

17 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON WORKSHOPS VIETNAM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006



Website: <http://www.17construction.org.au>

Email: 17construction@agn.net.au



Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th June 2007

JUST OVER 12 MONTHS TO GO

PRESIDENT

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08 89831493 or 0408831493
email: bshew@octa4.net.au

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George Jones
Patron
Member

Danial J Garlin
Foundation
Member

Message from President Bob

Greetings to you all it is just over 12 months until our next reunion in Darwin. We have been working hard over the past twelve months to obtain what we consider to be the best options for our Reunion in Darwin, regarding accommodation and events that will take place during the reunion.

The three nights accommodation will of course be at your own expense, as in previous reunions we have allowed for all members to be accommodated at the one location. We know that some of you will be traveling by caravan or motorhome and will be staying at caravan parks around Darwin. However we request that you leave your van at the caravan park over the 3 days of the reunion and all stay at the one location for the reunion. This allows for excellent camaraderie and reminiscing without worrying about the breathalyser (the Darwin Police will gladly accept your contributions and are red hot).

We have chosen the Mirambeena Hotel, which is located centrally in Darwin and is the only one that can cater for our needs at a respectable price. They have restaurant and bar facilities pool etc. We have been trying to get somewhere where it is close to town and walking distance to the city etc.

Mirambeena is the only Inner City Resort in the heart of Australia's tropical Capital City - Darwin.



*Once you enter this tropical oasis - you leave the City behind.
Remember Mirambeena's location gives you the best of both worlds!*

Reunion Accommodation Costs –

Mirambeena Resort: (See Brochure included at rear of this Newsletter)

They have allocated us only 60 rooms, which include 3 different types of accommodation.

2 Town houses @ \$260. per room per night (Self Contained loft style, queen sized bedroom with ensuite, down stairs kitchen, dining and lounge with 2 divans)

40 Deluxe rooms @ \$179 per room per night (2 queen size beds)

18 Standard rooms @ 165 per room per night
(options up to 4 share, either 1 double and 1 single or 4 singles)

Note: Prices **do not** include breakfast.

Considering Sydney was approx \$150 per night you'll have to agree that the costs arrived at are excellent when you consider it is right in the middle of Darwin's prime tourist season and is not much of an increase from Sydney's prices three years on.

How do I get a room allocated?

Send an email to me Bob Shewring bshew@octa4.net.au or phone on 08 8983 1493 and we will allocate you a room, when it comes time to put down a deposit we will notify you of the details.

Please do not contact the Mirranbeena as you will not be given this special rate. Also please be prompt as there are only 60 rooms allocated – first in best dressed.

If we fill all of the allocated rooms I feel that we will be able to get extras.

Traveling by train may need to re-think. Those of you who are planning to use the Ghan Railway to either come to Darwin or return please note that there is little or no concessions on the Alice to Darwin Link please refer to the email at the end of this newsletter sent to the President of the NT TPI Association in this regard.

This may change by 2007 but I would not bank on it.

NOVEMBER 2006 RAFFLE



100+ Club Raffles – The second 100+ Club Raffle for 2006 with the prize being **\$500 cash**.

The cost of participation is \$20 per 100+ Club ticket.

See Special Raffle Form at the end of this Newsletter – Fill it in and send it to Treasurer Ryan for your chance to WIN!

From the Treasurer – Ryan Critchlow

In March this year I spent time with Brian Bailey and Noel Tucker in Victoria and took the opportunity to draw a couple of raffles. We drew the first of the +100 club raffles, and the six winners of the balance of their registration fees.....and the winners are.....



One draw of **\$500** in the 1st +100 club

WINNER - GRAHAM STEELE

Six draws of the balance of the registration fee (equivalent to \$50 each)

**Robert Callinan
Cliff Richards
Lynne Callinan**

**Paul Jenkinson
John Lewin
Steve MacFarlane**

The second +100 club raffle is due to be drawn in November 2006 and your support to make this raffle a successful fundraiser is important. Some members have already subscribed to it and hopefully a lot more will – if you want the chance to be a winner, like Graham in the 1st draw, please complete the attached form at the rear of this newsletter and forward it to me.

As of mid April we have fifty-eight members and fifty-three partners registered for the reunion. The committee knows of a few more who say that they are definitely going, but are a bit tardy with their registrations, so the final figure should be over one hundred and twenty in total – an excellent response!

I've had a few enquiries about registration receipts, but we decided at the start not to post them out to minimize costs. As a compromise, I've listed below the names of all the members who have registered as at mid April 2006. If you have sent me your registration deposit, or full fee, please check that your name is listed and advise me if it's not there.

If you are intending to be a part of this reunion and your name isn't there, and you haven't sent me your registration details, you should get your finger out and get on with it! Time is ebbing away and Bob will shortly have to firm up the numbers.

Members Registered (partners included, but not shown) = Paid in Full

Brian Bailey, Steve MacFarlane, Adrian Blackburn, Stewart Meiklejohn, Stewart Brett, Bob Shewring, Robert Callinan, Graham Steele, Eric Campbell, Robert Veer, John Fenton, Barry Luarn, Henry Kolek.

Members Part Paid (Balance to be paid)

Rick Bowley, John Chattin, Bob Cook, Ian Craft, Ryan Critchlow, Michael Cully, Ray Day, Ed Ermanis, Stephen Fanetti, John Farmelo, Ray Firth, Merv Flanders, Beric Foot, Dan Garlin, Leslie Hall, Peter Horne, Donald Hughes, Tom Hurford, Paul Jenkinson, George Jones, Keith Jones, Roger Kegan, Keith Lawry, Allan Lennox, John Lewin, David Lindeman, Wes Lugowski, John Lynch, Robit Martin, Graeme McDonald, Bruce Nunn, Alan Orchard, Kevin Pearce, Brian Pope, Alan Pratt, Graeme Ramsden, Peter Resche, Cliff Richards, John Schrader, Mike Sheahan, Andy Smithett, Ray Spackman, Terry Thomas, Geoff Williams, Peter Young.

While I know Helen and Adrian Blackburn would rather me not make a fuss about their continued fund raising activities, we should all appreciate that they have quietly amassed a sizable contribution to the reunion's bank balance, far in excess of anything else we are doing or have planned. They are doing this quite voluntarily, on their own, with no request from the committee. The committee thanks them sincerely.

Another person who is quietly beaver away with her own fund raising activity is Helen Ingrey. Helen is making a throw to be raffled along with some other prizes and we thank Helen for contributing of a lot of her time and skill. Mike will include the details of this raffle in the next newsletter.



Noel Tucker drawing the +100 club



Brian Bailey drawing the six fee balances



Your 17 Construction Wksps Liaison Officers

Western Australia	Garry Whykes	(08)9276 1920
South Australia	Michael Culley	(08)8294 3820
Victoria	Cliff Richards	(03)5443 0457
Queensland –Sunshine Coast	Secretary Michael Sheahan	(07) 5493 4080
Queensland – Gold Coast	Steve Chapman	(07) 5525 3039
Queensland – Far North	David Chalk	(07) 4954 7565
New South Wales	Robert Callinan	(02) 4953 2616
Northern Territory	President. Bob Shewring	618 8983 1493
Tasmania	Roy Geale	



Road Trains

When being overtaken maintain your speed, do not slow down.
Use Channel 40 "Truckies Channel" to advise following Road Train that it's safe to pass. Please don't use this channel for chatting to your mates as this will just P..s them off.
If traveling in convoy leave at least 250 metres between vehicles, flash your lights when the road train has passed you to indicate it's safe for them to pull over to the left.

From The Secretary - Mike Sheahan

Thanks

Many thanks to Dan Garlin "Tracker Dan" who has relocated another seven members. Don't forget to let Allan Pratt know if you change your address or email contact details. First time we find out is when we get your mail returned. Contact Allan via email at prattaw@agn.net.au or phone 08 94706414, Mob 040 777 3343, or 122C Bishopsgate St, Carlisle WA 6101.

Big Thanks to Denis Cush (70/71), who now resides in Indonesia, for his kind donation of caps to assist with fundraising. We all look forward to catching up with you Denis.

A huge thanks to Allan Pratt who is our Webmaster and continues to update the web page and also the photo gallery. If you haven't seen it, do yourself a favour and take a trip back in time. www.17construciotn.org.au

Planning you Trip - Part 3

Adelaide River to Darwin

Adelaide River to Darwin is about 120km, but it is the famous parks on either side of the highway "Litchfield and Kakadu" that make the trip. Don't miss them. They are fantastic. There are plenty of books and brochures on them so I won't describe the raw Australian beauty you will see.

Darwin to Litchfield (about 150km)

If you stay at Wangi Falls camp ground (small charge caravans and tents) you can drive to all locations in the park. Both Wangi and Batchelor have caravan parks with good amenities. There are day trips from Darwin by bus.

Darwin to Kakadu (Jabiru 250km)

You need to stay out there to see it all as it is a big park and wide spread. Don't miss the "Yellow Water Cruise." Dawn and sunset cruises are the best.

Top Tips for Traveler's

No1. Mobile Phones for Road Travelers.

If you want good mobile phone service buy a mobile phone with CDMA service. Although the standard GSM provides good coverage for the cities, the CDMA is defiantly the network for road travelers. Go to your Telstra dealer and compare the coverage maps of both CDMA & GSM, you'll be surprised. I recently saw NOKIA 2112 for \$50 (prepaid)

No2. Fuel Costs.

Buy yourself a couple of plastic jerry cans about \$20 each to carry a bit of extra fuel. The extra fuel will get you past most of these and you may only have to top up a little. The Roadhouses and whistle stops can up to 50 cents a litre dearer than the main towns.

No3. Insect Repellant.

Take your own favorite repellant with you. NT has mozzies and midges all year around especially the tourist parks.

No4. Budget Caravan and Camping.

Buy the "Camps 3 Australia Wide". This is the ultimate guide for road travelers in Australia. Most state automobile clubs have a discount special for members. Or visit www.campsaustraliawide.com.au .

Caravan Parks Darwin

Our preferred first choice Caravan Park is the "Free Spirit Resort"

Contact Freecall 1800 350 888

Email : reservations@freespiritresorts.com.au

Web : www.freespiritresorts.com.au

Address 901 Stuart Highway, Berrimah NT 0801

There are plenty of different types of accommodation available, over 200 powered sites, 165 rooms and cabins etc. About 20 mins from city.

Second Choice is "Hidden Valley Tourist Park"

Contact 08 8947 1422

Email : amber@hvtp.com.au

Webb: www.hvtp.com.au

Address 15 Hidden Valley Road, Berrimah NT 0820

This has 20 cabins available and is only 5 mins from our first choice.

About 15 mins from city.

Timing.

The Reunion is Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th June.

If you would like to spend some time in Darwin and catch up with some of your mates we suggest you plan your stay there sometime between Monday the 11th June to Friday the 22nd June.



Driving To Darwin - Alan Pratt

Are you planning on driving to the Darwin reunion in June 2007 ???

If yes, read on!!

I intend to try and coordinate all those driving to Darwin so that we can meet up along the way, take our time, see the scenery and importantly, travel together.

That is people from WA will meet at a starting point in Perth then drive across the Nullabor, meeting up with other members at Port Augusta, then traveling up the middle through Coober Pedy, Alice Springs etc meeting up with more members at Three Ways, then a convoy into Darwin

What I need to know is:

Are you driving?

Where are you leaving from?

Will you be joining the convoy?

Any suggestions?

Any other information that you think might be relative.

Once I have this information I can start organizing a timetable, coordinators etc. It will be subject to change and consultation with other members.

A very handy reference in planning your trip is found at www.travelmate.com.au here you can plan trips with times, directions, distance and points of interest etc

Contact me via email 17construction@agn.net.au with the subject "Driving to Darwin" or by Post to Alan Pratt, 122C Bishopsgate St, Carlisle WA 6101 or Phone 08 94706414 Mob 040 777 3343. I would prefer it in writing so that I have a record of it.



Help Needed

Hi Alan,

Sorry, I should have realized that people might not remember Alec as he wasn't a 'Ginger Beer' or a RAEME bod.

He served with 17 Construction Squadron Workshops Stores Cell between May 1967 & June 1968.

He started in Vung Tau, then took a 'Binned' Mark 3 Truck to Nui Dat & it was his responsibility to keep supplies & parts up, (mainly for the Bulldozers that were clearing areas around Nui Dat).

I guess like a lot of Vets he very rarely speaks of his time there & it's taken me 30 years to get **this** information out of him!

While I have you, Alec doesn't have any photographs of himself whilst he was there, so I was hoping you could ask any RAEME or other Ordinance members who may have served during that period if they could have a look to see if they have any they might like to share with me.

Thank you

Helen Mead

Alec's details were: - 38484 Private Alec Kevin Mead RAAOC

P.S.

Just as an aside, he served over 20 years in the Regular Army, 'Retired' in 1985 as a Warrant Officer Class One & received an Order Of Australia Medal in the Queens Birthday 1984 Honours list. So he didn't do too badly for a 'Blanket Counter'.....

Any info please contact Alan via email 17construction@agn.net.au or by Post to Alan Pratt, 122C Bishopsgate St, Carlisle WA 6101 or Phone 08 94706414 Mob 040 777 3343.



Is your Email Address Correct?

Have you supplied your current email address to the Webmaster? If not please do so at 17construction@agn.net.au

There have been a few with problems with some of the addresses that have been previously supplied. If your name is on the following list please contact me, Alan, with the correct one (or if you no longer have email access) at 17construction@agn.net.au or phone (08) 94706414 mob 0407773343.

John Donovan	jdonovan@tassie.net.au
Andrew MacDonald	macdonald@iexpress.net.au
Mick Warren	mawar@ballyhoo.com.au
Glenn Smith	krykleen@bigpond.com.au
Ken Gregory	brissy_@hotmail.com
Ian Bath	captianfeathers@hotmail.com
David Williamson	dawillia@ozemail.com.au
Gerardus Schoorl	taurus_04@optusnet.com.au
Phillip Manning	ozemarket_2000@yahoo.com
John Taylor	johnjude@shoal.net.au
Gordon Dunn	gordondunn46@msn.com
Peter Blackburn	pblackburn@austarnet.com.au

We now have over 100 members registered with Internet access.



101 RAEME Wksps Reunion

Hi Guys, The 50th anniversary reunion will be held in Darwin 23rd, 24th & 25th of April 2007. All former members are invited to contact Gary at garyhodge88@gmail.com for further details.

Regards - Gary "Garfield" Hodges



The Lighter Side – The Fottle

I went to the Patent Office trying to register some of my inventions.

I went to the main desk to sign in and the lady at the desk had a form that had to be filled out. She wrote down my personal info and then asked me what I had invented.

I said, “A folding bottle.”

She said, “Okay, what do you call it?”

“A Fottle.”

“What else do you have?”

“A folding carton.”

“What do you call it?”

“A Farton.”

She sniggered and said, “Those are silly names for products and one of them sounds kind of crude.”

I was so upset by her comment that I grabbed the form and left the office without even telling her about my folding bucket.



A mother and her young son were flying Qantas from Brisbane to Sydney. The son turned to his mother and asked, “If big dogs have baby dogs and big cats have baby cats, why don’t big planes have baby planes?”

The mother, who couldn’t think of an answer that wouldn’t lead to things she was not prepared to discuss with her young son, told him to ask the stewardess. So the boy asked the stewardess, “If big dogs have baby dogs and big cats have baby cats, why don’t big planes have baby planes?”

The stewardess responded, “Did your mother tell you to ask me?”

The boy admitted that this was the case.

“Well, then, tell your mother that there are no baby planes, because Qantas always pulls out on time.

Your mother can explain that to you.”



Website Contact Details

Our Website www.17contruction.org.au

Email Address 17contruction@agn.net.au

If members wish to contact other members please go to the website and click on Nominal Roll and then click on the members name you are searching for. If no email address appears, send your request to the above email address and ask for details of the member you are looking for.

Accommodation Options

All rooms are airconditioned and feature colour TV, in-house videos, tea and coffee making facilities, iron and ironing board, hairdryer, refrigerator, STD/IDD phones, clock radios and in room safes.

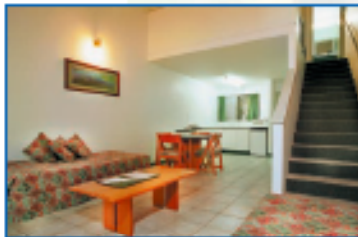


DELUXE

4 - Star, excellently appointed rooms with 2 queen size beds and split system airconditioning. Perfect for business and leisure travellers.

EXECUTIVE

The luxury alternative to a 4-Star Deluxe room. The Executive room combines the spacious deluxe size with one queen size bed and extras such as bathrobes. The room also features split system airconditioning.



TOWNHOUSE

Self contained, life style Townhouses offer a queen size bedroom and ensuite on the mezzanine. Dining and lounge area (with 2 sofas) and a kitchen with cooking facilities on the ground level. These 3-Star rooms feature split system airconditioning.

MOTEL

These comfortably appointed airconditioned 3-Star motel style rooms offer options for up to 4 share; either 1 double and 1 single or 4 single beds.



Features & Facilities

- 225 Airconditioned Rooms
- 32 Self Contained Townhouses
- 2 Spectacular Swimming Pools
- 2 Spas
- Waterfalls
- Internet Kiosk
- Drycleaning
- Disabled Facilities
- Non-Smoking Floors
- Mini Golf
- Pool Table
- 3 Conference Rooms
- City Centre Location
- 24 Hour Reception
- TreeTops Restaurant
- Raintree Café
- Poolside Bar
- BBQ and Picnic Area
- Room Service (Limited)
- Mini Bar Service
- Undercover Parking
- Off Street Parking
- 2 Guest Laundries
- Ramp Access
- Cots
- Public Phones
- Video Games Room
- Fitness Room



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Website: www.mirambeena.com.au

AUSTRALIA

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INTERNATIONAL

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COLLENS PRINTING, DARWIN



Darwin Sunset Fannie Bay

GSR GHAN TRAIN TRAVEL INFORMATION

September 21, 2005

Mr. Tom Davern

President, TPI Association of Northern Territory, PO Box 1247, **HUMPTY DOO NT 0836**

Email: tpi.nt@optusnet.com.au

Dear Sir

We write to inform you of an increase in concession fares for Special Veterans on The Ghan. As this will affect members of your association, we wish to explain the reasons for the increase. Concession fares for Special Veterans (including TPI's) that allow travel between Adelaide and Alice Springs either for free or at nominal cost are available due to a funding agreement with the Commonwealth Government. (The term Special Veterans is further explained in Appendix A).

This Commonwealth funding agreement has been in place since Great Southern Railway commenced operations in 1997, and continues a similar prior arrangement with Australian National Railways. However, it only ever covered travel south of Alice Springs. Since February 2004, when The Ghan went into service on the new line north of Alice Springs, Great Southern Railway has given the same concession rates to Special Veterans on this new sector. This was done on an interim basis while we secured government funding. Unfortunately, this matter became complicated with the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory governments each asserting that the other is responsible for concession funding.

In the last 18 months, we have worked extensively with both governments to attempt to resolve the issue of funding for concession fares. At present, the Northern Territory is making its final considerations on funding Pensioner concessions rates on the same basis as other states. The Special Veterans rates are not a part of this as they have always been federally funded. We have now been advised by the Commonwealth that they will not fund these special concession fares for Special veterans traveling north of Alice Springs. Consequently the price to Special Veterans on this leg will increase. The Commonwealth government decision does not affect fares on The Ghan between Adelaide and Alice Springs. The Commonwealth maintains its funding for that sector.

For travel between Alice Springs and Darwin, subject to the outcome of negotiations with the Northern Territory, Special Veterans can also qualify for pensioner concessions if they hold a Commonwealth issued Pension Concession Card or a Commonwealth Senior's Health Card. The revised prices for travel on The Ghan are shown on the attached table.

Since the Darwin service commenced, Great Southern Railway has issued over \$2m in tickets for which Special Veterans have paid less than 10% of that value. We have received no government funding for the difference. Unfortunately as a private commercial enterprise, we are unable to sustain this situation any further. We trust you will understand and appreciate our position. Next week, we will make contact with all of those individuals affected to advise them of the new fares. We are advising you in advance so that you are ready for any calls that you may receive on the issue. We would like to stress that since August 1st 2005 we have advised all Special Veterans making an enquiry or booking that the final fare depends on the outcome of the negotiations with government for concession funding. Anyone who does not wish to proceed with his or her booking will be given a full refund.

We trust this letter explains this situation. Should you require further explanation or clarification please feel free to contact myself on 821 3 4394 or our Sales Centre Manager, Joe Lovett on 08 821 3 441 4.

Yours faithfully

Tony Braxton-Smith, CEO, Phone: +61 8 8213 4410, Fax: +61 8 8213 4497

Special Vets Fare Differences

<i>Adelaide to Alice Springs (or v.v.)</i>	Fares per person		
Ticket Class	Red Kangaroo Service		Gold Kangaroo Service
	Daynighter Seat	Sleeper Cabin	
Full Adult Fare	\$235	\$680	\$890
Pensioner Concession Fare	\$106	\$408	\$605
Previous Special Veteran Fare	\$0	\$0	\$107
Revised Special Veteran Fare (with no other concession)	\$0	\$0	\$107
Fare Increase Special Veteran (with no other concession)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revised Special Veteran Fare (with Pension concession)	\$0	\$0	\$107
Fare Increase Special Veteran (with Pension concession)	\$0	\$0	\$0

<i>Alice Springs to Darwin (or v.v.)</i>	Fares per person		
Ticket Class	Red Kangaroo Service		Gold Kangaroo Service
	Daynighter Seat	Sleeper Cabin	
Full Adult Fare	\$260	\$940	\$1,230
Pensioner Concession Fare	\$117	\$564	\$836
Previous Special Veteran Fare	\$0	\$0	\$148
Revised Special Veteran Fare (with no other concession)	\$260	\$940	\$1,230
Fare Increase Special Veteran (with no other concession)	\$260	\$940	\$1,082
Revised Special Veteran Fare (with Pension concession)	\$117	\$564	\$836
Fare Increase Special Veteran (with Pension concession)	\$117	\$564	\$688

<i>Adelaide to Darwin (or v.v.)</i>	Fares per person		
Ticket Class	Red Kangaroo Service		Gold Kangaroo Service
	Daynighter Seat	Sleeper Cabin	
Full Adult Fare	\$480	\$1,460	\$1,890
Pensioner Concession Fare	\$216	\$876	\$1,285
Previous Special Veteran Fare	\$0	\$0	\$227
Revised Special Veteran Fare (with no other concession)	\$260	\$940	\$1,337
Fare Increase Special Veteran (with no other concession)	\$260	\$940	\$1,110
Revised Special Veteran Fare (with Pension concession)	\$117	\$564	\$943
Fare Increase Special Veteran (with Pension concession)	\$117	\$564	\$716





Registration and +100 Club Raffle Payment Advice

**17 Construction Sqn Workshops
Vietnam Association
Darwin Reunion
Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th June 2007**

Hi Members,

Please use this form when remitting payments by mail for the reunion registration and/or the November 2006 +100 club raffle. If you make payment by direct deposit into our account, please either complete and mail this form at the same time (noting payment method), or email the details to Treasurer Ryan.

Please make cheque/ money orders payable to **17 Construction Wksp Association**

And send to **The Treasurer,
Ryan Critchlow,
PO Box 2486,
Orange, NSW. 2800.**
critchlow@nsw.chariot.net.au Phone 02 6362 2241

If paying by direct deposit or electronic transfer
Commonwealth Bank – 17 Construction Sqn. Workshops Association.
BSP 066000 Account Number 10100303

Member Name _____
Partner Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Cheque/Money order enclosed – Amount \$ _____ being payment for:

1. **Registration for the reunion.** Cost to attend the reunion is \$110 per person. A minimum of \$60 per person attending is required as a deposit to register.

Cheque/Money Order includes amount of \$ _____ being for

- i. ☐ Initial registration deposit – number of persons attending ☐
ii. ☐ Initial registration with full payment – number of persons attending ☐
iii. ☐ Balance of registration fee (registration deposit previously paid)

2. **Subscription to the +100 Club Raffle – WIN \$500 - see details in the newsletter.**

This is our second and final +100 Club raffle. Your support of this fundraiser is important as all the money raised helps to add or improve extra fun activities during the reunion – and that's what it's all about! Cost is \$20 per ticket (number) and the numbers will be drawn in November 2006 (this year).

Cheque/Money Order includes amount of \$ _____ being for:

☐ Tickets in the November 2006 drawn +100 Club @\$20 each.

**WIN
\$500**