

Half Circle



Number 144 – December 2018

This informal publication is for the members of C Coy 5 RAR (2nd tour), South Vietnam, 1969/70, and for those who are no longer with us. It is non-political, and is designed for us to have a laugh at our own memories, and maintain camaraderie. Formal advice, when needed, should be sourced from Veterans



AT THE RAP: Peter Commerford, Barrie Taylor, Barry Morgan and Colin Summerfield. We send our best wishes to our mates who are not as well as they would like to be.



TRAVELLING ABOUT:

Jack and Susan Lake have recently visited Canberra and took the opportunity to visit Claude Ducker. Claude is doing well in his new surroundings, and when he knew he was having visitors, again took the lead and organised everything. Barry Morgan also attended, and is doing well. Thanks, Claude!

Bob Hooper to Yackandandah (near Albury) to visit an old digger mate.

9PL members have now returned home after a very successful reunion in Mildura, Vic. Planning is already underway for next year's bash at Port Macquarie NSW.

THE KU-RING-GAI HISTORICAL SOCIETY is very proud to announce that Volume IV of "*Rallying the Troops*" – a WWI Commemoration is now complete, and was launched on 25th November 2018 by the Governor of NSW, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Retd). This is the culmination of six years research, and three volumes have already been published. Our very own David Wilkins has been heavily involved in this project. Congratulations, David!

Details of the project can be viewed on: http://www.khs.org.au/rallying_the_troops.html

THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

A number of us travelled to Canberra over the period 22-24 November. This was to attend the Annual General Meeting of the 5RAR Association, to attend the official ceremony at the Australian War Memorial commemorating the 70th birthday of the Royal Australian Regiment, and to catch up with Claude Ducker. After the AGM, Claude walked in to have lunch with us, so catching up was easy.

The following day the Colours of all battalions were paraded at the AWM, and a very moving ceremony was held. Guess what – Claude appeared again! Canberra was absolutely freezing – so much so that knuckles and fingers were white, and adjusting one’s tie became a difficult task.

All in all, a very rewarding and moving trip, and seeing Claude again made it all worthwhile.

Geoff Pearson



The photo just above shows the Colours being marched down the steps to the parade ground.



The Colours were also present at the Last Post Ceremony held later that day to honour CPL Kevin Cooper from 2 RAR, who was killed in Action on 26 July 1953 during the Battle of Samichon in the Korean War, a photo of which is shown here.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR 5RAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP LATELY?
For only about 40 cents per week old (and new) Tigers can reminisce, keep up to date with current soldiering, and very importantly, maintain our bond. If you wish to renew or join, please contact Gary Townsend at garyt.5rar@gmail.com

MUG SHOTS:



John Hunter



Greg Dick

FROM BILL TITLEY: Beth and I have been doing some babysitting on the Gold Coast, where two of our sons and families live.

For some time I have been “threatening” to catch up with Gary Townsend (C Coy First Tour) and Membership Officer of the 5RAR Association, (for any who aren’t already members!!) for a game of golf with the Viet Nam Veterans Social Golf Club.

The vets play at the Boomerang Farm Golf Course at Mudgeeraba on a Friday, so Gary invited me to play and meet a few others. Boomerang Farm is a neat little golf course in the foothills behind Mudgeeraba, but parts of it remind me of Canungra, just up the track a bit and that ain’t nice! Quite a few “yarmas” that we would have struggled with, even as young, fit diggers.

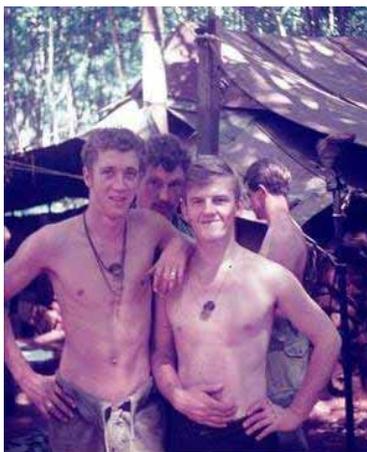
I have now had two games there and met a great group of fellows from all three services. One “find” was John McNamara, whom I had not seen since we were platoon commanders in A Coy 1RAR (Pentropic) (Have you seen one of those “Pentropic things”, Roger Lambert?) in 1964. He and Gary and I played together both days and after the first, I think Gary was wondering if he should bring a tin hat next time we played. It was great to catch up. Incidentally, the late Jack Loader was a member of the Club and there is a brass plate in his memory on their War Memorial. By chance, I met his son, also named John, last week after golf and I was pleased to be able to relate to him, first hand, what a good soldier his father was.



Pictured left to right:

Gary Townsend – C Coy 1st Tour, and editor Tiger Tales,
Doug Angus, RAAF Engineer
Bill Titley – our C Coy 2IC
John McNamara – 1RAR 1st Tour

Some 9 Platoon photos – Vietnam 1969 (courtesy John Hunter)



Ben Oram, Jock Phillips
And John Hunter



Blue Schafer

There's a new movie coming out soon. It's called "Murder in the Barn", starring Alfred Pitchfork.

FROM DAVID WILKINS: Gentlemen,

it is almost 49 years since we spent our Christmas together in Nui Dat, a day begun with you Diggers receiving Coffee Royale in bed, served by the Company officers and sergeants.

Then a visit by Genghis and a great Christmas dinner thanks to the efforts of Paddy Cahill.

And here we are 49 years later, still in touch, with special thanks for that to Don Harrod and his Half Circle.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated by us all Pirate. Thank you.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas and a rewarding 2019, and as healthy as possible year ahead (or as well as can be expected given our advancing years).

My very best wishes to you all and to your families,

Dave

FROM YOUR EDITOR: I thank Dave very much for his kind words, and feel a bit humble about printing his reference to me. I want to keep Half Circle going, but really need your help in submitting your articles to print. Please remember that you are not writing to me, but to your mates in C Company. We have held our bond together for almost 50 years, and there's no reason for this to fade as long as we stay in touch.

Roslyn and I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, and may the year 2019 be kind to you. Sincerely, Don

Let's all take a moment to appreciate the time and effort this guy spent putting a strap on his dirt so it wouldn't fall off.



Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with help from Bob Hooper, John Hunter, Greg Dick, Dave Wilkins, Bill Titley, Geoff Pearson, behind-the-scenes assistance from Gary Townsend (the Tiger Tales Editor), Ted Harrison (the 5RAR Association Webmaster), **supported by The RB Co, and powered by the Lambs Valley Wine Company, Hunter Valley, NSW.**