



1 FIELD SQUADRON GROUP THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

'REUNION COMMUNIQUE'

Webpage - www.1fieldsappers.org

March April
May 2010
Edition 12

2010 NEWS:

The Twin Towns reunion plans are now up and running. The Executive Committee had to look at venues and Twin Towns came in with an offer we could not refuse. Joe Russell, ex 4R.A.R. and a very good mate of mine is the President of the Twin Towns Sub Branch has waved the fees for the 'ANZAC Room' and we will be having the reunion all at Twin Towns—the same as the Battalions do. Joe organizes up to 4 reunions there each year. Take the size of 1,2,3 R.A.R.—that service includes Korea through to Afghanistan and you have a lot of blokes.

The memorial will be in the Chris Cunningham Park next door. This will be organized by Joe, providing all the logistic support i.e. P.A. system, chairs etc. in conjunction with ex Lt. Col. George Hulse. There will also be an unveiling of a bronze plaque from 1 Fd. Sqn. Vietnam.

From the President, Gary Sutcliffe, who is a little bit pen shy, has asked me to do one up a message for him. He requested 3 things:

-That the reunion have a family theme, so bring your wife and sons, daughters, grandsons and daughters who are all over the age of 18 years (This deals with our Licence Act for the night)

-That at the memorial, the N.O.K. will take pride of place with their flags. Now tracking down the next of kin to invite them is where I need help. If anyone has an address, please e-mail or mail it to us so we can start contacting people.

-The last request is to thank our secretary, Barry Kelly. Barry couldn't carry on after the death of his father. He was an old soldier and who Barry idolized. Then with a string of health problems and surgery on his back, he could not muster the strength to go on. He needed someone to take the load off his back, as those who know Barry, he gives it 150%. His work load was full on. Continued next page =>

Subscriptions 2010 – 2011

As most would know, this association has grown by the members only, we do not have any sponsors nor do we have any gimmicks to pay for our association. The only means of support is the annual subscriptions of \$20.00 a year, a figure that has just gone up this year. Whilst our merchandising does help a little, the only reason we have it is for the sapper reunions.

A huge drag on our expenses over the past two years was the effort of taking the large responsibility for the issue and posting out of 1,000 Army Combat Badges and Certificates. We had no funding from Army at all and with the many hours, days and weeks of collation of regimental numbers, names, addresses plus postage, this indeed left a huge hole in our resources. Although it is only fifteen dollars a year for membership, we really rely on this to get us across the line come reunion time.

Venue hiring, catering, buses and food in general has increased dramatically, not to mention our Not-for-Profit organisations public and products liability insurance policy. It seems we are damned if we do and damned if we don't, but without it we have no committee

Our financial year is from 1st July to the 30th June each year and although some of the blokes have paid up in advance, there are many who have forgotten all together. Because we belong to so many associations these days, it is easy to forget one that only holds events each two years, but can I plead that the subscriptions, as small as they are become an extremely important part of your voluntary committee getting this wonderful reunion financially able.

New membership and renewals are on page 9 of this publication. Will you help us to help you, and if you know of another sapper who has received his ACB from the association, ask if he will become a member, what goes round comes around.

Now that's where I come into the picture. I live in the same town, Warwick, and served in the same troop in Vietnam as did the President, Treasurer and Barry. I have been president of V.S.A.S.A. Warwick but not secretary, but my wife Ann has. She still works, but we agreed to take this on together. If no one puts their hand up at A.G.M. in August, we will continue on until after the reunion. We realize that after Barry's departure we have big shoes to fill. We will be relying on Barry's expertise on getting the newsletter out and the web site updated, which is now done.

Our A.G.M. for 2010 is on at the Warwick R.S.L. Sub Branch on Sat. 28th August at 1100hrs. I hope all committee members are able to turn up as this is when we will discuss tasks as already stated. George Hulse task will be will be to organize the memorial service.

This most probably will be the last reunion of the Vietnam era, 1 Fd. Sqn. Group. If no other executive committee nominates at the A.G.M. in 2010, plan B will swing into action under the direction of ex LT. COL. George Hulse. Steps will be taken for the 1Fd. Sqn. based in Darwin to take over, which would mean a process of moving our incorporation interstate or a committee is formed from 3C.E.R. at Enoggera. Expect to see field engineers from Afghanistan, Iraq, Timor etc. at our next reunion and I hope we will be invited to the next generation of 1Fd. Sqn. veterans' reunions.

The Gold Coast War Museum at Mudgeeraba is setting up a display on 1Fd. Sqn. The display is being done by George, so if you have any memorabilia give George a ring on (07) 3399 7659. We have just acquired a 1 Fd. Sqn. original flag from ex 2Lt. Bob Evenett and along with our model of the Cu Chi tunnels. George should be off to a good start, if the rest of the committee agrees to donating it there.

I am glad to see we support other Engineer Associations. I am also a proud member of the Tunnel Rats and I would personally like to thank Jim Marett, a smart negotiator for getting us our A.C.B's. That would have taken a lot of lobbying and Jim did that and I don't think he ever got the credit he deserved for doing that. I hope you bring up a table full of Victorian sappers to enjoy our sunshine at our next reunion.

From the Secretary's desk

SURFER'S TIPS

The Surfer's tips is going to be a regular article. This veteran still surfs and knows the Tweed like the back of his hand. He will give you the best advice on accommodation and places to see whilst holidaying here.

The Tweed is made up of some of the best scenery in Australia—you just need to know where to look. Get up at sunrise and walk (if staying in Coolangatta or Tweed Heads) and head to Greenmount Beach and take a leisurely walk on the path around the headland to Rainbow Bay and then up the hill to Point Danger. Have a look out to sea and see if you can see the whales migrating north. Look down and you will see the famous Duranbah surfing beach. Just south of the Tweed bar is Cook Island where they go diving. Looking west you will see Mt. Warning which was named by Captain Cook. It is well worth packing a picnic lunch and going to see the lush rainforest and mountain streams.

Whilst at Point Danger look around at the plaques of all the ships torpedoed along the east coast by the Japanese during WW2. The number will surprise you. Then sit down and watch the Japanese tour buses and the reaction of the Jap tour guides and tourists. They don't know whether to look for whales or at the plaques that are purposely spread around the perimeter fence, so they can't miss them. LEST WE FORGET.

One other of the surfers favourite spots is Tropical Fruit World (Avocadoland) situated about 10km south of Tweed nestled in between Murwillumbah and Cabarita Beach. Pack a hot chook and a couple of bread rolls and check this place out. The tropical fruit farm will have you eating healthy with paw paws, bananas, pineapples, avocados etc. The Madura Tea farm is also on the circuit, so grab a map from the tourist info centre and do the circuit. Don't forget the camera.

This issue, the surfer will give you all the cheapest accommodation from caravan parks and cabins to accommodation for the incapacitated and backpackers hostel right opposite Twin Towns for those that just want a bed to sleep in.



NEW STYLES CAPS AND SHIRTS

Check out fabric in shirts—breathable and definitely no ironing
Engineers badge on pocket with 1 Fd. Sqn. Gp. Lettering

NEXT NEWSLETTER



1 Field Squadron Group
'Australian Made'
'Memorial Unit Ties':

It is 100% Polyester,
basically navy blue with a
maroon and gold stripe and
the **1 Fd Sqn Gp** logo on
the bottom. Also running
diagonally across the tie in
the navy blue area is the
raised print stating;

1 Field Squadron Group
Price only \$25.00 ea
plus P&H \$5.00;
= \$30.00

.....
'ORDER FORM'

Name:

Address

Town: State: Postcode:

1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Unit Tie. [] No: required \$25.00 ea + \$5.00 P&H=\$.....

1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Cap. [] (Price to be advised)

1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Polo Shirts. Size: { } [] (Price to be advised)

ALL Order Forms to the Honorary Secretary:

Total \$

'Cheque, Money Order or Direct Deposit by NetBank' (Confirm by email-Please)



1 Field Squadron Group
Royal Australian Engineers Old Inc.
26th, 27th & 28th August 2011

2011 FAMILY REUNION REGISTRATION

Personal Details

Family Name: _____ Contact Phone: () _____

First Name: _____ E-mail Address _____@_____

Postal Address: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

'Nickname' or

Preferred Name: _____ Partners Name: _____
(Required for ID Tags at Reunion) (Required for ID Tags at Reunion)

Other guests attending - Number (_____) Preferred guests names: _____
It is preferred by the Executive Committee that all Members Guests are over the age of 18 years.

Cost of Events

Full Participation – all events: Cost: \$125.00 per person.

Casual Participation – restricted events: Cost: \$ 35.00 per person.

Full Participation covers all events, Friday Meet and Greet, including Saturday Memorial Service and Saturday Evening Family Reunion Banquet and Sunday Luncheon at 'Four Seasons Restaurant'

Casual Participation covers registration and the Sunday Family Luncheon **only**. It does not include the 1 Fd Sqn Gp Family Reunion Banquet on Saturday evening. (See Page 5 .)

Payment Details

Please accept my Registration for:

Full Participation - Number attending: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Casual Participation - Number attending: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Method of Payment: Cheque. Money Order. Direct Deposit into account.

When making a Direct Deposit, ensure you mark it **'Reunion'** and then you're **'Surname'**

Heritage Building Society: **BSB 638-070. Account No: 10045570.**

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make cheques, money orders payable to: **1 Fd Sqn Gp RAE Old Inc.**

All functions are asked to be pre-paid by Friday the 19th August 2011

(This is for the huge catering event that goes on behind the scenes;

'No Late Numbers will be taken—DEFINATELY.')

Please send this Registration Form to:

**2011 Reunion Treasurer
1 FD Sqn Gp RAE Old Inc.
P O Box 703. WARWICK. QLD. 4370.
e-mail: onesqn.sappers@bigpond.com
Website: www.1fieldsappers.org**

'TWIN TOWNS SERVICES CLUB'

5.

26th Friday Afternoon/Evening:

11.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m. Registration in the '**ANZAC ROOM**' - Twin Towns Services Club.

All Members and Guests will be issued with a **Blue Lanyard** as a Full Member with name printed for identification as a Weekend Guest.

Full Bar facilities available – your expense. (Nibbles will be waitress served, 4pm to 6pm)

Evening Meal – your expense at Twin Towns or at any of the excellent restaurants in the area.

(Tea, Coffee and fresh cold drinking water available all the time at no cost.)

27th Saturday Mid-Morning/Afternoon:

11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Registration in the '**ANZAC Room**' - Twin Towns Services Club.

All Members and Guests will be issued with a **Blue Lanyard** with name printed for identification.

Full Bar facilities available – your expense.

Lunch – your expense at Twin Towns or at any of the excellent cafes or restaurants in the area.

(Tea, Coffee and fresh cold drinking water available all the time at no cost.)

27th Saturday Afternoon Family Memorial Service:

4.30pm (1630hrs) Family Memorial Service commences at the Cenotaph at the side of Twin Towns Services Club. Chairs will be on hand. The service will consist of a full Cenotaph Guard, Bugler and Piper under lights. A Wreath Laying Ceremony will also be carried out. The laying of a 1 Field Squadron Group Foundation Plaque will be added to the existing plaques and a hand over to 1 Fd Sqn (1CER) to continue the Reunions which will include all our RAE new veterans.

(The service is now in the hands of Lt. Col Hulse (Retd) and is possibly subject to change)

27th Saturday Evening Family Reunion Banquet:

6.15 p.m. Meet and greet with hors d'oeuvres on arrival at '**Stars Showroom.**'

7.00 p.m. Start. 1 Fd Sqn Gp Reunion Banquet at '**Stars Showroom**' in the Auditorium.

Dress: *Semi-Formal (after 5)* - miniature medals if you have them, large if not.

(Tables of (10) ten can be Reserved, one person will make the booking and be responsible, Contact the Secretary, before the 19th August 2011 and give a name for Reserve Table)

28th Sunday Lunch at 'Four Seasons' Restaurant' Twin Towns :

Dress: Casual.

11.00am Drinks and nibbles.

12.00 (Noon) Sunday Family Luncheon and Hand over to 1 Fd Sqn (1CER)

Those attending for the day only, please note the cost has risen to \$35.00 ea and **Red Lanyards** will be issued as a day visitor for identification as a paid member or guest.

*Note: (All transport to and from venue is your responsibility There will be **no** buses picking people up in any of the motels, hotels, side of the road or caravan parks.)*

29th Monday: Annual General Meeting to held in the Board Room RSL Sub-Room at 11.00am

2011 Attendance Requirements

Special Meals: If any person requires special meals for the Saturday evening banquet or Sunday luncheon, please advise a committee member on registration and you will be catered for without any problem.

(Dates confirmed. Times may be subject to change after A.G.M 2010.)

All attending will be issued at registration with a coloured identification lanyard, with a clear plastic shield with your name on both sides. We ask that you wear these at all times at the reunion.

Purpose: Easy and quick identification to all functions. Easy to remember who you are talking to!

All pre-paid monies for the 2011 Family Reunion Functions, will be issued separate 2011 Reunion Receipt. This is for clear identification for our records. If a refund is valid, the Treasurer has clear records for the purpose of refunding all monies, due to any unexpected event, that prevents the person/s from attending after payment. Earliest notification is appreciated.

**2011 REUNION 'VETERAN SPECIAL'
On BOOKING ACCOMODATION**

6.

Twin Towns Services Club and Outrigger Twin Towns Resort is a 5-Star resort, with on-site recreation, includes swimming pools, tennis courts, mini golf course, seven restaurants, lounges and a covered walkway to Twin Towns Services Club.

The Outrigger Twin Towns Resort is located on
Wharf Street and Griffith Street, Tweed Heads NSW.

[Special Bookings Phone \(07\) 5506 6281](tel:0755066281)

Twin Towns is the largest Services Club in Australia—the main club, Twin Towns Services Club, Outrigger Twin Towns Resort (which adjoins Twin Towns by an overhead walkway.) A '**Veteran Special**' for 1 **Field Squadron Group RAE** has been offered to all members and their partners attending the 2011 reunion, when booking accommodation if you wish to stay at The Outrigger Twin Towns Resort. Please contact: **Ms. Erica Selinger, Group Accommodation Co-ordinator on (07) 5506 6281**

and advise you are booking to attend the 2011 1 Fd. Sqn. Gp. RAE Reunion.

Alternative Accommodation Locator

We as an association have no deals with any other accommodation. Like you, the Committee has to find their own accommodation. If you find the 'Outrigger' too expensive for your pocket, try approaching the Tweed Tourism Inc. about available caravan parks, motels or other reasonable accommodation close by.

They can be contacted on:

Free Call 1800 674 414 or Email: info@tweedtourism.com.au

Or check out their website :

www.tweedtourism.com.au

Pick of the caravan parks on the Tweed is

Drifters Big 4 at Chinderah-Ph (02) 6674 2505. Cabins available. Down side 15 mins away.

Kirra Beach Tourist Caravan Park– Ph. (07) 5667 2740 or 1800 444 474 - off Coolangatta Rd in Charlotte St. - Council owned, near the beach and airport (not in the flight path), a pleasant 2km walk to Twin Towns.

The pick of the high rise and cheapest is

Greenmount Resort - Ph (07) 5536 1222 or 1800 073 211 -400 metres from Twin Towns with ocean views right on Rainbow Bay.

Backpackers and pensioners guest house is

77 Sunset Strip - Ph (07) 5599 5517- \$55 a night, 200 metres from Town Towns - an oldie but a goodie. Great location for those who just want a Bed & Breakfast.

If you want a quiet spot or are incapacitated, I suggest

St Georges Holiday House - Ph (07) 5536 1261 at Rainbow Bay. It is for ex-servicemen run by the Anglican Church- cheap and good location.

Executive and Committee Members 2009–2010/(2011)

8



Patron:

LT.GEN. Frank J. Heckling. (Retd) AO. CSC

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Hon:President: Garry V. Sutcliffe

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The 1 Field Squadron Group Web Site

Is maintained by

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