

# Half Circle

Number 29 - April 2009

**(Please increase picture size to 150% for a better read!)**

This informal publication is for the members of C Coy 5 RAR (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **7PI (second Tour) REUNION - PERTH - JULY 2009:**

**Terry Bates** has advised that the 7 Platoon Reunion will be held in Perth, commencing on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009. ALL 7 Platoon personnel - 1968 to 1970 are invited to attend. Any other C Coy personnel will also be most welcome. The program is:

- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July -** 1230 - 1600 - Meet at ANZAC House for drinks, renewing old friendships and getting to know each other.
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July -** 1000 - 1200 - A Memorial service at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Kings Park. This Service will commemorate the mine incident that took the lives of three of our finest, and wounded a further seventeen.  
Dress: Lounge suit, medals. Drinks in the afternoon. Evening meal to be advised.
- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July -** Free day.
- During the week -** 5RAR Association BBQ, to be held at Terry Bates' home.
- Contact:** Terry Bates - [justna@bigpond.com](mailto:justna@bigpond.com).

---

## **The Gallery:**



Going Home



The Harry Bailey Theatre



The Badcoe Club

---

Q. What has a six-gun and lives at the bottom of the sea?

A. Billy the Squid.

---



"Half Circle" is supported by the Georges River Golf Club, 255 Henry Lawson Drive, Georges Hall, 02 9724 1615 (Bankstown Airport area). If you are in Sydney and feel like a hit and excellent club facilities, head for that venue. Vietnam Vets are made very welcome.

---

**BINH BA COMMEMORATIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Binh Ba**

**PATRON: Brigadier C.N. KHAN, DSO (Retd)**  
**PO Box 3500 WESTON CREEK ACT 2611. Tel: 02 6295 6204**

The Battle of Binh Ba was one of the major battles fought by Australian troops during the Vietnam War. To commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this battle a number of events will be held in Canberra on 5-6 June 2009. The Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) is providing a grant to assist in funding these events under the government's *Saluting Their Service* program

**Events:**

The planning of these events is being undertaken by a combined arms committee representing all units who were involved in the battle. The events are:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Fri 5 June	8.30 AM	Australian War Memorial Symposium on Battle of Binh Ba <b>Location:</b> BAE Systems Theatre at AWM	Limited seating only. Nominate through sub-unit POC.
Fri 5 June	Evening	Unit/sub-unit informal gatherings <b>Location:</b> As advised by unit reps	
Sat 6 June	2.00 PM	National Commemorative Ceremony <b>Location:</b> Vietnam National Memorial ANZAC Parade	All welcome
Sat 6 June	6.00 PM	Combined arms reception & dinner <b>Location:</b> Rydges Lakeside Hotel	Cost: \$55 per person

The official reception, which is funded by the Australian Government, has a one hour drink package and finger food. The dinner, which follows the reception at Rydges Lakeside, consists of three courses with a three hour drink package. The planning committee, with support from DVA, has managed to keep the cost of the combined arms dinner to a very reasonable \$55 per person.

**Attendance**

If you do wish to attend the activities, you are requested to contact your sub-unit representative whose details can be found at the end of this article. He will then provide you with further information as required. Please note that partners are welcome at all activities.

**Travel and Accommodation**

Travel to and from Canberra as well as accommodation will be your own responsibility. Rydges Lakeside Hotel, London Circuit, Canberra City has put aside 115 rooms at a discounted rate of \$99 per night. A \$15 breakfast buffet is also available. This hotel is the venue for the combined arms reception and dinner, so accommodation bookings are likely to fill quickly. If you wish to book at Rydges Lakeside the contact number is 02-6247 6244. Ask for "Rydges Lakeside In-house Accommodation" and then ask for the Binh Ba Reunion discounted room rate of \$99.

**Dress**

Coat & tie are the preferred dress for the Commemorative Service and the dinner. Medals should be worn for the Commemorative Service and medals or miniatures for the dinner. Sub-unit functions are neat casual dress.

**Costs and Payment**

Your travel and accommodation costs are your own responsibility. If you wish to attend the reception and dinner the cost is \$55 per person. Payment must be paid in advance so it would be appreciated if you could make an electronic deposit to the Defence Force Credit Union

(DEF CREDIT), Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon, A.C.T. 2600. Please ensure your name is clearly identified.

BSB: 803205

Account No. 20780011

Name of Account: Binh Ba Commemorative Planning Committee.

If you don't wish to make an electronic deposit then please forward the appropriate amount (\$55 per person), by cheque or postal note, to the Binh Ba Commemorative Planning Committee, PO Box 3500, WESTON CREEK, A.C.T. 2611.

#### Points of Contact

To find out more details and/or register attendance, please contact your sub-unit representative as detailed below.

#### Conclusion

The commemorative activities on 5-6 June 2009 will be an important occasion to officially recognise those veterans who participated in this significant battle. The planning committee hopes you will be able to attend and looks forward to meeting you in June.

Barry Morgan  
5RAR Association Member  
Binh Ba Commemorative Planning Committee  
Phone: (02) 6255 4531  
Fax: (02) 6255 4532  
Email: [bm126489@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bm126489@bigpond.net.au)

=====

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF BINH BA CONTACTS FOR UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
<b>1 Armd Regt</b>	Greg Hooper John Brooker	(03) 3793 8131 0401 738 683	ferriscreek@dragnet.com.au JohnBrooker45@aol.com
<b>3 Cav Regt</b>	Ray DeVere Chris Heaney	(07) 3300 4110 or 0407 690 467 (02) 6291 8341	ray.devere@bigpond.com Chris.Heaney@ap.jll.com
<b>105 Battery</b>	Paul Stevens Peter Groves	(02) 6289 6477 (02) 6288 3415	<a href="mailto:jphpstevens@bigpond.com">jphpstevens@bigpond.com</a> <a href="mailto:rivers@netspeed.com.au">rivers@netspeed.com.au</a>
<b>1 Fd Sqn RAE</b>	John Kemp	(02) 6288 3428	<a href="mailto:jmjhkemp@bigpond.net.au">jmjhkemp@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>5RAR</b>			
B Coy	Barry Ryan	(08) 8341 0364	<a href="mailto:lynneryan@austarnet.com.au">lynneryan@austarnet.com.au</a>
D Coy	Ray Ward	(08) 9243 3207	<a href="mailto:c42ward@bigpond.net.au">c42ward@bigpond.net.au</a> or 0409 426 677
10 Pl	Bernie Pye	(02) 6242 4210	<a href="mailto:berniepye@bigpond.com">berniepye@bigpond.com</a>
	or 0424 701 784		

11 Pl	Ray Ward	(08) 9243 3207	<a href="mailto:c42ward@bigpond.net.au">c42ward@bigpond.net.au</a>
	or 040 942 6677		
12 Pl	Bruce Heron	(03) 6428 2010	<a href="mailto:nene@netspace.net.au">nene@netspace.net.au</a>
	or 0417 584 967		
CHQ D Coy	Peter (Doc) Jones	(07) 3279-1428	
Aslt Pnr Pl	Ian Ward	(08) 8821 1740	<a href="mailto:ianward@internode.on.net">ianward@internode.on.net</a>
Aslt Pnr Pl	Doug Kent	(07) 5428 3106	
All others	Barry Morgan	(02) 6255 4531	<a href="mailto:bm126489@bigpond.net.au">bm126489@bigpond.net.au</a>
<b>Secretariat</b>	Jan Properjohn	(02) 6288 7292 or 0410 488 729	<a href="mailto:jproperjohn@internode.on.net">jproperjohn@internode.on.net</a>

---

**Phil Greenhalgh said....."I found Col Summerfield....."**

Back in November 2007 my wife and I undertook a little road trip up to Bribie Island to attend a nephews wedding. On the way up we stopped off in Tamworth and caught up with **Col Summerfield**. This was a fairly interesting experience for me as it was the first time I had reacquainted with a close friend from the Vietnam sojourn of 69-70. I was extremely apprehensive as to the initial contact, not knowing whether almost 40 years would alter the camaraderie that Col and I shared in the past. Initial contact was a bit "cagey", a bit like two old dogs circling each other checking out the lie of the land. One cannot compartmentalize most of a lifetime in a few short hours, we certainly tried, and we shared experiences, what led us to what and where we are today. We didn't reminisce about the twelve months spent OS; we just got comfortable in each others company. Our partners joined us for dinner that night and it was a great but far too short a time together. Col has been dealt a few duds out of the pack of cards that is life, but he seemingly has never begrudged the dealer. He moves on, albeit a lot slower than he used to. He has been in contact with a few others from the platoon, mainly with Reg Smith. Tamworth is a bloody long haul from Melbourne, so it is not possible to "pop around to visit", but we do keep in contact by phone. For your (or anyone's) info, Col can be contacted by email through his son Evan, whose email address is [woozels007@hotmail.com](mailto:woozels007@hotmail.com)



Col Summerfield in Vietnam



Phil Greenhalgh with Col 2007



Phil in Vietnam

---

**Bob Hooper said.....** Check out the outstanding web site of **HEADQUARTER BATTERY 12 FIELD REGIMENT RAA VIETNAM 1971** <http://australianartillery.org/tb.html>.

Ed's note: This site is very good. It is highly recommended. Have a look!

---

**Don't forget.....** Our Battalion website - [www.5rar.org.au](http://www.5rar.org.au). Ted is continually updating our history.

---

**Sign:** *Do NOT drink any water which has not been passed by the Regimental Medical Officer.*

---

Claude Ducker said..... More about "The VC in a kilt"

Some of you might recall from an earlier edition (Half Circle No 8 - August 2007) that I wrote a short story on when Charlie Company, operating west of the Nui Dinhs, reported back to BHQ that a small CHQ patrol had killed a VC wearing a kilt. The gist of the story was that although my report that the VC was wearing a kilt was obviously 'tongue in cheek', it was reported up the chain of command and is now part of the official records - to remain unaltered for all time.

As I wasn't on this small patrol and memories fade after so many years, I didn't attempt in my article to give details about how the VC was killed. In any event this was not the point of my story.

Nevertheless "Blue" Austin tells me the incident where the VC was killed on the patrol is very clear in his mind, as if it happened yesterday. This is not surprising as it was a life-threatening situation. I am grateful to him for providing the details. Here is Blue's story:

*"Barry Baker and I were setting up a Claymore mine on a track, when around the bend came a VC. He pointed his AK47 at us and pulled the trigger, but had a miss-fire. Barry then threw a grenade at him but he took off. We were quickly joined by CSM Jack Lake and followed the VC. Luckily a fragment of the grenade ruptured his rice pack - we followed this for about 200 metres and then the rice trail finished. We back-tracked a few metres and I found he had taken a small track to the right. We followed this for about 40 metres when we came upon a large rock. I climbed the rock to give cover to Barry and Jack. They went to the left of the rock when we saw the VC trying to pull the pin on a grenade. It was then that the enemy was killed by us. We found he had a large amount of medical supplies. Barry Baker still wears the dud bullet on a chain around his neck. We were very lucky - if it hadn't been for the miss-fire it would have been a very different story."*

Thank you "Blue" for the interesting addition above.

Claude Ducker

Ed's note: Please check the 5RAR Website - [www.5rar.org.au](http://www.5rar.org.au) for the full story.

---

Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod, with help from Phil Greenhalgh, Jack Bradd, Claude Ducker, Blue Austin, Terry Bates, Bob Hooper, Barry Baker, and not much crook humour this time.