

17 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON WORKSHOPS



VIETNAM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 No 3

November 2002

www.17construction.org.au

17construction@agn.net.au

**PAINTING RAFFLE
RESULTS INSIDE**

President

Adrian Blackburn
102 Willeroo Drive
Windsor Downs NSW 2756
(02) 4572 7606
Or
0408 592 102

Secretary

Peter Ingrey
19 Howse Cres
Cromer Heights
NSW 2099
(02) 9981 1231
ingreyengineers@bigpond.com

Treasurer

Andy Smithett
17 Grandview Avenue
Seven Hills
NSW 2147
(02) 9896 3694
ahsmithett@optushome.com.au

Patron

George Jones

Foundation Member

Dan Garlin

VALE

Peter Bourke

For those who have not heard it is with deep regret that I have to tell you that Peter passed away in early April this year after a long illness. I am sure all those who knew him will miss him. Peter served in Vietnam in 69-70. At the Perth reunion we were all pleased to see Peter's daughter, Vivian, who attended in his place and if any member would like to get in touch with her please contact the Secretary.

**Vietnam Veteran's Memorial
10th Anniversary Re-Dedication Service
Canberra October 2002**

A few members made it to Canberra for the re-dedication service. The day started out with a Dawn service at 0600hrs on a fine Canberra morning just below the steps of the War Memorial, this was well attended by veterans and was highlighted by a fly over by two Huey's that brought back a few memories for those there.

In true military fashion the troops assembled at the appointed time of 1100hrs for the march past, only to have to wait until 1200hrs for the dignitaries to arrive; this was the fault of the organisers rather than those taking the salute I believe, but it was good to see that nothing changes.

After the formalities we adjourned to the Ainslie Football Club for a few quiet neck oils; and arrived just before the rush as it turned out to be the watering hole of choice for what looked like half the rest of the march.

Those who attended were Dan & Dot Garlin, Hillary & Ray Spackman, Sally & Brian Bailey, Meryl & Andy Smithett, Tom Tubbs, Alan Pratt, Mick Culley and Bryan Coates (who went AWOL☺), there may have been some others but their names must have been attached to the brain cells that went missing that afternoon.

And now without further ado.....

WINNER OF THE PAINTING IN OUR RAFFLE DRAWN ON SUNDAY 3 Nov 2002

TICKET NUMBER 2080

TERRY DONOVAN of RYDE NSW.

On Sunday a group of about 20 members and their wives had a convivial afternoon together to help plan the next reunion and to draw the raffle. Thank you to everyone who got in and sold tickets and to all those that purchased them. Your support and effort is greatly appreciated on behalf of all members.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

It is now just over twelve months since we all got together for the fantastic reunion in Perth.

As promised in Perth the committee for the Sydney reunion is now dedicated to delivering to each of you a wonderful experience commencing the weekend of the 15 August 2004. We apologise for the delay in producing this newsletter but I am sure you can appreciate the commitment required to develop and fine-tune such a large event.

The Sydney committee is well advanced in the organisation of the 2004 reunion and we are now in a position to nominate a venue and location for the 17 Construction Sqn WKSP Vietnam reunion. We are excited with the selection of the Stamford resort complex at North Ryde as the preferred venue and I assure it will be to the liking of all members. We have been able to secure a number of concessions from this company including free conference facilities, a free drink and nibbles on arrival, free shuttle from the airport (for those travelling as a group) and most importantly reduced prices on drinks. The company has also supplied a room to raffle and donated a free meal at one of the three great restaurants within the complex. There is also an extensive and convenient parking facility within the complex at no cost. The registration room on arrival is equipped with bar and relaxation facilities so get ready to relax and enjoy the experience. Most importantly this venue can cater for every need and as a bonus is only twenty minutes from the city. As can be seen in the following details the prices confirmed for your accommodation, so far ahead are an absolute bonus.

We will be travelling by bus to Springwood in the Blue Mountains on the Sunday where we will take part in the Vietnam Veterans Day Service and March. I might indicate that the committee attended this year and you will be pleased to know that it is the biggest event of its type and is supremely organised by the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Allied Forces Association, this event is attended by very senior V.I.P.'s and the salute is usually taken by either the NSW Governor or the Chief of Defence

On the Saturday for the formal dinner of the reunion we will be organising a sunset cruise and smorgasbord on the greatest harbour in the world. Entertainment will be provided and I am sure you will have wonderful memories of this occasion.

As I said from the beginning we have not been idle because we realise that Sydney and NSW are not the cheapest of the States in which to hold a reunion and accordingly we are dedicated to providing each and everyone of our members with a truly memorable time and in that regard we have been very active in fund raising for this event. We have received great support from members throughout Australia and the success so far has been extremely encouraging. In October 2001 we initiated a Cadburys chocolate drive and more recently we have raffled a painting donated by Eric and Marge Campbell of Moss Vale. Both initiatives have been very successful and if fund raising continues at the present rate we believe that we will be well positioned to adequately cover the major events of the reunion.

I look forward to suggestions by members for any ideas that may assist in future fund raising activities. If there is any other issue that needs to be addressed please contact the committee. Remember, we are committed to ensuring this reunion is an outstanding success.

The single most important issue for this committee is the commitment by you to attending this reunion in 2004.

The attached nomination form will be our guide to the numbers attending so please complete this form as soon as possible so that we are in a position to confirm arrangements with catering, accommodation and entertainment.

Please support the Sydney 2004 reunion and we will guarantee that it will be a magnificent memory for you all.

Thank you and a Merry Christmas to you all.

Adrian Blackburn
President.



THE SECRET TO A HAPPY MARRIAGE

My wife and I have the secret to making a marriage last;
Two times a week, we go to a nice restaurant, have a little wine,
some good food and companionship.
She goes Tuesday, I go Friday

A word from the Secretary.

'REUNION 2004' **FRIDAY 14TH - SATURDAY 15TH - SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2004**

The committee for the 2004 reunion has had quite a few get togethers over the past 12 months. With the input of quite a number of our members and their wives we have come up with a venue that will enable us to have a great reunion in 2004.

Sydney is an expensive City when it comes to accommodation. To meet our requirements and keep the costs to an affordable level we have had to look outside the CBD of Sydney and have selected, after the inspection of many a hotels we have chosen the **Stamford Resort at North Ryde**. North Ryde is 12kms northwest of the City of Sydney. It is on the Epping Highway and within easy access to other alternative accommodation.

We are still in discussion with the Resort about further concessions, and certain matters are yet to be finalised. At this time the accommodation rates are as follows:

Single room inclusive of a full breakfast - \$140.00 (Up to three singles can share a room.)

Double room inclusive of a full breakfast - \$150.00 (Deluxe rooms, queen size bed, etc.)

Prices are fixed for 2004.

The current rack rate for these rooms is \$300 per night.

The resort's Food and Beverage Manager will organise discount coupons for each guest, which will guarantee cheaper prices for your beer, spirits etc.

They will also give us a discount on a buffet in their Parrots Restaurant.

STAMFORD GRAND - NORTH RYDE

- Corner Epping and Herring Roads North Ryde. NSW 2113
Telephone (02) 9888 1077. Fax. (02) 9805 0655.
Email sales@snr.stamford.com.au
Web Site: <http://www.stamford.com.au/Australia.html>, for those with access to the internet you can see the rooms and facilities at the resort that include:
- 250 all suite resort style hotel, boasting a tropical lagoon and garden settings.
- All suites overlook beautifully landscaped gardens, lagoons and waterfall or the 25m heated indoor / outdoor swimming pool.
- 4½ star and 5 star accommodation plus facilities, to cater for the needs of the corporate or independent traveller.
- Extensive conference facilities catering for up to 200 people. 7 function rooms can be divided into 11 meeting areas.
- State of the art Health and Fitness centre, featuring 25m heated indoor/outdoor pool, spa, rebound ace tennis court, latest exercise equipment and relaxing massages.
- **Parrot's Brasserie**
A themed buffet and A La Carte restaurant. Parrots Brasserie is convenient for corporate lunch meetings, birthday parties, family gatherings or dinner for two. Enjoy our extensive buffet with a wide selection of hot and cold dishes. Choose the theme that appeals to you, be it " Bush Tucker Night", "Flavours from the East", "Fun Friday" or the "Grand Seafood Buffet".
Join us for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Open 7 days a week Parrots Brasserie features indoor and outdoor dining with a view overlooking the tranquil lagoon and waterfall.
- **Rickshaws**
If you love Asian Cuisine, treat yourself to an array of authentic Asian delicacies like succulent Peking duck or Prawn and Wild Mushroom Soup. Open from 6pm Sunday to Thursday for dinner only.
- **The Brook**
The comforting atmosphere and fine decor is complimented by efficient and friendly service our Executive Chef welcomes you to taste the satisfying a La Carte seafood menu. The finest cuisine combines with a bottle of wine from the walk in wine cellar and the tropical ambience, can make you visit truly memorable. Open for dinner Monday through to Saturday.
- Sydney's domestic / international airport terminals are 45 minutes away in the suburb of Mascot. The resort will arrange transfers from the airport at no charge if we can organise groups to arrive together. This may take some organising but as you can understand the resort could not be expected to send a shuttle to the airport for one person at a time.
- 20 Minutes from Sydney's CBD and 15 minutes from Stadium Australia at Homebush Bay, the site of the 2000 Olympics.
- Public transport to the city is at the front door along Epping Highway.

- Complimentary car parking for over 300 cars is available for resort guest. It also enables for those of us who do not choose to stay at the Stamford to have secure parking when we meet and travel by coach from there to various venues.

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION IN THE AREA

1. **The Ranch - Hotel Motel.** Corner of Herring & Epping Road Eastwood 2122
Phone (02) 9887 2411. Fax (02) 9888 9145.

This hotel is directly across the road from the Stamford Resort.

Room Rates are: Single \$99.00

Double / Twin \$100.00

Rates are inclusive of a fully cooked complimentary breakfast served to your room between 0700 and 0830

These rates apply to 2002 and could not be obtained for 2004.

2. **Travelodge Macquarie North Ryde.** 81 Talevera Road North Ryde. 2113

This Motel 1 kilometre from the Stamford.

Room Rates are: Single, Twin, Double. \$125.00 / night.

Buffet breakfast: \$10.50 per person / day

These rates apply to 2002 and could not be obtained for 2004.

3. **Lane Cove River Caravan Park.** Plassey Road, North Ryde 2113

Phone (02) 9888 9133. Fax. (02) 9888 9322

This caravan park is a short distance away from the Stamford by car.

Rates for 2002. \$24.00 / Night for two (2) people.

\$ 9.00 / Night for any extra adult.

\$4.50 / Night for any extra children.

These rates apply to 2002 and could not be obtained for 2004.

I have mentioned a few of the alternative accommodation within the main venue area. As you are aware Sydney has many Hotels and Motels in which you may choose to stay or you may want to stay with friends or relations, which is quite OK. All we ask is that you attend all our get togethers and functions and be on time for any bus trips that we will have leaving from the Stamford.

The committee would like to see all members attend the reunion in 2004.

To assist us in our forward planning for the 2004 reunion, which we want to be a very successful and enjoyable reunion for us all, **I am asking you to complete and return to me by the end of December 2002** the attached questionnaire. I can't emphasise enough how important the returning of the questionnaire is to the planning of the reunion and the running of this organisation.

"PLEASE, PLEASE" MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SPEND A LITTLE TIME AND 45 cents TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM.

It would be greatly appreciated if you fill in the form even if you are unable to attend in 2004.

If you know of any member who may have changed address and forgot to keep us informed, please let us know.

Thank you all for assisting us to arrange the 2004 Reunion.

Peter Ingrey.

QUESTIONNAIRE – 2002
17 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON WORKSHOPS
VIETNAM ASSOCIATION

To assist us in keeping our records up to date and to get an idea of how many could be coming our next reunion in 2004, please fill out the questionnaire and return it to:

THE SECRETARY:

PETER INGREY 19 HOWSE CRESENT, CROMER HEIGHTS. NSW 2099

FIRST Name: _____ Family Name: _____

Wife / Partners Name: _____

Postal Address: _____ Town: _____

Post Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Are you planning to attend the next reunion of the 17 Construction Squadron Workshops Vietnam Association to be held in SYDNEY during the Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorations Weekend of the 14th, 15th, & 16th August 2004.

YES

NO

MAYBE

(Please Circle One)

Any other comments / Suggestions / Questions you may have:

Thank you very much for completing and returning this questionnaire before the end of 2002.

Please note: Just a reminder to those of you who, at this time have not contributed to the Yearly voluntary annual subscription of \$10.00.

If you are able to, please include your payment when you return this questionnaire.

PAYMENT OF \$ _____ INCLUDED. Signed. _____

THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF ALL MEMBERS.