

17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association

A Town Like Alice

NEWSLETTER - December 2008 Edition

What The Prez Sez

We have completed our preparation as best we can and now we are ready to fine tune.

Alice Springs is only five months away and the clock is ticking.

By now you should have made contact with the Motel or Caravan Park and informed the Secretary of your intentions. If you have just decided that you would like to attend the reunion, please contact the Secretary (Alan Pratt) on (08) 94706414 (Home) or 040773343 (Mobile) and let him know ASAP of your in-



tentions.

The attendance numbers are looking really good, so this could be your last chance to book as the Elkira Motel will

open bookings to the public from January, we are then not able to guarantee you a room and we would not want anybody to miss out on this fabulous event.

The raffle has been drawn and won, the results appear in this newsletter. I would like to express a BIG **thank you** to all those who supported our raffle and congratulations to the winners.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a **Very Merry Christmas** and a **Safe and Prosperous New Year**.

See you in the Alice.

Snow

Winners Are Grinners

Our raffle has been drawn and the winners are:

First Prize: Dorothy Lewin

Ticket Number 2977.

Dorothy chose the \$500.

Second Prize: \$300 - Rick Bowley. Ticket Number 135.

Third Prize: \$100 - Brian Pope. Ticket Number 663

Ticket Seller: \$100 - John Lewin.

All of the winners have been notified and the money has been transferred into the respective accounts. Congratulations to all the winners.

Vietnam Veterans' Family Health Study

Ten Thousand ex-servicemen have been selected at random by DVA to take part in a Vietnam veterans' Family Health Study - but the response rate to the letters requesting participation by Vietnam veterans has been disappointingly low.

Dr Rod Bain, a Vietnam Veteran and a member of the study panel, encourages those who have not responded to the letter requesting they take part in the study to do so. Much time and effort has been put into developing the study and to fail due to lack of participation would be a tragedy.

If you are not one of those who was selected initially at random and consider you can participate and contribute, please visit

www.dva.gov.au/vvfs or phone 1800 502 302. The study is a long term one and importantly the results will determine how future military generations will be treated by governments - not just Vietnam veterans alone.

Be assured that participation will not affect any disability pension you currently receive and you will not be identified in the study, the only reason initially for providing your name and address is to enable questionnaires to be mailed periodically to you. Your responses to questionnaires will not have your name on them.

Footnote

This is a very important exercise. I encourage everyone to participate. Snow

VALE

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the passing of the following members:

Donald HARRIS Regt # 38569, Served 1967 passed away 29/08/08 and Brenton WILLIAMS Regt # 423268, Served 1971 passed away 30/06/08. **Our Mates - Lest We Forget**

Things To Do Around The Alice

Some members have indicated that they may either arrive early or stay a few days longer in the Alice and take in the sights. Before you make any decision on your sight seeing tours, please consider the **special offer** made to us by **Tailor-made Tours**. This is the company we have chartered

to transport us around the Alice during our reunion activities. **TailorMade Tours** have offered a discount on all tours for members attending the reunion. You may wish to organize a group or take an individual tour. Just call the 1800 806 641 freecall number and ask for Leeann. Don't forget to tell her you are from the 17

Construction Squadron Workshop reunion.

Please note that the Ladies tour on Saturday the 16th of May takes in the *The Old Jail, The Post and Telegraph Office and The National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame*. So, if you are booking a tour, make sure you do not duplicate these sights.

Things To Do Around The Alice (Cont.)

Day Tours, Charters, Adventures & More

- The Best of Alice in a Day
- West MacDonnell Ranges & Desert Park
- The Elite: 4WD Palm Valley Experience
- Alice Springs Afternoon Town Tour
- The Original Outback Bush BBQ
- Morning West MacDonnell Ranges
- Tailored Touring for Individuals
- Uluru, Kata Tjuta & Kings Canyon
- Airport Transfers
- Private Charters
- Larapinta Transfers

FREECALL 1800 806 641

T: 08 8952 1731 F: 08 8952 5483
E: tours@tailormadetours.com.au
www.tailormadetours.com.au

Discount on Day Tours for Reunion Attendees :

Leeann Sholz from *TaylorMade Tours* has offered a 20% Discount off all public day tours for all of our reunion attendees.

When making a booking, please mention the **discount** for the **17 Construction Squadron Workshop Reunion**. Please Note - Tours may be subject to availability.

Elkira Motel

Below is a an information brochure on the Elkira Motel.

ALICE SPRINGS

ACREDITED TOURISM BUSINESS AUSTRALIA

Sheer Luxury

- 42 Deluxe Rooms
- 9 Standard Rooms
- 7 budget Rooms
- Pool & BBQ Area
- Restaurant
- Wireless Broadband
- Central Location
- Opposite K-Mart
- Competitive Rates
- Air Conditioned
- Colour TV
- Shower & Toilet

elkira@bestwestern.com.au
Ph:(08) 8952 1222 • Fax: (08) 8953 1370
Bookings: 1800 809 252
65 Bath Street, Alice Springs NT 0870

1/2 Day - Morning West MacDonnell Ranges or 1 Day West MacDonnell Ranges & Desert Park

Travel West from Alice Springs and Experience some of the Most Spectacular Scenery unique to Central Australia. **Highlights include:** Anzac Hill, Flynn's Grave, Simpsons Gap, & Standley Chasm. Be served Traditional Billy Tea boiled on an open Campfire with a Light Picnic Lunch. Passengers have the Option on the return trip to Town to Visit the World-Class Alice Springs Desert Park where you will spend the afternoon looking through the Nocturnal House, Woodland, Sand Dune & Riverine Habitats plus the Unforgettable Blind of Prey Show. Your Guide will escort you into the Park, & Return for you after the Raptor Show at approximately 4.30pm.
Departs: Daily at 08.40am: Pick ups commence from 08.00am
Returns: Approximately 1.00pm
Prices: 1/2 Day Adults \$79.00 U/15 \$60.00
Prices: 1 day Adults \$109.00 Child U/15 \$85.00

1/2 Day - Alice Springs Afternoon Town Tour

Explore the 'World Famous Outback Town,' A Town like Alice in the Heart of Central Australia. **Highlights include:** Anzac Hill, Royal Flying Doctor Service, School of the Air, The Alice Springs Telegraph Station, & Mbandia (Aboriginal Cultural Museum).
Departs: Daily at 1.40pm: Pick ups commence from 1.00pm
Returns: Approximately 5.00pm
Prices: Adult \$79.00 Child U/15 \$60.00

1 Day - The Elite: 4WD Palm Valley Experience

Experience life from another era as you step back in time on your 4WD Adventure! Journey through the West MacDonnell Ranges to the Finkie River National Park (**Morning Tea included**). Walk among Unique Ancient Cycads & Discover Red Cabbage Palms Unique to Central Australia. Continue to Kalaranga Lookout before Visiting Historic Hermannsburg where you will be Served a Plovers Lunch, Tea and Coffee plus Homemade Apple Strudel or Scones for Dessert in the Air Conditioned Tea Rooms. Visit the Art Gallery, Featuring Works by Renowned Aboriginal Artists including the Late Albert Namatjira (minimum passengers required).
Departs: Daily at 07.30am: Pick ups commence from 07.00am
Returns: Approximately 5.00pm
Prices: Adults \$177.00 Child U/15 \$112.00

1 Day - The Best of Alice in A Day

Experience, the Friendliness, Colours & Characters of What Brings People for a Day & Makes them want to Stay a Life Time. This Tour is a Combination of the Morning West MacDonnell Ranges & Alice Springs Afternoon Town Tour. **Highlights include:** Billy Tea and Light Lunch.
Departs: Daily at 08.40am: Pick ups commence from 08.00am
Returns: Approximately 5.00pm
Prices: Adults \$150.00 Child U/15 \$114.00

The Original Outback Bush BBQ

Enjoy a Pleasant & Relaxing Evening around the Campfire with a Fine Meal of Prime Central Australian Beef. This Fun Filled Evening of Entertainment & Outback Cuisine under the Stars in the Atmosphere of an Early Cattle Camp will Long be Remembered. Your Evening will include: Boomerang Demonstration, Local Cattleman's Talk, Bush Damper Making, an Informative Insight into the Early Aboriginal Way of Life, Bush Balladeer, Star Gazing at some of the Magnificent Stars of the Clear Outback Skies. **Highlights include:** All Beverages (Bottled Red & White Wine, Beer & Soft Drinks) 3 Course Meal, Professional Entertainment and Complimentary Pick Up and Drop Off at Accommodation. Individual, Groups & Conference Bookings Welcome.
Departs: Daily 5.00pm - 6.00pm depending on sunset
Returns: Approximately 9.00pm - 9.30 depending on sunset times
Prices: Adults \$137.00 Child U/15 \$84.00

Phone: 08 8952 1731 (All prices include GST - Valid to 31 March 2009)
ABN: 45 114 795 667 PO Box 2230, Alice Springs, Northern Territory 0871.

The Raffle Prize - What Now

Our Raffle prize of a cricket bat signed by Shane Warne was kindly donated by Roger Herrod. The committee decided that we would offer a choice of the bat or \$500 as first prize. Because the five hundred dollars was taken as first prize, it



Tickets ready for the draw

has been decided to auction the cricket bat. An auction icon will be set up on our web site, or you may contact the Secretary if you are interested in placing a bid. This will give members the first option of purchasing the bat. If we do not reach our reserved price, we will auction the bat on eBay. Our most sincere thanks to Roger for his kind

donation.



And the winner is . . .

Missing Members

The following members are listed as missing. If you know of the whereabouts of these people can you ask them if they can send their details to the Secretary.

ABBOTT Kenneth	MANNING Phillip	RAMSDEN Graeme	STOW Robert
DANN John	MCDONALD Gary	RILEY Kenneth	TAYLOR Lewis
FLETCHER Brian	MOORE Ralph	SANDS William	TRINDER John
HODSON Barry	MURRAY Terrence	SCALES Trevor	WHATMAN George
LEE Robert	PLUMRIDGE Ernest	STEART Trevor	YOUNG Dennis
MAGILL Michael	QUIN Barry	STONE Anthony	

The following list of members have had their email bounce. If you have changed your email address, please inform the Secretary.

John TAYLOR	Gerardus SCHOORL	Mick TELLEY	Glenn SMITH
Phillip MANNING	Allan LENNOX	Ken GREGORY	Ian BATH
Brian COATES	Stan O'DWYER	Ray JOHNSON	
Terrence MUSSARED	Graham STEELE	Don FRAGNITO	

Our Next Reunion

Now is the time to think about our next reunion. Please talk to your mates and have a think about where we should go in 2011. We have

yet to go to Victoria and South Australia, it does not have to be in the capital city. Think outside the dots, Albury/Wodonga, The Barossa Valley, maybe even Viet-

nam. Reunions take some organising and communication, so don't leave it until the last minute - start thinking now.