



173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

# CHAPTER 23

1RAR Group 1965-66

Volume 7 Issue 74

December - January 2012

## 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation Board of Directors

On behalf of the 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation, it is my pleasure to tell you about coming events for your information and planning. The Celebration and associated Ceremony, described below, are a “work in progress” but a few comments are in order.

The 173d Airborne Brigade (SEP) was activated by the Department of the Army on 26 March 1963 on the Island of Okinawa. 26 March 2013 is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 173d Airborne Brigade’s parachute assault into Iraq. It is fitting to recognize these seminal events that later impacted and defined who Sky Soldiers are and what they have accomplished.

Periodically, members of Platoons, Companies and Battalions gather to remember and reflect on the life altering events that defined their service with the 173d Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation believes this Anniversary Celebration is an excellent venue for these gatherings and urges any group of veterans to take advantage of this opportunity to plan and conduct their own unit “mini-reunions.”

Fort Benning is one common thread that unites Airborne soldiers of all generations. The 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation is working with the Columbus / Fort Benning Chapter to hold a Golf Tournament and to plan and conduct Post tours including a visit to the Airborne School. Specific details will appear on the Memorial Foundation website ([www.173dairbornememorial.org](http://www.173dairbornememorial.org)) in 2012.

The “Memorial Cleaning Ceremony” is both a practical and a symbolic event. The granite panels periodically require cleaning but only under the supervision of an expert. The Foundation is pleased to announce that Ms. Lynn Evans of the Columbus Monument Company and a member of our Foundation Advisory Board will supervise this effort.

The “Reading of the Names” Ceremony is a tradition that spans all generations. In 2012, the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation will post on its website opportunities for Spartan Club Members, Sky Soldiers and their families, and our Gold Star “families” to participate in this sacred ceremony.

Periodically, please check our website for more updates regarding this event.

Ken Smith  
Memorial Foundation President

## 173d Airborne Brigade 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

And

## “Reading of the Names” Ceremony



Hosted by  
**The 173d Airborne Brigade  
National Memorial Foundation**

**Thursday, 21 March – Sunday, 24 March 2013**  
**Fort Benning / Columbus Georgia Area**

### TENTATIVE PROGRAM

**Thursday 21 March**  
Arrival and Golf Tournament (Tentative)

**Friday 22 March**  
National Infantry Museum Visits  
Tours of Fort Benning (including Jump School)  
Mini-Reunions conducted by Unit Organizations.

**Saturday 23 March**  
Memorial Cleaning Ceremony  
Silver Wings Jump  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Iraq Parachute Assault Commemoration  
Reading of the Names (Vietnam Era)  
Candlelight Ceremony with Honors and Reading of the Names (Iraq/Afghanistan)

**Sunday 24 March**  
Prayer Service at Memorial  
Departure

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Graham Woodward

We have enjoyed another exceptional year and it's time again to thank members for their support and friendship throughout 2011.



As I said in the SITREP Magazine we have people in the Chapter who have achieved great things in their lives all of which reflect on our Chapter. Our Chapter thrives because members want to work together to achieve, sure we have a bond that started way back

in 1965 with the 1RAR Group in South Vietnam. But we don't dwell on the past; our aim is to live our lives to the fullest in the memory of those who will not grow old with us.

One of the strengths of the Chapter is it doesn't matter what Corp we were in, what rank we attained like the old days if there was a job to be done everyone did that job and did it well, that has not changed today

I've said many times the road of the wives and partners of Veterans isn't an easy one but by staying on that road they have helped many of us to get on with our lives and we should be very grateful. Our ladies are a very important part of this Chapter and deserve special thanks for what they have contributed to the Chapter over the past year and I offer that special thanks.

My sincere thanks also goes out to all of our members who have held office, attended the meetings and to those members who can always be relied upon to help in any way at any time.

There are also those members who due to the vast distances in this country cannot attend meetings, however, they also strongly support the Chapter by paying their dues, buying raffle tickets etcetera. They are as important to us as those we see each month.

A special mention of the members who have given up their Sundays to sell raffle tickets and raise money for the good times the Chapter has, Thank you, without you the subsidies we enjoy would just not happen.

The tragedy of the mates that didn't come home with us and the mates who have passed on since will always be with us and of course we have lost partners as well as the years have gone by. Although we mostly live separate lives the Chapter is our bond, the camaraderie we enjoy is special.

At this stage of our lives there is nothing wrong with being close to a special group of people. I would say it's the right time because support is always there for

any of us if the occasion ever arises and it's nice to know there is always someone there.

We have had a very successful year I won't go into a great deal of detail because I know that Pat Kramer will give a full report on our activities and Ray will want something left to report.

As I write this report for the AGM, of course this brings on the elections for office bearers to go into 2012, if anyone feels they would like to enjoy the high salaries, first class travel, lucrative allowances and a company car for life!!!! Forget about the Chapter and run in the next Federal election.

Forty three members attended what was a very successful Annual General Meeting at the Yeronga Services Club. We were a little down on numbers with many of our regulars away doing a multitude of other things.

With the business of the meeting finished it was my pleasant duty to award 'Certificates of Recognition' to the members who have worked hard to make this year a very good one.

Larry and Dani Barker ... For their very generous support of our meeting raffles and representing our Chapter at remembrance events and functions on the Sunshine Coast.

Alex and Dawn McKean ... For organising our first away trip of the year to Boonah and the magnificent Scenic Rim, with the absolute highlight being the visit to the Donkey Farm ... outstanding!!

Gordon and Helen Nielson ... For organising the Stanthorpe away trip which was a great success with one of the highlights being the visit to vinegar distillery owned by John Henderson's son, Ian.

Glenn and Liz Gustafson ... For their outstanding effort in support of our Redcliffe Raffles. They made themselves available and assisted greatly in the administration.

The Chapter '*Member of the Year*' is Jeff Hufer whose dedication to his two jobs, QM and Sgt at Arms has once again had a very big impact. Jeff puts and has put 100% into his jobs over a number of years and totally deserves this award and the recognition that goes with it ... well done Jeff, thanks mate and congratulations.

It was then election time. The Committee was stood down, Gordon Nielson chaired the meeting for the election of officers for 2012. Thankyou Gordon, you made the election fun.

Most positions remained the same but Val "Rust" Voyzey, Pauline "Mafia" Miranda and Toni "I love shopping" Rosen will have a break after ten years of doing the Christmas hampers. Well done girls and thank you. Julie "I'm up for a free coffee" Payne will

step into the job and I hope she will have help as it is a big job.

We then announced the meeting venues for 2012, these came from nominations that members brought to the October meeting ... again next year looks exciting.

I was pleased to advise that on Remembrance Day I laid a 173D Airborne Brigade wreath on your behalf at the beautiful memorial in the park opposite the RSL Club on its first official day.

The Raffles at Redcliffe now have a new way of doing things, so all that has to be done is to collect the small brief case at the cashiers office upstairs and just hand it back to them when you have finished, everything you will need is in there. On my welfare day at the RSL I will collect it and bank the money and put the bag back for the next person doing the raffle. The tray for the ice is in the cloak room with the 173rd sign.

This will make it easy, but if you have any trouble ring me and only me. Glenn and Liz Gustafson are having a very deserved break after doing more than their share. John Rosen will be there to help when he can but for family reasons cannot commit to any dates.

Our next function and last for 2011 is our Christmas party at the Tweed Heads Bowls Club followed by breakfast at the Surf Club, can't think of a better way to finish off another great year.

With Christmas heading our way we will be thinking of many things, our thoughts will also be there for our young warriors who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Country. Their families no doubt will have that terrible grief to deal with over what should be a happy time.

Thank you again for your fabulous support and Jeannie and I wish you and your families a happy Christmas.

Graham.

## SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Ray Payne OAM

Time to have a look back over the past year, but not in great detail as Pat always does a fabulous job of doing that.



Sadly in the past twelve months since our AGM we have lost four members, Jeff Williams 18/11/2010, Rex Thompson 30/12/2010, Ron Nielson 12/7/2011 and recently Max Pederson 30/10/2011. They are sadly missed but always remembered.

It has always been our intension to

live our lives in a manner that we would want our mates to live if they were with us today, it is our way of remembering them every time we meet. Our inaugural president, Vic Lagettie, introduced our motto ... "All we do, we do for a mate who can't." His reasoning at the time of our formation was that we owed it to our mates, who didn't return and those who have died since, to form a Chapter that lived their lives in everything we did. We haven't faltered from that aim.

We have had twelve official gatherings, two were dinners, all were very well attended. We continued to move our meeting venues and this still proves to be successful. We had three 'away' meetings ranging from 4 day to 7 day events. These 'away' meetings are a great opportunity for local members to get to know other members and running over a few days it allows time for members to form friendships.

Again we had an increase in our membership. With the increase coming from word of mouth and those recommended by members.

Our Annual Anniversary Dinner was held at Redcliffe RSL Club and followed our annual memorial service. This year we decided to conduct the service inside because the wind blowing across Morton Bay made holding flags etc an impossibility. Our dinner was well attended and we welcomed David Santini and his wife who were visiting from the US as our guests.

Naturally, it takes more than a couple of people to build and maintain a successful Chapter, it requires commitment from the membership and from that commitment comes firm friendships that make us want to get with of friends each month.

There is always those who give more as part of their membership ... Ashley Spann who along with Pat Kramer deserve to be 'Member of the Year' every year. Few would realise the amount of work they do behind the scenes or the amount of time they spend doing Chapter business. Jeff Hufer was this years 'Member of the Year' he is another who spends hours and hours of his time working for us and actually making a profit. Jeff is another who should win the award every year.

I want to thank members who pay their annual fees promptly. This is one of the most time consuming job for both Ashley and myself and one of those jobs we like to get out of the way ... your help is appreciated, thanks.

I feel so very lucky to have you all as friends and look forward to serving you again next year, one that looks great and with a P&O Pacific Island cruise thrown in.

To you and your families Julie and I wish you all a happy and Holy Christmas and that your New Year brings you health and lots of fun.

Ray

**TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2011.**

Treasurer - Ashley Spann

Submitted is the Chapter 23 Financial Report for the Period 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011.

There is no change to Procedures to conducting the Treasurers Accounts to 31 October 2011.

All areas of Income and Expenditure have been detailed in the Monthly Treasurer's Reports that are Submitted and tabled at each meetings for members to peruse and ask Questions.

The QM's Account this year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 returned a profit of \$560-61.

During the previous 12 months Chapter Functions and Away meetings have been subsidised by the amounts as Listed.

Door Prizes, Xmas 2010 Dinner, Lennox Head meeting, AGM 2010, Surfers Breakfast	\$ 3339-25
Boonah Away Meeting	\$ 327-00
Stanthorpe Away Meeting	\$ 1287-45
Chapter Anniversary Dinner 2011	\$ 2046-00
Hervey Bay Away Meeting	\$ 438-60
<b><u>Total of Subsidisation:</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 7438-30</u></b>

As at 31 October 2011. Chapter 23 has Assets as Listed.

Term Deposit.	\$ 8143-06
No 1 Working Account.	\$ 8641-34
QM Stock held.	\$ 3356-95
Floats held by Secretary, QM, Welfare and Redcliffe Raffles.	\$ 900-00
Property owned by Chapter 23 (Arbitrary Figure).	\$ 2000-00
<b><u>Total Assets:</u></b> With no Outstanding Moneys due In or Out.	<b><u>\$ 23041-35</u></b>

The Highlights of Interest covering the Audit Period to 31 May 2011.

Receipted Income.	\$ 23392-95
Authorized Expenditure.	\$ 24384.25
<b><u>Capital Difference.</u></b>	<b><u>Minus \$ 991-30</u></b>

The Audit was conducted 10 July 2011.

The Audit Board consisted of.

Charles Geljon	Presiding
Cathy Geljon	Member
Sandra Hanson	Member
Margaret Malone	Member

It is my intention to present myself for re-election as Treasurer for a further 12 Months during 2012.

Wishing All a Safe and a Merry Christmas and all that you would wish for your selves for the New Year .

## ANNUAL DUES

Annual membership fees are due by the  
31st December 2011

Please post your payment to the Treasurer at

PO Box 214  
MOOROOKA QLD 4105

or  
by direct deposit to

Bank: Suncorp  
Acc: Chapter 23  
BSB: 484799  
Acc No: 043146774

## MEETING TIME CHANGE

Our first meeting in 2012 is at Sherwood Services Club ... Please note that this meeting will start at 10:00am as the room is required for Bingo!!

## 2011 THE YEAR THAT WAS!

By Pat Kramer

You hear it all the time "where did the past year go?" And this year is no exception.

On November 13th, 2010, found us at the Geebung R.S.L. for our A.G.M. We relived the highlights of the past year, finalized the meeting venues for the coming year and thanked our members for an outstanding 2010 and presented awards to those who stood out during the year.

A very special Man in my life won the inaugural Secretary's Award for "Stirrer of the Year" and the last award was one I had for Ray that was backed up by photographic evidence and really did prove that "the sun shone out of his bum!"

Following the AGM was the President's Lunch. We all enjoyed lunch subsidised by the chapter and left keen to buy our secret Santa gifts and Christmas celebrations at the Beerwah RSL.



President's Lunch following the 2010 AGM

We are very fortunate to be able to sell raffle tickets at Redcliffe RSL as it raises the money we need to enable us to subsidise our functions and events. You'll note as we move through the year that all of our functions are subsidised in some form thanks to the raffles.

From the AGM I had a month to clean out my cupboards and make sure the boot is empty and walk around with my fingers crossed in the hope that this is my year to win one of those wonderful hampers at the Christmas party. They are fabulous and take a lot of time to organize ... even though the shopping is fun Toni and Pauline do a wonderful job. Val Voysey had the "hamper idea" eight years ago and spent the year raising donations and money to ensure that we had over \$600 worth of hampers as door prizes at the Christmas party.

Ready for our Christmas party we settled into our motel and found we had to get the 4.30pm bus to Beerwah RSL at the time I thought it was a tad early but we arrived early and nice and dry ... soon after the heavens opened and some very wet members arrived. Jeff Hufer was given a shirt by the club as he was drenched.



Pauline with one of the hampers.

I went to the festive function room and was totally amazed at the huge number of Hamper prizes ... there had to be at least 45 and we had 53 members coming ... so yes this was MY year !!!

It was too wet for nibbles on the deck so we enjoyed them inside then Al, bagpiper, piped us into dinner ... how I

love the bagpipes.

Dinner was served "lucky chairs" won bottles of wine and then we heard the bell ringing and that jolly Santa and his merry Ho Ho Ho's as he was piped in by Al, gifts for everyone and a jolly chat and Santa left for the North Pole. Each year Ray Raines has played Santa and believe me he is more realistic than the real Santa. Thank you Ray.

Excitement mounting as Toni, Pauline and Val took up their positions at the hamper table ... the first prize went to Normie Snape sitting at our table and I took that as a good omen for my big "end of a decade win" I sat and smiled even clapped as number after number came out and after many happy winners we were down to the final three .....final two.....the last one.....HOW could that be I hadn't won anything !!!!!

We enjoyed a ride back to the motel in the courtesy

bus being given a tour of the towns Christmas lights.

The following morning we all met at Nikki and Al's home (Jeff and Else daughter) for a wonderful breakfast. Thank you.

Saturday 8th January we again braved the rain ... totally unaware this would be the prelude to the devastating Queensland floods, we all met at Redcliffe RSL and exchanged good wishes for the New Year. It was a good meeting with a change in the hamper give away restructured. Lunch was enjoyable and we had pleasant time socialising and listening to the music at the club.

Rise and shine and we were up early on Saturday 12th February for a drive to Surfers Paradise for our first ever breakfast meeting ... and the fact that the Chapter subsidised it by \$10.00pp didn't it taste great along with views of the Surfers Sky



Wheel and Q1 the tallest residential building in Australia. It was our Valentine meeting so we gave Ashley a " Crazy for you " tie Rusty ever hopeful in his "kiss me quick "tie and who do you think wore the "Mr Perfect "tie ?....Mr Wonderful of course .

Pink rose chocolates for the ladies and Red rose chocolates for our Valentines were the order of the day. As usual we had our raffle which should have been renamed Jason's choice as he won first , second and fourth prizes Following a most enjoyable breakfast we all travelled to Mudgeeraba coffee at the Woodchoppers Inn then on to the Gold Coast War Museum where we were met by Bob Meehan O.A.M. who proudly showed us around ... we left knowing that Mr Wonderful's photo would remain in the museum for all to see.



Thursday afternoon 10th March we were made very welcome with tea and coffee in our meeting room at Simon's Tavern in Boonah to commence our 'away' meeting, followed by an enjoyable dinner.

The following morning we assembled in convoy and we went on our tour of the scenic rim with Commander Alex at the helm. We wound our way along narrow country roads and at times had kanga-



roos hopping along side, the mist was still covering Wilson's peak and we arrived at Spring Creek Mountain cafe for morning tea. The mist lifted and the view



was truly spectacular and how good were the scones, jam and fresh cream? We left there wondering how we would fit in lunch but a brisk 1km walk round trip to Queen Mary falls helped wear off a bit of the cream! The falls were spectacular due to the recent heavy rain, more spectacular waterfalls along the way to the Killarney historic hotel for a great country pub lunch. We

went to the local butcher to buy some of their famous sausages and made our way back to Boonah via the Cunningham highway.

A quick look in the motel directory and what good fortune the Boonah markets were on on Saturday morning, so we went in search of country fare. The convoy formed up at 9.30am and we set off for the Donkey farm at Eselburg I think we all went wondering "what the !!?" but what a treat was in store for us

with Heike ...and Sheba, Lucy, Henry, Wombat, Percy, Princess and the baby who of course was called Grandma and not to forget Mack-behe the dromedary. Heike's passion was there for all to see and we soon became her captive audience, enjoying a cuppa as she told us of her rescue work and introduced us to her "Ladies". We left there and went to meet David at Bunjurgan Estate. He had a roaring fire to greet us and we enjoyed tasting his wines in the bottling shed...and very generous tastings they were too! Cheese bickies and apricots were provided whilst the men cooked our BBQ sausages for lunch. We stopped for a coffee at the Kooralbyn Valley winery overlooking the lavender farm and spectacular mountain views, the Boonah Chinese restaurant was a fun dinner venue.



On Sunday morning we met at the Boonah airstrip and met Brian Melbourne who is President of the Flying Tigers, we enjoyed watching the activity surrounding the light aircraft and gliders Charles Geljon took to the skies and had a bird's eye view from his glider. We met for lunch on the veranda of the Royal Hotel at Kalbar, it too had picture perfect views and just to make it

perfect there were craft and antique shops to browse in. Special thanks to Dawn and Alex for showing us the Scenic Rim ... and I would have loved to have seen Alex's face when he discovered the armchair in the back of his Prado which Dawn just "Happened" to buy in the antique shop!

Saturday 9th April we set off for the Coorparoo RSL in the high hopes that the Easter Bunny would hop by. It was good to see Toni Rosen and Bob Secrett well enough to join us. It was a lively meeting with lots of laughter and plans well under way for our Stanthorpe



away meeting ... Jeffrey was ruthless with his fines and we just managed to scrape together enough money to have

lunch and what a bonus we had a VERY pretty Easter Bunny who arrived with her basket of Eggs and fluffy ears!



In May we arrived at Geebung RSL for our meeting and I was totally unaware of the treat which was in store for me, BUT I must put it in perspective and say how sorry I was that Ray wasn't well and he was unable to attend .....but...that meant I got to sit next to ....Mr Wonderful and take the minutes ... what a shame it was such a quick meeting. Jeffrey proved what a gentleman he is by making all the ladies exempt from fines as it was our Mother's Day meeting ... but he did fine all the men "Just for being there!" Lunch followed with gifts for all our Ladies.



Our June meeting was well attended at Sherwood Services club. Stanthorpe plans featured and there was a P&O cruise proposed on the Dawn Princess next July ... Jeffrey made

up for his kindness the previous month and we all enjoyed lunch ....and the best hot chocolate ever!

On Thursday 8th July we had a long drive to Stanthorpe it normally takes three hours but there were long delays due to road works resulting from the floods. It was lovely to join everyone for Meet and Greet around a blazing fire in the Homestead lounge. We were picked up by bus and driven to the historic O'Mara's hotel for dinner, a wonderful 100 year old building in the heart of the town. After a freezing night we met at the Homestead lounge complete with fire

and a wonderful morning tea provided by our ladies, items discussed were the Annual dinner the Chapter raffles and the July 2012 cruise.

Afterwards we went to explore Stanthorpe and have lunch and then met at the Shake Rattle and Roll bowling alley, five teams great fun shrieks of delight and howls of frustration but our ladies Toni, Julie and Pauline's knee-highs really rivalled the bright flashing lights! Doug Stapleton was the overall winner, well done.



That night we were in for a real treat we went to an Italian restaurant ..the food was totally outstanding and those deserts ... not surprisingly it has won awards for excellence. We all left with extra kilos in place which we justified by saying we would walk them off the next morning, BUT it was minus 10°C in the morning, so the good intentions disappeared under the doona!

We managed to be up and ready for the coach at 10:00am and left on our tour. Our first stop was to Ridge Mill Estate which in its first year of operation 2005 won a gold medal in International competition for their Chardonnay, a lot of their wines had "Dog "in

their names ie Sly dog, Howling dog, Black dog. Our next stop was Mount Stirling Olives, they have over 3,500 trees and besides olives sell wonderful dipping sauces, pure olive oil soap and souvenirs, they also sell the most divine fudge, 25 flavours to drool over and it is so much more economical to but four pieces ... so you do ... gastronomic delight in every bite! On to Jester Hill winery and extensive tastings followed by lunch. Our next stop was Ballendine Winery which has been owned by the same family since 1930 ... and they sell "Chilly Willy" sauces too. Every away trip has a hidden gem and LiraH vinegar owned and operated by Ian Henderson, son of John. He too has a passion for what he does his talk was informative and inspiring and his business is flourishing. The coach rattled home with many bottles of wine, olives, dipping sauces and fudge.



The RSL bus picked us up and took us to the club for dinner ... some of us made donations to the local economy whilst others had lucky wins. Sunday morning

and even minus 11°C couldn't keep us from the Christmas in July markets which thankfully were held in the Civic Centre it was a real showcase for the craft, cooking, plants and talents of the region.

We went our separate ways to either the Chocolate shoppe, the strawberry farm the cheese outlet and even bought some apples. That afternoon we met in the camp kitchen had a fun afternoon of board games a happy hour round the wonderful fire that Charles built followed by a BBQ and an evening of trivia ... and some of Ray's Schnapps ... we all slept well !. It was a mini heatwave of minus 7 when we packed up the following morning and headed home after breakfast at the Cosmo cafe. A big THANK YOU to Helen and Gordon for organising a great fun weekend.



Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> was our 14th Annual Anniversary Dinner this time held at Redcliffe RSL it was a balmy winters evening, but because of the weather in previous years we decided to hold the Remembrance



service in the auditorium - sadly the list of our departed friends is growing. At the conclusion of the service we enjoyed drinks and nibbles, dinner was served and the \$1.00 drinks continued all evening.

As we will be "away" for our Father's day meeting our men received a small gift which they could choose when to open. The person I chose to cut the cake was someone who works hard for our Chapter ... and by fair means or foul raises a lot of revenue, Jeffrey Hufer. A really nice thing happened at the drawing of the raffle, out of the many hundreds of tickets that were sold the three winners were all at the dinner. 1st prize raised a joyful shout from Gordon Neilson, Doug Stapleton celebrated his birthday with an extra gift of second prize and Chris Cybluski won third prize. Coffee cake and either a Port or a Baileys and songs from our era sung by Peter Johnson completed the evening.



Hervey Bay away meeting and Thursday afternoon saw us meeting and greeting at the Urangan Bowls Club. What a fine bowling green they have totally cov-

ered making it an all weather venue . At 5pm we made our way down to the memorial scoreboard which was dedicated to one of our members Tex Williams who did a lot of work for the Veteran community and a minutes silence was held in his memory. Dinner that night was the biggest T Bone or Chicken schnitzel - with chips and salad for \$10.00 which the Chapter paid for.

Friday morning at 8.30am saw us at the wharf waiting to board the Tasman Venture for our Whale watching cruise, we left from the refurbished Urangan pier and passed along the sandy beaches of Frazer Island. The sea was a little choppy, but we saw heaps of



whales, they came to see us tail flapping, breaching and fin waving. I had my camera clicking at every opportunity and then ...oh no ..the battery died but that really allowed me to sit back and enjoy these majestic creatures .

We turned to come back around 11.30am and were treated to a wonderful display by a mother with her calf, who were alongside the boat for about 15mins there were whales all around us to the left and the right, simply amazing!!

A welcome lunch of Pizza or Pasta and a glass of wine awaited us and we caught up with Lex McAulay, member and noted author. Again, the Chapter shouted lunch.

The afternoon was ours to shop/sleep/or sightsee. We all met at the Boat club for dinner that night it was great to have the company of our local Chapter members and nice to see Judy and Jack again but the Club was too crowded and noisy.

Saturday morning we were looking for bargains at the Torquay beachside markets and met for coffee at the Aquaview cafe which had views almost to South America. We went shopping and sightseeing and met at the Tourquay hotel for lunch. Jeffrey was the lucky meat tray winner. We met at the camp kitchen at 4:00pm for our meeting. Ray had many hats to wear



as President, Secretary and Presidents rep of the Southern Hemisphere. We had 28 friends there and Nancy Woodforde won the S.W.B. \$20 and the first prize in the raffle, the second prize was won by Ronnie Woodward a very Happy hour followed with a great array of nibbles drinks and Ray's Schnapps! The BBQ was fired up and we enjoyed dinner together.

Sunday morning we found a little bit of Italy in Hervey Bay at Paulos Pizza Parlour we enjoyed a lovely farewell breakfast together ... the hot chocolate was wonderful the Parlour is owned by Dawn and Alex daughter, Leanne and her Hubby Paulo . Thanks must go to Ray and Julie Payne and Les Idiens for putting this away whale watching spectacular together.



Despite a very severe morning thunderstorm that prevented many Brisbane members travelling the 120kms our final meeting at Maroochydoore RSL the attendance was quite good. At the meeting venues for 2012 were finalized and lunch was enjoyed by everyone with the service being completely outstanding ... I might add that Julie Payne won three great prizes in the Club's raffles during the afternoon!

Thank you one and all for your support of my monthly little fund raisers and a special thank you to my wonderful husband, Bronte, for your help ... To Mr Wonderful, Ray, Ashley and to ALL you wonderful members who each contribute to making Chapter 23 so very special, my VERY SPECIAL THANKS .

## QUARTERMASTERS ANNUAL REPORT

By Jeff Hufer

It has been a busy year, again, in the QM Store. Mail order business has increased in leaps and bounds, due to the QM Ads appearing in the SITREP magazine, as well as the Chapter 23 newsletter.

This financial year, 2010/2011, saw takings exceed \$3000.00 once again.

This is fantastic, and reflects the superb support given to the QM from the members of this Chapter. The QM Store is run for the members, but it would soon die without their support.

I sincerely extend my thanks to everyone for making the QM Store such a huge success.

Some new lines were introduced this year, and some older lines have been discontinued. Firstly, I have discontinued holding the Diggers Hat Jewellery, as that item had run its course with the members. That stock is now exhausted. I will also discontinue the flag poles, as that line has also run its course. Over the past 3 years, nearly 50 flag poles have been sold,

which isn't too bad.

In January, the new Association Badge decals were made available for sale. As these were done directly for the Chapter, with no middle man, they were able to sold at a very favourable price at \$3.00 each. A bargain, really, as normally decals such as theses would sell for \$10 or more. And the classic Winged Airborne Badge decal was revived, in a slightly smaller format. This also sells at \$3.00.

I have also added two new leather drink coasters to that line. You can now obtain the Artillery and Engineers coaster along with the regulars, 173d, RAR, and Rising Sun embossed into the leather. These continue to be made to a high standard by Bob Secrett. Many thanks Bob.

And for Jason Neville who got drowned in New Zealand in his splash jacket, I introduced a Waterproof Jacket to the line. This is a tad dear at \$90.00 and so far I have sold only one. Jason didn't buy one coz it was not strong enough to hold his gold medals.

My QM ad appears later in this edition, make sure you check it out.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT OVERSEAS

We are often asked if DVA pay for medical treatment while you are overseas. It is important to remember that when overseas you will be eligible for treatment at DVA expense for your accepted disabilities only and the treatment needs to be the same as, or similar to, treatment and cost considered appropriate in Australia. You cannot use your DVA Gold or White Card as they can only be used within Australia and are not accepted by health providers outside Australia. DVA will pay for overseas travel vaccinations provided within Australia for Gold Card holders and it is important that you discuss your travel plans with an approved medical practitioner to find out if any vaccinations are required prior to travelling. It is important that you consider taking out travel insurance to cover treatment of any non service related conditions should the need arise whilst you are overseas as DVA may only fund medical treatment for accepted disabilities.

You need to notify DVA of your intention to travel overseas before you leave Australia to be advised of the arrangements for receiving medical treatment at DVA expense as treatment expenses that can be refunded and payment for any treatment while you are overseas cannot always be guaranteed. Before going overseas contact Medicare Australia to find out about the health care arrangements that are available to all Australians in other countries or access their website on: [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au).

## VALE



24594 WO1 (ret) Maxwell (Max) John PEDERSON  
(aka THOMPSON)  
Australian Logistics Support Company (1 RAR  
Group) and  
1 Fd Sqn Vietnam  
Date of Birth 31 January 1934  
Date of Death 30 October 2011

We have lost another valued Chapter member and of the Royal Australian Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends and the members of this Association.

Max passed away peacefully on the 30th October in Casino Hospital. Beloved Husband of Dawn. Father of Maxine and Danny (dec'd). Grandfather and Great-grandfather. Loved Brother of Beverley. Stepfather to Edwina and Mark.

The local Aero Club provided a "Fly Over" of 4 planes during the service and this provided a most spectacular sight not only for those attending but for the local area as the weather was clear and the planes could be seen by all.

The Chapter was represented by Dave Vealey and Tony White. Dave offered Dawn and family the sincere sympathy of the Chapter.

Tony said, "I met and befriended Max several years ago - not long after we arrived up here in Casino. I always found him to be very courteous, affable - almost beyond belief, and always had a good yarn - **or two** - to tell. He also was **ALWAYS** a staunch 1 RAR supporter, and Lord help any soul who spoke ill of Old Blue One as he used to call it.

WE WILL REMEMBER HIM  
**LEST WE FORGET**

## LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

### BRISBANE'S TREASURY CASINO

MONDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Meet at 11:00am (Qld Time)  
at the Casino in Blackjack's Buffet.

Brisbane's best all-you-can-eat buffet lunch for only  
\$20.00! (Special Offer)

Their menu features Asian influenced dishes, including prawns, oysters, noodles etc. plus all your favourite soups, salads and desserts.

Come along and join in the fun and laughter as we celebrate together.

Ladies please let Jean Woodward know if you're attending as a booking is required.

Jean: 07 3293 0239 or  
[graham.woody@bigpond.com](mailto:graham.woody@bigpond.com)

## REUNION 2013 - LAS VEGAS

Early information is the hotel costs will be \$50.00 per night and registration \$100.00. Making the single cost for both for the duration \$350.00. Now that's a good deal. Keep saving because this will be great.



## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to our Chapter four new members:

Robert 'Swampy' Fox and Maria  
Christopher Judge and Anne

## A NEW WORD

**Ineptocracy** (in-ep-toc'-ra-cy) - a system of government where the least capable to lead are elected by the least capable of producing, and where the members of society least likely to sustain themselves or succeed, are rewarded with goods and services paid for by the confiscated wealth of a diminishing number of producers.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING YERONGA SERVICES CLUB Saturday, 12th November 2011

Again we had a successful meeting with 43 members attending, a particularly good turnout with so many of our regulars away through sickness and travel.

It was a pleasure to walk into the Yeronga Club and see the changes since the recent modernisation, they certainly improved on what was always a pleasant small Club.

The usual procedure was followed in conducting the meeting. The important issue where the meeting venues for 2012, the election of our committee for next year, our raffle at Redcliffe RSL and the presentation of the Presidents awards.

Venues were nominated, discussed and carried. The various locations will take our meetings in close proximity for the majority of members. We are assuming that the selected venues will be available at the time and date that we require them, should it be that a selected venue is not available an alternative will be selected and members advised.

The elections were held and chaired by Gordon Nielson. The committee remained much the same with Julie Payne taking on the Christmas Hampers following Val Voyzey's retirement after many year of outstanding dedication.

The following members were elected to the positions:

President ...	Graham Woodward
Vice President ...	Charles Geljon
Vice President ...	Kevin Petersen
Treasurer ...	Ashley Spann
Secretary /Editor...	Ray Payne OAM
Assistant Secretary ...	Pat Kramer
QM & Sergeant at Arms ...	Jeff Hufer
Welfare Officer ...	Ray Hughes OAM
Social Secretary ...	Pat Kramer
Meeting Fundraising ...	Jean Woodward
Membership Coordinator ...	Kevin Petersen
Christmas Hamper ...	Julie Payne
Welfare Cards ...	Pat Kramer

The President resumed the chair and appointed Alex McKean again as our Chapter Padre.

The meeting move forward to the President's awards to those members who have provided outstanding service throughout the past year.

The awards were presented to:

- Larry & Danie Barker
- Gordon & Helen Nielson
- Alex & Dawn McKean
- Glenn & Liz Gustafson

Our **'Member of the Year'** Gold Challenge Coin was presented to Jeff Hufer



The Chapter **'Member of the Year'** is Jeff Hufer whose dedication to his two jobs, QM and Sgt at Arms has once again had a very big impact. Jeff puts and has put 100% into his jobs over a number of years and totally deserves this award and the recognition that goes with it ...



Gordon and Helen Nielson ... For organising the Stanthorpe away trip which was a great success



Alex and Dawn McKean ... For organising our first away trip of the year to Boonah and the magnificent Scenic Rim

Unfortunately, the others missed the photo call, but that doesn't lessen their fabulous efforts.

Our President like many members of this Chapter wears a number of hats, he is the Redcliffe RSL Welfare Officer and a Legacy legatee. Recently his local newspaper printed a story that revolved around Graham and what he give back.

REDCLIFFE RSL welfare officer Graham Woodward believed his experience as a Vietnam veteran put him in good stead to help war widows and veterans in the local community.

The Deception Bay resident has been a member of the local RSL branch for the past eight years as well as bring a Legacy legatee and said he was proud to hold those positions

But Mr Woodward said it took him and other veterans some time before they became members of an RSL because of the stigma attached to being part of the Vietnam War.

“The 1987 march in Sydney was very healing and now it’s our job to support the younger vets and ensure better treatment for them.”

For his part, Mr Woodward was 19 when he travelled to Vietnam as a gunner in the 105th Battery of the Royal Australian Artillery.

“I had been a soldier based at Wacol for about 18 months and had just come back from an exer-

cise in the bush to find out we had been called to go to Vietnam.” he said.

Mr Woodward said their job was to complete operations with American and Australian battalions and then with three months left of their one-year deployment, they joined an Australian task-force in Nui Dat.

“We were involved in the battle of Long Tan and our main job was to support the infantry so they had protection.” he said.

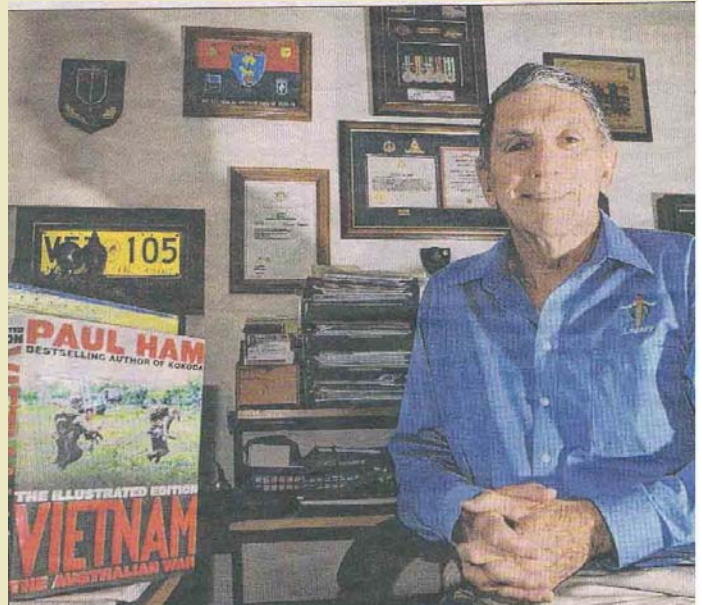
“I admire the infantry and the tunnel rats for their bravery.”

Years later, he learnt how close his camp to being attacked.”

“We found out that the enemy were planning an attack but they were intercepted by the D Company and 18 Australian men lost their lives, but it could have been more because we weren’t ready.” he said

Mr Woodward remembered his time there as hard work with minimal sleep.

## Vietnam vet gives back



Graham Woodward finds it rewarding helping fellow veterans

### CHAPTER 23 MEETING VENUES 2012

January 14<sup>th</sup>

Sherwood Services Club (10am Meeting)

February 11<sup>th</sup> (Valentine’s Meeting)

North’s Leagues & Services Club

March (Away) 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>

Darlington Beach Holiday Park

April 14<sup>th</sup> (Breakfast Meeting)

Surfers Paradise RSL Club

May 12<sup>th</sup> (Mother’s Day Meeting)

Greenbank RSL Club (If agreed with Doug)

June 9<sup>th</sup>

Bribie Island RSL Club

July 14<sup>th</sup>

Coorparoo RSL & Community Club

August 11<sup>th</sup> (Annual Dinner)

Wynnum RSL Club

September 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>

Beaudesert- Canungra (Area)

October 13<sup>th</sup>

Redlands RSL Club

November 10<sup>th</sup> AGM (President’s Lunch)

Redcliffe RSL Club

December 8<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Party)

Tweed Heads Bowls Club

# QUARTERMASTER'S STORE

## DECALS:



173D Ass'n Badge Decal.  
\$3.00



Classic Winged  
Badge Decal.  
\$3.00

Aussie/Sth Vietnam  
Flag Decal.  
\$4.00



4 Colour Ribbon on Australia  
Viet Vet Decal.  
Large: 19cm x 13.5 cm. \$5.00  
Small: 9.5cm x 7cm. \$3.00



4 Ribbon Decal.  
Large: 30cm x 5.5cm. \$6.00  
Small: 16cm x 3 cm. \$3.00  
Plain: 20cm x 5cm. \$4.00



Aussie Flag If You Don't Love It LEAVE Decal.  
\$4.00



Warning: Premises Guarded by Viet Vet  
Decal.  
It's Big.  
18.5cm x 12.5. \$4.00



Bumper Sticker.  
\$1.00

## BADGES:



Long Tan Cross  
Lapel Badge.  
\$6.00



RAR on 173d  
Cloth Patch.  
\$10.00



173d Ass'n Lapel Badge.  
\$5.00



Superceded  
Challenge coin.  
A souvenir.  
\$5.00

### MAIL ORDERS:

Contact Jeff Hufer on 07 3359 1519, or at email [jeff.hufer@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jeff.hufer@optusnet.com.au).  
Email orders preferred. Please give return address and telephone details at the time.  
Mail orders will attract a Postage & Packaging surcharge.

**PLEASE!!! Don't send money with orders. I will invoice separately.**

**OTHER GOOD STUFF**



Bucket Hat with 4 Colour Ribbon on Australia.  
\$15.00



Surf Hat with 173d Ass'n badge.  
**New Price: \$20.00**  
Size 55cm: Green only.  
Size 57cm: Green, White, & Blue.  
Size 59cm no longer available.



4 Colour Ribbon Necklace.  
\$12.00



4 Colour Ribbon Lanyard.  
\$3.50

Chapter 23 Stubby Cooler.  
\$6.00



Wine Glass Cooler.  
2 colours: Burgundy & Pink.  
\$5.50 or 4 for \$20.00  
**Special Offer: 10 for \$30.00**



**HAND CRAFTED LEATHER DRINK COASTERS:**  
173d, RAA, RAR, Aust Army. RAE.

\$5.00 ea  
or  
4 for \$18.00



Just ignore the ugly bloke..  
Take a gander at the **WATERPROOF JACKET.**  
This is guaranteed to keep you dry.  
Price is not determined as yet, but it will be in the range of \$95.00 to \$100.00.

**NEW:**

**1RAR CLOTH PATCH**

Only \$8.00



**FALLEN SOLDIER CLOTH PATCH**

\$7.00  
**A BARGAIN!**





**BULLET PEN: \$18.00**

**VIETNAM VETERAN FLAG:**



**\$14.00**

**CLOTHING**

Chapter Shirt. Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL. \$36.00

**Following Items To Order. Not Stocked.**

Vest. In Black or Navy Blue. Sizes S, M, XL to XXXXL. \$35.00 With Name. \$40.00

Spray Jacket. Sizes S, M, XL to XXXL. \$40.00 With Name. \$45.00

Ladies Blouse. Sizes 6 to 26. \$40.00 With

## HISTORY OF THE 'SKIPPY BADGE'



The original Royal Australian Infantry badge designed when the Corps was formed in 1948 with the motto "Duty and Honour", the original circa 1954 Royal Australian Regiment badge with the Edwardian "Kings' Crown, a Vietnam era brass Skippy Badge, which is adorned by the "Queen's" Crown and the current Royal Australian Infantry Corps badge, which has obvious lineage from the RAR badge.

In early 1949 the Director of Infantry, Brigadier I. R. Campbell, CB E, DSO, wrote to the Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment asking for suggested designs for a Regimental Badge. Several designs were submitted and the one eventually accepted was by 1RAR, then based at Ingleburn in NSW. The design of what would become the "Skippy Badge" was intended as a badge for the First Battalion only, but subsequently it was decided that all the Battalions of the Regiment would wear it.

On 10 March 1949 it was announced: "His Majesty King George the Sixth had been graciously pleased to give his approval to the prefix 'Royal' being appended to the title of The Australian Regiment". In final form the badge was the combination of many Suggestions put forwards by several officers and soldiers. Those involved in 1RAR's design were the Commanding Officer LTCOL J.L.A. Kelly DSO, Major T.E. Archer, Major K.B. Thomas MC and the Intelligence Sergeant E. J. "Ted" O'Sullivan. 1RAR's Intelligence section prepared sketches and assisted in the design. At this stage it became clear the design was for a Regimental rather than a Battalion badge, so it was decided to adopt an animal that was typically Australian - the kangaroo was the natural choice and the heraldic posture of the beast was to be standing.

The original sketch showed the animal with its fore-paws relaxed but in the badge they are outstretched because the die-casters could not achieve the proper definition with them hanging.

The boomerang is a weapon immediately associated with Australian Aborigines and it also related to the distinctive tactical signs of the 2nd AIF from which the 34th Australian Infantry Brigade was formed.

The crossed rifles are the type in use at the time the Regiment was formed - the "Rifle, .303 inch, Short,

Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) No 1, Mk III. The original design and the first badges struck sometime in 1954 featured a "King's" crown because George the Sixth was the monarch in '1949 but the design was altered to a "Queen's" Crown after the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

The Wattle Wreath was symbolic of Australian flora and a variation of the laurel wreath which is part of many Commonwealth badges. The motto of the Regiment needed to be original short and in English - "Duty First" was selected because "Then unhesitating and unquestioning performance of his duty is the fundamental requirement of a soldier". The Regimental Badge was reproduced on Christmas cards in 1949 but was not issued as a hat badge until 1954, when 2RAR in Korea replaced their Rising Sun badges with them. The original badges until the end of the Vietnam era were cast in brass by various makers and plated in gold. Original King's Crown badges with intact gold plating are eagerly sought by collectors and are exceedingly rare in any condition.

In June 1950, 3RAR - then in Japan - had four large badges cast out of spent brass shell cases by members of the Assault Pioneer Platoon. Each of the three Battalions were given a badge and the other went to 1 Infantry Brigade Headquarters. When the Brigade at Holsworthy was disbanded to form Headquarters '1st Division at Moore Park the badge was handed to 2RAR - then based at Holsworthy - for safekeeping and it was presented to 4RAR when it was formed at Woodside SA in 1964. All Battalions of the Regiment now have large badges - 5RAR was presented with theirs by the 2/5th Infantry Battalion Association in November 1967 and 7RAR'S was donated theirs by the 2/7th Infantry Battalion Association in September 1966.

The crest displayed by 6RAR was partially cast using artillery and small arms shells fired at the Battle of Long Tan at the Stuart Copper Refinery in Townsville in 1968.

One 8/9RAR Badge was presented to 8RAR on the Battalion's first birthday by 4RAR on 8 August 1967. This badge was cast from shells fired by "V" Battery and Dragon Battery Royal Artillery, in support of 4RAR operations in Sarawak April-September, 1966.

The 9RAR badge was cast by the Naval Dockyard Foundry in Singapore in 1970 using 1RAR's badge as a diecast, although the crown was changed. The badge probably started to be referred to as the "Skippy" during the Vietnam era which was when the television show Skippy the Bush Kangaroo was popular.

Article by WO2 R.W. "Spike" Jones, M M, originally published in Australian Infantry Magazine.

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*"All we do, we do for a mate who can't."*



# SANTA IS ON HIS WAY.



Ray Raines will again be our Santa at the Chapter Christmas Party at the Tweed Heads Bowls Club on Saturday, 10th December. This year the party will commence at **6:30pm** (NSW Time).



We have chosen a scrumptious three course meal from their No 1 menu. Being that this is a full meal we have decided to not have the finger food just before dinner.

Dollar (\$1.00) drinks will be available from 6:30pm. Schooners, 1/2 nips of spirits and soft drinks. This year you will have special tickets on each table that you must hand over the bar for each drink you purchase. Without a ticket you will be charged full price for your drinks. This is necessary because we are sharing a bar.

The dress for this function is neat casual OR Christmas theme.

We have booked a great entertainer, Peter Johnson. Peter comes with a good reputation and highly recommended.

**Santa Presents:** Men and Ladies are each asked to bring a gift to the value of \$10.00 for Santa to present. Please put some thought into your gift and mark it men's or ladies No candles please.

Lucky door tickets will be presented to all Chapter members giving you a chance to win one of our fabulous hampers. Over \$600.00 worth of prizes will be given away on the night.

## Sunday Morning Breakfast:

Chapter members are invited to join us for breakfast before you head home at the Rainbow Bay Surf Club, 2 Snapper Rocks Rd, Coolangatta. The Chapter will subsidise your breakfast, on arrival you will be given \$10.00 ea toward your breakfast ... Just as our final Christmas gift to our members.

Breakfast will be 8:30am (Qld Time) ... Your on the border now the Party is NSW time and Breakfast Qld time.

## CHAPTER 23 - CHRISTMAS PARTY

**TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB - 6:30pm (NSW Time) 10th December 2011**

Name: ..... Number attending dinner ..... @ \$25.00 per person

Guests are required to pay the full cost \$52:00pp Number .....

**Note:** Single members may bring one guest @ \$25.00

Breakfast will be held at the Surf Club on Sunday Morning and subsidized by \$10.00pp. Number .....

Direct Credit: Suncorp Bank - Chapter 23 - BSB: 484799 - Acc No: 043146774

Make cheques payable to **CHAPTER 23** nothing else

**R.S.V.P. 1st December 2011**  
**ABSOLUTELY NO LATER**

Return to: **Ashley Spann PO Box 214 MOOROOKA QLD 4105**