

Half Circle



Number 142 - October 2018

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



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

Who still has their pewter?



Mike Radwell has his

and



Colin Summerfield has his

The history of the pewters: Sometime in 1969, somebody (probably Kevin Mulligan) came up with the idea of everyone having an engraved C Company pewter. These were ordered through a shonky fly-by-night backyard trader in Vung Tau, where the absence of any form of quality was assured. The supplier kept his word, and the sub-standard pewters were eventually delivered. Each cost the mighty sum of \$10, which was 20% of the average digger's weekly pay in those days. They quickly became battered and bashed, but no doubt they would all now be collectors' items.

Here's a challenge – send in a photo of yourself with your pewter in hand, and we'll try and get a page of "Mug" shots.

FROM BILL TITLEY: Beth and I have been travelling in Europe and UK since late June, starting with a River Cruise in Portugal. Coincidence! Night one we met this guy and as the conversation turned to our backgrounds, he said "I was in the army once, but they didn't pay me enough, so I left."

Bill: When was that?

Him: Late 60s.

Bill: Where?

Him: SVN.

Bill: When?

Him: 1969/70.

Bill: OK, who with?

Him: 5RAR.

Bill: Bugger me, put it here mate!

His name is Garry Coleman and he was a rifleman in B Coy.

Needless to say, we downed a couple of coldies for old time's sake, the Battalion, the Regiment and anything else that came to mind.



Garry Coleman with Bill Titley

FROM DENNIS (DIGGER) NEVINS: My daughter Samantha (the Kookaburra) has just given me a very different Father's Day present. She contacted the Star Registry in Cardiff, UK, and registered a star in my name. Strangely enough, she thought it was appropriate that it should be called "***The Dirty Digger***". I'm pretty sure that it is the only one registered in space with this name. I reckon this isn't bad for a mug machine gunner. Even Jack Bradd would have been impressed. In fact, I might get the Kookaburra to have one registered for him.

For those planning space travel, the star is located in the ***constellation of 161388829 Carina***, and the position is ***Right ascension 6h 16m 9.33s, Declination 55 degrees 1' 37.12, Magnitude 11.54.***



Heavy duty back-up (Photo by Ian Leis)



TRAVELLING ABOUT:

Later this month, 9PL will assemble in Mildura, VIC for a further reunion.

Bill and Beth Titley have just returned from a trip to Europe.

Bob and Margaret Hooper, back from safari in Africa.



The Bourkes are also on the move – Ross and Liz are heading for retirement at Old Bar, Mid North Coast, NSW

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with help from Bill Titley, Dennis Nevins, Ian Leis, Ross Bourke, behind-the-scenes assistance from Gary Townsend (the Tiger Tales Editor), Ted Harrison (the SRAR Association Webmaster), **supported by RB Racing, and powered by the Lambs Valley Wine Company, Hunter Valley, NSW.**

PLEASE SEE THE NEXT PAGE – INFORMATION ON THE COCKATOO RISE WAR VETERANS' RETREAT

Cockatoo Rise War Veterans retreat inc

Welcomes all veterans & their partners to share , a place of peacefullness & a home away from home . Cockatoo Rise has been established by Greg (Ex 6 RAR Vietnam vet) & his lovely wife Anne .The retreat is not for profit & has voluntary helpers to assist with the up keep & maintenance .

Join as a member & help support this valuable facility , \$10 yearly \$100 lifetime .



" Mac " & " Lockie " are always around for the visitors .



Bar B Q & camping facilities at " Diggers " , a place to get away from it all & enjoy the wildlife .



Retreat memorial



Retreat Museum



The golf course , fun for everybody



Caravan area , shower , toilet , power , water .



Regular camp fires



" Diggers " a place to have a cupper, a chat & just relax .
Cockatoo Rise is by donation , situated 5 mins from Bairnsdale in the Gippsland Lakes region of Victoria .



Greg & Anne Carter
Bookings essential t 04094183332
www.cockatooriseretreat.com.au
e mail pawprints@wideband.net.au