



17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association



NEWSLETTER - May 2014 Edition

PRESIDENT

Cliff Richards

Phone: (03) 54430457

Mobile: 0419588051

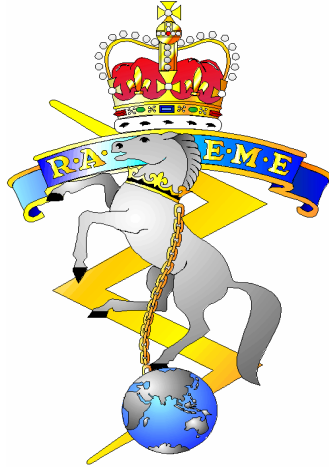
Email: carichards@rslclub.com.au

FOUNDATION MEMBER

Dan Garlin

WEB SITE:

www.17construction.org.au



SECRETARY/TREASURER

Garry (Snow) Whykes

Phone: (08)92761920

Mobile: 0411810077

Email: 17wksp@gmail.com

PATRON

George Jones AM



BENDIGO - THE RUSH IS ON

What The Prez Sez

The December newsletter was my first introductory Presidents report, since then time has flown, Christmas and AN-ZAC Day has come and gone. It's now time for me to get serious about getting myself into gear and start doing some Reunion things.

I have to apologise to the Reunion team committee for not touching base with them, I have found myself super busy with the

RSL and some personal business, unfortunately this has taken up most of my spare time.

Trish and I are getting one of our Bucket list items off the wish list and we are off to Canada and the East Coast of America for 6 weeks, we will be back on deck towards the end of June, to be honest my reunion thoughts will be elsewhere during this time, but please let me reassure you I will get myself into gear

once we are back in Australia.

Snow has been cracking the whip a little bit and has been in touch with the caravan park and I have been looking at some additional accommodation for those wishing to camp elsewhere, there are a few other ideas floating around that I would like to put forward to the committee that I hope will ensure the Bendigo Reunion will be an enjoyable and pleasant experience. Snow will be filtering out other information to you in this newsletter, it's still early stages but your response to Snow will be important as we plan the next stages of our reunion.

If we have a good attendance response it looks like we will be able to book out the Caravan Park, the sites, units and villas look pretty good and the park owners are keen to make sure we are looked after, I have had a look at some alternative accommodation not far from the caravan park similar to what was available in Clare, at

this early stage the accommodation side of things looks to be covered.

If someone out there has any requests to do something special? Please send them through to me or Snow.

What I have noticed over the past couple of months is there have been a few people on the sick list, I'm not in the habit of sending flowers (I will to the girls but not the blokes) but it would be nice to send off a cheerful get well card, if you do know of someone who is having a downer, please let Snow or myself know. It's a fact of life that we are all getting older but it doesn't mean we stop enjoying ourselves, so everyone look after your self and be in top shape for the Bendigo Reunion. When I talk to people about our reunions I refer to them as friendship reunions, for we have over the years, all become very good friends and it great fun to be together.

Cliff Richards - President

VALE - Russ Walker

***I**t is with deep regret that we announce the passing of another mate. Russell Walker served with 17 Construction Squadron Workshop from 23 August 1967 until 14 May 1968. Russ was a National Serviceman who served his country with dignity. He made many friends in Vietnam and devoted a lot of his time to Veterans and their families after his discharge. Russ passed away on the 7th April after a very long illness. Farewell old mate.*

Our condolences to Sandra and family. A sad loss indeed.



Lest We Forget

The Bendigo Reunion

*The dates for the Bendigo Reunion are now set. **Monday the 19th 'til Friday 23rd October 2015.** Please diarise these dates now.*

At the Clare reunion, we were requested to hold the Bendigo reunion during the week rather than a week-end, it was also requested that we have a rest day included. So Wednesday 21st is scheduled as the mid-week rest day.

Detailed activities are yet to be finalised but the general consensus is that we do not crowd the week. One activity will be a day trip, but the rest of the activities will be spread out over the four days with no early rises.

Accommodation is being confirmed as we speak. We have decided on a caravan

park that has very good facilities including excellent cabin accommodation. We will most likely have the whole park booked for our stay, however, that is yet to be confirmed and it will depend on the numbers attending.

There is a questionnaire at the end of this newsletter. You can respond in one of two ways. First, there is a link to an on-line questionnaire. Just click on the link (or cut and paste into your browser), answer the questions and press send - it's as simple as that. Or - if you don't have access to the internet, you can fill in the last page and send it to the Secretary at the address stated in this newsletter.

Once we have received your reply, we will commence our detailed organisation of events.

DON'T FORGET THE DATES.

Bendigo and Districts Activities

Bendigo has a lot to offer visitors and tourists at spring time. We will be handing out some brochures and pamphlets at the reunion, but it is strongly advised that you go to the Bendigo Tourist website and check out the many activities available around Bendigo and surrounding districts.

Want to know more about Bendigo - have a look at the following links:

http://www.tripadvisor.com.au/Attractions-g255347-Activities-Bendigo_Victoria.html

<http://www.travelvictoria.com.au/bendigo/>

Please be aware that you need to check out our activities before you make any commitments.



Left - The Bendigo Soldiers Memorial Museum.

We will be holding a service here during our re-union.

Point of difference

The Museum collection is housed in the Soldiers Memorial Institute in the centre of Bendigo. The origins of the building go back to before the end of the Great War. The Memorial was opened by the then Governor, the Earl of Stradbroke on Tuesday 15th November 1921. It was a fitting memorial to the thousands of Bendigo boys who enlisted and to those who made the supreme sacrifice. The Bendigo RSL Sub Branch was granted tenancy from that day on. The massive brass Honor Rolls on the front of the memorial were unveiled by the Federal President of Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League of Australia, Captain Gilbert Dyett (Later to become Sir Gilbert) on

Details

The decision to turn the memorial into a Museum came about after discussions lasting some 18 months with Passchendaele Barracks Military Historical Society whose collection was housed in the old Barracks in Mollison Street Bendigo.

Initially the Museum opened to the public on a trial basis in October 1997 and officially in February 1998. The collection has grown at a steady rate since.

The collection now covers from pre Boer War to Afghanistan including Army, Navy, Air Force, POW's and Women's Services. The material is extensive from medals, uniforms & equipment, firearms, swords and bayonets, trench art, personnel items, diaries, letters and post cards. There are some 80 plus folders containing copies of diaries, photos, letters, post cards and records laid out on tables for visitors to browse. One significant collection is the number of Honor Rolls from old Schools and Churches that have closed down. A major part of the collection revolves around Bendigo's own 38th Battalion AIF which was raised in 1916 for service overseas. Their Battle Honors are a major part of the collection. The Regimental Colours of the 38ths predecessor, the 67th Battalion are also on display. A major boost to the 38th collection was the photos taken by Jack and Bert Grinton which was to become known around Australia as A Camera on the Somme. Their personnel effects from the War are also part of the display.

We also have a large library and volumes of research records. Information is available on researching service records, medals, entitlements and related issues.

The Building and Museum collection are a lasting tribute to the men and women of Australia who served their country.

*In the meantime, we ask that you inform us of your intentions to attend the reunion. Please **click** on the following link and follow the instructions. (if it does not open, cut and paste into your browser). Please DO NOT **Edit** the form.*

Link details:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r454KYPHST8qECBoKU8KmrCaAoGovz8TLc2Kb3A4F2k/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

OR

Go to the last page of this newsletter and fill in the details and post it to:

The Secretary/Treasurer

33 Kanimbla Way

Morley WA 6062

***** Please Note *****

You need to reply before the end of August 2014

Why Old Diggers Re-Unite

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed together, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men.

I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades...Such good men."

By an unnamed Soldier

Reunion Travel & Accommodation

We have, once again, employed the services of a Travel Agent for this reunion so that members can organize their travel to co-ordinate with our accommodation and activity timings. The following details are those of our Travel Agent of Choice.

*Please ensure that you tell **Erin** you are from 17 Construction Squadron Workshop and you are attending the reunion.*



Erin Pearce

Travel Manager

Travelaction Bendigo

112 Wills St Bendigo, Vic 3550

Australia

Phone: (03) 54422111

Fax: (03)54413806

Email: erin@travelaction.com.au

Website: www.travelaction.com.au

***F**or our accommodation we have selected the **Big 4 Bendigo Ascot Holiday Park**. This park has a total of 35 Powered Sites and another 8 with ensuites. There is also a very wide range of cabin accommodation from which to choose. But be aware, that the first in, best dressed policy will apply.*

*Please call **Shirley** on 1800 062 340 (8am - 8pm). Please tell her you are attending the 17 Construction Squadron Workshop reunion.*

There is a Big 4 brochure on the following page.

* o o O o o *

*For something a little more **up-market**, we have chosen **Langley Hall**, which is only a short distance from the Holiday Park. If you are interested in staying here, please call Jenny Gurry on 0409518669 or email anthony@juven.com.au. Please tell her you are attending the 17 Construction Squadron Workshop reunion.*

A brochure is on the following pages.



LANGLEY HALL

ANTHONY & JENNY GURRY

Phone: 0409 518 669
484 Napier St, Bendigo VIC 3550
anthony@juven.com.au
www.langleyhall.com.au



LANGLEY HALL

0409 518 669 • 484 Napier Street, Bendigo

weddings
accommodation
functions

THE MANSION

Langley Hall is an Edwardian Mansion built in 1903 for the then Anglican Bishop of Bendigo and is now fully restored and refurbished as a private elegant and restful bed and breakfast accommodation. With opulent furnishings, this property is abundant with original art work and fine antiques. This large imposing residence with its ample verandas and vast gardens provides the opportunity for guests to enjoy areas of quiet relaxation.

Upon entering Langley Hall one immediately senses the vastness and generous proportions of this historic property. For our guest's comfort and convenience we offer several public areas - the Formal Lounge Room, the Parlour and the Drawing Room, all furnished to encourage you to make the most of your time with us.

The style of accommodation at Langley Hall complements the other grand facades and fine buildings which bear witness to the wealth created in Bendigo during its heyday in the 1850s as a major gold mining centre.

HISTORY

The See House or Bishops Palace for the newly formed diocese of Bendigo was designed by William Vahland and John Beebe.

Henry Langley was the first Anglican Bishop of Bendigo. He died only a couple of years into his role, and was replaced by his brother, John. When the third Bishop of Bendigo was appointed a new See House was established in the CBD. Langley Hall has been used in a variety of ways since. For around forty years until 1979 it was a Toddlers Home, Wards of the state from birth to five years of age were cared for here. It has also been a reception centre, an antique store, and for the last decade or so has been a beautiful Bed and Breakfast Establishment.

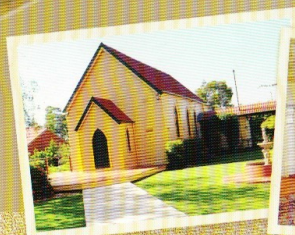
ACCOMMODATION

The elegant bedrooms have ensembles or private bathrooms, all with fine furnishings, heating, cooling, TV, plus all the superior accoutrements you would expect to find in a boutique hotel.

WEDDINGS/FUNCTIONS

Langley Hall is a beautiful venue to hold weddings or any special functions. A picturesque Chapel with a large entertainment deck is available on the property and is perfect for a myriad of occasions; Weddings, Conferences, Birthdays, Naming Days, Anniversaries.


www.langleyhall.com.au



BIG4
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BENDIGO

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Phone: (03) 5448 4421 Fax: (03) 5448 3162
Email: stay@big4bendigo.com.au

RESERVATIONS

Freecall: 1800 062 340 (8am – 8pm)

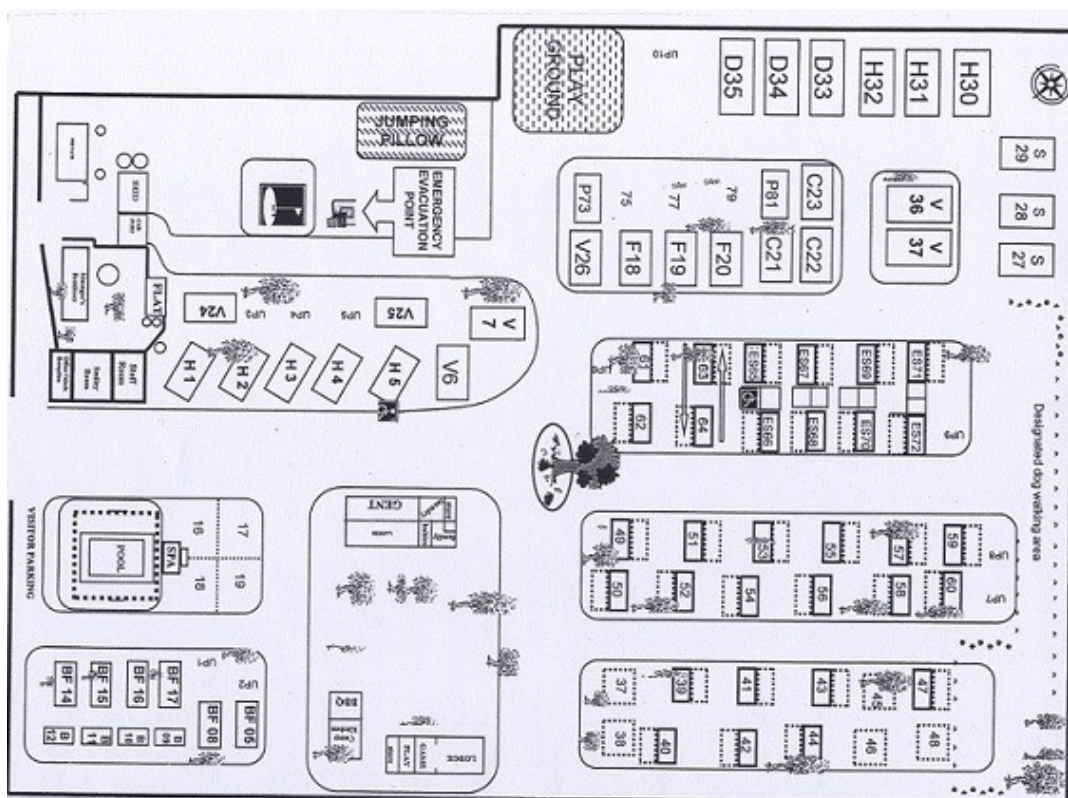
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An Independent member of BIG4 Holiday Parks Australia Pty Ltd



REUNION Attendance Questionnaire

SURNAME: _____

GIVEN NAME: _____

PREFERRED NAME: _____

ADDRESS 1: _____

ADDRESS 2: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____

STATE: _____ POST CODE: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: () _____

MOBILE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE ATTENDING WITH YOU: _____

NAME OF PARTNER: _____

NAME OF OTHER PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____

WHAT TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION DO YOU REQUIRE:

Caravan Park Powered Site: ☐

Caravan Park Cabin: ☐

Hotel Accommodation: ☐

DATE OF ARRIVAL: _____

DATE OF DEPARTURE: _____

HOW WILL YOU BE TRAVELLING: _____

(eg car, fly, train, bus etc.)

WILL YOU BE REQUIRING THE USE OF A TRAVEL AGENT: YES ☐ NO ☐

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: _____

(eg Wheel chair access, vegetarian, etc)