

Half Circle



Number 97 - January 2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

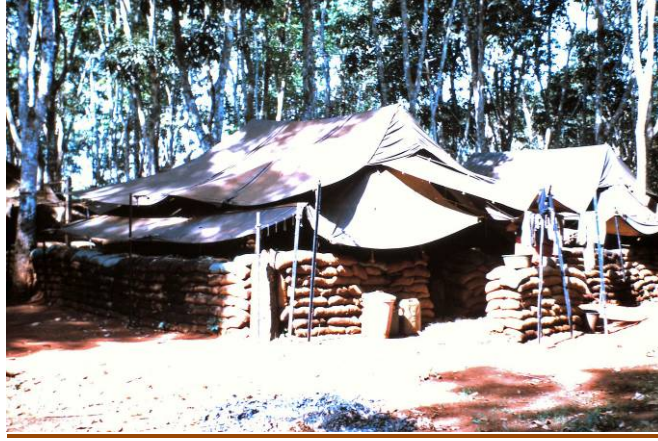
JOIN US

Yes YOU were conscripted
And others were 'Regs'
But fought as a team
Among comrades, with friends
And you won the respect
Of both ally and foe
For your skill and your guts
Still a 'Digger', a pro.

And if you hold dearly
Those memories so vivid
Of mates as you knew them,
The hardship, the spirit
Then join us in Sydney
And show to the nation
How proud we were then
To be known as AUSTRALIAN

This is another poem from the collection of David Mead, PL COMD 7PL, 1969

**Ian Leis ex7&8Platoon 2nd tour Charlie Company is looking for base/storage for Toyota Prado and 17ft caravan in Adelaide from 18-26 April 2015.
Contact Ian Leis : (07)38882594.**



REMEMBER – THE BASE CAMP AT Nui Dat during the monsoon season – the duckboards in our tents (supposedly floors), the damp and mildew, and in the next season, the prickly heat rash and the impossible humidity? (A 9PL tent)

IMPORTANT NEWS – 5RAR AND THE 5RAR ASSOCIATION

Please note these important points regarding our Battalion:

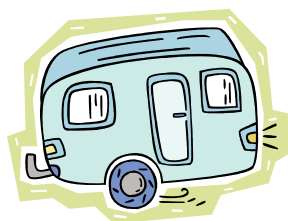
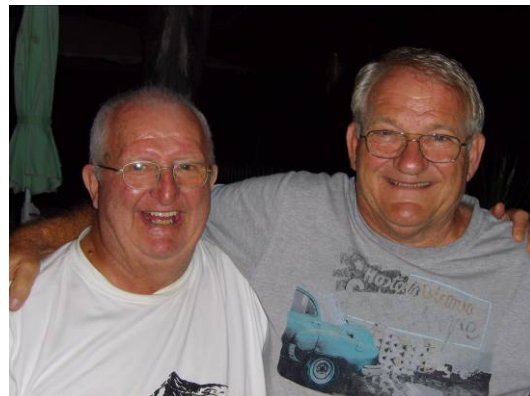
- Renewals of the 5RAR Association are **NOW DUE**. If your membership lapses, you will no longer receive your copy of Tiger Tales. I have attached a copy of the membership application / renewal / order form on the last page of this newsletter for your convenience. Please don't let your membership go – we are an exclusive club, and your service has made you eligible.
 - 5RAR's birthday. 5RAR will turn 50 on 1st March 2015. You will have already been notified of reunion details. Bruce Schmidtchen, Gary Townsend and others are working very hard to make this happen, and your cooperation with all requests will make the job so much easier.
 - 5RAR will be granted Freedom of the City of Darwin on 5th November 2015. Whilst this honour is mainly ceremonial, it clearly outlines the high regard our most northern city has for the Tigers.
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FLASHBACK: Vince Feenstra, 1969, enjoying a cold one. The way Vince was holding the can, we don't know if it was a goffer, or perhaps some amber-coloured nectar.

Age hasn't changed anyone – these two old blokes look like Kiwi Hill and Vince Feenstra!

Picture taken December 2014



TRAVELLING ABOUT: Still no reports of any nomads for this issue, but we know that many will be travelling to visit family. Please drive safely and ensure you have plenty of rest stops. All of our clocks have been ticking, and the youngest of us are now over 65. Gentlemen – we are no longer bullet proof, and can no longer party as we were trained to do by our first tour mentors!



AT THE RAP: **Barrie Taylor** – still battling illness with another six months of chemo to endure, but this man will not let it beat him – Barrie is planning on celebrating his hundredth birthday in September 2047.

Vince Feenstra – to undergo a full hip replacement in January 2015

Our best wishes to you both – Ed.

A word from Dennis Nevins: Just to add to the previous comments regarding pay rates when we were in Vietnam, I was on \$49 a week (tax-free and including the Zone Allowance), then it increased to \$56 when I went to level 9 - I should have been on double that after having to put up with jungle warrior Jack Bradd.

Paddy says to Murphy "My mate came off his motorbike today."

"Oh really?" Says Murphy

"Yes" Paddy answers.

"He has brain damage, 2 broken arms and is blind in one eye!"

Murphy says, "Bloody hell, no wonder he came off!"

Bruce Willis, Sly Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger are making plans for an action hero movie, based on famous classical composers. |

Bruce says "I'll be Beethoven".

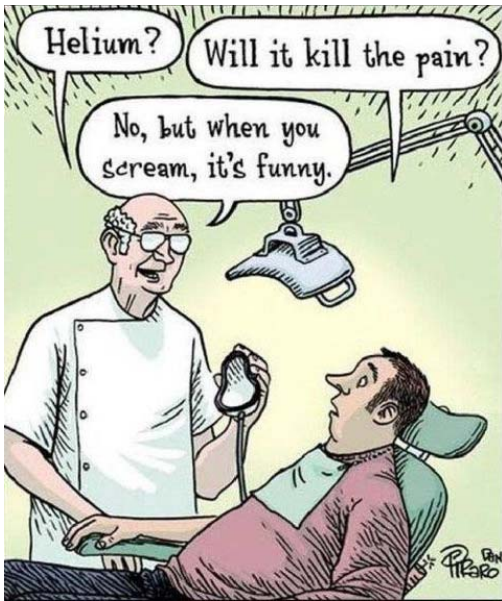
Sly says "I'll be Handel".

And Arnie says "I'll be Bach".



In Sydney and want to hit the little white ball? Veterans are welcome at the Georges River Golf Course, Henry Lawson Drive Georges Hall. Our good mate Geoff Grimish and his team will make you most welcome. Geoff is a Vietnam vet (FSB Coral, 1968), Phone (02) 9724 1615.

WANT TO FEEL REALLY OLD? Let's assume that you are 67 years old – the average age of a digger when we were in Vietnam was 22. Quite simply, that means that our ANZACs fought at Gallipoli only **32** years before you were born.



Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod - 0418 423 313, (02) 6842 4913, donharrod@bigpond.com, with help from David Mead, Vince Feenstra, 5RAR Association, Dennis Nevins, and unnamed persons for the crook humour.

Don't stop reading here - the next page has the 5RAR Association Membership and Renewal Application and the Memorabilia Order Form, if you need it.

