



NEWSLETTER - May 2016

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PATRON

George Jones AM

The Sunshine Coast Beautiful One Day - Perfect The Next



What The Prez Sez

WHAT THE OUTGOING PREZ SEZ

On behalf of the Bendigo committee we hope everyone enjoyed their stay in Bendigo, I would like to thank all those who have sent personal messages thanking us for a memorable reunion, I am a great believer that it's the people around you that make good things happen and I would be first to return the compliments by saying thank you to everyone for being such good company.

I had a couple of the organisations that provided us with their services contact me saying

what a wonderful group we were and how pleasant it was for them to be part of our reunion, one of these donated some of the money we paid them back to us. On the lighter side I have had the local military question me on how we were granted Freedom of the City because this is something that is not taken lightly, I just told them we had our hand in the Mayors pocket.

I have had the pleasure of presenting certificates of appreciation to the students who assisted us; I can assure you they were very excited about their gifts. We are getting to the wind up stage with all of our outstanding accounts and Snow informs me there is enough in the bank for a good start at the next reunion.

Congratulation to the incoming committee, everyone stay healthy, try and behave yourselves and I hope to catch up with you at our next reunion in Queensland.

Kind Regards,

Cliff Richards

FROM TREZ THE NEW PREZ

Firstly - We would like to pass on our condolences to George Jones on the loss of his brother and to Dan Garland on the loss of his daughter. Unfortunately, both of these tragic events took place during our Bendigo reunion.

Secondly to the outgoing President Cliff Richards and his committee thank you for the great Bendigo Reunion. Once again it was an extraordinary five days of catching up with mates, friends and lots of laughs had by all.

I would like to introduce you to my committee for the 2017 reunion at the Sunshine Coast, ' Beautiful one day, Perfect the next '.

President: Tres Adams

Vice President: Paul Jenkins

Secretary/Treasurer: Snowy Whykes

Committee Members: Peter Young and Dave Chalk.

As you all are aware the 2017 Reunion is to be held on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. This is about 100 kilometers north of Brisbane and a popular tourist destination. Planes fly into Maroochydore Airport daily from most capital cities airlines being Jetstar, Virgin and Tiger.

At this time we would estimate the reunion to be held in late July, however, we need to check what events are to be held in the area around this time as this will depend on availability of accommodation.

To all the members keep safe in the meantime.

Tres & Sharyn

BENDIGO Reunion In One Word - WOW!!

*The Bendigo reunion was summed up beautifully by a group of members when leaving the Ascot Caravan Park to head home. It was **AMAZING**.*

*The Bendigo reunion was held over a five day period, commencing on Monday 19th October and winding up on Friday 23rd October 2015. During this period a host of events took place but highlighted with a parade and march as part of granting **17 Construction Squadron Workshop** the “**Freedom of the City**”. This, in itself, was extremely rare and we are advised that never before has a non-serving military organization been granted such an honour.*

The reunion commenced mid-morning on Monday 19th with a welcoming address from President Cliff Richards. This was followed by morning tea and general get-together, The evening was a semi-formal event at the Bendigo and District RSL Sub-Branch and a great way to get the reunion into full swing.

***Tuesday** was one of the most memorable days in the history of this association. **17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association** was granted “Freedom Of The City” of Greater Bendigo.*



Former Officer Commanding 17 Construction Squadron Workshop (John Fenton) is granted “Freedom Of The City” of Greater Bendigo after a challenge by Inspector Peter Greaney of the Victoria Police and the Mayor of Bendigo Mister Peter Cox.



The troops about to form up for the march into Bendigo - Column of Blob!!!!



17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association led by John Fenton and under the watchful eye of RSM for the day Steve Chapman, begin their march.



The challenge is accepted.



The troops march into position for the Official Ceremony.



Officials, dignitaries and guests gather for the ceremony.



The Ceremony begins.



Madi Churchill sings the National Anthem.



Corrine Harris presenting the Requiem.



A piper playing the Lament.

To say that Tuesday 20th October 2015 was a very significant and special day in the history of 17 Construction Squadron Workshop Vietnam Association would be very much an understatement. It is extremely unusual for a non-serving military organization to be granted the privilege of "Freedom Of The City". But we were given that privilege and those who participated are extremely proud of the fact that they were members of the Association.

Our parade and ceremony was well supported by the general community of the City of Greater Bendigo. All of the dignitaries (or their representative) who were invited to our parade attended with pride.

Mayor, Peter Cox, Inspector Peter Greaney of the Victoria Police and Ms Lisa Chester, Local MP all accepted our invitation with each laying a wreath during the ceremony.

Along with the invited dignitaries, we had the pleasure of two young ladies from local high schools who gave their time to help make the occasion memorable. Madi Churchill sang the

National Anthem and Corrine Harris presented the requiem, both of these young ladies were very impressive in the manner in which they presented themselves, their schools and the City of Bendigo. The future of our country is in very good hands with young people of this standard ready to take our country into the future.

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Along with Madi and Corrine performing for us, we also had the Clan McCloud Pipe band,

Mr Geoff Timke played the bugle and Mr Ken Bowen amazed us with his knowledge of RAEME in his role as MC at the ceremony and our formal dinner.

Wednesday was a new day, the ladies went on a Tram Tour of Bendigo with morning tea included, while the men had a tour of the Veterans Sheds at the Bendigo RSL sub-branch. A wonderful morning with informative presentations by the members who utilize the magnificent environment made possible through the support of the RSL. Then it was off to the Chinese Museum for lunch.

Wednesday evening was the Formal Dinner. Another wonderful event on the reunion agenda. The dinner was held at the Bendigo RSL Sub-branch and was spectacular. With the MC (Ken Bowen) really letting us know his knowledge and perspective of the corps of RAEME, we had many laughs.

The Bendigo Chinese Dance group performed for us and it was, to say the least, a breathtaking performance.

The evening was a spectacular event, even our sweet dish was displayed in Red, Yellow and Blue.



Master of Ceremonies Ken Bowen holds up a picture of Association President Cliff Richards - or was it Tony Abbott?



Madi Churchill receives her Certificate Of Appreciation from Association Secretary "Snowy" Whykes



Princess Marilyn with the raffle prizes.

Thursday was a trip to the Vietnam Memorial at Seymour where members found their name on the Wall Of Honour. We spent some time browsing the "Wall" and those members who were there for the first time were very impressed with what they saw.



Pictures of the Vietnam Memorial Walk - Seymour, Victoria.

Every Vietnam veteran has his name on this wall

Then it was on to the Mitchelton winery for lunch where we were welcomed by the staff and treated very well indeed.

***F**riday we had a luncheon at the Bendigo Pottery where members browsed and purchased some of the finest pottery to be found in Australia before sitting down to lunch. Once again the staff welcomed us with open arms.*

Friday evening was our final function. We had a Pizza van come into the caravan park and produce some really nice meals for the reunion attendees. We had a sixties group performing and entertaining us.

All in all, this reunion was well attended and enjoyed by all. The hospitality offered to us by the City of Greater Bendigo and especially the Bendigo and Districts RSL Sub Branch was outstanding.

Our association should be very proud of it's achievements over the years, we have gone from strength to strength and one can only encourage people who have not attended a reunion to give serious thought to attending the next one. Some first time attendees have stated "I have left it too long".

Now for the Sunshine Coast.

GIVE US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Do YOU have an email address and receive a hard copy of this newsletter. If so, please let the Secretary know your email details and it will save us on postage.

Our email address is: 17wksp@gmail.com

And Now For The SUNSHINE COAST

The Sunshine Coast is the venue for our 2017 reunion. At this point in time the penciled-in dates are the 4th 'til the 8th September. The new committee are currently working very hard to secure accommodation and event venues. The Sunshine Coast is very popular and many people secure semi-permanent sites at caravan parks etc. so they can "go north for the winter". There are many events around the area mostly all year round - so Please be patient with us until we can guarantee your bookings.

We are once again, in need of sponsorship support. Sponsorship keeps your costs down, so if you know of any companies etc. who are prepared to chip in, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We will inform you of further reunion updates as more confirmed information comes to hand.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

At the completion of the reunion our financials were sent to the Senior Financial Business Manager of the Bendigo RSL and I am pleased to say that our finances are in order and a balance sheet appears on page ten of this newsletter.

We finished the reunion in a very healthy financial state, but please keep in mind the following when looking at the financial results.

Sponsorship/Donations accounts for over \$12,000 of our reunion revenue. That is over 30% of our total revenue coming from sponsorship. This factor was enhanced by the Bendigo and Districts RSL Sub-Branch picking up a lot of the associated costs. We also had a number of members sponsor items and quite a few members donated cash simply because they had such a great time and great value for their registration fee. We do not expect to get such a financial gain at our next reunion. Our budget will be produced with no expectations of sponsorship other than what is guaranteed at the time of setting the budget. Anything over that is a bonus as was the case in Bendigo.

A hearty thank you to all those who added to our financial status during the Bendigo reunion.

Snow

**17 Construction Squadron Workshop
Vietnam Association**

BALANCE SHEET

OPENING BALANCE (1 Dec 2013) **\$ 7,543.78**

DEBITS:

<i>Obituaries/Wreaths</i>	\$ 163.98
<i>Mailers/Postal</i>	\$ 1,818.30
<i>Incidental</i>	\$ 2,251.09
<i>Functions & Events</i>	\$ 31,970.20
<i>Hand Outs</i>	\$ 3,175.88
	<u>\$ 39,379.42</u>

CREDITS:

<i>Sale Of Goods</i>	\$ 2,496.32
<i>Sponsorship/Donations</i>	\$ 12,007.20
<i>Incidental</i>	\$ 1,886.41
<i>Reunion Registration</i>	\$ 25,410.00
	<u>\$ 41,799.93</u>

CLOSING BALANCE **\$ 9,964.29**

BANK BALANCE: (20 Dec2015) **\$ 9,964.29**

**G. Whykes
Secretary/Treasurer**