



**RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS
ASSOCIATION (VSPA) NEWSLETTER
CHRISTMAS 2010**

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Dear RAASC Veteran,

Christmas Greetings! We hope the Holy, Festive Season is everything you want it to be and hope for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2011 for all of our members.

What a busy year! The Plaque Dedication was a four years planning from our first meet with the AWM until it was finally laid on their walkways in April of this year. An incredible amount of effort expended and we are almost back to normal again.

Bob has been working solo behind the scenes to prepare for next years reunion. Give him a call to see if you can be of assistance. Well done Bob!! More like him!

We hope you like the list of articles about our foodie brethren and the way they do their business in the revamped 2010 Army. They are very busy these days with overseas commitments too!

We still plan on producing a history so please dig deep in the old army trunk for photos and stories of Pucka, Canungra, Duntroon, Kapooka and Scheyville.

We hope to include a short article in the Ordnance Journal-next year. Contributions most welcome.

Reunions or More???

We always thought the Association was about networking, support functions and reunions but the latter happens only once a year. We hope we are offering the right thing for you. Any feedback on any particular service we should be offering would be appreciated.

DFRDB Discussion List. We have created a private email list for anyone interested in DFRDB, pensions and the like. You are welcome to join the list. Just let Secretary know.

Dorrigo Reunion 2011 – this seems ages away yet I am sure that once the new year is over we will be counting the days. If you want to go and haven't still got the registration form, give Christina a call and we'll sort it out for you. We will be seeking a deposit now with balance along with membership renewal to be finalised at the reunion.

Publicising our history-ORDNANCE journal. As you know the most recent Journal has an article on our RAASC history and in particular our RAASC Vietnam Plaque laying.

Missing in Action (MIA). Telling our Story! That article doesn't talk about what we as Supply Platoon soldiers did in Vietnam. The Truckies and Air Despatch folk all have their history and story to tell. But we have a history that needs to be told also.

Without us the Task Force would have been fed by other means.

Remember your history! We are working on an article about 21, 25 and Det 52 Supply PI RAASC history in next years journal. Please tap into the grey matter, and recall what life was like for you. It can be small and seemly inconsequential. All of it is important. Have you been to Pucka and Canungra – got a story and photos? Please contact the Secretary on 0408947935 ASAP.

To be a RAAOC Foodie today. Want to know what life is like in the Ordnance ARMY now? Well, can we do a deal for you! The Secretary visited the RAAOC Centre Bandiana recently seeking articles from the Ordnance Journal. Here is a list of what he found to do with food stuffs supply matters, most of it written in the last 10 years.

Foodie Articles from the Ordnance Journal

- “Log Happens” – Tactical Resupply of the MRTF in Afghanistan,
- Professional, Leaning forward and Home of the ADF in the MEAO-Part Two

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- Copping the FLA-K Op Catalyst
- Logistic Support to a minor operation: Australian contingent MFO Sinai,
- 1st Combat Service Support Battalion,
- 2nd Field Supply Battalion Deployment Exercise Kangaroo '86,
- 2nd and 37th Force Supply Company 10th Force Support Battalion,
- Second Force Support Battalion(FSB),
- 26 Combat Supplies Company-Classes 1, 3 and 5 truly in action again,
- 29th Combat Supplies Platoon (LT) ODF,
- We got dripped! (Daily ration replenishment return) from an Operations Cell perspective,
- Composite Supply Platoon in the CSST-A Watchkeepers Perspective
- What about me? – defending our logistic Assets
- Food Safety and Quality in the Army-who is responsible?
- Combat Ration Pack (CRP) provisioning review,
- Does an Egg Require a DSN?,
- The Australian Defence Force Ration Scale-friend or foe?
- Where have all the Foodies gone?
- Creation of Operator Supply Trade-ECN 294,
- Personnel – the Achilles Heel of the military supplies chain,
- Critical thinking-Operator Supply Trade,
- Not just a clerk,
- Operator Supply Basic Course Field Phase re-write,
- Know your Senior Officers, and Obituaries BRIG PJF Tuckett (ex 21 Sup PI Vietnam)
- LTCOL Les Power (HQ AFV) 1932-2010 – his biography
- The Operator Administrative roles, responsibilities and challenges-a trainer's perspective,
- Out of Namibia...
- Local Admin-Army office Canberra (photo circa 60's)
- Army School of Ordnance (ASO),
- And other less consequential articles.

If you would like a copy of any of these articles, let us know. An extract below:

One thing we can tell you is that most Defence bases are fed by contractor organisations, and that has resulted in a reduction of “supply” or Class 1 Foodstuffs people.

As a reflection of this change, the NEW trade “Operator Supply” has replaced six trades; Clerk Tech Food, Storeman Tech, Storeman Vehicle, Quartermaster Sergeant, Ordnance Liaison WO, and Inspector Foodstuffs (IF) .

“These days (2002) with extended large-scale field exercises being few and far between, the important role once provided by 25, 29 and 52 Combat Supplies Platoons, seems to be sadly forgotten.

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The introduction of CSP has reduced the hands-on role of foodstuff management for ADF personnel especially in the DMO units". All states throughout Australia have a Regional Inspector Foodstuffs (RIF) that is assigned to their area who , although in small numbers, are either Warrant Officers or Sergeants who have extensive training in all areas of foodstuffs procurement and handling". The ARMY will run its revamped IF course at Bandiana in 2011.

NOTICES

DENTAL IMPLANTS TREATMENT-POLICY

DVA has recently revised the dental implant treatment policy. Please review the revised DVA dental implant policy effective 1 November 2010 – go to http://www.dva.gov.au/service_providers/dental_allied/dental/dental_implants/Pages/index.aspx or call your local VAN office.

TERRY BATES AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF RAASC ASSOCIATION

On Sun 26 Sep 2010 at the East Malvern RSL (Vic), our RAASC Assn Exec and wives accompanied by our Patron Brig Geoff Christopherson and his wife Leonie gathered to have lunch with our ex Membership Officer and Pensions Officer COL Terry Bates and his wife Kay. What Terry was unaware of was that we planned the luncheon to present him with Life membership of the Association for his many years of assistance to our cause. Terry was certainly surprised."

If you would like a copy of the article and photos, let us know.

VALE-CAPT CLIVE REED (RAASC, AND AIR DESPATCH 1964-1972)

Clive was a British short service officer who served with the ARA and will be remembered by many in the Corps. Condolences to his wife at hooks2009@live.co.uk.

Clive is also survived by his son who was educated here and is an Australian citizen.

VETERANS WARNED OF POTENTIAL SCAMS

Veterans have been targeted by scam-artists representing DVA offering free electricity or pension benefits in exchange for personal information.

Please contact DVA in the first instance on 133 254 for metro callers or 1800 555 254 for country callers BEFORE OFFERING INFORMATION.

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HOLIDAY TIMES

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FREE ROAD TRIP FOR VETERANS

RAASC Association advise that Wicked Campers are offering all Vietnam Vets a FREE road trip. Involving a complimentary campervan rental for five days (subject to availability). Enquiries to john@wickedcamper.com or 1800 246 869.

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VETERANS RETREAT EX DISUSED MEENTHEENA CATTLE STATION, WA

with facilities for camping etc... some 700.000 Acres to get lost in.

It is approx. 80 klms off the Port Hedland-Marble bar road on the Woody Woody Mine road, a good 3 hour drive from Port Hedland...

All Vets are welcome to drop in and crack a tinny with fellow ex servicemen and women.

Norms Email is nwhitburn@bigpond.com and he can fill you in on the details.

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MEMORIAL BUSH RETREAT DAGO POINTINTERLAKEN-TASMANIA

Tariff \$30/night for the first two people and \$5 // per night thereafter.
For bookings please phone Tamara (03) 6224 0881. Sponsored by Vietnam Vets Association-Tasmania Branch

Fellas – do you know of any others that our members should be aware of?
Let us know and we will publish in future editions of PP.

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MY LIFE AS A CAR- IF MY BODY WERE A CAR.....

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model.

I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull. But that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum

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speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it- almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter – either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!

Spare a thought for those that are doing it tough, as our past life catches up.

If you know someone who is ill, let us know so we can support them.

VSPA AGM 2010 APPOINTED WELFARE OFFICER

Christine is our appointed Welfare Officer from the last AGM-if you have news, please, let us know so we can support our members. Several folks have told us about their very trying year medically, and hope that you have a speedy return to good health.

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VET TOXIC EXPOSURE ~ MALATHION:

The Vietnam Veterans Association Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee released its report on Malathion. This is the name of an organophosphate insecticide used in Vietnam to combat mosquitoes. Organophosphates were first developed in the late 1930s by Nazi Germany as chemical warfare agents (nerve gas). VX nerve gas and Sarin gas are well-known examples. Organophosphates operate on humans and insects in a similar fashion by attacking the nervous systems.

During the Vietnam War, large numbers of troops came down with malaria. The Department of Defence converted aircraft that were spraying Agent Orange to the spraying of Malathion to help kill the mosquitoes that carried the disease,. This was the start of Operation Flyswatter.

If this interests you, please contact DVA or your local Veteran office.

Veteran Private Discussion List. We also get a lot of private, external veteran emails about national issues such as the economy, NBN, immigration, etc. Just let Secretary know to add your address to this similar private list if you wish to be included.

Keep in touch! If you know someone who might like to join us, let us know-we'll send them a free Association badge when they take up membership.

**Bruce, Christina, Ray, Russ and Dave
VSPA Association Executive**

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