

CHALKIE NEWSLETTER

1/2015

Hello All,

It is high time that the Chalkie year began, so we have set out below some of our thoughts and plans for the year.

Brisbane Planning Meeting

A small group of Chalkies met at the Bellbowrie Tavern in Brisbane's west (and I mean WEST!!!!) to have a think about our plans for the year. Refer to the photo below to see the hard-working Chalkie planning group in action. The result has been the development of a rough calendar for the year that may assist you in your thinking about your involvement in Chalkie affairs. This is not intended to be comprehensive but an early-year indicator of some things that will be happening.

Mid Year: A further get together of Chalkies (possibly Gaythorne RSL)

October: This is reunion month with two events taking place.

- Early October (weekend 9-11th) Adelaide reunion. Details, and Contacts for more information, are posted on our website (www.nashospng.com)

- October 24th: Brisbane Chalkie Reunion where the emphasis this year will be on **Goldie River** and our recollections of **Recruit Training**. More detail on this later in the Newsletter.

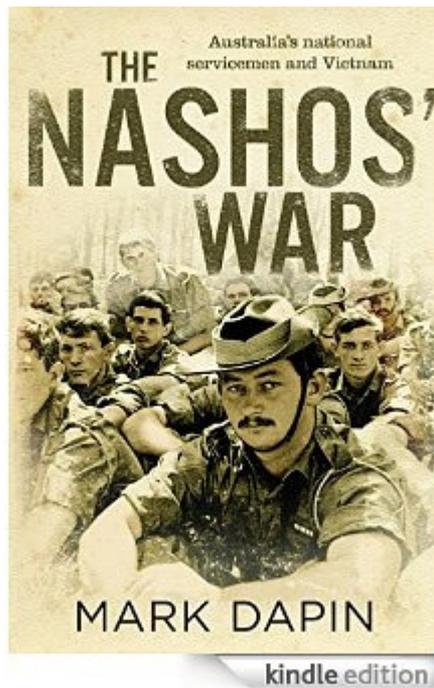
CHALKIE PLANNING MEETING – BELLBOWRIE



L to R: Greg Farr, Frank Cordingley, Dan Winkel, Terry Edwingsmith, Ian Ogston

'NASHO'S WAR' (Viking 2014)

This book by Mark Dapin generated considerable discussion at our meeting at Bellbowrie. While the emphasis was on the experiences of the National Servicemen who served in Vietnam, the whole treatment of the issue of conscription was given quite a lot of attention. As such, it relates directly to us. Terry has noted down some of his thoughts on reading this book and I have included these below.



'The author takes the reader on a journey over the 7 years of conscription. He has interviewed 150 people, mostly serving soldiers from those times out of a total of 63 740 draftees who served. His sources for material are newspaper articles from the period, Hansard and personal letters sent by serving soldiers to family and friends. He has endeavoured to catch the flavour of the times. The idea of conscription was well-supported by the public whose mantra then was to 'send them but don't send me!'

You may well find yourself not agreeing with the author or suggesting that he is biased in his approach. However, the stories are certainly a 'blast from our past'.

If you were an early conscript with the thought of Vietnam at the back of your mind, then this book is for you! With the benefit of hindsight, I suggest that, for this period in our lives in TPNG, we were the luckiest people alive. We weren't bored, not blown up or fired upon and quite possibly collectively provided a worthwhile service to our neighbours and friends. For this we can be forever grateful.

I commend this book for your reading enjoyment.'

Terry Edwinsmith

BRISBANE REUNION 2015

THE YEAR OF GOLDIE RIVER

Proposed date: Saturday 24 October

At the planning meeting at Bellbowrie, it was decided that the principal themes for the reunion would be an emphasis on **the PNG Training Depot at Goldie River**. This was a significant location for Chalkies with about six RAAEC sergeants and two officers posted there in most years.

The general plan for the reunion would be to examine more closely what life was like there and the general purpose and character of the unit.

Any contributions from ex-Goldie Chalkies to this event would be most welcome.

We would especially be happy if we could get a bigger representation of Goldie Chalkies at this reunion. This species of Chalkie is fairly rare in Queensland!!!

As well, we would like to spend some time reviewing our pre-embarkation training. Probably, the emphasis will be on **basic training** as this seems to have created the most vivid memories for most people!!!

Further planning will proceed during the year but your thoughts and contributions would be most welcome at any time.

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

(Editors)