

CHALKIE (REUNION)

NEWSLETTER

4/14

HELLO ALL,

We have called this the Reunion Newsletter because it reports on the extraordinarily successful reunions that were held over the last month at Port Stephens and Brisbane.

We have included some photos to give an idea of the great spirit and camaraderie that was evident at these gatherings but these fail to do justice to the remarkable times had by all.

Appreciation must also go to all who attended these reunions. Giving your time and expense to participate demonstrates your interest and commitment to something that we regard as very special. This particularly applies to those who travelled large inter-state distances to be part of the reunions. Your presence was especially appreciated.

As well, in this edition, Ian would like to include a case study of his dealings with the Department of Veterans' Affairs regarding a claim he has successfully made. The point of this is to encourage you to check whether or not more of you can access compensation for any problems that were caused by our military service.

Best wishes,

Greg Ivey (iveygi@gmail.com) Ian Ogston (ozoggies2@gmail.com)

PORT STEPHENS REUNION

One reporter and photographer at Port Stephens was Terry Edwinsmith and he has noted, in glowing terms, the excellence of the weekend. What follows is some of the information that he has provided for the Newsletter.

- Approximately 60 people attended with 36 of these ex-PNG Nashos.
- The excellence of the reunion was largely due to the huge amount of work by Rob and Ali Duff and Gary and Sue Screen. Terry even credits them with organising perfect weather!!
- The first Chalkies who went to Moem and Taurama were in attendance. This we consider important and special because they were the ones that set the scene for everybody who followed.
- An outcome of that weekend is the planning in place for the 2015 reunion in Adelaide.

PHOTOS



Wewak Chalkies reunited: Back (L to R) Laurie Bowman, Peter Suna, John Sweeney, Bob Mason.

Front: Terry (Taurama), Max Quanchi, Graeme Johnson.

(Graeme has volunteered to coordinate the WA Nasho/Chalkies.)



Frank Cordingley (left), Peter Forsyth and Ian Lovell

Note: A gallery of Boyd Robertson's photos from the [Port Stephens Reunion](#) is now available on our Website Home Page: www.nashospng.com

BRISBANE REUNION

The 2014 Brisbane Reunion was held on October 18 and the main focus of the day was 2 PIR and the Wewak experience for Chalkies. The feature of the Moem presentations was the frequency of use of the word 'PARADISE'. Judging by the recollections and the visuals presented, there was some fairly good evidence to support this!

We were delighted to have Russell Jenkin who has volunteered to coordinate the Victorian Nasho/Chalkies.

Russell has written to us since then and we would like to include some excerpts from his email:

'The Queenslanders have established a wonderful tradition and the day was most enjoyable for all the 25 attendees (which included 6 of the Chalkie wives – and they were very much a part of the celebration too).'

The Program;

- *Moem Barracks, Wewak was the major focus and I was asked to give a 25 minute presentation on the early days, 1967 to 1968*
- *There were five other presentations on Wewak and Vanimo in the morning and in the afternoon there were presentations on Murray Barracks, Igam Barracks, the Army History grant to Dr Darryl Dymock and the RAAEC Archive Project by Major Mary-Lou Bates.*
- *I met with one of my former colleagues from Wewak in 1967/68, Kevin Smith after 46 years and 12 days. It was so special to meet Kevin again – and to meet his wife, Jennifer. Kevin has taught at Brisbane Grammar for 41 years!*

Looking to 2015 and Beyond;

- *This reunion was a rich experience and one which could be readily replicated for Victorian Nasho/Chalkies in the future.*
- *In the short term, I strongly recommend supporting next year's reunion in Adelaide from October 8-11.'*
(Russell Jenkin)

We wish also to record that Norm Hunter's interactive **Music Quiz** was the first activity and this set the relaxing tone for the day.

We must recognise here the work of Greg Ivey who made this Reunion happen. It was a well-thought-out program and every detail carefully planned.

PHOTOS



Russell Jenkin speaks to the Brisbane Reunion



For some, conversations continued in the Geebung RSL coffee shop



Brisbane Reunion (L to R): 'Knobby' Carnes, Vlad Cizauskas, Karen & Ian Minns

ADVENTURES WITH DVA

At the beginning of this year, I made a claim for compensation with the Department of Veterans' affairs in relation to hearing loss as a result of my Army service. DVA has accepted this claim and have given me significant compensation for this.

I have set out below some pieces of information that you should know (on the basis of my experience) if you are contemplating any claims for compensation for problems resulting from your National Service.

1. Get your service records from:

Central Army Records Office

GPO Box 393

Melbourne Vic 3001

The application form for this is on the net. It will take months to come and will arrive in the form of a CD.

2. If, as a result of your examination of the initial medical report and the discharge medical report, you have seen that you have acquired some form of disability, you should proceed with your claim with DVA.

For example, all of us took lots of Paludrine and an accepted side-effect of this is hearing loss. As well, the Army is in the business of lots of loud noise, so a claim in this area is likely to succeed.

Other conditions that may have been a result of Army service may be more difficult to demonstrate but your records are the starting point for any journey down this road.

DVA is an interesting organisation. Generally speaking, they strive to deal fairly with any application. They are unfailingly polite and invariably slow at assessing claims. You need to be patient. I would guess that they are understaffed and the assessment process is very complex.

One thing they do not do, is give you all of the information you need. That is your responsibility. The DVA website is good but having an advocate (e.g. from the RSL) is a very clever idea.

I acknowledge here the encouragement (perhaps 'badgering' might be a better word) to get into this territory by W.O. Dan Winkel.

I should like to be the encouraging person here for you.

GET YOUR SERVICE RECORDS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Good luck with this,

Ian Ogston.