

TIGER



ISSUE N° 8 December 2004
5 RAR Association Magazine

TALES

Christmas Greetings

A major wish in my Christmas Message is that we will see each other in February next year at the Battalion Reunion in Canberra.



The past year has sadly seen the death of some of our Tigers, but, it has also seen a gradual increase in our Association numbers as more remember the friendship, forged under fire in South Vietnam, a friendship that only we who were there can understand.

It is now well over thirty years since we left Vietnam, and, as time passes, we realise more and more, how important good health is to us and to our families.

I will take this opportunity to wish all members and your loved ones, health, happiness and a strong rekindling of the "Tiger Spirit" that served us so well during two tours of active service in South Vietnam ■

Colin Kahn

Let us renew that friendship in 2005

**Fifth Battalion Royal Australian Regiment
Association Website**

<http://www.5rar.asn.au>

Webmaster: Edmund "Ted" Harrison



IN MEMORIAM

Warren (Wogs) Burns recently lost a long fight with cancer.

As a group, members of 5RAR will remember Warren from first tour as a digger and a lance jack in 9 Pl C Coy, and as a Corporal and as a Sergeant in Signals Platoon on the second tour.

After RTA he moved on to a long and successful military career of 32 years, including postings to 1RAR as the sheriff, OCS Portsea as a SGT instructor, back to 1RAR as a CSM, Infantry Centre as a WO1, and as RSM 8/9RAR.

Warren was the first RSM of the Defence Academy (ADFA) in Canberra, and RSM 6 Brigade in Enoggera.

A commission was offered and accepted, and Warren was posted to RMC as a Captain. He returned to his beloved Brisbane with a posting to Victoria Barracks and was later promoted to Major.

Warren spent his entire adult life in the service of his country and the protection of democracy.

Warren unselfishly took on the role of 5RAR Association State Representative - Queensland even though he was troubled with failing health as he battled cancer.

In recognition of his service Warren was honoured with a military funeral at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. He is survived by his wife Dianne and two daughters ■



Age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
we will remember them.
LEST WE FORGET



The 5RAR association extends its sympathy and best wishes to the family.

IN MEMORIAM

Father John Francis Williams

1929-2004

Roman Catholic Chaplain, 5RAR First Tour

John was the archetypal soldier's padre, four-square with the Diggers, quietly sharing their hardships and dangers. He was totally unpretentious, effortlessly approachable and always welcome wherever he went. Because his ministry was low-key, conversations with him could easily turn to matters religious.

His first battalion chapel, in a tent, had an altar fashioned from ammunition boxes. The communion rail was of bamboo harvested on the spot. Once he baptised a soldier using a latex-collecting bowl borrowed from a rubber tree. He handed out "field rosaries", a ring surmounted by a cross and ten small bumps corresponding to the beads of an ordinary rosary.

John got around the Task Force area on a motorbike. On one occasion, he took off alone to Binh Gia, well beyond any security. This caused a

great stir up the chain of command. He fostered close relations with the Vietnamese priests in as many villages as possible and, on occasion, officiated with them in services combining our Diggers with local congregations.

It was in his early teens that John decided to enter the priesthood and he was ordained in July 1953. Apart from Vietnam, John served all around Australia and in Singapore where he found himself the most senior Australian chaplain and officiated at a service attended by the Queen.

After leaving the army, John worked as parish priest at Bondi Junction, Daceyville and Bass Hill. His last years were marred by a heroic fight against cancer. He never lost his faith, courage or sense of humour.



Tony White
RMO

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Your National and Reunion Sub-Committee have been working very hard, bringing together venues and facilities to cater for members of the Association, as we would all like our 40th Anniversary Reunion to be a great success.

Reunion Dinner - Saturday Night

At our previous reunion in Canberra, we catered for approx 550 “sit down” members & guests. Well over 750 persons arrived at the door expecting to be admitted. This gave the Committee embarrassing problems, with prepaid members and their guests having to settle for 2nd rate meals and seating arrangements, due to the extra attendees. **This will not happen in 2005.**

I urge you to consider your attendance, by forwarding the relative Registration Form (**on page 15**) and Payment to the Association **NOW** to ensure that you are included in what is shaping up to be a fantastic Reunion Weekend.

We have extended the registration “**CUT OFF**” date to the 31st December 2004 so as to avoid the problem from recurring again. We will be enforcing a strict policy of: **NO TICKET - NO ADMITANCE**

AGM - Saturday Morning

We are currently preparing the Agenda for this important meeting and it is shaping up to be a busy program. It is intended to present the Financial Statements, the Constitution with relative amendments, General Business issues that are always raised. We will also have to vote for a new Committee.

As the program will be tight, we are asking you to consider any issues that you may wish to raise. Bring them forward to the committee ASAP to ensure they are included within the Agenda and receive the importance they deserve. The closing date for submissions to be included in the meeting agenda is 31st January 2005. **NO EXCEPTIONS**

Membership Renewals

The main use of your membership contribution is to fund the production costs and postage of Tiger Tales which has been increasing over the years. In July 2003, the current editor decided (in an effort to reduce costs) he would write and produce TT ‘in house’ with the help of his wife Anne and a few friends.

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However, since then, due to the ever increasing cost of materials, the Committee has had to restructure the membership period/cost to ensure production of TT and administrative costs for the long term.

Membership will fall due on the 1st March 2005 for a three year period @ \$30. Then again, 1st March 2008 for another three year period and so on.

You will know your financial status by checking the “**RED PRINTING**” on your Tiger Tales envelope which will indicate **your next renewal date**.
Please note that “Next of Kin” are exempt from all fees ■

Geoff Pearson
National Secretary

THE PRESIDENT RETIRES

Members may be aware that our President, Colin Kahn DSO, has had several operations this year, and in addition, his wife Pat continues in poor health and now requires constant care. As a result, the current President will be “standing down” from the position immediately after the 2005 Reunion.

Accordingly, nominations for a new President are required ASAP but no later than 31st January 2005 on the form provided on page 14 of this issue of Tiger Tales ■

Your present Committee and Representatives		
President Brig. Colin Kahn DSO Ph: 02 6257 7249	Secretary Mr. Geoff Pearson Ph: 02 9524 3177 rbimports@surfthe.net.au	Treasurer Refer: Mr. G. Pearson
Nat Membership Officer & NSW Rep Lt Col. Ron Hamlyn Mob: 0407 669 221 rhamlyn@bongbongprc.com.au	ACT Representative Lt Col. Barry Morgan Ph: 02 6255 4531 bkmorgan@bigpond.com	VIC Representative Mr. Kerry O'Connor Ph: 03 5428 3249 wartoc@bigpond.com
TAS Representative Gerry Coret J.P. Ph: 03 6330 2056 gcoret@bigpond.com	S.A & N.T. Representative Mr. Chris Kuchenmeister Ph & Fax: 08 8552 1946 kitchy@inet.net.au	W.A. Representative Mr Alan McNulty DCM Ph: 08 9304 1333 alanmarian@4u.com.au
QLD Representative	Tiger Tales Editor Lou Wagner PO Box 211 Aitkenvale Qld 4814	Ph & Fax: 07 4775 7554 louanne.wagner@bigpond.com

5 RAR ASSOCIATION (QLD) DONATES NEW STORAGE FACILITY

“National Memorial Walk” was opened at Enoggera in November 1998, and is dedicated to those members of the RAR who lost their lives during peace or war while serving overseas.

The Assoc (Qld) has recently donated this new storage facility (The Shed) to



accommodate the rising inventory ► of mowers and garden tools.

Responsibility for its maintenance has fallen to a small group of volunteers who attend work parties each Monday morning and the first Saturday of the month between 0830 and 1130 (good company & morning tea provided).

If you are unable to physically work, your company and support will still be appreciated.

For further information contact:



Looking from Memorial Building at South Vietnam Site. Plaques in foreground represent members of the Regiment. Also pictured, 8/9 RAR “Wall of Remembrance” ▼▼▼

▲ Some of the Boys ▲



Program of Events

Date	Event	Venue	Start Time
25 Feb 05	Registration	Hellenic Club of Canberra 1 st Floor Function Centre	1830 hours
25 Feb 05	Welcome Reception	Hellenic Club of Canberra 1 st Floor Function Centre	1900 hours
26 Feb 05	5 RAR Association Annual General Meeting	Canberra R.S.L. Club Gallipoli Room	0930 hours
26 Feb 05	Free Time	Various	After A.G.M.
26 Feb 05	Reunion Dinner	National Convention Centre Canberra Exhibition Room	1900 hours
27 Feb 05	Remembrance Service and presentation of the 5 RAR Plaque	Australian War Memorial (AWM) Canberra	1000 hours
27 Feb 05	Sub-Unit Functions	Various	1200 hours

Free Time The Committee has programmed ‘free time’ on the Saturday afternoon. A Canberra package will be available at the Registration Desk on Friday 25th February 2005 at the Hellenic Club of Canberra (outside the Welcome Function venue).

Cost The 5 RAR Association Executive Committee has budgeted for a cost of \$120.00 per person attending the reunion. The \$120.00 will pay for your attendance at the Welcome Reception, the Reunion Dinner plus administrative costs. The administrative costs will allow one Next of Kin, of our colleagues who died on active service, to attend the Reunion free of charge. The Committee will include a form in this edition of Tiger Tales requesting payment by the **31st December 2004**. The details will also appear of the 5 RAR Association website: <http://www.5rar.asn.au>

Accommodation Terry Duffy has arranged a discount for 5 RAR Association Members at a number of caravan parks, motels, hotels and serviced apartments for those Members that booked their accommodation by **31st October 2004**. The list appears on the 5 RAR website. The accommodation venues will open bookings to the general public after 31 Oct 04. If you have any problems with the accommodation providers listed, then please call Terry Duffy (at home) on (02) 6244 2407 (after Business Hours) or email tduffy@netspeed.com.au. The survey form you completed was not an accommodation booking.

PLEASE REGISTER AND PAY BY 31 DECEMBER 2004

SUB UNIT REUNIONS

BHQ & SP Coy **Both Tours Welcome**

Sunday Lunch
Canberra RSL Club
contact:
Ron Dunbar
Ph: 02 44464519
rond@shoal.net.au

D Coy **2nd Tour**

Sunday Lunch
Kaleen Indoor Sports Club
contact:
Bernard Harpley
Ph: 02 6236 8195
wbharpley@optusnet.com.au

Recce Platoon **1st Tour**

Sunday Lunch
Embassy Hotel
contact:
John (Bluey) Edwards
Ph: (02) 4782 1373
pcca@bigpond.net.au

D Coy **1st Tour**

Sunday Lunch
Brumbies Sports Club
contact:
Paul Greenhalgh
Ph: 02 6295 1918
pnandwag@webone.com.au

1 Pl A Coy **1st Tour**

Sunday Lunch
Venue to be arranged
contact:
Ted Harrison
Ph: (03) 9762 4283
harrison@netspace.net.au

B Coy **2nd tour**

Sunday Lunch
Statesman Hotel
Contact:
Mo Hancock
Mob: 0414 566 212
moshancock@yahoo.com.au

C Coy **2nd Tour**

Sunday Lunch
Carlton Room
Olims Canberra Hotel
Contact:
Geoff Pearson
Ph: 02 9524 3561
sales @rbimports.com.au

SUB UNIT REUNIONS

Admin Coy 1st Tour

Sunday Lunch
Lotus Room
Southern Cross Yacht Club
Contact:
Mick Henrys
Ph: 02 4944 7995
mickhenrys@hotmail.com

A Coy 2nd Tour

Sunday BYO BBQ Lunch
Canberra South Motor Park
Contact:
Ken Bell
Ph: 02 4655 8149

C Coy 1st Tour

Sunday BBQ Lunch
Southern Cross Yacht Club

Contact:
Roger Wainwright
Ph: 02 6295 6204

Tracker Platoon 2nd Tour

Sunday Lunch

contacts:
Peter Chapman
Ph: 08 97241 461
pchapo@bigpond.com

John Humphries
Ph: 02 4471 3430
humpty@austarnet.com.au



A Kit-Kat Moment

5RAR REUNION 2005

COMMEMORATION SERVICE & DEDICATION OF PLAQUE

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

10.00 AM SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2005

All members of the Association and their families are invited to attend this important ceremony to remember the 50 members of the Battalion who were killed in action during both tours of Vietnam.

- The dedication of a bronze plaque will be undertaken by the Chief of the Defence Force, GEN Peter Cosgrove, AC, MC. GEN Cosgrove was the last Adjutant of 5RAR prior to the linking of the Battalion with 7RAR in 1973
- The plaque will be laid permanently in the garden walkways of the Memorial. 5RAR is the first Battalion of the Regiment to dedicate a plaque in this way.
- The 5RAR Queen's and Regimental Colours that were presented to the Battalion in Sep 1967 and laid up in the Soldier's Chapel Kapooka in Apr 2004 will be on display within the War Memorial for all to see. You can photograph the colours
- Take the opportunity to view your colours, the Vietnam exhibition and the names of our fallen on the walls of the Memorial after the Ceremony
- Seating available for 700 people. The Royal Military College Band will support the ceremony
- Sub-unit reunions will follow the Commemoration Service from 12.00 pm
- **Dress:** Preferred dress is coat & tie with medals

All too often a clear conscience is
merely the result of a bad memory
Anon

Peace starts with a smile
Mother Teresa

God wants spiritual fruits
not religious nuts
Ethel Wilcox

Forgiving the unrepentant is like
drawing pictures on water
Japanese Proverb

WELCOME RECEPTION UPDATE

The 5 RAR Association 2005 National Reunion is to have a Welcome Reception at the Hellenic Club of Canberra, which is located in Matilda Street, Woden.

Registration. The Registration procedures will take place at tables in the foyer outside the Olympus and Apollo rooms, starting at 6.30 pm. The Aegean Room (also upstairs) is opposite the Olympus room and it has a capacity for 330 and bar facilities. The Aegean Room can be used by those arriving early and for those who have completed their registration before the start of the Welcome Reception at 7 pm. Reunion Name Tags will be issued at the Reception Desk. Please visit the Registration Desk as soon as possible after arriving at the Hellenic Club.

Food & Drinks. The finger food to be served by waiter service will be canapés, dips and crudites followed by fish cocktails, mini spring rolls, marinated chicken wings, cocktail samosas, spicy potato wedges and mini beef pies. A four hours drinks package is available between 7 and 11 pm in the Olympus Room only. It will consist of light and standard tap beer, Tyrell's red and white bottled wines, sparkling wine, mineral water, orange juice and soft drinks. These drinks will be served using a combination of waiter service and three bars within the main function rooms. Those staying after 11 pm will have to pay cash for their drinks. The function is to finish by midnight.

Club Facilities. The downstairs portion of the Hellenic club will be functioning normally for the benefit of club members and their guests. There are food and beverage facilities available in several rooms downstairs, which will be available to 5 RAR Association Reunion attendees who feel the need for such refreshments before or even after the function. Nevertheless reunion attendees are encouraged to give priority to registration and the welcome function (for which they have paid). If 5 RAR reunion attendees wish to use the downstairs facilities or the poker machines they will have to register at the Club entrance. The club closes at 2 am.

Pay Car Parking. Early arrivals may be able to obtain a parking space within the Club car park but demands on this facility are heavy on a Friday night. However, parking in the surrounding parking areas and nearby streets is meter or pay parking until 9 pm on Friday nights.

5 RAR Memorabilia. A selection of 5 RAR Memorabilia will be available for sales near the Registration Desks. This will be the only time and place that memorabilia will be sold during the Reunion.

REUNION DINNER UPDATE

The 2005 Reunion Dinner menu consists of three courses; an entrée, main course and desserts. There will be two choices for each course. The menu is shown below:

Entree:

- (1) Minted chicken salad served on herb roasted vegetables with a honey balsamic vinaigrette; and
- (2) Tandoori spiced lamb loin served on crisp greens, baked pita chips and roast garlic aioli dressing.

Main Course:

- (1) Chicken breast rolled in pesto wrapped in pancetta with wilted spinach and citrus jus; and
- (2) Beef fillet medallions set upon a sundried Tomato and mushroom risotto, with drizzled Kamberra shiraz jus.

Dessert:

- (1) Individual apple pie served with vanilla bean and cinnamon anglaise; and
- (2) Sticky date and ginger pudding served with butterscotch schnapps sauce.

The NCC Chef will cater for special dietary requirements (eg. gluten free, Halal, Diabetic etc.). A list of attendees and their requirements will be provided to the NCC. **Please advise any dietary needs to: Secretary, 5 RAR Association no later than 31st January 2005.**

The Committee has opted for the four hours Banquet beverage package. It will consist of lite and full strength tap beer, Lindemans Premier Selection Chardonnay (white), Shiraz Cabernet (red), Brut Cuvee (sparkling) wines, and soft drinks. Other drinks will be available for purchase from the bar in the Exhibition Room.

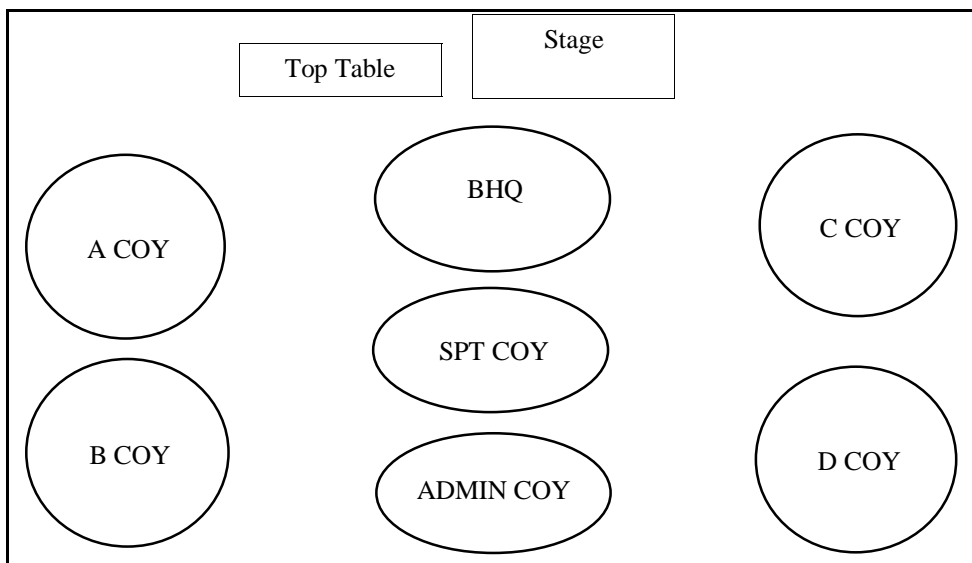
Tables will be located in the foyer for people who did not attend the Welcome Reception for registration procedures. **Memorabilia will not be sold at the Reunion Dinner.**

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The Dinner layout will be displayed in the foyer. Sub Unit signs are to be located in the Exhibition Room. The four rifle companies are to be located in the corners of the room with BHQ, Admin Coy and Spt Coy to be located in the centre of the room as shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Exhibition Room layout for the 2005 Reunion Dinner



Sub Unit Colours. The tables in the Exhibition Room will be decorated in the following colours:

- a. A Coy - Gold;
- b. B Coy - Blue;
- c. C Coy - Green;
- d. D Coy - Red;
- e. Support Coy - Black;
- f. Admin Coy - Brown;
- g. BHQ - White.

1. The Dress for male attendees will be coat and tie with medals, decorations and awards.

1. A parking area is located across Constitution Avenue from the National Convention Centre. Parking is free on Saturday nights in Canberra.

5 RAR Association National Reunion in Canberra

25th February to 27th February 2005

I wish to attend the 2005 National Reunion in Canberra. My details are:

Name: _____ Sub Unit: _____

Contact Details: _____

I will be accompanied by _____ person/s.

I wish to attend the following function/s

Welcome Function at \$40 per person for _____ persons attending. = \$ _____

Reunion Dinner at \$70 per person for _____ persons attending. = \$ _____

Administration Costs at \$10 per person for _____ persons attending = \$ _____

Total for _____ persons attending the Reunion = \$ _____

The administrative costs include your contribution towards the Next of Kin, of the 5RAR Members who died on active service in the Republic of South Vietnam, attending the Reunion Dinner. The administrative costs also include your contribution to the 5 RAR plaque to be presented to the Australian War Memorial (A.W.M.), plus name tags and printing costs.

I/we will be attending the Commemorative Service at the A.W.M. _____ persons.

Please forward your Cheque or Money Order by **31st DECEMBER 2004** to:

Secretary, 5 RAR Association, PO Box 432, BOWRAL NSW 2576.

Guests of Association Members are welcome to attend all functions and activities except the Annual General Meeting at the Canberra RSL Club on Saturday 26th Feb 2005.

A list of the accommodation venues offering discounts was published in the previous *Tiger Tales* and is available on the 5RAR Association website:

<http://www.5rar.asn.au> .

The preferred names, of all persons attending, to be shown on the name tags are:

Please remit this form and payment to:

The Secretary
 5 RAR Association
 PO Box 432
 BOWRAL NSW 2576

Please indicate use of this form

Joining / Renewing Membership

Change of address

Purchase of Memorabilia

Surname:		First Name/s:	
Address:		State:	P/ Code:
Home Ph:	Mob:	Email:	
Brief history of assoc / link with 5 RAR: (complete this part for new membership applications only)			

**Memorabilia will be displayed & on sale
 at the 'Welcome Function' only on:
 Friday 25th Feb 2005**

Memorabilia				Price	Qty	Amount
Membership	1 Mar 2005 - 28 Feb 2008			\$ 30		
Vietnam Task				\$ 28		
The Year of the Tigers				\$ 45		
Honour Roll				\$ 30		
Car Stickers				\$ 3		
Caps				\$ 13		
Ties				\$ 15		
TAC Plates				\$ 20		
Mini Banner				\$150		
5 RAR Plaque				\$ 45		
Stationery Set	<i>Tick Shirt Sizes Below</i>			\$ 20		
Polo Shirt Navy	Med	Large	X Large	\$ 28		
Polo Shirt White	Med	Large	X Large	\$ 28		
Chambray Shirt	Med	Large	X Large	\$ 38		
Grand Total						\$