

From the Presidents Pen

Well, Rammers, Black Sheep, another Christmas rolls around and I calculate that just about all of the Malaysia and Vietnam veteran Black Sheep should have a Seniors Card in their wallets by now. Even the silly buggers who are still in full employment, who will probably outlive the rest of us, should go and get one when they pick up their Library card. Before I 'ramble', I must thank Hilton and the Committee for yet another successful year of the Association.

So, to happenings of the last few months with a Military flavour. I made a rather adventurous trip in September and October and ventured into Russia and Kazakhstan. Neither country is for the fainthearted, but only from the point of



view that the Cyrillic alphabet is confronting as the people are just people and were very welcoming. I was lucky to have Russian/English speakers to assist me in Moscow and a meeting in Syktyvkar, capital of the Komi Republic, some 1000km NE of Moscow, was conducted in a multilingual mix of Russian, German, French and English.

Moscow was fascinating. I felt very safe, and apart from the masses of humanity moving around the Metro, it was easy to negotiate on foot and there was a discovery around every corner.

I spent a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon walking around Gorky Park and another half day on the Moscow outer fringe at Tsaritsyno Park and Museum. The Kremlin was truly amazing and I would dedicate at least a full day to explore it as a new visitor.



Kazakhstan: My guide in Kazakhstan, a fellow World Masters Skiing Association member, puts me to shame with her excellent English grammar. I visited her home of Kokshetau, way up North in this vast country which is one third the area of Australia, and was honoured with a chance to 'teach' English to both children and adults in a small but busy English Language School.

On the way home, I had an afternoon and evening in Astana, the new capital, which is like Dubai, but lighter on the steroids. It is modern and beautiful

and has both Eastern and Western tones in its architecture. Kazakhstan itself, is like a four way traffic jam, an intersection of New, Old, Eastern and Western cultures with a fascinating and charming outcome. Suffice to say, I am going back to explore more of this part of the world and have been invited back to do a few weeks teaching English as well as to explore the Kazakh culture.

Moscow's Kremlin: Back to the Kremlin and guns. The Kremlin certainly has the balls in the size department. The largest Cannon, the Tsar Cannon is located just past the Kremlin Armoury. The low ratio of length to calibre makes it technically a mortar, not a cannon. Personally, I would call it a "bombard". It is cast in bronze and weighs over 39 tonnes, is 5.34 m long with a bore of 890 mm and an external diameter of 1,200 mm. It's mounted on a stylized cast iron gun carriage with two wheels. The barrel is heavily decorated. The cannon-style gun carriage, added in 1835, is purely decorative. This weapon was never intended to be transported on or fired from this gun carriage.



The 1 tonne "balls" located in front of the cannon were produced in 1834 as a decoration only. There is little history regarding the use of the *Tsar'-pushka* but it is thought to have fired 'stone grapeshot' if anything, but not solid or hollow projectiles. Forensic examination of the bore has revealed gunpowder residue, so it must have been fired at least once.



But I found the war trophies and Russian Artillery and Mortars far more interesting. There is a collection of 16th to 19th century artillery and mortar tubes along the façade of the Kremlin's Arsenal building that now houses the Kremlin Regiment, the main security guard for the Russian President. In 1812, when the French army left Moscow, there were more than a hundred foreign cannons in the Kremlin. By 1819, another 875 guns abandoned by the Napoleon's army at the fields of battle were transferred here.

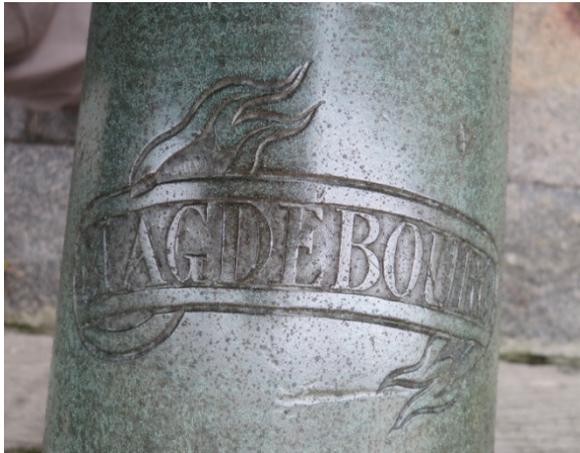
Presently, in front of the Arsenal's building there are 25 old Russian cannons from the 16th to 19th centuries, 15 foreign cannons of the same time and 830 cannons, mortars and howitzers captured

during the Patriotic War 1812. Among them there are guns of France, Austria, Prussia, Italy, Spain, Holland and other European countries.



I could have spent hours examining these guns as each seems to have been personalised by its crew with decorations and names and slogans along with the normal regal ciphers.

So if you thought scrawling “Hound of Hell” along the barrel of your 155mm was something new, think again. Napoleon’s Gunners were at it in the 1700s and 1800s.



This one (Left) says MAGDEBOURG, interesting in that Magdebourg (Magdeburg) is the present capital city of the Bundesland of Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. The other, Right, says “For Glory and Country” above the stylised Eagle with Sword and the Napoleonic crown.



This cute little Mortar is inscribed “ARSAMES” who was a Prince of Persia in about 500BC

Well, we have officially ended our major commitment to Afghanistan. The “Butchers Bill” sadly stands at 40 killed and 261 seriously wounded. Remember the way we Vietnam Vet members were treated when we came home and when you greet our later veterans, remember that it was absolutely appalling and should never be repeated.

It remains to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from myself and your Committee. May all your families be safe and may your health and wealth be never-ending...

Your President

Warren (*Noddy*) Feakes

Secretary's Report: Since the last RAM Ramblings we welcome one new member, George Muscat from Bunbury WA who served in the Battery in Malaysia from August 1968 to November 1969. Welcome back George to the proud flock of Black Sheep members.

Committee: Your committee is:

ELECTED POSITIONS (*Executive*)

President: Warren (Noddy) Feakes – Wanniasa ACT – 0417 209 360
Vice Presidents: Brian Tapp – Narrabeen NSW - 0410 543 743
Justin Collins – Canungra Qld – 0467 374 757
Secretary/Treasurer: Hilton Lenard – Kambah ACT - 0418 695 345

State/Territory Representatives:

Queensland: Neil Lunney – Sunshine Coast – 0419 712 136
NSW: Bob Edmonds – Sydney - 0413 621 196
Victoria: Ken (Doc) Barclay – Mildura – 0428 251 364
Tasmania: Les Mullan – Launceston – 0408 449 006
SA: Adrian (Wally) Walford – Modbury – 08 8265 1976
WA: Bob White – Dudley Park - 08 9535 9411
NT: Jim Wright – Palmerston – 0419 090 852
ACT: Peter Moat – Weetangera - 0419 594 610

NON-ELECTED POSITIONS (*Appointed by the Committee*)

Editor RAM Ramblings: Warren (Noddy) Feakes – Wanniasa– 0417 209 360
Webmaster: Doc Barclay – Mildura – 0428 251 364
Historian: Hilton Lenard – Kambah ACT – 0418 695 345
Serving 107 Bty Member: BSM WO2 Damien Lindsay – Townsville - 0417 816 886
Special Projects: George Salmon – Chapman ACT – 0414 994 512
Welfare Officer: Ian (Bozo) Simpson – Sydney - 0432 610 794
Hon Chaplin: Rick Burley – Wallsend NSW - 0412 455 301

Regional Representative for:

North Qld: Mike Dinnison – Townsville - 0429 777 786
Central Qld: Jon Eaton – Sarina - 0402 248 716
South Qld: Jim Bray – Miami - 0403 748 858
North NSW: Col Lowe – Tamworth – 02 6761 8936
Sydney: Ian (Bozo) Simpson – Sydney - 0432 610 794
South NSW: Ian Hughes – Sanctuary Point – 0417 140 250
Melbourne Vic: Noel Paterson – Rosebud – 0411 568 103

BOARD of TRUSTEES: Warren (Noddy) Feakes - Wanniasa – 0417 209 360
Hilton Lenard – Kambah ACT - 0418 695 345
Jim Wright – Palmerston NT – 0419 090 852

Members List: There are 189 financial members. Current Association membership covers all regions of Australia plus Paul Gaff in San Diego, USA and Gordon Pound in the UK. Nine members are currently serving in the Defence Force. Membership covers all periods of 107 Battery's post 1965 history, with approx one third of members having served at Holsworthy and/or Malaysia (1965-1969) or Townsville then Vietnam (1969-1971) or Townsville (since 1971). Many served in more than one location. Like an updated membership list, then contact the Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: With 146 life subscribers, all life subscriptions are held in the Trustee accounts. Your membership renewal information is included in this edition. Subscriptions for 2013 are now due. They still are only \$15 PA and life subscription at \$150. The life sub, if paid by credit card, can be paid in three instalments of \$50 each. As at 30 June 2013 the Association made a trading profit of \$870.91 for the previous twelve months. Most profits come from the sale of the Association sale items. Current-account assets are \$6,104.17 in the Association's working funds and \$20,523.97 held by the Trustees, representing all life subscriptions and resulting interest received to date. A copy of the accounts can be requested from the Secretary/Treasurer.

Around the Water Cart: Furphies from your Secretary and others.



Artillery Quote:

Artillery adds dignity to what would otherwise be a vulgar brawl.
Frederick the Great

Reunion 2014 Darwin: Anzac week 2014 is approaching. Jim Wright has been flat out putting together a great four days accommodation and activities package right in central Darwin for the period 24-28 April. Activities will include swimming with the crocodiles and kneeling gun drill on the 25 pounder on the veranda roof of the Darwin RSL and a lot more! Details are now available in the two page R14 Registration attached to this edition or contact the Secretary on 0418 695 345 or hiltonlenard@hotmail.com.

STOP PRESS: Top awards in 107 Battery Townsville Our NQ committee member, Mike Dinnison, present the Association awards to Battery members at the Sheep Dip, Cha Phu Lines, Lavarack Barracks Townsville on 12 December.



Each award comprised a copy of our book 107 Field Battery 1965-1972, suitably notated with the award and signed by our NQ committee member and the Battery Commander.

The awardees where: Best Gunner - Gnr Carroll; Best JNCO - Bdr Dirs (who also was awarded best JNCO of the Regiment); Best SNCO - Sgt Parker (absent on duty for the presentation) and Best young Officer - Lt Green.

Above Mick Dinnison (centre) congratulates Bdr Dirs on his award watched on by battery members and BC Major Tom Kelly in uniform.

107 Battery was also awarded 'Battery of the Year' in 3 Brigade Townsville. Well done to all serving Black Sheep in Townsville.

Ian (Bozo) Simpson qualifies as Welfare Officer. Last year our Sydney Committee representative, Ian, accepted the position of Welfare Officer to relieve our Hon Chaplain and Welfare Officer for a well earned break from half his duties. Thanks Ian. But not satisfied with just the title, Ian nominated and in early December attended and qualified the Training & Information Program (TIP) Welfare (level 1) course held at the Department of Veterans' office in Sydney.

TIP is a joint venture between Ex-Service Organisations and the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA). DVA provides funding for training courses to assist volunteer compensation and welfare officers to work in the ex-service community. All TIP trainers are volunteers.

Other Association members known to have TIP qualifications are Doc Barclay at Mildura (Pensions officer - VEA) and Hilton Lenard at Canberra (Welfare and Pensions officer - VEA - SRCA - MRCA).

The Veterans Entitlement Act (VEA) covers operational (war service) up to June 2014. The Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (SRCA) covers all service in Australia and overseas of a non war-like nature (ie Malaysia from October 1967) up to June 2014. The

Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) covers all war-like and peace time service from 1 July 2014. Do any other members have TIP qualifications? Then please advise the Secretary. If an members have any questions on any aspects of military compensation or welfare, then contact one of the above members and they will be able to direct you to a specialist in your area.

From: Neil Lunney

Sent: Friday, 13 December 2013

To: Hilton Lenard

Hi Hilton, I have today been advised of the passing of Terry Phillips, Willy Wilmot and Noel Lesina. I met them in 102 Battery and I think 103 Battery, but not in 107. Anyway some of the guys might remember them.

Can't say I have been 100% lately and Mim is still waiting for op, in pain.

All our best to you both, and all in the Association.

Lunnsie & Mim

Locals take their Tai Chi to China by Sandra Pearce

A group of local Tai Chi enthusiasts have just returned home from China after taking second place in an International Tai Chi Competition. The "Lilac Moon Tai Chi" group, headed by instructor Patricia Kent from Trentham, Victoria, lead the contingent of eight Aussie's spending 4 days in Beijing as tourists before travelling on the fast train to spend a week in Bei Dai Ha – at a seaside town, training for the competition. Every 2 years an International Conference is hosted at a local university, and is attended by hundreds of people from across China and groups from Germany, Korea, Japan and the eight Aussie's. This year, the Australian team performed the traditional Yang 24 form in front of a packed auditorium and were the second group to compete. News had reached the Aussie's whilst in transit for home at the Beijing Airport, that we had been awarded second place with a Silver Medal.



Group leader Patricia Kent, who teaches Tai Chi classes in Trentham and at other locations in Ballan, Meredith and Kyneton, says the opportunity to perform tai chi at an International Conference was a very humbling experience. Tai Chi is often referred to as a soft form of Martial Arts. Participants who train regularly say that they are gaining health benefits, which the Medical fraternity are recognising.

The beauty of Tai Chi is that it is accessible to virtually all ages and abilities.

Highlights were definitely competing in the International Tai Chi Competition with esteemed enthusiasts watching, making new international friends at the Conference and learning more about Tai Chi, and gaining a greater understanding of the Chinese culture and the customs. This was Sandra's second trip back to China and I look forward to returning in 2 years time at a different location. What a fantastic adventure!

Sandra is a member of the Association and the widow of our former Vice President, RAM Ramblings editor and Vietnam veteran, Barry Pearce.

Award of the Silver Star to WO2 Bill Dunstan. As reported in a previous RAM Ramblings, the award has now been made. Member Robin Hunt attended and reports:



“The US Consul-General presented retired WO2 Bill DUNSTAN with a Silver Star Medal on 29 November 2014 in the Sergeants Mess at Puckapunyal, Vic. Bill, who served in Vietnam with 4 Field Regiment and the AATTV, was supported by his wife and family and former service mates. Senior officers from the Australian and US Army added weight to the occasion that commenced with the traditional US injunction of "Attention to Orders" as his citation was read out”.

Gunner W L Dunstan served on operational service in Malaya with 101 Field Battery 1959 to 1960. He joined 4th Field Regiment RAA. His records show he also deployed on Active Service with both the 1st and 4th Field Regiment's in South Vietnam in 1967. On 14 December 1969 WO2 William L. Dunstan deployed on active service as member of the AATTV. Along with Major Thomas F. Matteo, they were serving as advisers to the Reconnaissance Company of the 6th Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division (ARVN). During this action in Quang Ngai Province South Vietnam both the Senior Advisor (SA) and WO Dunstan sustained multiple shrapnel wounds. Despite his wounds, WO Dunstan assisted the more seriously wounded Senior Advisor to the LZ. Then he aided in directing the gunship strikes against the VC forces threatening to overwhelm the Reconnaissance Company.

Although Bill's USA award was initially made some 40 years ago, it took a long time for the Australian 'system' to catch up and formally recognise and present the award.

The funeral of Moira Fay Donkin Fay, who passed away in September, was the wife of Don Donkin, the RSM of 4 Field Regiment at Townsville and Vietnam, 1969 and 1971. Ian (Bozo) Simpson represented 107 Battery Association attending the service and filed this report. *I arrived at the church with plenty of time to spare for the Moira's Memorial Service. This was a first for me because I have always been late attending these Services in the past. I can only put it down to being selected as our New Welfare Officer and the added responsibility, that comes with holding that position in the battery. The service was very well conducted by Don's son Chris, and all of the family spoke very highly of their mother and Grandmother. After the service we went back to the Harbord Diggers to have a few nibbles and a couple of beers. Don was not there as he had gone to the Crematorium to say his farewells with two of the grandsons. I introduced myself to Chris and congratulated him on a fantastic job that he had done. I told him I would not stay but he insisted that I wait for another 15 minutes, as his dad was on his way back here. I agreed and managed to introduce myself to Don, and told him I remembered him yelling at me at North Head. Don quickly replied: Never I would not do that!!! With a smile. He is looking quite old and has lost a lot of weight. I did tell him that his wife must have been a great lady in every way, just like my own mother was, and he said she certainly was.*

Kundasang War Memorial Sabah Malaysia by John (BO) Plenty

At the foothills of Mount Kinabalu stands a small memorial park dedicated to those Australian and British servicemen, who died as POW's in Sandakan and on the Ranau death marches during WW2. (The area was then known as British North Borneo).



The memorial has four separate gardens in different levels; the Australian Garden, a formal English rose garden, a Borneo Garden and a Contemplation Garden and reflection pool.

Those honoured by the memorial include 1787 Australian POW's, 641 POW's and Survivors, just 6 who survived to return home.

The memorial also pays tribute to the local population who risked their lives to assist the POW's. A New Zealander Maj G S (Toby) Carter who enlisted in the Royal Australian Engineers organised native resistance during the war in the Kelabit Highlands of Sarawak and later was the driving force behind the establishment of the memorial and the park. It was built in 1962.

In recent years the memorial gardens have been restored to their original beauty through the untiring efforts of the guardian of the Kundasang War Memorial, Mr Sevee Charuruks, and some financial assistance from the Australian Government, although this assistance has now ceased and the memorial must provide its own funding to remain viable.

“LEST WE FORGET” “ANDAI NYA KITA TERLUPA”

A dog called Sniffer *with thanks to Mim Lunney.*

A man had just boarded and settled into his seat next to the window on the plane when another man sat down in the aisle seat and put his Black Labrador in the middle seat next to the man.



The first man looked very quizzically at the dog and asked why the dog was allowed on the plane. The second man explained that he was from the Police Drugs Enforcement Agency and that the dog was a 'sniffing dog'. 'His name is Sniffer and he's the best there is

'I'll show you once we get airborne, when I put him to work.' The plane took off, and once it has levelled out, the Policeman said, 'Watch this.' He told Sniffer to 'Search'. Sniffer jumped down, walked along the aisle, and finally sat very purposefully next to a woman for several seconds. Sniffer then returned to his seat and put one paw on the policeman's arm. The Policeman said, 'Good boy', and he turned to the man. 'That woman is in possession of marijuana, I'm making a note of her seat number and the authorities will apprehend her when we land. 'Gee, that's pretty good,' replied the first man. Once again, the Policeman sent Sniffer to search the aisles. The Lab sniffed about, sat down beside a man for a few seconds, returned to its seat, and this time he placed two paws on the agent's arm. The Policeman said, 'Two paws mean that man is carrying cocaine, so again, I'm making a note of his seat number for the police.' 'I like it!' said his seat mate.

The Policeman then told Sniffer to 'Search' again. Sniffer walked up and down the aisles for a little while, sat down for a moment, and then came racing back to the agent, jumped into the middle seat and proceeded to poo'd all over the place. The first man was really disgusted by this behaviour and couldn't figure out how or why a well-trained dog would behave like that. So he asked the Policeman, 'What's going on?'

The Policeman nervously replied, 'He's just found a bomb.'

A thought for Christmas



**A thoughtful message
to
prepare you for Christmas.**

**Please drink responsibly
sit down so you don't spill any!**

And in the Xmas spirit and dedicated to Doc Barclay:

A word to the wise with Christmas upon us. As you well know, some of us have been lucky not to have had brushes with the authorities on our way home from the various social sessions, over the years. A couple of nights ago, I was out for a few drinks with some friends and had a few too many beers and then topped it off with a couple of Rum chasers. Not a good idea. Knowing full well I was at least slightly over the limit, I did something I've never done before: I took a taxi home. Sure enough, I passed a police road block but because it was a taxi, they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident, which was a real surprise. I have never driven a taxi before and am not sure where I got it!

And a flash from the past, pay rates for National Servicemen from the 1967's:

PAY AND ALLOWANCES — NATIONAL SERVICEMEN
DAILY RATES OF PAY (as at 1 Jan, 1967)

Rank	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
	\$ c						
Private	4.82	5.09	5.32	5.54	5.74	5.99	6.20
L/corporal	5.17	5.38	5.61	5.83	6.04	6.28	6.50
Corporal	5.56	5.83	6.07	6.28	6.49	6.73	6.94
Sergeant	6.14	6.42	6.65	6.87	7.08	7.32	7.54

Should you be selected for officer training, and successfully complete the course, you are commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and receive a rate of pay of (\$7.67) a day.

In addition to the above rates:

- each member receives a clothing maintenance allowance of 28c a day.
- a married member receives a marriage allowance of \$1.72 a day.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walk at Seymour



Following our story is the last RAM Ramblings several members have reported on their visits there and how impressed they were. Doc Barclay reports and included some photos:



Glen & I I have been down in Seymour during the week to see the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walk. It is bloody impressive and well worth the trip. Whilst there we found your name and took these photos. They show the start of the wall The replica of the Long Tan Cross, the Luscombe Bowl at night and your name and the panel on which it appears. Hope you enjoy them.

Falcon in a tree. In the last RAM Ramblings we included a story and photo of a push bike imbedded high in a tree. Apparently a young first World War digger had chained his bike to a small tree before he went to the trenches on the Western Front.



Well not to be out done I received from an anonymous person, a photo which claimed to be of a Falcon (well the Falcon part is true) that was parked in a backyard before a young gunner departed for Vietnam with 107 Battery, or was it Malaysia? Unfortunately the young digger did not return and his parents also left the Falcon untouched in memory of their son.

Your Watercart Operator was unable to verify this story, so it must be classified as being very suspect. But the Falcon in a tree appears to be true.

Chin Peng, a Communist guerrilla leader whose tenacious, bloody struggles for an independent Communist Malaysia pitted him against Japanese invaders, British colonialists and finally the government of what had become his own newly sovereign nation, died in exile in September in Bangkok. He was 88. Agence France-Presse, the French news agency, said the cause was cancer, quoting a retired Thai military commander who had acted as a liaison between Mr. Chin and the authorities. Mr. Chin had lived in Thailand for many years. Mr. Chin was the last surviving revolutionary leader to have successfully fought for independence from colonial rulers in Asia after World War II — a cohort that included Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, Sihanouk in Cambodia. When he finally laid down his arms in 1989, Mr. Chin was called “the world’s senior surviving guerrilla.”

Chin Peng was the nom de guerre of Ong Boon Hua, who had joined with the British to battle Japanese troops after they invaded what was then British Malaya in 1941. His honours for heroism included the Order of the British Empire. But after the war, as the newly named head of Malaya’s Communist Party, he ordered an armed insurrection against the British colonial

rulers, and when Malaya became independent of Britain in 1957, the insurgency morphed into a fight against the new government. (Malaysia, consisting of Malaya, Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore, came into being in 1963. Singapore became independent of Malaysia in 1965.) “I suppose I am the last of the region’s old revolutionary leaders,” Mr. Chin wrote in his 2003 memoir, “My Side of History. “It was my choice to lead from the shadows, away from the limelight.”

He may not have actually had a choice. By the mid-1950s, the British had effectively put down the Communist offensive, although a final peace agreement would not be signed until 1989. Mr. Chin disappeared, although his voice was heard on broadcasts of the clandestine Malaysian Revolution Radio. Then he fell silent, and it was assumed that years of living in the jungle had taken their final toll on him. It turned out that in 1960 he fled to China, the principal backer of the Malaysian Communists, who themselves were mainly ethnic Chinese. He later moved to Thailand. After the 1989 peace pact, he tried to return to Malaysia but was refused entry.

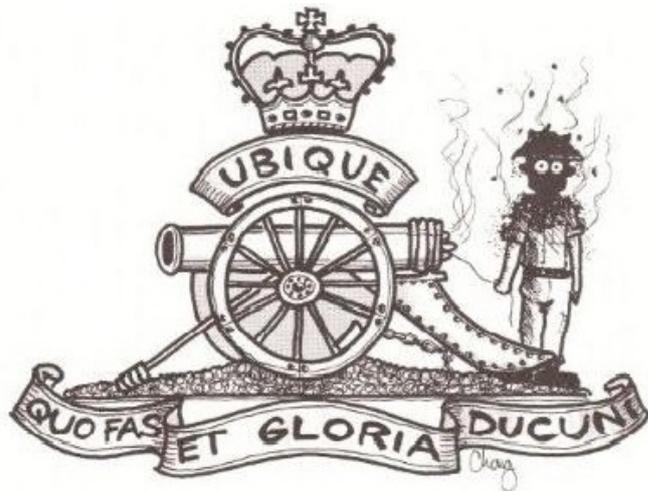
Ong Boon Hua was reported to have been born on Oct. 21, 1924, in the Malaysian state of Perak. His father, an immigrant from Fujian Province in southeast China, made a good living selling and repairing bicycles, and sent him to English-language schools, where he excelled. Attracted to Communism as a means of fighting prejudice against Chinese-Malayans, he joined party youth organizations at 15. Soon he left school and went to work for the party, which assigned him to lead three anti-Japanese organizations for students, teachers and shop assistants. After the Japanese invaded in December 1941, he became a liaison to British commandos. The Associated Press reported in 1989 that John Davis, a British officer, said of him, “Unusual ability, and commanded the natural respect of men without fuss or formality.”

After the war, Lai Teck, secretary general of the Malayan Communist Party, fled with most of its money after collaborating with both the Japanese and the British. Mr. Chin was placed in charge of investigating him, and was appointed to replace him in 1948 at age 24. He ordered an armed struggle, perhaps on instructions from Moscow, and began by attacking two rubber plantations and methodically executing three planters. Twelve years of violence, which came to be known as the Malayan Emergency, ensued. A \$250,000 reward was offered for information leading to Mr. Chin’s capture.

At the height of the conflict, some 70,000 British, Australian, New Zealand, Fijian, Gurkha and other British Commonwealth troops fought about 10,000 guerrillas. More than 10,000 fighters and civilians died between 1948 and 1960. Britain rescinded the Order of the British Empire it had granted him. “I make no apologies for seeking to replace such an odious system with a form of Marxist socialism,” Mr. Chin wrote. “Colonial exploitation, irrespective of who were the masters, Japanese or British, was morally wrong.”

In 1955, Mr. Chin emerged from the jungle to negotiate with Malayan officials at a schoolhouse near the Thai-Malay border. Talks broke down after Malayan negotiators refused Mr. Chin’s demand to be part of a coalition government. Though the point was largely moot after Malaya’s independence in 1957, fighting sputtered on, with periodic escalations. When it finally ended in 1989, some 1,200 guerrillas were allowed under the peace pact to returned to civilian life. Mr. Chin thought the 1989 agreement provided for his own return to Malaysia, but he was denied in court on the grounds that he could not prove he was Malaysian, having lost his birth and citizenship certificates. Many said the real reason was a lingering resentment over the insurrection.

Information about his survivors was not available. Mr. Chin’s wife, Khoon Wah, is deceased. They had two sons. The Malaysian police have refused to allow his remains to be returned to his home country.



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY

A Veteran Died today – with thanks to Dave Dacre

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,

While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Someone who breaks his promise
And deceives his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,

Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."

Vietnam History From the World Wide Web, with thanks to Ian (Bozo) Simpson, every thing you want to know about the Vietnam War is here. just follow the link below. An incredible amount of work had gone into to produce this historical and very detailed site. <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

Why Men are Seldom Depressed *with thanks to Mim Lunney*

Men Are Just Happier People, What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Chocolate is just another snack. You can be President. Wedding plans take care of themselves. You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park and not have to worry about getting wet. You can wear NO shirt to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you the truth. The world is your urinal. You never have to drive to another service station restroom because this one is just too icky!

You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt...or have to recite "lefty loosy, righty tighty."

Same work, more pay. Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress \$3500. Tux rental-\$75. People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them. New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet.

One mood all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks. A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she will still be your friend. Your underwear is \$6.95 for a three-pack.

Three pairs of shoes are more than enough. You almost never have strap problems in public. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes. Everything on your face stays its original colour.

The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades! You only have to shave your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. One wallet, one pair of shoes and one colour for all seasons.

You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can do your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice whether to grow a moustache or not

You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes.

No wonder men are happier.

NICKNAMES

◆ If Sheila, Candy and Sarah go out for lunch, they will call each other Sheila, Candy and Sarah.

◆ If Mike, Dave and John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as Fat Boy, Bubba and Wildman.

EATING OUT

◆ When the bill arrives, Mike, Dave and John will each throw in \$20, even though it's only for \$32.50. None of them will have anything smaller and none will actually admit they want change back.

◆ When the girls get their bill, outcome the pocket calculators.

MONEY

◆ A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.

◆ A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item that she doesn't need but it's on sale.

BATHROOMS

◆ A man has six items in his bathroom: toothbrush and toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, a bar of soap, and a towel.

◆ The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337. A man would not be able to identify more than 20 of these items.

ARGUMENTS

◆ A woman has the last word in any argument.

◆ Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

FUTURE

◆ A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.

◆ A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.

MARRIAGE

◆ A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.

◆ A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

DRESSING UP

◆ A woman will dress up to go shopping, water the plants, empty the trash, answer the phone, read a book, and get the mail.

◆ A man will dress up for weddings and funerals.

NATURAL

◆ Men wake up as good-looking as they went to bed.

◆ **Women somehow deteriorate during the night.**

OFFSPRING

◆ A woman knows all about her children. She knows about dentist appointments and romances, best friends, favourite foods, secret fears and hopes and dreams.

◆ **A man is vaguely aware of some short people living in the house.**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing!

Hal G.P. Colebatch: Here's the waterfront drama that Aunty did not broadcast! *We heard nothing of how the unionists undermined the war effort during World War II, all the looting, the strikes and industrial ransom - [The Australian](#) May 18, 2007*

IF the ABC wanted to make a drama about the waterfront in Australia, one may wonder why it didn't look at a matter rather more dramatic and significant than that depicted in *Bastard*

Boys, and one that has been suppressed with Orwellian thoroughness by the Australian history industry: the waterfront strikes that occurred throughout World War II, and at times when Australia's national survival appeared to be at stake.

As Japanese forces attacked Milne Bay in 1942 and Australia and the US tried to rush reinforcements to the troops holding on there, Townsville watersiders refused to load heavy guns unless paid treble or, later, quadruple time. A small group of US soldiers, under a colonel who had trained Australia's first modern heavy artillery battery, eventually threw the watersiders off the wharf and loaded the guns themselves. By then the rest of the convoy had sailed. The guns reached Milne Bay too late.

When advance elements of the 7th Infantry Brigade on the SS Tasman reached Milne Bay in 1942, proceeding straight into battle, they found watersiders at Townsville had broken into the radio vans and taken the accumulators from the radio sets. Other waterside strikes caused Milne Bay to be supplied with anti-aircraft gun barrels without mountings. The Tasman was the target, as it ferried troops to New Guinea, of not exceptional but repeated strikes during each voyage.

In Adelaide in 1942, watersiders deliberately wrecked US aircraft engines by dropping them from cargo nets until American soldiers fired sub-machineguns. Sergeant E. D. Patton of the First Australian Corps of Signals recalled: "There were two incidents which occurred at Adelaide on our arrival from the Middle East in 1942 on the SS Jetersum. Our cargo consisted of 5000 tons of ammunition, 25-pounder field guns, 200 truck pens plus four Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft guns mounted on deck. The ammunition was covered by about 3000 tons of sand and 80 tons of gun cotton was below water level in the anchor-chain lockers.

"As soon as we tied up at the wharf, the wharfies came on board asking various members of the crew and army what we had on board, especially under the sand. Well, no one would tell them but they soon found out about the ammo and demanded danger money. Not receiving (it), they went on strike. The army was called in to unload the ship. In the meantime some of the wharfies would not get off the ship, so the army removed them.

"The ship berthed in front of ours was an American Liberty ship which was unloading Allison aero engines. When the cargo nets were lowered into the hold the engines in their flimsy crates were loaded, then the winch-driver would snatch the net up and swing it over the side and let it drop on the concrete wharf; as a result the engines were damaged.

"The Americans told them to stop dropping the engines, (but) the wharfies took no notice whatsoever. As a consequence the Americans armed themselves with Thompson sub-machineguns and fired a number of short bursts up in the air. That quietened them for about half an hour, so some of the crew produced some plastic stun grenades and dropped them down into the hold. That put a stopper on their shenanigans."

On the Brisbane wharves Australian watersiders also deliberately wrecked US P-38 fighter planes. According to another eye-witness, Ian L. O'Donnell: "They simply hooked the lifting crane on to the planes and, without unbolting the planes from the decks, would signal the hoisting engineer to lift, which effectively tore the planes to pieces."

On the same wharves, in August 1942, watersiders smashed the vehicles of an army battalion being rushed to New Guinea by dropping them from winches after soldiers with drawn bayonets had stopped them stealing food from the stores they were loading.

When No317 radar station was being set up at Green Island near New Britain, it was found that all the valves for the radar sets had been stolen by wharf labourers at Townsville.

Without the valves the station was unable to go on air as scheduled, and a violent electrical tropical storm caught a force of two-seater American Vultee Vengeance dive bombers flying back from a raid on the Japanese base at Rabaul.

The storm upset the aircrafts' compasses and, even though they were in radio contact, they became lost. Without radar the station could not guide them home and they flew on until they ran out of fuel and crashed, as those listening on the ground heard. Two of the aircraft were found. Sixteen others were lost and the 32 men in them perished. James Ahearn, an RAAF serviceman at Green Island, wrote: "Had No317 been on air it was possible the doomed aircraft could have been guided back to base. The grief was compounded by the fact that had it not been for the greed and corruption on the Australian waterfront, such lives would not have been needlessly lost."

RAAF sergeant H. T. Tolhurst, who had opened the box marked "Radio valves - handle with care" and found it empty, said: "We believed that had we been on air it was possible that we could have guided those doomed aircraft back ... All of the personnel keenly felt the loss of those ... young lives. Our feelings were not helped by the scorn of the US Air Force personnel who became aware of the reasons ... and who tainted us with the contempt they held."

In September 1942, at South Brisbane, watersiders refused to work after midnight unless paid time-and-a-half when the 2/1 Battalion, AIF 6th Division, was being rushed to New Guinea to defend Port Moresby. Jack Prichett, a sergeant with the 2/2 Battalion, AIF 6th Division, recalled: "As orders were to sail at 0300 hours with or without stores our (commanding officer) took charge and 14 platoon loaded the stores and we sailed late. It was essential that we got to Port Moresby to prevent the Japs capturing it."

These are a small sample of accounts that I have collected dealing with literally hundreds of incidents of wartime strikes and pilfering on the wharves from 1939 to 1945, as well as outright sabotage. During the course of World War II, virtually every major Australian warship, including at different times our entire force of cruisers was targeted by strikes, go-slows or sabotage. Too bad the ABC is not interested. The story would make a great drama. *Hal G.P. Colebatch is writing on wartime strikes and sabotage, Australia's Secret War.*

The RAM Shed copies, acquires, scrounge and steals medical and related important information considered worthy for Rampart RAMMERS. The RAM Shed compiler is not medically qualified or the originator of this information. It is passed it on 'in good faith with a bit of cheek' and the classic 'if the CAP fits' philosophy. Remember, if in doubt or the pain persists consult Doc Barclay or your medical advisor. If you have a contribution or story, send it to the editor. Our recent themes have covered potentially fatal ailments that affect otherwise fit, if ageing, Rammers. Stroke, heart attack, bowel cancer and prostate cancer have all been covered. All have clear early detection signs. So you know the drill, get off your 'bum' and consult your local medical officer now. This edition covers mental problems that are affecting our newer veterans.

At least 15 ex-servicemen committed suicide between Christmas and Anzac Day in the terrible hidden toll of war - Ruth Lamperd & Patrick Carlyon - *Sunday Herald Sun*

A Gold Card for a troubled soldier to cover the cost of his medical expenses for life was issued the day after he committed suicide last year. The Digger had returned from a deployment where he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as physical injuries. His widow declined a request for an interview with the *Herald Sun*, and asked that the Digger's name not be published. But it has been claimed his ongoing battle with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to be upgraded from a White Card - which offers only a limited form of medical cover - compounded his PTSD.

The revelation emerged as a *Herald Sun* investigation found the veterans' community in Brisbane is reeling from 11 suicides since Christmas, including former soldiers returned from Somalia, Rwanda, Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

[Life after the horror of Afghanistan](#) MEDIC Lance Corporal Mark Hughes-Brown knew it was bad. The blast 200 metres ahead threw up much more than dirt. **They take them away, they break them, then they give them back to us.** Two ex-servicemen from Victoria, one from [Sydney](#) and one from Western Australia are also known to have taken their lives since the start of the year. Veterans' advocates say the tragic tally is a fraction of a hidden blight unrecorded by authorities and highlights serious inadequacies in the DVA's bureaucratic claims process, which often stretches veterans' battles for compensation out to two years. The DVA keeps no figures on suicides of past servicemen and women. It told the *Herald Sun* that it "aims to deal with all claims as efficiently as possible to ensure minimal impact on the individual".

Do we do enough to look after our war veterans? Vote now and have your say

But another widow who lost her ex-Digger husband to suicide said resources to support ex-soldiers were insufficient. Once soldiers such as her husband left the defence force, they became lost souls, she said. "They take them away, they break them, then they give them back to us," the widow said.

The *Herald Sun* is aware of one compensation case, still unresolved after six years, of a veteran paratrooper of 24 years with PTSD; in another case it took four years to reach resolution in the favour of an ex-soldier. The concerning state of veterans' post-war battles comes as it also can be revealed:

DOCTORS who treat ex-soldiers for mental illness report only 10 per cent of their patients have a smooth experience through the DVA compensation process.

VETERAN support groups are bolstering advocate numbers to handle what they believe will be a deluge of claims for compensation, as veterans of recent conflicts such as Afghanistan and Iraq start to emerge with chronic mental illnesses.

BETWEEN 10-20 per cent of claims for PTSD are turned down initially, but advocates claim 95 per cent of those are approved after appeal to the Veterans Review Board, tribunals and courts.

A VICTORIAN soldier monitoring real-time video from drones on a high-definition screen at a control room in Afghanistan saw two of his mates killed in action, but the DVA refused PTSD status on a technicality - a decision later overturned on appeal.

Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association advocate Michael Quinn said veterans' psychological illnesses often worsened when they were rejected for valid claims. "On the other side, with a pension or a Gold Card, they often become extremely reclusive and the downhill run is pretty much already started because of what the DVA have put them through," Mr Quinn said. He said the number of cases going to the Veterans Review Board had increased due to budget cutbacks and hasty decisions at the first point of call in the DVA. "Soldiers who come from a high-discipline, high-performing job like service in conflict find it hard to line up with people at Centrelink for money. It's demoralising for them."

Queensland psychiatrist Dr Andrew Khoo treats veterans almost daily. He said the process for making a PTSD claim could be a bureaucratic maze that had become more complicated in the past decade. "Rather than the onus being on DVA to find out if people are not telling the truth, it seems that like the onus is on the guys to prove that they are not lying," Dr Khoo said. "This is the opposite to how it should be."

Brisbane-based military compensation lawyer Brian Briggs, of Slater & [Gordon](#), represents dozens of Diggers with disputed PTSD claims. "The DVA is under-resourced and I'm seeing a blowout in the time for claims to be accepted," Mr Briggs said. Delays had a direct bearing on the treatment options and mental wellbeing of clients left in limbo.

Another psychiatrist, who asked not to be named, said servicemen and women caught in limbo waiting to be discharged from the military could turn to drugs and alcohol to fill a void that often ran to a year or more. "The military has not provided a system to know what to do with them in that time," he says.

This view is supported by Angela Smith, widow of Darren Smith, who was killed in an IED blast in June 2010. A friend of many troubled Afghanistan veterans, she said the military had a "responsibility to tackle PTSD head on" - in individual cases - "instead of letting it come to them when it gets to breaking point".

The issue isn't going to go away. Dr Khoo said almost 70,000 troops had been deployed since Timor. "I wonder if DVA is going to be prepared for what's coming," he said.

The Australian Defence Force pointed to its suicide prevention and mental health screening programs designed to help curb suicide rates of its forces.

moral outrage - definition

A moral panic is the intensity of feeling expressed in a population (*a soldier?*) about an issue that appears to threaten the social order. The term first appears in the English language in *The Quarterly Christian Spectator*, a publication from 1830: - en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_outrage.

We are all too well aware of PTSD and related problems, particularly depression. But there is a new dilemma developing in our latest lot of returned veterans (they do not like the term veteran as it makes them feel as old as the older veterans - us. But were we once not just as young and even younger national servicemen that they are now?

Moral outrage is not new, talk to our Rwanda Vets as just one recent example. But watch out for the new medical diagnosis that will logically develop.

You read it first in the RAM Ramblings.

107 BATTERY ASSOCIATION ANZAC REUNION Darwin - 24th to 28th April 2014

Swim with the Crocs - Reunion information and Registration Booking Form

Please read all information before completing registration form. Use BLOCK letters and print CLEARLY.

The Reunion venues are the Darwin RSL Club and Darwin Central Hotel, less than one block apart in CBD Darwin. Your Reunion booking includes all functions, many meals/snacks, some drinks and transport as indicated. Also included are one each Reunion Polo shirt, RAM Cap, Stubby holder plus the Reunion Highlights DVD per registration. Additional items can be ordered for partners and friends using the form below. Where not included, meals and bar service can be purchased at venues. Reunion Darwin 2014 follows the tried and proven format.

- **Thursday 24th April - Reunion Meet & Greet** 1600 hrs at RSL with substantial bar snacks soft drinks and some drinks. Additional drinks and meals can be purchased at the RSL.
- **Friday 25th April - ANZAC Day activities** starts for the fit and hearty with a three block early morning stroll to the War Memorial in Bicentennial Park for the Darwin Dawn Service. Then return for a Gun Fire breakfast in RSL Club. Another short stroll will get you to the FUP for the March back to Bicentennial Park. This will be followed by fellowship at the RSL. Meals, snacks and drinks are available for purchase from RSL Club.
- **Saturday 26th April - tour of Darwin CrocCove** At 0930 hrs stroll just a short half block to Crocosaurus Cove where a substantial brunch will be served at 1000 hrs. Then view the extensive CrocCove displays and bring your swimmers if you wish to swim with the crocks and dive in the cage of death, at an additional cost. The afternoon is reserved for hair appointments for the ladies, make and mend and Reunion admin got the guys at the RSL.
- **Saturday 26th April - Reunion Dinner** commences at the RSL Club at 1900 hrs. A extra special buffet dinner with wine and soft drinks included. Additional drinks can be purchased. A classically friendly Rammer Reunion night is ensured.
- **Sunday 27th April - Bus Tour** Board the Reunion Bus at 0925 hrs for a tour of central Darwin, then to the RAA Association of NT Darwin Museum at East Point. After the tour including the renowned Battle for Australia and Defence of Darwin experience, a BBQ lunch with fruit juice provided and other drinks can be purchased. Then it is off the RAAF Base to tour the Aviation War Heritage Museum, the home of a B52 and F111 and many other aircraft. Back to the Central Hotel by bus for some make and mend.
- **Sunday 27th April - Reunion Farwell drinks** with substantial bar-snacks at 1800 hrs at RSL with soft and some other drinks provided. Additional meal and drinks can be purchased at the club restaurant. Another Rammers special and unique event.
- **Monday 28th April - RTU** Return to Units by own means.
- **Reunion DVD** of highlights by official photographer, Glen Clark, will be mailed to you after the Reunion.

Yes I will attend the Reunion.

First or preferred name: _____ Surname: _____

Postal address: _____
_____ Post Code _____

I am a financial member of 107 Battery Association – Yes / NO (*circle*) See notes included on these pages.

For urgent contact and reunion updates, please contact me via:

Phone: (0 __) _____ h/w Mobile: 04 _____ (*during the reunion*)

Email: _____@_____

My wife/partner/friend(s) (all are most welcome to be part of the Reunion) is/are accompanying me:

Name: _____ relationship: _____ (*attach list if more than one*)

Are there any special requirements of which the Reunion organisers should be aware? Eg Physical (*mobility etc*), Transport (*access etc*), Medical (*any special requirements*), Food: (*allergies etc*) or *Other*. If so please specify:

Notes

107 Battery Association (www.107fdbty.com) is an ATO registered non-profit organisation. The Reunion registration fee includes all administrative costs and the listed functions, meals and refreshments. The Association is not registered for GST. Receipts are issued by email or on request by mail. You must be a member (or family/friend of a member) of the Association to take part in the Reunion.

Activity Pricing: To enable the Reunion committee to obtain the best prices from the group bookings and to plan all activities with confidence, the Reunion is offered as a complete package to be taken in full. It is not intended that members can elect to attend selected activities and pay only for those activities. However, if you feel that you have a special case to request less than the full package, contact the booking secretary on 0418 695 345 or email hiltonenard@hotmail.com. Please note the **Early Bird discount** for payments received prior by 30 November 2013.

Late Registration: Registrations will be accepted until 28th February 2014. After this, subject to availability, late bookings may be accepted but an administrative charge of \$50.00 will apply. Considerable work is involved with bookings and a late registration adds significantly by duplicating this effort.

Changes and additions to Bookings: Changes and additions will be accepted until 1st April 2014, by email/writing and accompanied with any payment necessary. After this date all efforts will be made to action changes but cannot be guaranteed.

Refunds: A refund may be requested, if for reasons beyond your control you cannot attend the entire Reunion. The Reunion Secretary should be notified by 1st April 2014. If you are unable to attend any individual Reunion activities, please keep the Booking Secretary informed. A refund fee of \$50.00 will apply. Cancellation after 1st April is limited to the amount (if any) recovered from hotel and activity venues, less the refund fee.

