

17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association

NEWSLETTER - May Edition 2011

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South Of The Border

The Cruise - What Happened

The 2011 reunion has now come to an end, but what a reunion it was.

The activities commenced on ANZAC Day with the unit banner being paraded at the Sydney march.

Although attendance numbers were down those on parade had a great march and then continued their day at the reunion with 17 Construction Squadron members.

Some rain threatened the day but after a small sprinkling the march got under way and there was no stopping the troops.

The reunion proper got underway on the evening of Thursday 28th April with a meet and greet function.

Most of the members attending the cruise were there and enjoyed themselves immensely. The night continued until late with many members coming together for the first time since the Darwin reunion. The first day of any reunion is always a great function and this was no exception. Once in the swing of things people got going and the evening went so quickly. Although the function was scheduled to take place between 1800 hours to 2000 hours, members stayed until after midnight.



17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association on parade at the 2011 Sydney ANZAC Day march.



Meet & Greet at the Hyde Park Inn - Thursday 28th

On Friday the 29th we were ferried by bus from the Hyde Park Inn to the P & O ship *The Pacific Jewel*. After a very quick check in - the members gathered around the decks and began the cruise formalities with a drink or two.



The P & O Ship The Pacific Jewel



On deck of the Pacific Jewel with, from left, Bob Martin, Bob Callinan and Brian Pope.

After a small mechanical problem which delayed our departure by a couple of hours, we finally got under way. The Sydney sights at night were just beyond belief. The Harbour Bridge, the Opera House and the harbour itself glowed in all it's splendour.

The tug boat and a Manly ferry followed us until we got to the heads and then we were on our own.



A tug boat guiding the Pacific Jewel out of the harbour



The Opera House at night - from the deck of the ship



The Harbour Bridge at night - from the deck of the ship

With the cruise now underway we had a life boat drill to ensure that we would be safe in the event of an emergency.



Wow, that's a life vest ???

The cruise was going along nicely but as we prepared for dinner we were attacked by pirates. It was a very harsh encounter with the pirates prepared to stop at nothing to have their way with us. Most passengers subdued to their demands, it was that or suffer the consequences.



Boy - Do pirates really know how to spoil your fun !!



Oh Billy - What are you doing??



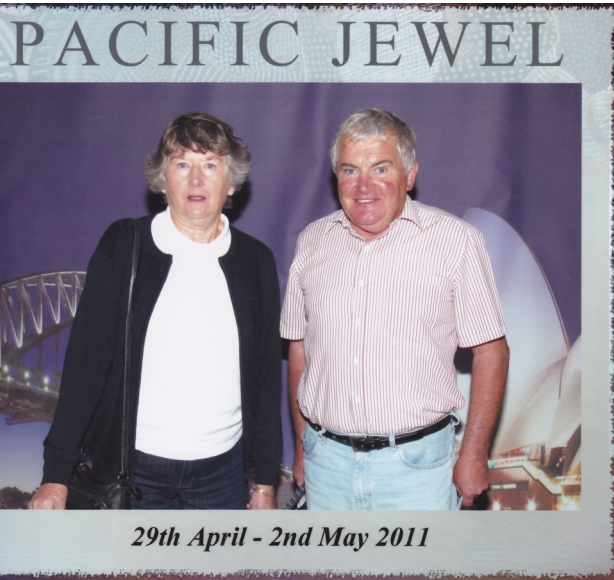
SAILORS OF THE PACIFIC JEWEL



1st May 2011

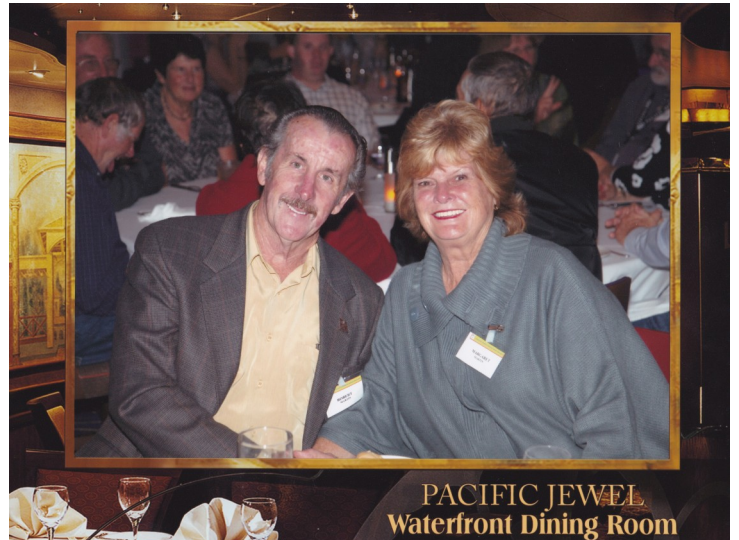
Stewart Brett on deck with a couple of the ship's hard working crew

Below - The Sydney Opera House as we re-entered the harbour



29th April - 2nd May 2011

Helen & Peter Ingrey boarding the ship



Bob & Margaret Martin - Dining at the Waterfront Dining Room



Hello sailor !! Peter Bevilaqua, Cliff Richards, Keith Lawry and John Farmello on deck



The Male members



The Female members

All in all the members enjoyed the reunion cruise, unfortunately it had to come to an end. The three days went by very quickly and the feed-back was extremely positive with the general consensus being that it was a another very successful reunion. The two years since the Alice reunion went very quickly and it is now time to begin preparations for the next event. September 2013, mark it in your diary now.

Where to now

The association held a meeting during the cruise to decide the next committee and venue for the 2013 reunion.

Much discussion took place but the general consensus was that South Australia should be the venue. Keith Lawry being a South Australian was elected to the position of President, Snowy Whykes was re-elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

The Clare Valley was very prominent in the venue discussions with a strong push to hold all of the functions there. Some members were concerned that the Clare Valley may not have enough in the way of facilities for the day to day entertainment of members. The organising committee will investigate the prospect of all functions in the Clare Valley with alternatives for accommodation with some functions being held in the Clare Valley. Whichever way it pans out, the Clare Valley is on the agenda and we

will be there for the 2013 reunion.

COMMUNICATIONS

Some members expressed disappointment that they were not receiving regular newsletters. The Secretary will investigate the reasons why some have not been receiving the newsletter. If you do not want to receive further communications from the association, please inform the Secretary and you will be removed from the mailing list. If you know of any member not receiving the newsletter, again, please inform the Secretary and we will attempt to solve the problem.

If you are on email you will receive only the electronically mailed newsletter, others will receive a hard copy in the mail.

The Clare Valley reunion details will be sent to you as they unfold.

See you in South Australia