



17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association



THE FURPHY WAGON *NEWSLETTER - December 2020*

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Daniel James Garlin MSM

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Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year to you all

SECRETARY/TREASURER

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PATRON

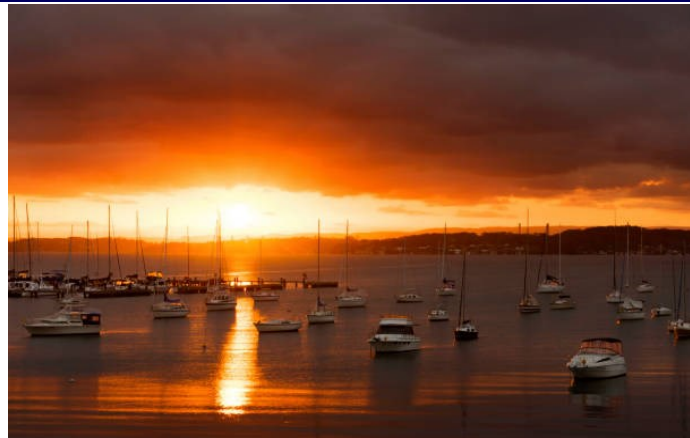
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Port Macquarie Beaches and Waterways



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WHAT THE PREZ SEZ

The best of wishes to you and your families for the upcoming Christmas and have a Happy and Fulfilling New Year.

Talking of the New Year, It is the Year of the PORT MACQUARIE REUNION.

Yes we going ahead with the planning and organizing of the 2021 Reunion.

The dates are set in concrete and it will take a return to the COVID19 Virus restrictions to put a stop to it.

The Dates are - Monday 11th of OCTOBER to Departing on Saturday 16th OCTOBER 2021 - But you may stay as long as you wish.

This newsletter has all the information regarding the Caravan Park and Local Accommodation to allow you to choose where you would like to stay. Port Macquarie is quite a large town with a great variety of interesting things for everyone with plenty to do and see.

As mentioned in the registration form I would like everyone to book as early as possible so we can have numbers to plan our agenda and book venues. We will be trying to keep costs down by making most of the venues within easy walking distances from the caravan park which is close to the town center.

The farthest would be a leisurely 20 minute flat walk. For those of you who require transport please let me know so arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs.

Get those bookings going, it is going to be a great get together.

Keep Well

Peter. Rest in peace Shorty.

Port Macquarie Reunion Details

Details of the Port Macquarie reunion are as follows:

DATE: *Monday 11th to Saturday 16th October 2021*

The accommodation we have selected is the NRMA Port Macquarie Breakwall Holiday Park. It is just a 2 minute walk into the township of Port Macquarie and a 2 minute walk to patrolled beaches and a short walk to many of the planned venues.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Breakwall Holiday Park:

Email: portmacquarie@nrmaparksandresorts.com.au

Address: 1 Munster St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Phone: 02 65832755

We have been in contact with the parks management and they will accept bookings from Friday 4th December 2020. When making a booking please mention 17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association.

Links to Caravan Park sites and cabins:

https://www.nrmaparksandresorts.com.au/port-macquarie/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2020/10/NRMA_PMB_Park-Maps-2020-1-1-2048x1448.jpg

[Port Macquarie Accommodation | NRMA Port Macquarie Holiday Park
\(nrmaparksandresorts.com.au\)](https://www.nrmaparksandresorts.com.au/port-macquarie/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2020/10/NRMA_PMB_Park-Maps-2020-1-1-2048x1448.jpg)

Please ensure that your bookings are made **before March 2021** as we have been told that the Park is always heavily booked from this time onwards. We should have no troubles if you make a booking before March. We have asked the Park to allow you to place a \$100 deposit at the time of the booking with the balance to be paid at a later date when we know numbers and then we can negotiate a cost for a bulk booking. The park is offering us a 30% discount if we have more than 30 sites/units booked by the association, so PLEASE, make sure you tell them you are with **17 Construction Squadron Workshop reunion**.

If COVID19 prevents the reunion from going ahead your monies will be returned and if a medical condition prevents you from attending and you give 14 days' notice your monies will also be returned.

If arriving by plane the distance to the Holiday park from the airport is about 6Km and a taxi would cost around \$18. What has been brought to light during the COVID19 pandemic is that people who booked their plane fights through a travel agency are having a great deal of trouble in getting their monies returned. (It is held for a rescheduled flight at a later date) While those who booked directly with the airline and used a credit card for payment had less trouble it seems getting their monies back due to travel restrictions.

There are many types of accommodation available in the area if you do not want to stay in the caravan park. Below is a link for those who wish to stay in alternative accommodation.

[https://www.booking.com/accommodation/city/au/port-macquarie.en-gb.html?
aid=803109;label=msn-OsvARuZkNoa2mF0L6wJniQ-16820009048%3Atikwd-
16772961466%3Aloc-9%3Aneo%3Aante%3](https://www.booking.com/accommodation/city/au/port-macquarie.en-gb.html?aid=803109;label=msn-OsvARuZkNoa2mF0L6wJniQ-16820009048%3Atikwd-16772961466%3Aloc-9%3Aneo%3Aante%3)

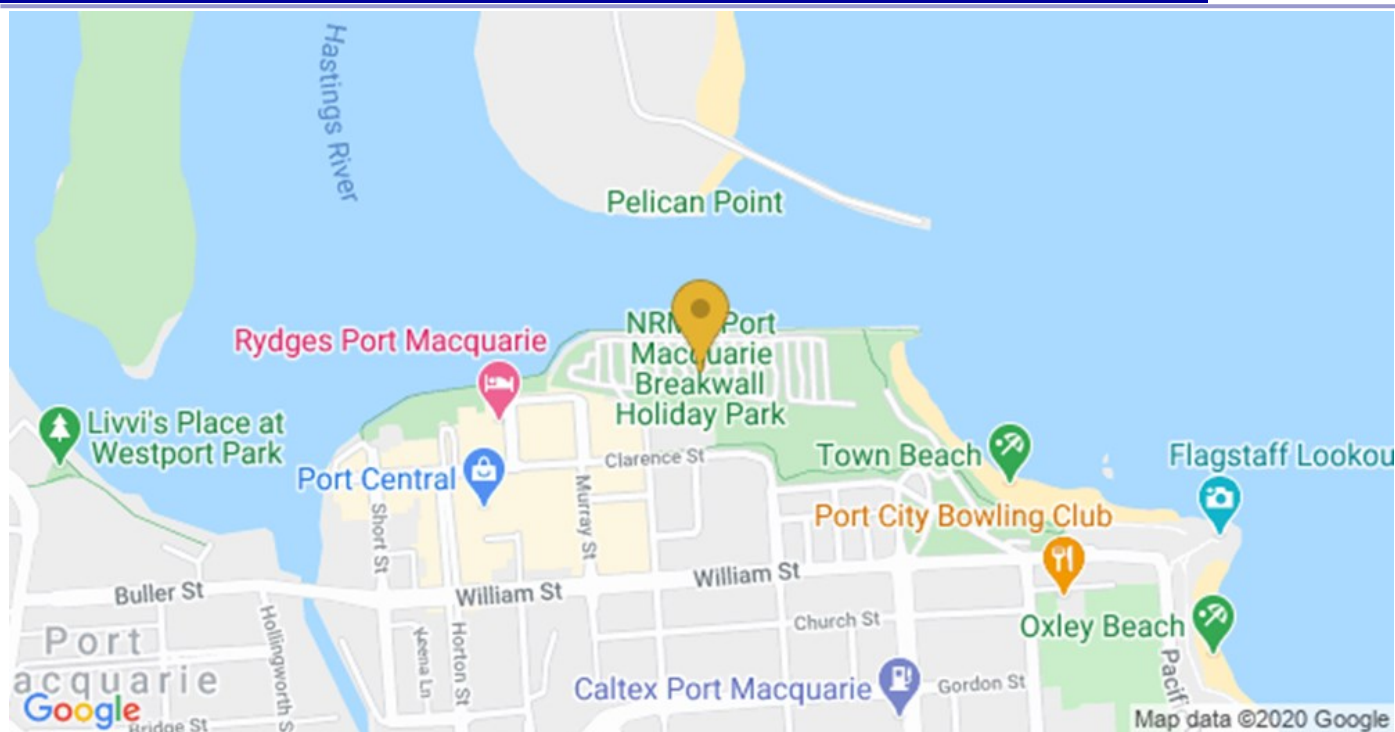
I would like to have numbers as early as possible and no later than the middle of February 2021. This will allow me time to put a program together. If you are going to attend the reunion, please click on this link to register online: <https://forms.gle/oNb1wHfhhG4DNqhd7>

OR

Fill out the form on the last page and mail it in.

NO LATER than 15 February 2021

Peter Ingrey



Port Macquarie Museum

How did Port Macquarie transform itself from a British penal colony to a popular holiday destination? You can find out at the Port Macquarie Museum. Housed in a cheery red-brick building, this worthwhile little museum unveils the town's history, including its first inhabitants, the Birpai

people; its convict past; the lucrative timber industry; and its rich river and maritime history. It's a great place to visit when you first arrive to learn about what makes the town tick.

The exhibits here are fun and informative. Highlights include the Arcade of Shops, with objects used by early settlers, and the costume gallery, where you can see what early settlers wore and even dress up in vintage clothes. Interactive activities engage the kids, and the friendly volunteers are happy to chat with visitors.

The museum is open every day except Sunday, and you'll need at least an hour to get the most out of your visit. Exhibits are refreshed regularly, so you'll always see something new here.

If you're looking for things to do in Port Macquarie when it's raining, this is a great option for the whole family.

Address: 22 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie, New South Wales

Official site: <https://portmuseum.org.au/>

VALE

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of the following members.

242502 WO1 BRUCE LARK

Bruce Lark served with the unit as ASM from 10 Mar 1967 until 30 Jan 1968. Unfortunately, Bruce lost contact with most of the members of 17 Construction Squadron Workshop after his tour of duty. We heard of his passing via the Queensland RSL Magazine. Our sincere condolences to the Lark family. Rest in Peace Bruce.

243271 Sapper DENNIS (Shorty) ELLIS

Shorty Ellis was an ex-apprentice who was assigned to the RAE as a Blacksmith tradesman at the completion of his apprenticeship.

Shorty was posted to 17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam from 27 Apr 1967 to 14 May 1968. He then did a second tour of SVN with 1 Field Squadron Workshop between 25 Mar 1970 and 25 Mar 1971. Shorty attended many of our reunions since the formation of the association and will be sadly missed by his many mates.

Sadly gone but not forgotten.

Lest We Forget



1000 Men Are Walking

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JOSHUA DYER 2019 (AGED 14)



Powerful.. Joshua Dyer (aged 14) was tasked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day. An hour later (without any help) he produced this..

*One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
They walk toward the light milord
They walk towards the sun
They smoke and laugh and smile together
No foes to outrun
These men live on forever
In the hearts of those they saved
A nation truly grateful
For the path of peace they paved
They march as friends and comrades
But they do not march for war
Step closer to salvation
A tranquil steady corps
The meadows lit with golden beams
A beacon for the brave
The emerald grass untrampled
A reward for what they gave
They dream of those they left behind
And know they dream of them
Forever in those poppy fields
There walks one thousand men*

Lest we forget

DVA Help Website

Do you need assistance from DVA?? Below is a link to the Department of Veterans Affairs website.

FOR URGENT HELP AND SUPPORT - click on the following link:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/>

There you will find a variety of links to support the veteran and veteran family needs.

Just For Laughs

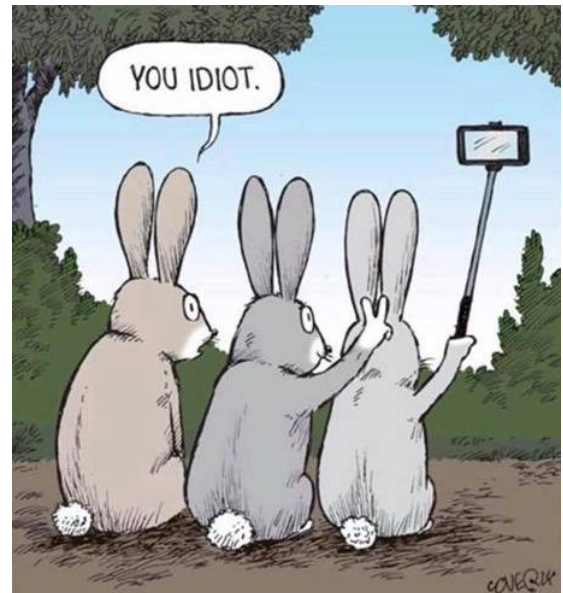


A SHORT GUN STORY

A GUY WALKED INTO A CROWDED BAR, WAVING HIS UNHOLSTERED PISTOL AND YELLED, "I HAVE A 45 CALIBER COLT 1911 WITH A SEVEN ROUND MAGAZINE PLUS ONE IN THE CHAMBER AND I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING WITH MY WIFE."

A VOICE FROM THE BACK OF THE ROOM CALLED OUT,

"YOU NEED MORE AMMO!!!"



Paddy took 2 stuffed dogs to the Antiques Roadshow....

"Ooh!" Said the presenter, "This is a very rare breed, do you have any idea what they would fetch if they were in good condition?"

"Sticks." replied Paddy.

Reunion Attendance Form

SURNAME: _____

GIVEN NAME OR NICKNAME: _____

MOBILE: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS (If changed): _____

_____ POST CODE: _____

WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THE REUNION: YES NO

HOW MANY PEOPLE (Incl yourself) WILL BE ATTENDING: _____

NAMES OF THE OTHER PEOPLE ATTENDING:

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS ie Wheelchair, Gluten Free, Vegetarian etc.

***** Please detach and send to:- *****

The Secretary
17 Const Sqdn Wksp Vietnam Assoc
PO Box 5062
Dora Creek.
NSW 2264

** NO LATER THAN 15 FEBRUARY 2021 **