

Half Circle



Number 137 - May 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.

VALE – 38785 CORPORAL DAVID JOHN BOWMAN. We regret to advise that David (Bowie) Bowman passed away on 2nd April 2018, following a period of illness. Bowie served on two tours of Vietnam with 5RAR, and was a member of C Coy on the second tour in 9PL, then 7PL. Our Company Commander Claude Ducker summed Bowie up in one sentence ***“He was one of my best Section Commanders”***. We offer our sincere condolences to Bowie’s family – son Brett and daughters Renee and Chelsea. Stand down Soldier, you have served your Country with distinction.

Ed’s note: Andy MacDougal and Mike Browne travelled to Coober Pedy to farewell their mate Bowie, and to represent all of us. Andy’s few words say it all: “All went well. Very distraught daughters, very supportive family and friends. The Council shut down for the day, and all flags in town were at half-mast”.



38785 CPL David John BOWMAN
16th December 1946 to 2nd April 2018
Soldier

VALE – 3795679 PRIVATE WLADYMYR (WALLY) MAGALAS. We regret to advise that Wally passed away on Thursday 5th April 2018, aged 70. Wally had battled cancer for a long period, but in his usual fashion did not complain. Wally served with 8PL C Coy from 3rd September 1969 until the battalion returned to Australia in March 1970. Wally was listed as having been wounded in action. We offer our sincere condolences to his family. Carolyn Commerford advises that Wally visited her and Peter each year, and would assist in any way possible. We send our sincere

condolences to Wally's wife, sons and their families. Rest in Peace Wally, you have served your Country with distinction. A picture of Wally selling Legacy badges in Melbourne is below:



3795679 PTE Wally Magalas
14-5-1947 to 5-4-2018
Soldier

Ed's note: Wally's funeral was attended by Blue Schafer, Ben Oram, Max Postle, Phil Greenhalgh, Billie Waters, Alan Riley, Alex Ilyin, Eric Hamlin, Doug Bishop (Victoria State Rep, SRAR Association), many members of the Diamond Valley Vietnam Vets, the President of the Tramways RSL, and the Ukrainian Scout Group . The funeral was conducted in Ukrainian and English.

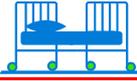


On a brighter note – when your daughter organises a surprise birthday party, and blokes like Andy MacDougal and Barry Baker turn up – you have no choice but to kick on! Ask Dennis Nevins, centre of picture. Happy 70th Dennis.

CHANGES OF EMAIL ADDRESS

Geoff Pearson - gp@therbco.com.au

Mike Radwell – contact your editor for details



AT THE RAP:

Barry Morgan.

Colin Summerfield.

Barrie Taylor. Barrie has undergone a recent series of operations, and come out smiling. There is currently no cure for his cancer, but he's not giving in! Still working and giving life all he can.

Peter Commerford. Peter Has been suffering From Huntington's Disease for some time, but has not lost his fighting spirit or sense of humour. Alan Riley recently visited Peter and his wife Carolyn, whose care of him is outstanding. A photo of Peter with Alan is below:



TRAVELLING ABOUT:

Bryan Schafer – Sydney to Melbourne, celebrating wife Arleen's birthday with family.

Andy MacDougal – NSW Hunter Valley to Hervey Bay to visit Dennis Nevins, then to Coober Pedy SA to Bowie's funeral.

Mike Browne – Perth to Coober Pedy for Bowie's funeral.

Please see Wally Magalas' funeral details for the names of those who travelled from as far away as Queensland to Melbourne to attend.

Jack and Susan Lake – from the Blue Mountains NSW to Gippsland Victoria. Jack and Susan stayed at the Cockatoo Rise War Veterans Retreat – more on this great facility on page 6. Jack and Susan have since visited our late mate Jim McMillan in Horsham, Vic.

Alan Miles, Bill Hartley, Andy MacDougal and John "Buddah" Martini travelled to Sydney for ANZAC Day.

ANZAC Day 2018 – Melbourne. Ken Leggett reports that it was a very good day, with Blue Schafer in attendance from Sydney, accompanied by three of his grandchildren. The weather was overcast. The 5RAR contingent was afforded very good ABC coverage.



ANZAC Day 2018 – Hervey Bay Qld – Barry Baker, Max Postle, Kiwi Hill, Bill Titley and Ben Oram



ANZAC Day 2018 – Sydney – Alan Miles, Alan Riley, Bill Hartley, Andy MacDougal, Geoff Pearson (front), Paul McQueen, David Wilkins and John Martini (obscured)

Bush Hat

Description

Hats in Vietnam are fashion - even high fashion if you take odour into account. There are elegant models with softly drooped brims, models with jauntily cocked brims, new and old, battered and pampered... Every man wears his hat in a manner just slightly different to the next, expressing his own personality. How a soldier moulds and wears his hat in Vietnam is about the only way he can express himself when the most pressing fashion problem he is ever likely to face is which set of his wardrobe of jungle greens will he wear that day. The "in" hat is known officially as "hats utility, jungle green." The Diggers know it variously as the giggle hat, hats ridiculous, or simply, the bush hat. Made of cotton twill and dyed that familiar green, it was introduced in 1954 to replace the slouch hat on operations. Its floppy design is to break up the outline of the head, helping camouflage the wearer, and a secondary purpose is to provide protection from the weather. Army regulations lay down that the hat will be worn at all times outdoors in the war theatre, and that it will not be cut, starched or shaped so as not to

defeat its purpose. But the Digger, being a Digger... The floppy hat has many uses besides the obvious. The little pockets around the band can carry pens, tin openers, cigarettes and so on making it as useful as a roof-rack on a car. Soaked in water, it is the perfect built on air cooler. Then again the Digger can pull it off his thatchwork and use it as a sweatcloth to wipe his face. In a pinch it is a reasonable towel. It even has its uses at night. Stuffed with a sweatcloth the little floppy hat is a good pillow, or it can be used to hold the contents of pants pockets so they won't stick in. And even when the Digger returns home to Australia his companion of many miles in the Vietnam jungle is not forgotten - it has just taken on the new role of a fishing hat. A tried and trusty warrior, sporting a 15-year-old model, has the final say. "One of their saving graces," he swears, "is that you look as stupid as the next man. No man can look intelligent in a rag hat..."

Contributed by Neville Paine, A Coy

As seen on Gumtree:



Half Circle was compiled and edited by Don Harrod – donharrod@bigpond.com, 0418 423 313, with help from behind-the-scenes assistance from Blue Schafer, Andy MacDougal, Sarah Nevins, Carolyn and Peter Commerford, Geoff Pearson, Neville Paine, Alan Riley, Ken Leggett, Paul McQueen, Gary Townsend (the Tiger Tales Editor), Ted Harrison (the 5RAR 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