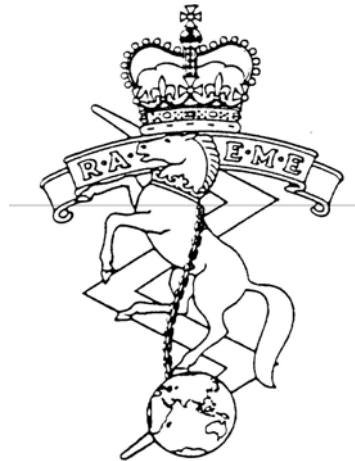


17 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON WORKSHOPS



VIETNAM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 No 4

October 2003

www.17construction.org.au

17construction@agn.net.au

President

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

Or

0408 592 102
<mailto:adrian.blackburn@bigpond.com>

Secretary

Peter Ingrey
19 Howse Crescent
Cromer Heights NSW 2099

(02) 9981 1231
<mailto:ingreyengineers@bigpond.com>

Treasurer

Andy Smithett
19 Smoky Ridge Drive
Arakoon NSW 2431

(02) 6566 7814
<mailto:asmithett@optusnet.com.au>

Patron

George Jones

Foundation Member

Daniel J Garlin

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

I hope that everyone is travelling along as best you can and enjoying life, all the best to you and your families.

At long last we have got the newsletter together and can provide you with some good information for the upcoming reunion next August. Yes it is not long off now; only 317 day's and a wakie from the 1st October and we are counting.

How is your planning going for the big event, we hope to see everyone come along to see old friends and have a great time in Sydney 2004. Your committee has been meeting regularly and we also have had some terrific days at Adrian Blackburn's (El Presidente) home with quite a few of our local members, who have had good input in helping the committee organise your reunion.

All venues have been booked and deposits paid as outlined in the president's report. I would like to let you know what the Accommodation booking arrangement with the "Stamford Grand" resort hotel at North Ryde are.

The hotel has provided us with a brief note on its services, rates and reservation arrangements. It is important to note that when making reservations that each member quotes the following reservation code that is specific for this function. It is **V1 1308** as mentioned in the attached notes from the hotel. ***Remember it is up to you to make your reservations***, also please advise the hotel when making reservations of any member's special needs i.e. Disabilities, diet or any other issue that you believe relevant. Bookings are for Friday Night the 13th August, 2004 to Sunday Night the 15th August, 2004. If you would like further information on the Hotel and services available please refer to www.stamford.com.au .For phone bookings ring 02.9888.1077.

For those making other accommodation arrangements please attend to this aspect as soon as possible. I would like to reinforce to each of you that the committee's preference would be for all members attending to take advantage of the offers from the Stamford Resort. The deal offered by this company is the best available for such a venue in Sydney or elsewhere.

All tours, functions, meetings and transport will be centred at the Stamford complex for each member's convenience. As we previously explained we wanted this venue to ensure everybody is together to celebrate as a unit.

As previously requested we need each member to make a commitment to selling the raffle tickets. A lot of work has gone into setting the raffle up and we are relying on each and every person to support it. Remember that the more tickets sold will result in a better outcome for the organisation and reunion. The more help we get the better time you will have and that has always been our focus.

All the best
Peter Ingreay.
Secretary.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

To all members I hope you are in good health and looking forward to the reunion that is now less than 12 months away. The organisation of this event is really starting to take shape and as you will see in the narrative of my report the committee has been working extremely hard to ensure each and every person will have wonderful memories of the Sydney reunion. For those members who are undecided about attending please support the committee's commitment to you by attending this wonderful function.

As you would appreciate, to organise an event of this magnitude we need a firm response and commitment by each member to attend the 2004 reunion. The committee has set a cut off date for attendance, which is **Friday the 20th February 2004**. Unfortunately the logistics of this event require us to have confirmed numbers of persons attending well before the event to satisfy all financial, transport and tour arrangements.

I would now like to outline to all members the itinerary that we have arranged for the 2004 reunion in Sydney.

The reunion will commence on Friday the 13th. August, 2004 with Registrations at the Stamford Resort commencing at 5 p.m. and concluding at 8 p.m. in the Franklin Room. As in the past we have kept the registration fees at \$100.00 per member. ***It is important that we receive this money by the cut off date so that we are sure of the numbers attending***, as we will have to book buses etc in advance and to consolidate our budget. A receipt will be issued.

Following Registration there will be fellowship where each person will receive a complimentary drink. Each member and partner will receive a 10% discount on further drinks at the Parrot's Bar. The Stamford resort has donated a complimentary dinner voucher to the value of \$100.00 and this will be a lucky door prize following registration. The Stamford resort has also donated one night's free accommodation that will be given to some lucky member over the weekend of the reunion.

There are three beautiful restaurants within the complex and we encourage members to dine at their leisure. Full breakfasts are included in the cost of the accommodation.

On Saturday morning while we are having the unit general meeting from 1000 hours to 1200 hours in the Franklin room we have arranged a bus tour for the ladies at 0900 hours returning at 1300 hours. At this stage it will be a tour of northern beaches with morning tea at the Newport Arms Hotel.

On Saturday the 14 August 2004 we have arranged a Sydney Harbour Cruise commencing at 1500 hours and finishing at 2000 hours. This includes a hot buffet meal and disc jockey playing sixties music. The cruise will be on a vessel known as the Lady Wakehurst which is an ex Sydney Ferry and has two huge decks with a 600 person capacity. To learn more about the Lady Wakehurst go to www.sydneysidecruises.com.au. Bar prices on this ferry are very competitive with a good assortment of beers wines and spirits. All members will be required to muster at the front of the Stamford Resort at 1400 hours on the Saturday where you will be bussed to the Man O War steps, which is adjacent to the Sydney Opera House. On return at 2000 hours, or thereabouts passengers will disembark at the Star City Casino wharf located in the Darling Harbour complex where members can continue to celebrate at their own leisure. Darling Harbour is in the CBD of Sydney and we realise that groups will want to entertain themselves differently therefore members will have to make their own way back to the Stamford Resort, which is only a twenty-minute trip by taxi.

On Sunday the 15th August 2004 all members will be travelling from the Stamford to Springwood in the Blue Mountains where we will celebrate Vietnam Veterans Day. We will be guests of the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces (BMVV&AF). Buses will be leaving the Stamford Resort at 0930 hours. Everyone is requested to attend. The march will commence at 1130 hours and finish at 1245 hours. The march-past to the Cenotaph will be a distance of 700 metres. This march and memorial service is the largest of its kind in Australia and attracts many VIP's and veterans.

At the completion of the memorial service we will be bussed back to the Stamford Resort where you will prepare for our farewell dinner that will commence in the Daintree Room at 1630 hours until 2000 hours. The committee has arranged a full buffet dinner for your enjoyment.

Monday will see us all depart from the Stamford Resort to go our individual ways after having a wonderful experience of the most beautiful city in the world. As a committee we are dedicated to making this a most memorable occasion.

In closing I would earnestly ask for each and every members support in selling the raffle tickets that we have sent to each member. The more funds we raise the more the members will benefit. I look forward to August 2004 when we all meet again and renew friendships.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Allan Pratt for maintaining and updating our Website.

Yours Sincerely
Adrian Blackburn.
President.

STAMFORD GRAND – NORTH RYDE **SYDNEY**

The Stamford Grand North Ryde are pleased to be the accommodation provider for the 17 Construction Squadron Workshops – Vietnam Association reunion to be held from 13th-15th August 2004.

Sydney's only resort hotel lies just 20 minutes northwest of the Harbour Bridge and 15 minutes from Homebush Bay and Olympic Park. Stamford Grand North Ryde offers a truly relaxing tropical oasis, surrounded by lagoons & waterfalls. Start the evening with a pre dinner drink in Parrot's Bar before dining in either Parrot's Brasserie with a wide selection of sumptuous dishes on the buffet or choice from our a la carte menu. Spoil yourself and dine in our a la carte award winning Brook restaurant. The hotels recreational facilities include the largest indoor and outdoor swimming pool in NSW, Rebound Ace tennis court, health & fitness club with free weights, exercise equipment, fitness classes and massage therapy.

Rates are from \$140.00 per night for one person inclusive of one breakfast

Or from \$150.00 per night for two people including breakfast

All reservations must be accompanied by credit card details or prepayment within 14 days of booking to guarantee the reservation.

To book please call Stamford Grand North Ryde Reservations Department on 02 9888 1077 and quote reservation code **VI 1308**.

QUESTIONNAIRE – SEPTEMBER 2004
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(s): _____

(Please Circle One)

- 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**

- Staying at the Stamford Resort. **YES** **NO**

- Registration fee of \$100.00 included **YES** **NO**

Please make cheques/money orders payable to **17 Construction Sqn WKSP Association**

TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEE TO PLAN AND RAISE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THE 2004 REUNION WE REQUIRE A COMMITMENT FROM YOU BY THE 20th FEBURARY 2004 –“THIS IS A MUST”

Any other comments / Suggestions / Questions you may have:

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY FRIDAY 20TH FEBURARY 2004

- To all those members that have already sent in their intention to attend the reunion, thank you very much and we are looking forward to seeing you.
- Could all those who are still undecided please let us know your intentions.