

The "Clipped Wings"

Issue 15 October 2009

The Journal of the Air Dispatch Association of Australia (Inc)



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SECRETARY'S REPORT - THE "PRES" IS AWAY!



Well the "Pres" is away so we can play , or something!

I have been trying to organise another visit for us to 9 FSB at Amberley to have a good look at the C17, to date it is without much luck as the unit is still fully tasked and cannot give any

indication as to when things will ease off enough for a commitment to letting us old farts have a close up look at things of interest. We may have to settle for a get together at one of the RSL's near Brisbane. Any suggestions for a change of location ?.

I have had some contact with the new Chairman (President ?) of the UK ADA, Phil Williams who has invited us to attend the Church service in Oosterbeek at Arnhem (Holland) for Air Dispatchers on Sunday the 19th Sept 2010 and also their Dinner which will be held that night. I had responded that since we already have Ron McCaffery doing the planning and arrangements for our visit, that they should work with him to co-ordinate and we would be happy to attend. A proposed itinerary for the reunion is on our website under "Warning Order". There will also be an air drop from a C 47 (Dakota) to watch as part of the commemorations. For those who may be interested we are sourcing a possible further week or so afterwards

doing a river tour on the Rhine. Since we are now less than twelve months away we need to get some indication of how many may be going. No firm commitment is required at this stage, but an expression of interest so we can get some idea on numbers and then costs. Could anyone interested please contact me. I will put you on a mailing list and ensure you can make a decision with all the details at hand. My various addresses are on the website or phone 07 3341 1796. Also must give a reminder that there needs to be some decisions made about the Plaque laying ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in March 2010 for the people who served in Vietnam in the RAASC "ARE YOU GOING" if so then make plans and the necessary accommodation arrangements. It would probably be good if we can arrange for the banners to be there also. I will see if I can get more info to include in this copy of CW.

Would also remind all that membership fees have had to be increased at the last AGM and are now \$25 per annum. First increase in many years so not too much whinging please. I look forward to having everyone promptly renew their membership so we can continue to operate efficiently.

Blue Skies Light Winds

Barry

WARNING ORDER RE UK REUNION 2010.

A quick update on progress for 2010 following on from the the discussions in Vietnam last year.

Tours International, a UK based company run by Ralph Bennett, who is well known to UK airborne forces and runs our Normandy and Arnhem tours with great aplomb, has come up with a very reasonable quote for 2010 in Arnhem.

The deal is 349 UK pounds per person for 5 days Bed & Breakfast in a Mercure hotel on the outskirts of Arnhem. The deal also includes 5 days coach hire for getting us around. We are currently sourcing Rhine cruises for those who may be interested at their additional expense.

Basically the rough plan is,

Day 1. Thursday 16 Sep 10 - Arrive at hotel, meet and greet.

Day 2. Friday 17 Sep - Visit graves of air despatchers at St Odenrode and Nimegen am, lunch. Visit Groesbeck Heights Museum and Cemetery pm. Evening free.

Day 3 Saturday 18 Sep - Parachute drop at Ginkel Heath, John Frost Bridge in Arnhem, incl lunch, Polish ceremony at Driel pm. Evening free.

Day 4 Sunday 19 Sep - Morning Service at the Osterbeek Commonwealth Graves Cemetery, lunch in Oosterbeek, air Despatch Service in the afternoon. Evening free.

Day 5 Monday 20 Sep - Visit to a place of interest within 50 miles radius of Arnhem or a day doing your own thing locally, Farewell Dinner at the Hotel in the evening.



This photo was damaged in the late eighties after my house was rain affected; the joys of living in Lithgow at the time, but it was taken on exercise at Temora in about 1988. When the officers are away, the mice will play and skidboard races were organised with a detachment of sigs that were on exercise with us (and yes, they won). I'm the feller holding the cordage used as the finish line. Forgive me for forgetting real names, but others there were Deno (holding the other end of the cordage) Hughesy, Q walloper leering in the background, Kinko (Tony Park), and Junior, holding out his hand so close to a victory denied him. I put the landing lights out for effect.

A question thus gets raised. Do the diggers today still have impromptu fun like this (and this is only one example) or has OH&S and political correctness killed it all off?

Mark "Ding" Wolff (Formerly of 177 AD SQN)

"THE BOOK"

Some of you may be aware I had a mid year posting to the Soldiers Career Management Agency (SCMA) and I have been extremely busy. I have over 1000 soldiers under my charge so I have spent most of my free time trying to get on top of the job. There have been some long hours and I feel I am gradually getting my head space around it so hopefully I can manage to get the final few parts of the book finished and get them sent up to Melbourne for the final review. At the same time the review is going on I will be counting colour pages/data and black and white pages to let the printer know so I can work on a price of the publication. I will also be drafting letters to the agencies I need permission to print photographs etc.

Thanks for your patience and I know I have said it all before, but I am getting there.

Regards - Garry McGravie, WO2, Career Manager

ECN 109 PTE - CPL / ECN 381 CPL

Soldier Career Management Agency, Fort Queenscliff, PO Box 225, Victoria 3225

Congratulations Jim Kenneback (Red Hat Chapter)

Elaine and Jim were married on the 19th of September in the living room of their home in Fayetteville NC. Jim attends most of our annual reunions so we all wish he and Elaine well.

Work as if it was your first day.

Forgive as soon as possible..

Love without boundaries.

Laugh without control

and never stop smiling.

ARMY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Invites all members, partners and friends
To join us for the

ATA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

VENUE: MORNINGSIDE SERVICES CLUB
481 WYNNUM ROAD,
MORNINGSIDE

DATE: WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2009
TIME: 11.30 for 12.30



DRESS; Smart Casual (collared shirt and slacks)

Surfin` Santa might
pay us a visit

MENU:

Roast Meat Ham Turkey Lamb or Beef
Choice of two meats
Served with roast vegetables and
gravy/mint sauce/cranberry sauce.

DESSERT

Sweets buffet including
Christmas pudding and brandy custard.

Tea and Coffee Station

Any Person who is gluten intolerant or require Vegetarian Meals
please contact the Treasurer

COST: \$30 per person
Includes a bottle of red and white wine per table

DRINKS available at Bar Prices

R.S.V.P. 25 November 2009

I:will be attending the ATA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

My Partner/Guests are:

Please find money order/cheque for \$.....
Payable to Army Transport Association Inc or
Transfer to BSB No 014227
Acc No109184712

The Treasurer Army Transport Association
6 Nandala Drive Tanah Merah 4128
Phone 0732097538 Mobile 0417192044
Email GeorgeHunter@optusnet.com.au
PAR ONERI

Another year has passed and we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter and winter seems much colder.
There was a time not long ago when life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand about 'Living in the Past'

We used to go out dining, and couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags, come home and take a pill.
We used to often travel to places near and far.
Now we get sore asses from riding in the car.

We used to go to weddings, football games and lunches.
Now we go to funeral homes, and after-funeral brunches.
We used to have hangovers, from parties that were gay.
Now we suffer body aches and while the night away.

We used to go to nightclubs and drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night and watch the evening news.
That my friend is how life is And now my tale is told
So, enjoy each day and live it up.. before you're too
damned old!

DVA FACTSHEETS

For those with internet access, head to <http://factsheets.dva.gov.au/factsheets/> for a list of all Factsheets published by the DVA. For those unable - please contact our secretary Barry Gannon who may be able to print and post you a copy.

The following are some of the latest items listed:

Funeral Assistance (10:39 13-Oct-2009) - This Factsheet outlines the funeral assistance provided under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA).

Needs Assessment (09:21 12-Oct-2009) - This Factsheet explains what a needs assessment is, when it is normally carried out, what may be involved in the process and the follow-up activities that may result from the assessment. Under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA), everyone entitled to compensation for a service related injury or condition must undergo a 'Needs Assessment' to determine their need for incapacity payments, medical treatment and rehabilitation, including aids and appliances or domestic assistance. As part of DVA's commitment to more comprehensive and consistent service delivery this process is applied to both Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) and MRCA clients.

Indexation of Income Support Pensions and Allowances (10:16 09-Oct-2009) - This Factsheet describes the indexation of Income Support pensions and allowances. It covers how and when the indexation is calculated and applied.

Transitional Arrangements (11:44 07-Oct-2009) - This factsheet explains what veterans supplement is, who is eligible for it, how much it is and how it is paid. It is relevant to you if you are not eligible for pension supplement and you: receive a disability pension from DVA, receive war widows pension or orphans pension, have a Repatriation Health Card (Gold Card or White Card), have a Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Card (Orange Card) This Factsheet is current from 20 September 2009 to 31 December 2009

Pension Supplement (17:27 02-Oct-2009) - This Factsheet explains what pension supplement is, who is eligible for it, how much it is and how it is paid. It is relevant to you if you receive a service, invalidity or age pension from DVA.

Representation at Hearings (14:58 01-Oct-2009) - This Factsheet explains who may be present at your Veterans' Review Board (VRB) hearing at your request.

Partners (13:56 29-Sep-2009) - This Factsheet explains the circumstances under which wholly dependent partners of deceased serving members and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) can be granted compensation under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA). It also details the types of compensation that can be awarded where it is determined that there is liability to pay compensation for the member's death. Please also see factsheet Overview of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004: MRC 01 for information about who is covered under the MRCA.

There are many more also.

The Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) receives enquiries from time to time concerning the condition of the graves of Australian Service personnel buried in Malaysia. Recently there has been some significant developments concerning this issue and I thought I would take this opportunity to acquaint you with the present situation.

Just by way of background, the OAWG has been aware for some time that the presentation and maintenance of these Service graves, as well as those of next of kin and dependents, was not at an acceptable standard and we have been seeking a viable, long term solution.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has now agreed to undertake the maintenance of the graves on an 'agency' basis on behalf of the British Ministry of Defence (MOD). The MOD is the authority charged with overall responsibility for the post-WWII Commonwealth graves in west Malaysia. The Commission's charter limits their direct

maintenance involvement to WW1 and WW2 war dead.

In turn, OAWG is specifically tasked to ensure that all 'Australian' war graves, whenever and wherever they may be, are marked accordingly and maintained to the appropriate standard.

Since the CWGC took control, OAWG has been exerting pressure on the Commission to expedite proceedings. This has involved a strong personal representation from the OAWG Director, MAJGEN Paul Stevens, the OAWG Deputy Director meeting with the CWGC, and formally expressing our concerns in writing. As a result, I am happy to tell you that the CWGC will be commencing remedial work soon on the headstones at Kamunting Road. We are advised that the headstones will be removed and re-levelled by the end of September 2009. An ongoing problem is the ability to attract suitable contractors and, in this instance, the CWGC will be undertaking this work utilising their own workforce.

You will also appreciate that a number of other cemeteries in Malaysia, apart from Kamunting Road, are of concern. We anticipate that a plan and timeframe for other work, such as the in-painting of the headstone lettering and addressing the fabric of the particular cemetery, will be available to us by Christmas. We are very conscious that 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the official ending of the Emergency, although Australian personnel did remain in Malaysia after that date. Our aim is to ensure the level of presentation for proposed ceremonies in 2010 becomes the standard for the future years. One thing I would ask of you. In respect to the ongoing maintenance, if you have a specific complaint, or any concern which you feel we should be addressing, can you direct those to me. I will be more than happy

to receive such feedback. In return I will undertake to keep you informed of progress and developments. Our expectation, and commitment, remains that the Australian graves in Malaysia will be maintained to the standard reflecting the sacrifice of those buried there and that the cemetery in which they lay will present, as far as we are physically able to do so, in a dignified manner.

Finally, if you are aware of other interested organisations or individuals that I have not included in the address list, please feel free to on-forward this email for their attention.

Regards Kerry (Mr) Kerry B Hodge - OAWG - Department of Veterans' Affairs, PO Box 21, WODEN ACT 2606



Shifty volunteered for the airborne in WWII and served with Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 101st Airborne Infantry. If you've seen Band of Brothers on HBO or the History Channel, you know Shifty. His character appears in all 10 episodes, and Shifty himself

is interviewed in several of them.

I met Shifty in the Philadelphia airport several years ago. I didn't know who he was at the time. I just saw an elderly gentleman having trouble reading his ticket. I offered to help, assured him that he was at the right gate, and noticed the "Screaming Eagle," the symbol of the 101st Airborne, on his hat. Making conversation, I asked him if he'd been in the 101st Airborne or if his son was serving. He said quietly that he had been in the 101st. I thanked him for his service, then asked him when he served, and how many jumps he made.

Quietly and humbly, he said "Well, I guess I signed up in 1941 or so, and was in until sometime in 1945 . . . " at which point my heart skipped.

At that point, again, very humbly, he said "I made the 5 training jumps at Toccoa, and then jumped into Normandy . . . do you know where Normandy is?"

At this point my heart stopped.

I told him "yes, I know exactly where Normandy is, and I know what D-Day was." At that point he said "I also made a second jump into Holland, into Arnhem. . . I was standing with a genuine war hero . . . and then I realized that it was June, just after the anniversary of D-Day..

I asked Shifty if he was on his way back from France,

and he said "Yes. And it's real sad because, these days, so few of the guys are left, and those that are, lots of them can't make the trip." My heart was in my throat and I didn't know what to say.

I helped Shifty get onto the plane and then realized he was back in Coach while I was in First Class. I sent the flight attendant back to get him and said that I wanted to switch seats. When Shifty came forward, I got up out of the seat and told him I wanted him to have it, that I'd take his in coach.

He said "No, son, you enjoy that seat. Just knowing that there are still some who remember what we did

and who still care is enough to make an old man very happy." His eyes were filling up as he said it. And mine are brimming up now as I write this.

Shifty died on June 17, 2009 after fighting cancer.

There was no parade. No big event in Staples Center. No wall to wall back to back 24x7 news coverage. No weeping fans on television. And that's not right.

Let's give Shifty his own Memorial

Service, online, in our own quiet way. Please forward this email to everyone you know. Especially to the veterans.

Rest in peace, Shifty.

Mark Pfiefer(Confirmed Author)- See Snopes.com



RAASC VIETNAM COMMEMORATION AND REUNIONS WEEKEND THU 25-SUN 28 MARCH 2010 IN CANBERRA ACT

This newsletter has been developed in conjunction with the RAASC-RACT Association to promote a one off significant event in the life of all RAASC members.

In October 2006 the Vietnam Supply Platoons Association (VSPA) approached the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on behalf of the Association to discuss the laying of a plaque for the three Vietnam Supply Platoons or individual Company plaques. This was denied by the AWM which required that a plaque be laid to commemorate the service of all RAASC members that deployed to that conflict, regardless of the unit or sub unit in which they served.

Our small Executive here in Canberra contacted each of the known Associations seeking their input, and have continued to do so since that time. We have taken on board the many and various contributions to the design of the plaque. To those that contributed – we really do appreciate your helpful comments.

We have had numerous meetings and produced numerous submissions to achieve what in the light of our resources we consider as satisfactory. The final accepted design is enclosed at the rear of this document.

It represents a painful two years for our small Executive, as we have been at loggerheads with the AWM. We have felt discriminated against as we sought to have two plaques; one for Vung Tau members and one for Nui Dat members. We had the equivalent of four Infantry Battalions in theatre – they are entitled to a plaque each. We as loggies, all 3500 that deployed, at least are now represented on the walkways of the Memorial.

Finally RAASC members have a plaque that they can be proud of, that recognises your service. You will be able to show your family the plaque and show them the specific unit you served in.

For all RAASC members this weekend is important just as was our Sydney Welcome Home Parade in 1987 was to Vietnam Veterans generally.

May I encourage you all to come on board and be part of the commemorations and celebrations on the weekend of 25-28 March 2010.

Sincerely,

Bruce Manning (President)

One Sunday morning, the priest noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small Australian flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the priest walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."
"Good morning Father," he replied, still focused on the plaque.
"Father, what is this?"
The priest said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."
Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked,
"Which service, the 8:30am or the 6:00pm?"



RAASC VIETNAM PLAQUE DEDICATION CANBERRA AWM 2010 - RAASC VIETNAM MEMORIAL BOARDS

RAASC VSPA is now taking orders for these Memorial Boards. If you are interested, you will need to contact Russ Morrisson ASAP on (02) 6292 7567 (0408 947 935) or email him at dabblers2@bigpond.com

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PLAQUE DEDICATION WEEK-END

It is proposed that each Vietnam era Association will organise their own events including a Meet and Greet (if they so choose).

FRIDAY and SUNDAY are designated as OFFICIAL CORPS ACTIVITIES DAYS.

Thurs 25 Mar

PM - Vietnam units and sub units - Meet and Greet at association selected venue

Fri 26 Mar

0900 - VSPA AGM

1030 - non affiliated members morning tea (VSPA organised)

Afternoon - commemoration and afternoon tea

Evening - RAASC Corps Dinner

Sat 27 Mar

0900-1500 - Bus tour for ladies, Golf game for gents

Evening - informal Association Dinner

Sun 28 Mar

1000-1100 (tbc) RMC Church Service and

1200-1400 BBQ lunch, and farewells

VIETNAM ERA ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

We would ask that each member wishing to attend that hasn't already done so, call or email to confirm your attendance, to our Plaque Attendance Secretary, Christina as below.

Members should also call their association contact who will be responsible for receipt of funds for Corps Dinner etc on behalf of the organising committee. Costs to be advised as soon as they are known. We aim to seat people in their Vietnam units for obvious reasons. Some may not have seen each other in 40 years.

The contacts we have for each Association are:

1 /87 Tpt Pl Association Jim Thompson pippa_t@bigpond.net.au or (07) 3283 3335.

2 Tpt Pl Association Ray Heathcote rayheath@comcen.com.au

85 Tpt Pl Association Bob Metcalfe 85tptpl@tpg.com.au

86 Tpt Pl Assn John Tracey jandet@grapevine.com.au - (02) 6286-2390

ADAA John Whittaker johnandjunita@bigpond.com

Postal Units Mick Kinna welkin.view@bigpond.com] (02) 6238 3448

Non Affiliated members: All RAASC members posted to HQ's (AFV, ATF, ALSG etc), Non Corps units, and Supply Platoons Association members should contact:

Christina Luff- Commemoration Attendance Manager

PO BOX 207 Mitchell ACT 2911

Bamberg@three.com.au / (02) 6241 2358 / Mob 0430125195.

NOTIFY YOUR ATTENDANCE

Yes, I am interested in attending the Plaque Dedication weekend: My contact details are as follows:

SVN Sub Unit..... The Association(s) I currently belong to

is.....

Christian Name.....Surname.....

Address.....

.....

Phone (day).....evenings.....

Email address:.....

Return the above information to:

Christina Luff- Commemoration Attendance Manager

PO BOX 207

Mitchell ACT 2911

or

email Bamberg@three.com.au

(02) 6241 2358

Mob 0430125195

A drunk man in an Oldsmobile
They said had run the light
That caused the six-car pileup
On 109 that night.

When broken bodies lay about
And blood was everywhere,
The sirens screamed out eulogies,
For death was in the air.

A mother, trapped inside her car,
Was heard above the noise;
Her plaintive plea near split the air:
Oh, God, please spare my boys!

She fought to loose her pinned hands;
She struggled to get free,
But mangled metal held her fast
In grim captivity.

Her frightened eyes then focused
On where the back seat once had been,
But all she saw was broken glass and
Two children's seats crushed in.

Her twins were nowhere to be seen;
She did not hear them cry,
And then she prayed they'd been thrown free,
Oh, God, don't let them die!

Then firemen came and cut her loose,
But when they searched the back,
They found therein no little boys,
But the seat belts were intact.

They thought the woman had gone mad
And was travelling alone,
But when they turned to question her,
They discovered she was gone.

Policemen saw her running wild
And screaming above the noise
In beseeching supplication,
Please help me find my boys!

They're four years old and wear blue shirts;
Their jeans are blue to match.
One cop spoke up, they're in my car,
And they don't have a scratch.

They said their daddy put them there
And gave them each a cone,
Then told them both to wait for Mom
To come and take them home.

I've searched the area high and low,
But I can't find their dad.
He must have fled the scene,
I guess, and that is very bad.

The mother hugged the twins and said,
While wiping at a tear,
He could not flee the scene, you see,
For he's been dead a year.

The cop just looked confused and asked,
Now, how can that be true?
The boys said, Mommy, Daddy came
And left a kiss for you.

He told us not to worry
And that you would be all right,
And then he put us in this car with
The pretty, flashing light.

We wanted him to stay with us,
Because we miss him so,
But Mommy, he just hugged us tight
And said he had to go.

He said some day we'd understand
And told us not to fuss,
And he said to tell you, Mommy,
He's watching over us.

The mother knew without a doubt
That what they spoke was true,
For she recalled their dad's last words,
I will watch over you.

The firemen's notes could not explain
The twisted, mangled car,
And how the three of them escaped
Without a single scar.

But on the cop's report was scribed,
In print so very fine,
An angel walked the beat tonight on Highway 109.
He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare.

This morning when the Lord opened a window to
Heaven,
He saw me, and he asked: 'My child, what is your
greatest wish for today?'

I responded: 'Lord please, take care of the person who
is reading this -They deserve it and I love them very
much.'

BIEN HOA - VUNG TAU - NUI DAT

Re the article in the last edition of CW - a couple of errors were noted with the following material to be added/replace what was in that article:

- The need for a second RAASC company headquarters in 1 ATF had been recognised when the decision to increase the size of TF was made. HQ 26 Coy was raised and carried out work up exercises in Shoalwater Bay from January to late 1967 when it returned to Wacol to prepare to deploy to Nui Dat. The need was certainly not recognised “in early 1968, following the Tet offensive” as the unit was heavily involved in supply and transport operations during Tet, and HQ 26 Coy was not “formed in Nui Dat”.
- HQ 26 Coy deployed to Nui Dat in the period mid-December 1967 to early-January 1968 and took over the role of HQ TFMA from about 23 December 1967 not “in the last two years in South Vietnam”.
- A Fwd TFMA, commanded by HQ 26 Coy elements deployed to FSB Andersen with other 1 ATF elements on 25-29 January 1968 shortly before the First Tet Offensive commenced. This became a standard operating procedure for the TFMA and a Forward TFMA deployed whenever a HQ 1 ATF (Forward) was established. This was an important role and resulted, for much of 1968, in HQ 26 Coy having to operate two Ops cells, one forward and one at Nui Dat.

The American Navy found they had too many officers and decided to offer an early retirement bonus. They promised any officer who volunteered for retirement a bonus of \$1,000 for every inch measured in a straight line between any two points in his body. The officer got to choose what those two points would be.

The first officer who accepted asked that he be measured from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. He was measured at six feet and walked out with a bonus of \$72,000.

The second officer who accepted was a little smarter and asked to be measured from the tip of his outstretched hands to his toes. He walked out with \$96,000.

The third one was a non-commissioned officer, a grizzly old Chief who, when asked where he would like to be measured replied, 'From the tip of my weenie to my testicles.'

It was suggested by the pension man that he might want to reconsider, explaining about the nice big checks the previous two officers had received. But the old Chief insisted and they decided to go along with him providing the measurement was taken by a medical officer.

The medical officer arrived and instructed the Chief to 'drop 'em', which he did. The medical officer placed the tape measure on the tip of the Chief's weenie and began to work back. 'Dear Lord!' he suddenly exclaimed, 'Where are your testicles?'

The old Chief calmly replied, ' Vietnam '

TREASURER'S REPORT TO SEPT 30, 2009

INCOME AND EXPENSES (JUN - SEPT 09)

Income

Subscriptions	\$1650.00
Postage	\$4.00
Merchandise Sales	\$70.70

Total Income **\$1724.70**

Cost Of Sales

Total Cost Of Sales **\$0.00**

Gross Profit **\$1724.70**

Expenses

Newsletter (incl post)	\$355.80
Postage - Merchandise	\$23.70
Floral/Wreaths	\$100.75
Bank Fees & Charges	\$15.05
Merchant Fees	\$44.00
Monthly Merchant Fee	\$55.00

Total Expenses **\$594.30**

Net Profit (Loss) **\$1,130.40**

BALANCE SHEET (SEPT 30)

Assets

Bank of QLD	\$12,302.24
Undeposited Funds	\$34.90
Stock on Hand	\$4,180.60
Merchandise Officer on Hand	\$74.60
Trade Debtors	\$60.00

Total Assets **\$16,652.34**

Liabilities: **\$0.00**

Net Assets **\$16,652.34**

Accumulated Funds

Retained Earnings	-\$1,669.21
Current Earnings	\$1,066.65
Historical Balancing Account	\$17,254.90

Total Accumulated Funds **\$16,652.34**





COLONEL COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

RACT CORPS Conference – 17-19 Sept 2009
The RACT Corps Conference for 2009 was held at the Army

Logistic Training Centre (ALTC), Bandiana.

This year SGTS and CPLS of the Corps were invited to join the Warrant Officers for the first two days of the conference. Day one, Thursday 17 September, was run by the Corps RSM, WO1 Wayne Le Lievre. It was a busy day with a program that covered career management and trade issues, as well as future doctrine and training development matters. The day culminated with the group being tasked to review all the current Corps Policy statements for relevance, currency and suitability. It was a very effective and informative day.

Day two started early with the traditional RACT Memorial Service conducted at the RACT Memorial Wall. Chaplain David Grulke led the proceeding. A Catafalque Party mounted. It was a moving service which

included prayers, poems, readings and an address by the Head of Corps (HOC), Brigadier David Mulhall. The music for the service was provided by members of Army Band, Newcastle (previously RACT Corps pipes and drums). The RACT Honour Roll members (*those who paid the supreme sacrifice whilst engaged in conflict*) were remembered:

224826 CAPT P.J. McCarthy UNSTO

2160304 LCPL R. Eisenhuth 10 FSB

The HOC main address opened the second day's program. The RACT officers had now arrived to join the day one attendees. The theme of the conference focused on RACT in an Adaptive Army. Informative presentations were delivered on the Combat Service Support (CSS) Force Modernisation Review and future B Veh operating system; JP 2048 – the project to deliver the LHD to Navy; Land 121 – the project to deliver the new B Veh fleet into Defence.

During the lunch time break conference attendees were able to review the range of trial B vehicles being tested by the Land 121 project.



The afternoon program covered presentations from the Corps Subject Matter Experts – Vehicle Specialist, Marine Specialist, Cargo Specialist, Postal, Movements and Air

It is an exciting time for Corps members looking into the future. For the Vehicle Specialist trade they will have to adapt to a new vehicle fleet – different sizes, types, armored and unarmored variants, new communications, navigation, weapon systems as well as new standard operating procedures. The Marine and Cargo Specialist trades will have to grow to accommodate the increased demand that will occur as a result of the increase in manning on the new Landing Helicopter Docks being introduced into the Navy.

These new ships will each carry four new Landing Craft. The new watercraft amphibious capability will be able

to transport personnel and equipment from the large amphibious ships to shore without utilizing fixed port facilities or prepared landing facilities. The new watercraft will have a crew of four and at this stage it has been indicated that navy personnel will help crew these vessels.

Day three was for Corps officers only.

A presentation from DOCM-A started the day. A key note address by AIRCDRE Oddie, RAAF, on Air Mobility Support within the ADF was one of the highlights of the conference. Further information was then provided on the provision of Combat Service Support in the Adaptive Army going forward. The Head of Corps in step with the Chief of Army is committed to improving communication within the Army family. You will note that the Army and Corps websites have been enhanced and will in future provide improved information to current and retired members of the Army and the Corps.

Have a look on www.army.gov.au/ract. The Army is also exploring the use of other popular social communication networks like Face Book and Twitter in an attempt to connect with the younger members of the Army.

I will continue my report in my next "Comments".

Dennis Scanlan - Par Oneri

VALE'S

- ◆ Debbie Hayward, wife of Dennis (Canada). Debbie was a young 50 years of age and although Dennis attended recent International reunions including the one to the USA, Debbie did not accompany him. May she Rest in Peace.
- ◆ Sandra Buchanan, wife of Buck, passed away suddenly in September in Brisbane. Sandy was known by many of our reunion attendees and will be missed by many.
- ◆ Keith Brain passed away on 5 Oct 09 after a long battle with cancer. Keith was a long time member of a number of RAASC and RACT units, with 12 Tpt Coy then later again at 177 AD Sqn.

Winged Wings
Dear Darryl

big trip.txt

Paul Mulvey OEB

Just completed another trip around our beautiful nation on my second motor bike, a 1998 Harley Davidson Road King (OEB 02) after my Kawasaki (OEB 01) blew up big time.

Once again, I tackled it on my own, a sometimes very lonely one but at least I could go, stop, stay and leave whenever I wanted to thus enabling me to catch up with a heap of mates before they fall off the perch and meet a stack of new guys (and girls) magic, to say the least.

There is also a book available at most book shops, to the value of about \$60.00 revealing over 3,500 camp sites and all detail on each site, a great asset for the caravan traveller to a pup tent, then, of course there are a number of vet bush camps such as the vets retreat at Cockscomb near Cawarral, about 37 ks out of Rockhampton \$5.00 per day and what a top place to unwind, no electricity, all powered by solar, huts and a kitchen come bar. You need to book ahead for a van or cabin, the caretaker is Gene Owens an old mate of mine whom I had lost track of since he took off to SVN. The phone no.s are 0749332457 or Gene's mobile 0429492501. Indeed a great spot.

After 5 days, I headed to Anakie in the gem fields, caught up with Chicko and Sue Delancy, J. Jack Shears and a few other vets, the bastards are all over the place and its ever so great to catch up with them all. Setting off again with a blood shot glass eye and a mouth like chicken shit, I headed to Longreach, turned North to Winton up to Hughenden then to Townsville where I was lucky enough to meet up with Lianne Ingle. (Wings, Frank Ingle's daughter) who is posted there in movements and certainly not in a hurry to leave Townsville.

Townsville to Cairns, Mosman, Port Douglas, Cooktown, back down to Innisfail, across through Georgetown, Croydon, Normanton and up to Karumba, another great spot to spend a day or ten. Down to Cloncurry and into the Territory via Kakadu, into Darwin, Stayed with John Atkinson and shared a beer or three with Nick Nickoli and his bride, magic.

Returned home via Katherine, spending 11 days in the best caravan park I have ever been to, the Low Level Park 4ks out of town, Alice Springs, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, Broken Hill, Cobar and home.

Any body wishing to do a similar trip, I can certainly pass on a heap more places to stay that will cost next to bugger all.

All the very best.

Paul Mulvey (OEB)

Page 1

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