. 161 Battery, NZ Artillery, were on call – 6 gun crews became the first ripple in the pond. A few dozen men swung into action to support the blokes out there under fire. Along with their HQ men, the gun plotters, the comms men, all their own support crews.

Within an hour we called the first Regimental fire mission. Three more Batteries joined in... We now had 24 guns firing for us – 24 gun crews, 4 Battery HQs – the ripples radiating.

At Task Force HQ and in the Fire Control Centre, dozens more men swung into action. Command and control. Liaison among units. What's to be done to help Delta Company?

Halfway through the battle, with ammo running low, we called for a resupply. Two RAAF choppers – four-man crews in each – flew to 6RAR to collect the ammo. A dozen men delivered it, loaded it onto the choppers. Two 6RAR men climbed in... The choppers then flew through impossible weather to hover above us, under fire, And kick the ammo out right into the middle of our position. And we can include the blokes who service and supply the choppers and keep them in the air. The ripples around the battle now include a couple of hundred more soldiers.

At about the same time, 10 APCs were sent to collect Alpha Company, 6RAR. Ten APCs with two crew each – one of whom would be killed in the battle. Plus all the men who kept the APCs serviced and operational. Then add the 100-plus men of Alpha Company, now aboard the APCs, and racing to our help. The ripples now reach out to include maybe 500 men?

At the Task Force base, scores of soldiers hear the guns firing continuously... They rush to the Artillery lines to help wherever they can – they carry ammo to the guns, Clear ammo boxes from the gun positions. And the spent shells... Others made sandwiches and hot chocolate for the gun crews – all just helping – all in support.

And the ripples extend beyond Australian forces. I've already mentioned the New Zealanders. One of the artillery batteries was an American 155mm gun battery. There were Americans in jets overhead, above the storm, looking for a break in the clouds so they could drop their bombs. There was no break, so they unloaded further away.

Other Americans looked to the resupply and transport of artillery ammo to the guns. And there were women in support too!

At Long Tan we lost 17 dead and 23 wounded. We sent the 23 wounded to the hospitals – some with horrific wounds. The doctors, nurses, nursing aids, Red Cross workers, they all did a magnificent job. They didn't lose one man of the wounded we sent them. The hospital staff returned to us or to Australia all 23 – all alive. No one died in their care.

So you can see that the ripples radiating out from Long Tan included many, many hundreds. And I speak for all of them when I say to you:

THANKS FOR REMEMBERING US

But that's not all. Long Tan was only one afternoon's work. More ripples. More battles. Thousands of Infantry soldiers served in Viet Nam. Thousands walked the weeds, patrolled, stood sentry duty, lay awake overnight on ambushes. They might not all have had a Long Tan, but they all knew another Long Tan was possible. They all had the strain of training for and expecting another Long Tan.

And beside and behind them, tens of thousands supporting them. The ripples reach out to the very edge of the Viet Vet pool... Men in ships offshore, in planes above, in choppers. Men in tanks and trucks and jeeps. Men who went down the tunnels. Men who cleared the mines and booby traps. Men on radios and behind the big guns. Men in Q-stores, and kitchens and offices. Every unsung hero who heard the call, said "I'll go", went, did his job, and then returned.

I speak for them all – more than 50,000 of them. Every ripple in the pond. And I say to you here:

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING US ALL

Thanks for foregoing whatever you might have otherwise been doing right now... Thanks for coming out of your warm homes. Thanks for publicly acknowledging our experience.

I should sit down now, but there is one more thing that I know they would all like me to add:

PLEASE REMEMBER US WITH TRUTH, HONESTY, ACCURACY

Please don't believe the lies, the half-truths, the deliberate slurs or the ignorant accusations. We weren't superheroes. But nor were we scoundrels. (Well, most of us weren't, anyway!) We were just men who did our job.

And please don't believe that we didn't do our job!

We did not go to Viet Nam to invade the North. We didn't go to topple their government. We didn't go to remove Ho Chi Minh from power. We went **to stop the fighting in the South**.

We achieved this in January 1973. The Allies forced the North to sign the Paris Peace Accord. The Accord agreed to a halt to all hostilities, the withdrawal of all non-Vietnamese forces, the exchange of POWs and, importantly, that the North would honour their border with the South.

It was over. We had achieved our aim. The fighting in the South was stopped. We came home.

In January 1973, our Governor General, Sir Paul Hasluck told the parliament and people of Australia:

HOSTILITIES IN VIET NAM HAVE CEASED

How can it be said that we "lost the war" – that we had been "defeated" – that we "didn't do the job"?

More than **two years** later – **TWO YEARS!** – in March 1975 – the North broke the peace treaty. They invaded the South in a deliberate act of a new war. They started the Third Indochina War. In two months they swept down a weak and recovering South Viet Nam to Saigon and took the city.

We were not at war with North Viet Nam. We had had no troops in Viet Nam for **two years**... In fact, **we had an embassy in Hanoi** at the time and had **diplomatic relations** with North Viet Nam!

It is an act of **cowardly deceit** to mark the fall of Saigon as the end of Australia's war in Viet Nam. And it is another act of **cowardly deceit** to connect Viet Vets with the fall of Saigon.

PLEASE REMEMBER US WITH TRUTH, HONESTY, ACCURACY

Thank you.

Lest We Forget

AN EDITORIAL I WISH I'D WRITTEN

It's Our Country

In Australia, thankfully we all have rights. One such right is a major one, and that is the right to leave Our Country any time you choose! But, in recent years, our various levels of government, government agencies, and various do-gooder organisations, along with our business organisations are bullying and being bullied into becoming "politically correct". They are forcing our society into unwanted and ridiculous multi-cultural "rules and laws". Last Christmas a mall in Tweed Heads wanted not to offend other cultures by putting up Christmas lights and a Manger Scene! Then, after hearing that in South Australia the Transport authority changed its opinion and allowed a Muslim woman have her picture on her driver's license with her head and most of her face covered by the Islamic traditional female headwear! Then there was the "conviction" of two Christian ministers in Victoria who were teaching a group of interested people about the "ins and outs" of a religion which actively and aggressively seeks to convert our sons and daughters to their "way" as part of their "master plan" to make Our Country a Muslim State! I've had enough! And I am incensed at what our naive "Thought Police" are up to in our schools, educational institutions and society in general!

IMMIGRANTS, NOT AUSTRALIANS, MUST ADAPT. Simply take it or leave it! I am absolutely tired of our nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their overseas culture. Our great-grandparents would roll-over in the graves at what is now going on in our society! Since the terrorist attacks on Bali, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Australians. However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled when the "politically correct" crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others. I am not against immigration, nor do I hold a grudge against anyone who is seeking a better lifestyle by coming to Australia. However, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some born here, really need to understand.

This idea of Australia being a multicultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity. Yugoslavia was once help up to us as a "showcase" of how multi-culturalism "worked" - look at what happened there after the Winter Olympics (remember Torvil and Dean?) and ask yourself the question, "What happened there?" Just look at what remains now of their precious "showcase"! As Australians, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language and our own lifestyle. This culture has been developed with over two centuries of struggle, trial, war and victories by the millions of men and women who sought to live in freedom who have gone before us. To allow the 'Thought Police' to change our heritage and our future is morally wrong!

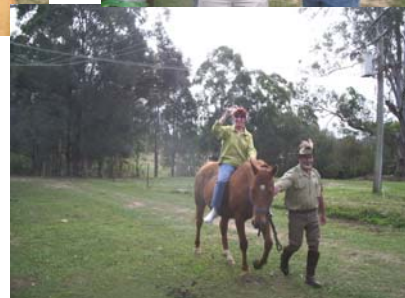
Our national language is ENGLISH, not Spanish, Lebanese, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become part of our society and enjoy its benefits, learn the language! Our founding Fathers believed they were forming a Christian Nation. No, this is not some right wing, political stunt on the part of the writer! The fact is that Christian men and women, based on Christian principles, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented in our National and State libraries. It is certainly appropriate to display a picture of our Sovereign on the walls of our schools and public buildings. If Christianity offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is part of our culture.

If the Southern Cross offends you, or you don't like "A Fair Go", then you should seriously consider a move to another part of this planet. We are happy with our culture and have absolutely no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things in the countries that you came from - if it was really so good there for you and your family, then why are you living here! This is OUR COUNTRY, OUR LAND, and OUR LIFESTYLE, and we will allow you every opportunity to enjoy all this if you choose to join with us and make this country even greater than it is now!. So, if you are still not happy and once you are done with your complaining, whining, whinging, and griping about our country, its Christian-based principles and our lifestyle, I highly encourage you take advantage of the one other great Australian freedom that you have, "THE RIGHT TO LEAVE" as soon as you can - we'll even help you to do that! Why? Because we didn't hold a gun at your head and force you to come here. You simply asked to be here and we accepted you trusting that you would become a fellow citizen of the best country in the world. We don't want people like you to spoil it, so either you accept our country or simply GO! It's pretty easy really, when you seriously think about it.

THE INTERNET AND YOU - Recently I had a member say that he would love to buy a computer and go on the internet, but he has no knowledge of computers or the internet. I think this is a fear that stops many people from enjoying the benefits of the internet. But really it shouldn't. Computer knowledge and basic skills are easy learnt, all it requires is a little of your time and not much expense. Your local TAFE or a local branch of Computers for Seniors provides training for people who have never touched a computer. I know people who have done these courses who are now very proficient on the computer and Internet. You can set yourself up with a computer very cheaply and in no time you'll be asking yourself why you didn't do it earlier. Give it a go and come join us on line.

BRISBANE HOSTS THE HERD

Three days of activities hosted by Chapter 23. Many of our guests stayed on and some lifelong friendships formed a great finish to a terrific reunion.





Our special thanks to John Harper and Jane for hosting a real Aussie BBQ and Marshall Brown for cooking the spit roast. Free grog - Free food - Free Transport - Fabulous company, what more could one ask for? Nothing more than the chance to meet everyone again really soon.



BROTHERS OF THE WAR

(2005 173D REUNION, PENRITH AUSTRALIA.)

You said "Come down to Oz and meet,
your brothers of the war.
You're getting old you Septic Tanks,
and we want to see you just once more."

So our duffle bags we packed up tight,
and on the big bird we took-off high.
We flew to the bottom of the world,
to tell you Diggers one last goodbye.

For it has ere been many years,
since last we shared a brew.
Since last we fought the Viet Cong,
and in Bien Hoa we'd then fight you.

You were young and tough and full of piss,
in those funny hats you wore.
We really didn't like you much,
but there were times we liked you more.

Such as Marauder in the rice fields,
to Crimp's rubber trees with pride,
we'd battle those bastards face-to-face,
with you Aussies right by our side.

And we liked you at Silver City,
when our Bat was nearly overrun.
We were glad you Cobbers had our flank,
and could join in on the fun.

So we tip a schooner to you boys,
although boys you ain't no more.
We all may be old and slow of foot,
but we're Brothers of the War.

Lew (Smitty) Smith
2/503, 173d Airborne Brigade 1965-66

MEMBER PROFILE

In this edition we are profiling Graham Woodward.



Graham was born on 4-11-1945 at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. He lived in North Strathfield until 1963, moving to Cronulla South on the day President John F. Kennedy was killed.

His first job was with the Union Steam Ship Co where he had the opportunity of a trip to Tasmania with the honorary title of As-

sistant Purser for the princely sum of one shilling per week which he says he did not receive.

At the age of eighteen he joined the Army and at the completion of his recruit training was transferred Royal Australian Artillery. He claims reason at the time was.... he liked the look of the uniform!

Graham arrived in South Vietnam with 105 Field Battery RAA on the 14th September 1965. When the 1RAR Group returned to Australia in June 1966 the Battery moved to Nui Dat where he remained till 24th September 1966.

Then came the best event of 1966, he met Jeanie, a wee Scottish lass. Following the correct amount of romancing they married. They then spent two years with the Army serving in Malaya, as it was known then.

Graham left the Army in 1970 and joined the Waterfront in Sydney, where he worked for seven years before transferring to Newcastle docks in 1977.

Raising three sons and one daughter took up quite a few years. During this time he played and coached Rugby Union, Senior and Junior grades, he even qualified as a referee, not that he's too impressed with this, as he gave most referees a hard time during his playing years. He retired from the game at forty.

During these years he travelled to Brisbane to work on the waterfront and had no idea that a considerable number of the 105 FD BTY had settled in Brisbane. The dedication of the Vietnam Memorial in Canberra stands out as wonderful event, apart from the great time he met up again with Barry Voyzey, Val Konias and Jason Neville.

Receiving his TPI in 1993 he became involved in the RSL. He served as Vice President of his local Sub-Branch and as a Director of the club. He was a Legatee with Legacy. He joined Chapter XI in Sydney and was quickly snapped up to served on their committee as Quarter-master.

With a great deal of help from friends Jeanie finally got him over the border (kicking and screaming) and to settle at Deseption Bay. Although he won't admit it he really loves living in Queensland ... but refuses to barrack for the Broncos or the Cane Toads.

He transferred membership to Chapter 23 and with his experience and quick wit was smartly elected as Sergeant of Arms and Quarter-master. He does admit that he loves the mateship and the friendship that both Jeanie and he have formed within the Chapter.

ANNUAL DUES

We can start collecting annual dues and donations for 2006 from now on. Please forward payment to
Ashley Spann 23 Muriel Ave Moorooka 4105



REDCLIFFE RSL CLUB - CHAPTER RAFFLE

SEPTEMBER (Fathers Day)

4th Marshall Brown 38880782
Chris Cybulski 3354 3060

11th Phil Dickson 5520 2205
John Rosen 3203 8423

18th Graham Erickson & Mary 3824 7400
Ron Woodforde 33532026

25th Glenn Gustafson 3204 6285
Val Voyzey 3204 2686

OCTOBER

2nd Lincoln Edwards 3388 3361
Rusty Reeves 3294 0820
Graham Judge 3808 1821

9th Ray Hughes 5543 1184
Jodi Hufer 3260 6385

16th Chris Cybulski 3354 3060
Brian Greetham 3204 6046

23rd John Rosen 3203 8423
Al Miranda 3312 7067

30th Bronte Kramer 3892 1316
Alex McKean 3376 4335

NOVEMBER

6th Graham Erickson & Mary 3824 7400
Glenn Gustafson 3204 6285

13th Ray Hughes 5543 1184
John Rosen 3203 8423

20th Charles Geljon 3209 9719
Terry Hanson 3818 6239

27th Graham Woodward 3293 0239
Val Voyzey 3204 2686

DECEMBER

4th Lincoln Edwards 3388 3361
Rusty Reeves 3294 0820
Graham Judge 3808 1821

11th Glenn Gustafson 3204 6285
John Rosen 3203 8423

18th Graham Woodward 3293 0239
Mike Rosser 3208 6401

25th NO RAFFLE CHRISTMAS DAY

NOTES:

If you cannot make it for some reason PLEASE make it YOUR responsibility to find a replacement for YOUR duty. Everyone on the roster has a phone number listed for that purpose.

Should you wish to trade with someone make sure that at least one person on duty knows what to do and what the rules are.

It is the first person listed who is responsible for co-ordinating the equipment and money. Phone John Rosen 3203 8423 by the Friday before your duty.

It is realized that though not listed, many spouses enjoy and are willing to help in the raffles. It goes without saying that this is not only encouraged but very much appreciated by us all, Thank you!

A list of Rules and Instructions is in the "Kit" with the money etc. Please read them before selling tickets!

Thank You from all the members for your help and Dedication.

ADDRESS CHANGE

If you change your street address or your email address ...

please remember to advise us.

When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bike. Then I realised that The Lord doesn't work that way, so I stole one and asked him to forgive me.

50th ANNIVERSARY

Our congratulation must go to Chapter members Alex and Dawn McKean who on the 20th August 2005 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Back in 1952 Alex was a young 19 year old policeman. He was sent to Warrick where he met Dawn an 18 year old apprentice hairdresser.

Alex was transferred back to Brisbane and only got to see Dawn once a month. Sick of being apart, in August 1955 Alex and Dawn married at St Mark's Church in Warwick.

In the early years, Alex was a mounted policeman stationed at Oxley. As a master horseman, he won many show ribbons with his horse Koodoo and became renowned for his tent-pegging skills.

In 1959 Alex joined the army and served under the present Governor-General, in 1RAR. He served in Vietnam during 1965-66.

He left the army in 1971 and became a milk vendor. For 17 years he catered for Darra, Mt Ommaney, Westlake and Middle Park where they live now.

Alex and Dawn reared children David and Leanne and today they have six grandchildren.

Alex says the secret of a long and happy marriage is "marry a very good woman who will bring you down to earth every now and then ... that's about it."

Dawn and Alex, we, your friends within the chapter congratulate you and promise a big party for your 60th.

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thanks must go John Harper and Jane for opening their home and fabulous property to the Chapter and our visiting yank mates following the reunion. We had a great spit roast plenty to drink and perfect weather. Many of the yanks have said it was the highlight of the whole reunion. Thanks must also go to Marshall Brown who worked so hard preparing for the day.



All former members of 1RAR and the 1RAR Group Vietnam have been invited by Lt Col Chris Field, CO 1RAR, to gather in Townsville over the period 10th - 15th October 2005 to celebrate the First Battalion's 60th Birthday and the 40th Anniversary of the Battalion Group's deployment into South Vietnam. At the same time we will be holding our Chapter 'away' dinner.

All attendees **MUST** register and pay prior to **Friday, 16th September 2005**. Security requirements must be met and if your registration and payment is not made by the closing date I am advised it will be most difficult to make the necessary arrangements. A detailed programme and the required registration form is attached. All inquiries on the subject to be directed to Ray Payne H: 07 5524 7742 M: 0401 192 228 or M: 0400 112 669 Email: raypayne@netspace.net.au

Barrack Accommodation & Meals:

1. Accommodation in the 1RAR surge barracks is charged at \$6.88 per day. This is for **unaccompanied males** only. Visitors will need to sign an indemnity form. The accommodation is available as from the 10th October only and is restricted to the first 200.
2. Meals for living in visitors are available in the OR's Mess. Payment is to be made at the Mess before eating.
Meal costs are as follows: Breakfast - \$10.10 Lunch - \$10.80 Dinner - \$19.60

Chapter Dinner: Will be held at the Townsville RSL Club on Tuesday night, 11th October. We will be sharing the night with the members of Charlie Company 1RAR, they will be organising the dinner. The room capacity is limited to 180 persons so be sure to book early. The cost will be \$40.00pp this includes a three course meal, a bottle of red & white wine on each table, port for toasting and tea or coffee. This event is not subsidised by the Chapter.

Battalion Birthday Ball: The ball will be held at Lavarack Barracks within Coral Lines. The number of seats is restricted to 600 and the CO has put aside 100 seats for visitors. As there will be far more visitors than seats, the allocation will be on a first paid first allocated basis. Seats will not be allocated to **anyone** prior to payment being received. The cost of the Ball tickets is \$40.00pp. Should it be that you miss out on a seat you'll be advised and your payment will be refunded.

Security passes are required by all entering Coral Lines. Strict security conditions apply at Lavarack Barracks. Passes will be arranged at the security office at the front gate. It is extremely important that the details on your registration form matches with your ID. Each person will be required to produce **photo ID** such as a driver's licence at the security office. Your security pass must be carried with you while on Defence property and shown by every person entering the Barracks. On the night of the Ball, all visitors will be checked off the list and escorted to the Ball venue by unit security.

PAYMENTS: All monies for Accommodation, Charlie Reunion and Ball tickets are to be forwarded to Ray Payne not later than **Friday, 16th September 2005**, earlier is better. Cheques/Money Orders **MUST** be made payable to **R B PAYNE** nothing else. If you make your Cheque/Money Order payable to anything else but **R B PAYNE** it will be returned to you for correction as it cannot be banked.

Administration Charge: A small administration charge of \$2.00 applies to each registration.

REGISTRATION FORM: If you are attending **any** events during the period 10th - 15th Oct please complete this form and forward to Ray Payne. If you are living out, for Security purposes you must still complete & return form before 16th Sept.

Regimental Number: Full Name: Drivers Licence No:

Home Address: (as shown on Licence) P/C:

Home Phone: Mobile:

Wife/Partners Full Name: Drivers Licence No:

Wife/Partners Address: (as shown on Licence) P/C:

If you require barrack accommodation between 10th - 15th indicated number of nights: @ \$ 6.88 = \$

If you require tickets to the Chapter Dinner on the 11th indicate number of tickets: @ \$40.00 = \$

If you require tickets to the Battalion Ball on the 15th indicate the number of tickets: @ \$40.00 = \$

Administration Charge: \$ 2.00

Cheque/Money Orders made payable to **R B PAYNE** only.

**RETURN TO: R B Payne 3 Westray Ave Banora Point NSW 2486
Before 16th September 2005**

TOTAL AMOUNT



TOWNSVILLE EVENT PROGRAM

Day - Date	Time	Event	Location	Remarks
Mon - 10 Oct	0930hrs	Rugby League Competition	Coral Lines	
	1400hrs	Museum Open	Coral Lines	
	1500hrs	CO's Welcome Drinks	PBVCC	
		Rugby Trophy Presentation	PBVCC	
Tues - 11 Oct	0845hrs 1500hrs	Magnetic Island Adventure	Flinders St East Terminal	Pensioner \$11.50 Ret.
	0930hrs 1230hrs	Tug-o-War Comp - Prelims	Coral Lines	
	1830hrs 2400hrs	C Coy & Chapter 23 Dinner	Townsville RSL Club	\$40.00
Wed - 12 Oct	0630hrs	Dawn Memorial Service	Coral Lines	
	1000hrs	Tour de Lavarack Bike Race	Coral Lines	
	1500hrs	Military History Presentation	Coy Parade Grounds	Operations 1965-66
	1800hrs	IRAR Band Concert & Guard	Battalion Parade Ground	
	1930hrs 2350hrs	Battalion Birthday Party	PBVCC	BBQ Dinner provided
Thurs - 13 Oct	0900hrs 1600hrs	Coach Tour - Ravenswood	Pick-up City & Lavarack Bks	Chapter 23 & C Coy Members
	0930hrs 1230hrs	Tug-o-War Finals	Coral Lines	
Fri - 14 Oct	1330hrs 1500hrs	Museum Open	Coral Lines	
	1330hrs 1500hrs	Static Displays 2005 Equipment	PBVCC	
	1500hrs 2350hrs	Veterans Drinks - Soldiers Function	Former members to host diggers in Company Groups	
Sat - 15th Oct	1830hrs	Battalion Birthday Ball	Coral Lines	\$40.00 - Coat /Medals

SYDNEY REUNION PHOTOS: I lost all my photos from the Sydney reunion. If you have any extras or digital photos that you can email or put on disc I would truly appreciate your help. Thanks Ray



QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep)
CHAPTER 23 - QUEENSLAND
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'All we do, we do for a mate who can't'



YOU ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO
THIS NEWSLETTER.

AUSTRALIA/VIETNAM MEMORIAL UNVEILING BRISBANE - 16th SEPTEMBER

This memorial was conceived five years ago and has been actively supported mainly by South Vietnamese veterans, throughout this period. A committee was formed from representatives of the RSL, VVAA, VVFA and Vietnamese ex -servicemen. Ray Devere, Past RSL President and Alan Cunningham have been on the project from the start.

The memorial consists of a 1.2 metre high base weighing 7.1 tonnes . It has the map of Vietnam on the front panel with the Australian and Republic of Vietnam flags on either side. Above this are the words "Australian-Vietnamese War Memorial" and the dates 1962-1972. (Note that the dates are correct). The side panels have the tri-service logos of both the ADF and the ARVN with words of dedication underneath them. The back panel describes how the memorial was brought about, where support came from and who unveiled it. (The Deputy Premier, Anna Bligh MP, representing the Premier) All panels are in dark granite. On top of this base are two figures. On the left is an Aussie Infantryman and on the right an ARVN soldier. These figures are life-sized and cast in bronze. This an outstanding memorial.

The unveiling ceremony will take place at the Roma Street Parkland on high ground at the Gregory Terrace entrance (Map Ref. UBD Map 1 M8) at 1000 hrs on Friday, 16 September 2005.

We would like as many Chapter members as possible to attend the ceremony ... we will have the Society flag on site ... please give us your support.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to our ranks the
following new members since
our last newsletter:

Brian & Vikki Cleary
Jack & Valda Jewell

ANNUAL CHAPTER RAFFLE

Below there are ten tickets in this years raffle they are \$2.00 each. Please either buy or sell these tickets and return them before or on the 12th November 2005.

The raffle will be drawn on Saturday, 10th December at the Christmas Party.

First Prize:	4 Burner BBQ
Second Prize:	34cm Colour TV
Third Prize:	\$50.00 Cash

All money raised goes back into providing you with those little extras.

Chapter Raffle Tickets

Tickets attached to posted edition only.

\$2.00 EACH