

Paludrine Parade
Issue 31

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Patron:
David McLachlan AO,
MAJGEN (RL)

RAASC VIETNAM SUPPLY PLATOONS ASSOCIATION (VSPA) NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2012 EDITION



Nativity Scene

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Dear RAASC Veteran,

The Christmas season is upon us and on behalf of the President and your committee, we would like to wish you and yours a blessed, safe and holy Christmas season. Note this is the last Newsletter before the Phillip Island Reunion.

In this edition:

- The next 2013 reunion
- Who is attending the reunion to date
- Proposal for a three year gold membership of the association
- Follow-on historical article - expanded needs of the Task Force-HQ26 Coy/Det 52 Sup PI RAASC
- DVA services over the festive season
- Vale - Bruce Gordon ARBON (MAJOR)-HQ 26 Tpt Coy Vietnam 14Jan69-14Jan70

NEXT 2013 REUNION

If you would like to attend our next reunion at Phillip Island in March 2013, and have not yet registered, you will need to get in touch with Christina **NOW** and let her know. She will inform you of our admin arrangements so you can start the ball rolling.

The attractions for our three days on the island include:

- Evening Meet and Greet - Cowes RSL,
- Vietnam Veterans Museum,
- Three park pass covering Philip Is Nature park includes evening penguin parade, Koala conservation centre and Churchill Island - historic homestead, working heritage farm and lovely gardens and walks,
- Grandprix track, museum and Go Kart track (single site),
- Woolshed and wool spinning,
- Phillip Island Belgium Chocolate factory, and

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Church service and VSPA plaque laying, AGM and Corps Dinner-at Cowes RSL

Accommodation varieties to suit include motel and caravan park close to the RSL.
We are keen to see all members attend including our Widows of deceased members.

WHO IS ATTENDING THE REUNION AS OF 11 DEC 2012?

Bob and Gwynneth Denner	25 Sup and Det 52 Sup 67/68
Nick&Gail Brightman	25 Sup 69/70
Graeme&Maria Sherriff	25 Sup 71
Ken&Marilyn Taylor	25 Sup 71
Paul&Kathy Griffiths	25 Sup 69
Barry&Bridget Carroll	25 Sup 68/69
Peter&Ann Kennedy	25 Sup 71
Stewart&Deb McKay	25 Sup 68/69
John&Margaret Greenhalgh	25 Sup 71
Russ&Janice Morison	25 Sup 69/70
David&Robyn Evans	25 Sup 70/71
Christina Luff	25 Sup (Late Keith Luff) 67/68
Tony&Liz Galea	25 Sup 67/68
Ron&Bev Anderson	52 Sup 68/69
Denis&Lenore Cowling	52 Sup 67/68
Barry&Lucy Anderson	25 Sup 67/68
Snow&Anne Coughlan	26 Coy 68/69

There's plenty of room for more!

PROPOSAL FOR THREE YEAR GOLD MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

Background Our primary role is conducting and promoting reunion get-togethers.

Membership Fees Our Constitution states that membership fees are "as determined at our AGM".

In an endeavor to let other **SUPPLY** types and other veteran mates know what we are up to we have decided to promote this edition of our newsletter, not just to our current paid up members but also to our other mates who are not members, via our known email list.

Our proposal has come about as we have reviewed our expenses for the last couple of years. Factors affecting us include us now having to pay for our newsletters to be printed;

and a lack of members not renewing their membership. (All-up costs with postage are approx \$1 per person for each newsletter (based on 50 members), ie. \$4 for 4 editions per person per year). So we have had to find another approx. \$200 for the year. Note: if we had more contributing members the edition cost would be less.

We would like to strengthen our membership base, and have looked hard at our operations and offer the following ideas to save money:

1. We propose to only publish three newsletters per year (not four), primarily in support of our reunions – this means finding approx. \$150 extra per year,
2. We will offer an email version of the newsletter for downloading to those who have the availability of a computer and printer in the home or wish to just view it online. If those members were willing to forego having a newsletter posted this would save us some expense – we weren't looking at reducing membership fees for this though.

Please complete the tear off survey at the end of the newsletter to indicate your preferences. Christina is the contact whichever way you decide to contact her.

3. Our proposal will change the fee structures to make it easier for the members to remember when their fees are due and for what period, and easier and cheaper for the Association to collect. There will be several new membership fee options, being:
 - a. Single annual \$20 (to continue),
 - b. Single three year membership \$50, and
 - c. Family three year membership \$60 - to encourage wives-partners to join.

If endorsed at our AGM, each of these will commence from 1 July 2013.

There will be a motion at the 2013 AGM in support of the above. We will also discuss where the members would like the next Reunion to be held. There is currently support for a Reunion at Wollongong. If you have a suggestion for another location, and are prepared to get a team together to run with it, let us know. Tony G and Warren C are running the Phillip island Reunion, and we wish to thank them for their willingness to do so.

FOLLOW ON HISTORICAL ARTICLE EXPANDED NEEDS OF THE TASK FORCE-HQ 26 COY/Det 52 Sup PI RAASC

The 1st Australian Support Group (1ALSG) at the port of Vung Tau was 27 kilometres SW of 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) at Nui Dat. As the build-up of 1ATF continued to three infantry battalions and supporting arms and services, the task of supporting it also increased. Fire Support Bases (FSB) were used more frequently and continued to be moved further into Phuoc Tuy Province.

HQ 26 Coy RAASC HQ 26 Coy RAASC and Det 52 Sup PI deployed to South Vietnam in two phases. The advance party arrived in country by air on 18 December 1967 and comprised the advance element of the headquarters plus Det 52 Sup PI.

The main body arrived on 8 January 1968 and comprised the remainder of the headquarters group under the 2IC (CAPT Dick Jacombs). Both units were responsible for bringing their TWET stores and these also arrived in January 1968.

The company was formed in Nui Dat and took over the second line role from 5 Coy which remained in Vung Tau. In its last two years in South Vietnam, 26 Coy was given additional Admin and Q functions from other logistic units and doubled up as the Task Force Maintenance Area (TFMA).

The company consisted of the following units or detachments:

- a. HQ 26 Coy RAASC (GT)
- b. 85 Tpt PI RAASC
- c. Det 52 Sup PI RAASC
- d. Det 25 Sup PI RAASC
- e. Det 8 Pet PI RAASC

Other units were later added as part of the Task Force Maintenance area including

AFPO4-the Posties,
1 Ordnance Field Park RAAOC (1OFP),
Det AFV Cash Office,
Det 2 AFCU (ASCO),
Det 11 Movement Control Group (11 MC Gp), and
Det 1 Div S & T Workshops.

In early 1968, following the Tet Offensive and subsequent increases in enemy activity in Baria, Long Dien, and Dat Do it became obvious that a second Coy Headquarters was needed in the Task Force area at Nui Dat for the forward support of 1ATF.

The focal point of HQ 26 Coy was the Ops Cell, which coordinated bids for transport support, air dispatch rigging, ammunition resupply and other materials of war as well as road transport tasks.

HQ 1 ATF frequently was ordered to provide infantry type patrols which ranged from section size up to a full platoon. They operated directly under command of HQ 1ATF, or an infantry battalion, or armoured unit.

Tasks varied from ambushes, standing patrols, fighting patrols, provision of protection parties for civil aid projects, i.e. MEDCAP, FSB defence and much longer activities of up

to 14 days.

Detachment 52 Sup PI RAASC

Det 52 Sup PI RAASC arrived in South Vietnam on 18 December 1967. The detachment consists of one officer and eleven other ranks. The detachment was responsible for:

1. Making detailed issues of rations and expense supplies to 1ATF units. This requires a ration break down to fourteen (14) units.
2. Holding operating and reserve stocks of combat rations and expense supplies.
3. Providing personnel for the supply cell in the Fwd TFMA.

Perishables (fruit and vegetables) were issued six (6) days a week after receipt from Class 1 Depot Saigon via RAAF Caribou. The Detachment received Bread and ice daily from 25 Sup PI via road convoy.

Meat was received Monday, Wednesday and Saturday with non perishables and expense also coming by road convoy also.

Det 52 Sup PI RAASC also has deployed its members to an Adv TFMA on Operations DUNTROON and COBURG for duties involving issues of combat rations and water.

In addition, the detachment's two forklifts have been employed by many of the 1ATF units on an "as available" basis. Their number is very limited and the demand has been considerable, especially during periods when stocks arrive from the Jeparit or when a major unit is leaving.

The Detachment was supplemented by a detachment from 25 Sup PI of a SSGT Ammo Tech and two Storemen (RAAOC) whose responsibilities included the operations of 1 ATF ammunition point, inspection of unit ammunition holdings and backloading suspended ammunition and salvage.

Most of 26 Coy were withdrawn to Vung Tau in mid 1971 prior to ceasing our military commitment to South Vietnam. (Many thanks to Geoff Christopherson and other sources)

NEXT historical article-The Tet offensive through RAASC eyes-the role of Adv TFMAs

DVA SERVICES OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

Arrangements for the Christmas and New Year period

The Department of Veterans' Affairs' offices will close from Tuesday 25 December 2012

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and will re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2013.

During this time a range of important services will remain open to the veteran community including 24-hour counselling on 1800 011 046

Payment of pensions will not be affected. DVA wishes all veterans, serving members and their families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

VALE - Rest in Peace
 214993 Bruce Gordon ARBON (MAJOR)
 HQ 26 Tpt Coy Vietnam 14Jan69-14Jan70
 Passed away at the Narrabeen War Veterans Village (NSW) Tuesday 25
 September 2012
 (extract latest RAASC Association Newsletter)

And finally:

This will be the last newsletter before our reunion in March 2013.

Keep in touch! We do advertise regularly in VETAFFAIRS but if you know someone who might like to join us, let us know and we'll send them a free Association badge when they take up membership.

Have a safe, happy and holy Christmas season. We hope to see you at Phillip Island

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

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<p>NEWSLETTER DELIVERY METHOD SURVEY</p> <p>NAME.....</p> <p>In view of our proposals above, how would you like your newsletter delivered from now on?</p> <p>Email or Snail mail (circle whichever suits you)</p> <p>Your choice will take effect after this edition.</p> <p>Please return to Christina on 02 6241 2358 or mobile 0430 125 195 or Post Office Box 207 Mitchell ACT 2911 or email bamberg01@bigpond.com</p>
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