

CHALKIE NEWSLETTER

5 /2015

Hello All,

REUNIONS, REUNIONS, REUNIONS

It has certainly been a bumper time for Chalkie reunions. In this newsletter, we have reports from the Adelaide Reunion, the Brisbane Reunion and another rather “pre-historic” report on the first-ever (?) Chalkies Reunion.

Brace yourselves!!!

Ian and Greg

ADELAIDE REUNION 2015 (Terry Edwsmith, Taurama Barracks, 1967-68)

There is nothing like a reunion of former colleagues set in the picturesque area of Glenelg, Adelaide and the McLaren Vale Wine region, to entice delegates to South Australia. And that is exactly what happened as former members of the

Royal Australian Army Educational Corps and other related units that served in Papua New Guinea prior to that country's independence in 1975 from Australia met to exchange views and catch up after a 45 year absence. This group of more than 30 were National Servicemen, conscripted during the Vietnam War era.

Former Servicemen from all mainland states were in attendance accompanied by some wives and partners.

The program for the reunion consisted of an introductory welcome event held at Glenelg followed by a day of sightseeing in Adelaide city to such places as the Market, Casino, Cricket Ground, Museum and Art Gallery.

The main evening event included several presentations by former servicemen, Dr Darryl Dymock and Dr Bob Ormston on Australia's role in Papua New Guinea at the time.

The following day, a small group of attendees visited the McLaren Vale Wine Region to sample the produce of the area. Wineries were visited and lunch was held at the historic Victory Hotel in the Sellick Hills region. Delegates then completed the trip back to Glenelg, visiting Port Noorlunga and the ANZAC Memorial at Brighton Beach. A farewell breakfast was held the following day at a Glenelg coffee house.

Attendees enjoyed the tours and get-togethers immensely but the companionship of like-minded retirees with similar Army backgrounds was a highlight of this gathering.

A similar reunion is planned for another capital city in 2016.

(Eds. We agree with Terry's comments and applaud the S.A. team led by Kym Rothe and Ian Hodder.)

The following pictures were taken by Terry of the events in Adelaide.



The reunion group after lunch at the historic Victory Hotel



Welcome dinner guests: Mary Rothe, Graeme Johnson and Sue Screen



Wine tasters: Kym Rothe, Rob Duff, Greg Smith, Body Robertson, John Humphrey and Terry Edwinsmith

BRISBANE 2015 – THE YEAR OF GOLDIE RIVER

The Geebung RSL was the venue for the annual Queensland Chalkies Reunion. This year, the focus was on Goldie River following on from the previous years' attention to the other Chalkie locations in TPNG.

The Goldie Chalkie is a fairly rare species so it was good to see those that were able to make it for this special meeting. Those present from Goldie were Alex Thomson, John Morris, Ian Ogston, Bernie Carney, and Bruce Harshorn.

We explored the idea that Goldie was the 'forgotten posting'. It became clear as a result of the discussion that Goldie was a rather 'different' experience for Chalkies compared with the others.

It was, nonetheless, a special time for all of those who served there and to work with recruits and other members of the Pacific Islands Regiment at Goldie

for other courses. In that sense, it was a unique experience and an important part of the whole Chalkie story from Papua New Guinea in this era.

Other presentations during the day were from Dr Darryl Dymock who delivered an excellent and very entertaining post-lunch session on some of the findings of his research on the Nasho Chalkies in TPNG.

Terry Edwsmith and Greg Ivey also reported to the group on the Adelaide Reunion.

Below are some photos from the gathering.



Ian Colwell, Greg Farr and Bruce Hartshorn catch up.



Darryl and Frank wrestle with the technology



There always has to be a meal photo at a Chalkie reunion!!!

FOSSIL EVIDENCE of FIRST CHALKIES REUNION

by our Science reporter

RAAEC members in NSW have recently discovered the earliest-known image of a Chalkie Reunion in Australia. This legendary species (*Chalki newguineaii*) was usually better known to social scientists further north because of its flight path from the mainland to the island of New Guinea.

It has been thought that the annual Pacific migration, during the last century, was for recreation and for sustenance from the seasonal waters (*Espee largerata*). This Chalkie species is known to have been sexually active but, while there are night reports of mating with local species, evidence has been hard to uncover.

Geopolitical events appear to account for the end of the New Guinea migrations circa 1973. That was the era of a collision between the mainland and an unexpected meteor codenamed Whitlam (or *Terror australis* in some publications). This collision triggered a Cambrian explosion with consequences for several contemporary species:

- with the policy plate shifting left, the military family (*Nasho conscriptus*) ended their migrations to New Guinea and Southeast Asia
- the increased oxygen level proved toxic for ancient species (e.g. *Torii menzies* and *Republicanus americanii*)

- the beneficiaries were the female species (e.g. *Antipodean feministi*) who evolved rapidly under the new conditions to challenge the superior males

While there are now ample publications and images of the New Guinea species in the modern literature, this latest image (reproduced below) provides evidence of possibly the earliest tribal gathering after the end of the migration era. Carbon dating of the image points to the gathering taking place in September 1990 on the site of an ancient caravan park at Coffs Harbour in the province of New South Wales. (This little-known province, codenamed NSW in the literature, was once part of the super-continent Queenslandia.)

The distinctive head decoration shown in the image is suggestive of prior large gatherings on the southern, inhospitable Recruit Plains. Extended DNA matching, with progeny in tropical and sub-tropical areas, has allowed researchers to piece together the identity of these prime genetic specimens (left to right):

- Witch Doctor Brendan Nolan, NSW
- Hockey-tragic Dave Roxburgh, NSW
- Half-bearded Greg Ivey, QLD
- Shutter-bug Boyd Robertson, VIC
- AFL-tragic John Meyer, VIC
- Double-agent Peter Mason, VIC

