

ARMI WANTOKS JOURNAL

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The Journal of the Australian teachers who served in Papua New Guinea in the Royal Australian Educational Corps from 1966 to 1973.

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Hello All,

It is a very unusual thing for an Armi Wantoks Journal to come out at this time of year.

There is a very special reason for this.

WE HAVE AN OFFICIAL CHALKIES WEBSITE

The address for the site is: <http://www.NashosPNG.com>

An enormous amount of work has gone into this by Frank Cordingley and for this we thank him very, very much.

We believe this could usher in a new era in the Chalkie story as it will give access to all that we do, to an audience as big as the web itself.

A major objective, as well, is to try to connect up with the considerable

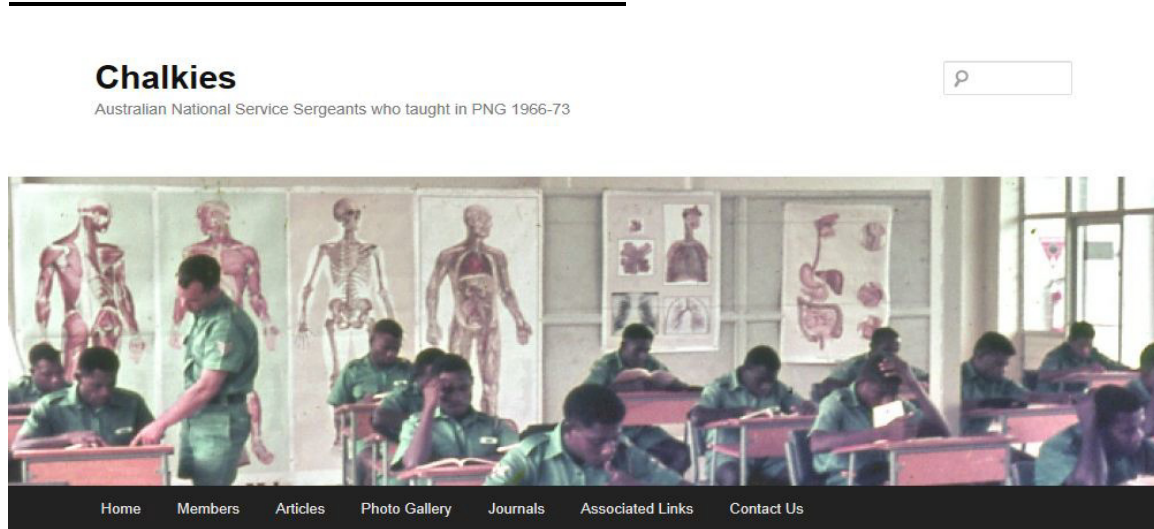
numbers of Chalkies who have not connected to our network. All of these should be aware of the story that we are putting together and be able to make their contribution to the writing of its history.

In this volume of the Armi Wantoks Journal, we are launching the site with a copy of the home page of the website and Frank's account of the technological background and objectives of the site.

We hope you will enjoy this work. At a later date, we will be asking you if you would like to be listed on the member's page. It will be a listing that states your name plus where and when you served in PNG - no other details.

Ian and Greg

CHALKIES WEBSITE HOME PAGE



CHALKIES

Posted on [October 19, 2011](#)

'Chalkies' is the slang name given to members of the Royal Australian Army Educational Corps. The term here refers specifically to teachers who were conscripted into the Army during the Vietnam years to teach in Papua New Guinea. After basic and infantry training, they were sent to work with the soldiers of the Pacific Islands Regiment in Port Moresby (Taurama Barracks, Goldie River Training Depot and Murray Barracks), Lae (Igam Barracks) and Wewak (Moem Barracks). Most served between 12 and 18 months in PNG.



— RAAEC Badge

Today, these teacher/soldiers have met together to tell the story of their time in Papua New Guinea. On this site, the stories and photos of their time in the Army will be told.

RECENT ARTICLES

- [Ongoing Australian involvement with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force by Tristan Moss](#)
- [WO1 Frederick Wilson RSM – leader of men](#)

THE BACKGROUND TO THE WEBSITE



Frank Cordingley

I have great pleasure in writing this article to launch the new 'Chalkies' website <http://www.NashosPNG.com>.

At our annual get together in October 2011, discussion centred around how we could make the existence of our group visible to the hundreds of Australian National Servicemen who served their time in Papua New Guinea. The obvious answer was the development of a web site and it was clear to everyone that I was the logical person to make it happen since I had been writing software for nearly 40 years in a professional capacity.

Yes, I have written web pages but they were always in a controlled environment behind a secure firewall away from harmful viruses and spammers and the hosting hardware was controlled by others. My expertise centred on the development of sites that referenced databases holding millions of sensitive records mainly dealing with patient care. This would be my first venture into a public website of this nature.

Fortunately, I have staff at work who have already hosted public websites. Using their expertise and guidance, the Chalkies group now have a website hosted by a recognised web-hosting company using software of international standing that does all the underlying plumbing for the site. This enables me to concentrate on how the website looks and how the content is added. Problems such as security from hackers, spammers and viruses have become a non-event. I wanted a site that I could pass on control to others, if necessary, and know they could quickly gain the

expertise required to manage the site. I believe we have such a site.

The purpose of the site is many-fold:

1. Increased visibility for the group of Chalkies
2. A platform where our stories can be told and enjoyed by ourselves and others.
3. Highlighting the reasons why the Army in Papua New Guinea needed educators prior to independence.
4. Recognition of the influence that people such as Brigadier Hunter (deceased) and RSM Wilson (deceased), among others, had on our young lives.
5. A mechanism where other ex-National Servicemen can contact and join our group as well as a means of telling their stories.
6. Highlighting the importance of this time in the history of the Royal Australian Army Educational Corps.

Articles and photographs on the site are added under the guidance of our three editors - Ian Ogston, Greg Ivey and Terry Edwinsmith. Most of the articles have already appeared in the Armi Wantoks Journal and these journals have been added unchanged where they were in electronic form.

Further articles will be added as they become available.

I trust everybody will enjoy the site. As webmaster to this site, I encourage you to join us and share your story as part of the website.

Personally, some of the articles have helped to clarify the reasons why we were sent to PNG. I thought at the time that it was a mistake in that we were creating an elite force in the army compared to the other two arms of government - the police and the civil administration. I now realise that we were indeed influencing, for the better, the future direction of our nearest neighbour. History shows that we played a small, but significant part in ensuring the nation remained under a civil administration. When reading my

article and others like it, you get the impression that it was a very enjoyable time for us and a pivotal period in our lives. This is in direct contrast to those who were sent to Vietnam. (I have seen too many National Servicemen who are Vietnam veterans whose lives have been changed for the worse as a result of their experiences during that period.)

Please enjoy and contribute to your website.

Your webmaster,

Frank Cordingley

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